

IN BRIEF

Bus driver arrested for killing 33-yr-old

New Delhi: A 45-year-old driver of a cluster bus was arrested five days after he allegedly killed a man while driving in an inebriated condition near Kashmere Gate metro station, police said on Wednesday. The accused, Pardeep alias Nagraj, was under the influence of alcohol during the accident which took place on the night of October 1. He was previously involved in 13 cases, including three accidents, they said. A 33-year-old man, identified as Sanjay, a resident of Maujpur in Northeast Delhi, was killed in the accident. He worked as a clerk in a private firm at Chandni Chowk and is survived by his wife and three children, police said. After the accident near Kashmere Gate, the driver fled from the spot with his vehicle and the same night, he rammed his bus into a truck in west Delhi's Mayapuri area, a police official said. The officer said the accused driver was nabbed from the spot by a team of Mayapuri police station and a case was registered. During medical examination, he was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Since it was a bailable offence, he was released later.

Man arrested for burglary in Hauz Qazi

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing ₹2.8 lakh cash, jewellery and precious stones from a house in central Delhi's Hauz Qazi area, police said on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as Akash, a resident of Sitaram Bazar. He was previously involved in 13 criminal cases, they said. On Tuesday, police received information regarding a burglary. The complainant said that someone had stolen ₹2.8 lakh cash, jewellery and precious stones from his house, a senior police officer said. During investigation, CCTV camera footage was analysed and Akash was seen near the house, the officer said. He was interrogated and he confessed his involvement in the incident, along with Love Kumar, the officer said, adding that efforts are being made to nab Kumar. Police said ₹1.05 lakh, jewellery and precious stones worth ₹2.07 lakh and four mobile phones have been recovered from Akash's house.

Truck overturns in Lajpat Nagar, 2 dead

New Delhi: A truck overturned in Lajpat Nagar early Wednesday, crushing to death two people going to the airport to catch a flight, police said. Ankit Malhotra and Ranjan Kalra, both aged 35, were into event management and going to Kolkata for work. Malhotra lived in Karkardooma and had come to pick Kalra up from his residence in Lajpat Nagar. The truck driver fled from the spot after the accident, police said, adding however that the owner of the truck bearing a Haryana registration has been identified. "We received a call about the accident around 3.50 am," DCP (Southeast) R.P. Meena said. A truck had overturned and the rice container it was carrying had fallen on a Honda City under the Lajpat Nagar flyover on the Ring Road, DCP said. "The two persons inside the car were badly crushed." It took the police nearly an hour to remove the vehicle and take out the bodies.

GAME, AWAKE launch 'Xcelerator B'luru'

New Delhi: In a move to strengthen PM Modi's call for 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka (AWAKE) announced an accelerator model for women owned enterprises in Karnataka/Bengaluru. The "Xcelerator Bengaluru" program will support 20 women-owned growth businesses every six months in Bengaluru to enable growth among select small businesses through a combination of formal learning programs, mentoring, expert sessions, and peer learning. These entrepreneurial growth stories will be communicated to the ecosystem so that other stakeholders can learn, align and contribute to the ecosystem. Mr. Srinivas Rao Mahankali, CEO GAME and who was also in the MSME transformation taskforce said, "We would like to build an inspirational entrepreneurship ecosystem that is led by women. They are our biggest changemakers."



Doctors and nurses on Covid duty protest against North MCD over alleged non-payment of pending salaries in New Delhi on Wednesday. — PTI

Delhi govt allows opening of cinemas, theatres from Oct. 15

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Delhi government on Wednesday permitted reopening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity from October 15.

According to an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), such establishments will remain closed in COVID-19 containment zones in the national capital.

The decision to allow reopening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes was taken after the COVID-19 situation in Delhi was reviewed.

However, authorities have not yet taken any decision on reopening of swimming pools, colleges and coaching institutes.

Taking to Twitter, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal

said that cinema halls will be allowed to reopen from October 15 and they will have to follow all guidelines issued by the central government.

In his order, chief secretary Vijay Dev said, "Cinemas, theatres and multiplexes will be permitted to open with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity, in NCT of Delhi, except in containment zones, with effect from October 15, 2020, subject to strict compliance of SOP...issued by the ministry of information & broadcasting, govt of India as well as other directions/issued by Delhi Govt/DDMA."

On September 30, the Union Home Ministry had issued new guidelines for permitting more activities in areas outside the containment

zones that included opening up of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity from October 15.

In a meeting on Tuesday, the DDMA discussed Delhi's revised Covid management strategy, which includes strict surveillance of home isolation cases, aggressive contact tracing, creation of containment zones at micro level and efforts for human behavioural changes through extensive campaign. An official said that another meeting of the DDMA will be held next week to take a decision on other activities which have been permitted under the "Unlock-5" guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

— PTI

■ 2,871 new cases in Delhi take total tally to over 2.98 lakh

City's containment zones fall in number for 1st time

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

After rising steadily for over 40 days, the number of containment zones in the national capital fell to 2,697 on October 6, a marginal dip compared to the figures the previous day, according to official data.

Since last week of August, there has been an upward trend in the number of containment zones till October 5 when the count stood at 2,707.

However, on Tuesday, it slipped to 2,697, the fall being registered after a gap of more than 40 days.

Delhi's coronavirus death toll rose to 5,616 with 35 fresh casualties on Wednesday, while 2,871 new cases took the tally to over 2.98 lakh, authorities said. These fresh cases were detected after 51,505 tests were conducted the previous day.

35 new fatalities have been recorded, taking the death toll to 5,616, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The active caseload on Wednesday dropped to 22,186 from 22,720 the previous day.

The bulletin said the total number of cases has climbed to 2,98,107.

Meanwhile, Delhi health minister Satyendra Jain held a meeting with medical directors and medical superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status

Salary dues: Docs at Hindu Rao go on 'indefinite strike'

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Resident doctors at the civic-run Hindu Rao Hospital on Wednesday protested over non-payment of their due salaries for the last three months and went on a "symbolic indefinite strike", officials said.

A group of doctors, who were joined by nurses of the hospital, held placards and raised slogans demanding their due salaries, at the main gate of the facility.

Hindu Rao Hospital is the largest municipal hospital in Delhi with 900 beds, and is currently a dedicated COVID-19 facility. Many of its health-care workers had contracted the infection earlier.

— PTI

of testing. Both the number of fresh cases and containment zones recorded a gradual rise in September, with September 16 reporting 4,473 cases, the highest single-day spike till date.

On that day, the containment zone figure had climbed to 1,637.

Except September 14, the number of cases from September 9-19 were reported in excess of 4,000 per day, while the containment zones count and home isolation cases steadily increased

Since, it is a dedicated coronavirus facility, the "services will not be essentially affected".

"We are on a symbolic indefinite strike to make our voices heard to authorities, who have not responded to our appeal so far. We have been doing the symbolic pen down from 9 am to 12 noon, for the last several days, as well as online protests, but no one listened to us," said Abhimanyu Sardana, president of the Resident Doctors Association of the facility. So, the protest took place and doctors who are not on Covid rotational duty joined, he said.

On September 5, the home isolation cases had jumped to 9,822 while the containment zones count stood at 946.

On September 6, the total number of containment zones had crossed the 1,000-mark.

Prior to that, Delhi had seen a big surge in cases in the month of June, but the spike had come down in July.

The home isolation figures on July 1 stood at 16,703 with 437 containment zones marked in the city. On July 31, while the

home isolation cases count had come down to 5,763, the containment zones had risen to 692, according to official data.

On August 3, the number of coronavirus patients under home isolation, and containment zones count, both came down to 5,577 and 496, respectively.

On August 25, however, there were 5,949 home isolation cases and 654 containment zones or localised areas from where infections were reported. It rose to 6,850 with 763 zones on August 28; and then to 7876 home isolation cases with 833 containment zones on August 31; and 8,407 home quarantined cases with 894 zones on September 2.

The positivity rate on Tuesday stood at 4.99 per cent while the recovery rate was crossed 90 per cent, the Tuesday health department bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate stood at 1.89 per cent.

According to the bulletin, 2,66,935 patients have recovered, been discharged or migrated so far. The first coronavirus case in Delhi was reported on March 1.

In the last week of March, a nationwide lockdown was imposed in view of the Covid situation across the country.

While the economy has slowly been allowed to reopen, since June, there have been an increase in cases in Delhi since Unlock 1.0.

AAP MLA, Covid +ve, booked for meeting victim's kin

New Delhi, Oct.7: Delhi AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar was on Wednesday booked for meeting Hathras victim's family even after being tested positive for coronavirus in violation of the Covid-19 protocol, police said.

The FIR was registered against the Kondli MLA under the Epidemic Diseases Act at Chandpa Police Station here, they said. According to the MLA's Twitter account, he tested positive for the disease on September 29 and met the victim's family on October 4. The police said the legislator should have followed 14 days of isolation norms, adding that he would be sent a notice in

this regard.

A 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men on September 14 in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras. She was found beaten and tortured, her tongue cut as she bit it when the accused attempted to strangle her, police said.

She died a fortnight later at a Delhi hospital.

The woman was cremated in the dead of night near her home on September 30. Her family alleged they were forced by local police to hurriedly conduct her last rites, triggering outrage nationwide and protests in several places.

Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi



Kuldeep Kumar

Party workers in Gautam Buddha Nagar have questioned the "silence" of Uttar Pradesh Women's Commission chief Vimla Batham over the Hathras case and demanded her removal from the post.

Around 50 AAP workers, including district unit president Bhupendra

THE FIR was registered against the Kondli MLA under the Epidemic Diseases Act. According to the MLA's Twitter account, he tested positive for the disease on September 29 and met the victim's family on October 4.

addressed to UP Governor Anandiben Patel, demanding Ms Batham's removal in the wake of the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman after an alleged gangrape and over crimes against women in the state.

"Cases of rape with women and girls are emerging in the state every day. They are not safe in Uttar Pradesh. The state's women commission chief Vimla Batham has not spoken a single word on these issues despite serious incidents in Hathras, Balrampur, Bulandshahr, etc, she has not gone to meet the victim's families also," stated the memorandum. — PTI

Jaduan, on Tuesday tried to gherao Batham's residence here over the issue but were stopped midway by police, party office-bearers said.

The AAP workers, who had started a march from the Iscon temple in Sector 33 to her house nearby, submitted to

City air quality hits 'poor' category, may deteriorate further

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

Delhi's air quality turned "poor" on Wednesday — the first time in over three months — and is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions and a spike in farm fires, according to government agencies.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 215, which falls in the "poor" category. It was 178 on Tuesday.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

This is the first time since June 29 — when the AQI was 230 — the air quality of the national capital has turned poor.

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 234 microgram per cubic metre (µg/m3) at 6 pm, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India.

PM10 is a particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometres and is inhalable into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

The levels of PM2.5 — finer particles which can

THIS IS the first time since June 29 — when the AQI was 230 — the air quality of the national capital has turned poor. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor Safar said that PM2.5 is now becoming the lead pollutant instead of PM10 — a characteristic of winters

even enter the bloodstream — was 93 µg/m3. PM2.5 levels up to 60 µg/m3 are considered safe.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said, "PM2.5 is now becoming the lead pollutant instead of PM10 — a characteristic of winters."

Surface winds were calm on Tuesday night. Similar conditions are likely for another two days. The AQI is expected to deteriorate further over the next three days, Safar said. The cumulative fire count in Punjab, Haryana and the border regions was 336 on Tuesday.

"The boundary layer wind direction and speed are favourable for a slow transport (of pollutants) from external sources and local conditions are conducive for accumulation of pollutants in Delhi," Safar said.



People display placards urging for justice for late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, whose suicide sparked a media storm in India, during a demonstration in New Delhi on October 7, 2020. / AFP / Jewel SAMAD

Govt's next sero-survey to begin on October 15

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The next round of the monthly sero-prevalence survey in the national capital, which got delayed, will now begin from October 15, sources said on Wednesday.

The last survey was held from September 1-7 to better assess the Covid situation here and formulate combat strategies.

The exercise was slated to begin from October 1, but got delayed as the results of the survey done last month was presented to the Delhi High Court on September 30.

"This month's survey will now begin from October 15," an official source said.

The national capital recorded 39 Covid fatalities

on Tuesday, as the toll mounted to 5,581 while 2,676 fresh cases took the tally to over 2.95 lakh, authorities said.

The September survey had found that sero-prevalence of antibodies to Covid had reduced to 25 per cent, from nearly 29 per cent recorded in the August exercise, among people in the national capital, the Delhi High Court was informed.

The September survey also found that nearly one-third of the participants with a past history of Covid infection, "did not have detectable IgG antibodies".

"However, there is evidence that antibodies to Covid may deplete over time," it added. — PTI

UGC declares 7 varsity in city fake

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"Students and public are informed that currently 24 self-styled, unrecognised institutions are functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, which have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC secretary Rajnish Jain said.

Delhi has seven fake universities — Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridicial

■ COMMERCIAL UNIVERSITY LTD	■ INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
■ UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY	■ VISHWAKARMA OPEN UNIVERSITY FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT AND ADHYATMIK
■ VOCATIONAL UNIVERSITY	■ VISHWAVIDYALAYA (SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY)
■ ADR CENTRIC JURIDICIAL UNIVERSITY	

University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya. The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh — Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro

Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratagarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Noida. "Regarding Bharitya Shiksha Parishad, Lucknow, the matter is sub-judice before district judge in Lucknow," Jain said.

Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. They are — Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, Kolkata; Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research, Kolkata; Nababharat Shiksha Parishad, Rourkela and North Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology.

Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Maharashtra have one fake university each. They are — Sree Bodhi Academy of Higher Education, Puducherry; Christ New Testament Deemed University, Andhra Pradesh; Raja Arabic University, Nagpur; St John's University, Kerala and Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Society, Karnataka. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

SIT probing Hathras case gets more time to file report

Lucknow: The UP government has given an additional 10 days to the three-member SIT investigating the alleged gangrape and killing of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras as the "probe is not complete", a senior official said Wednesday. The special investigation team, constituted on September 30 and led by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swarup, was initially given seven days to submit its report. But the UP government later sought a CBI probe into the case and the criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict it has suspected. On Tuesday, it told the Supreme Court it wanted an apex court-monitored CBI inquiry into the incident to ensure "no vested interests will be able to create fake, false narrative with oblique motives". "Yes...the time for submitting report for the SIT has been extended by 10 days," said Additional Chief Sec-retary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi. Asked about the reasons for the extension, he added, "The reason is one. The probe is not complete." The Yogi Adityanath government is fighting severe criticism for its handling of the case, particularly after the local police burnt the woman's body at night without the family's approval.

Stones thrown at Kamal Nath's convoy

Bhopal: Former chief minister Kamal Nath's cavalcade was on Wednesday stoned by some miscreants when he was leading an election rally in Annpur. The incident happened when the youth wing of BJP was staging black flag demonstration to protest Mr Nath's visit to Annpur assembly constituency which is going to by-elections along with 27 other seats in Madhya Pradesh on November 3. The demonstrators tried to block Mr Nath's cavalcade while holding the demonstration and shouting slogans against him. However, the security personnel deployed in the area chased them away to clear the way for Mr Nath's convoy to proceed to the venue of the public meeting in the town. Some youths who were part of the demonstration then suddenly started pelting stones at Mr Nath's vehicle. However, Mr Nath's cavalcade had passed by then. A video catching the violent demonstration went viral immediately after the incident. Congress condemned the attack, saying that the BJP was resorting to violence against Congress leaders out of frustration. "The attack on Mr Nath's vehicle is a clear demonstration of BJP's frustration over growing popularity of Congress. In democracy, there is no place for violence", senior Congress leader and former Union minister Arun Yadav said. He said Mr Nath enjoyed Z plus security and slammed the Shivraj government for security lapses leading to attack on his vehicle.

Kerala: 37-year-old Pocso accused killed

Thiruvananthapuram: A 37-year-old Kerala man, who was an accused in PCO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) case and out on parole, was hacked to death by unidentified persons in Thrissur district. The accused had carried out the alleged sexual assault on a tribal girl in Pazhayannur in Thrissur. His body was found in a vacant plot. The police has registered a case and the probe has begun. The local police said Sathesh was found with injuries in a vacant house near his home in Elanad in Thirumani village. He was taken into custody about eight months ago in connection with the case of sexual assault on a tribal girl. After being released on parole, he was residing in Malappuram. However, of late he was often seen near the spot where the tribal girl was sexually assaulted. There were also reports that some people used to visit the village looking for him which led to the suspicion that he might have committed something wrong in Malappuram. Local residents told police that two persons from Malappuram district had visited the village recently enquiring about the whereabouts of Sathesh. The cops are trying to find out if they are linked to the incident in any way. The cops are also in the process of collecting the details of persons who visited the village to ascertain their identity.

Crisis blows over, OPS names EPS as CM pick

11-member steering committee as asked by OPS set up

G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR
CHENNAI, OCT. 7

With sweets and firecrackers, it was early Deepavali at the AIADMK headquarters premises on Wednesday morning soon after the party coordinator, O. Panneerselvam, named the incumbent Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Assembly elections.

The meeting, scheduled for 10.00 am, started a little ahead of time with the party headquarters wearing a festive look since morning and the first announcement was on the formation of the 11-member steering committee, which had been Panneerselvam's long time demand.

Party deputy coordinator K.P. Munusamy, who was among those working till 3.30 am to bring about a rapprochement between Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, read out the names of the members of the steering committee, which he said was formed on the basis of a decision taken at the General Council. Also Panneerselvam put his stamp of approval on the list by signing on it in front of the crowd.

The steering committee members are Forest Minister Dindigul C. Seenivasan, Electricity Minister P. Thangamani, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Law Minister C. Ve. Shanmugam, Food and Civil Supplies Minister R. Kamaraj, former MLA J.C.D. Prabakar, former MP Manoj Pandian, former Minister P. Mohan, former MP R. Gopalakrishnan and Sholavandan MLA K. Manikkam.

Munusamy and Vaithilingam, another deputy coordinator, had shuttled between the official residences of Panneerselvam and Palaniswami to finalise the name of the committee members till the wee hours as that was the last hitch to be ironed out to bring both the leaders



AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam greets Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Chennai on Wednesday

together to make the announcement they were united.

Once the truce was called, the entire party leadership geared up for the meeting and trooped to the venue. Panneerselvam arrived by around 9.40 am and he was followed by Palaniswami in another five minutes. Musical bands heralded their arrival with welcome notes and supporters, some of them wearing full face masks with the images of the leaders, cheered them with slogan shouting.

Then the two leaders, along with the other party functionaries, chatted for some time before the meeting was called for order. It was rumoured that they wanted the announce-

ments to be made at an auspicious hour that came before 10 am.

Whatever be the reason, the meeting turned out to be a simple affair with the presentation of shawls, brief expression of thanks and appreciation and several rounds of applause without slipping into long winded harangue that normally marked political meetings.

Then the top brass of the party, including Palaniswami and Panneerselvam, drove down to the MGR memorial. Both of them paid homage to MGR and also J. Jayalalithaa at their respective samadhis and then drove away.

When Jayakumar was asked by the media on the steering committee having

Palaniswami supporters, he said that the names were chosen unanimously. He said the show of unity in the party was a huge blow to betrayers and opponents of the AIADMK.

Vaithilingam, to a question on some senior leaders not figuring in the committee, said that there were other vacancies in the party and they would be soon filled up with the senior leaders who were not part of the panel.

AIADMK cadre, both men and women, cheered the leaders for putting up a show of unity with their jubilant gigs and slogan shouting.

A marked sense of relief and celebration filled the air as they distributed sweets and lighted firecrackers.

My life's purpose is to bring all faiths together, says Rahul

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said his life's purpose is to bring people of all faiths together in India.

He made the remark on Twitter while tagging a media report in which Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz is quoted as saying

that "politics of division is an antithesis of what needs to be done" in the country.

"I agree. My life's purpose is to bring people of all faiths together in this land," Mr Gandhi tweeted.

The Nobel laureate was quoted as saying that division in society will weaken India forever. — PTI

Adhoc Hiring Of 20 Metric Ton Civil Hired Truck Trailer (Flat Bed) FOR MOVE OF SIZE II DOZER FROM BUDGAM TO MEERUT

TENDER NOTICE
269 Engineer Regiment, Budgam intends to hire 20 Metric Ton Truck Trailer (Flat Bed) on Adhoc basis for move of size-II dozer from Budgam to Meerut. Rates for the same will be fixed by Board of Officers. **Quotations are required to be placed in tender box on 14 Oct 2020 from 0930 hrs to 1230 hrs at 269 Engineer Regiment (Budgam).** The format of quotation and terms and conditions can be obtained from 269 Engineer Regiment on any working day from 08 Oct 2020 to 14 Oct 2020. **Clarifications if any, can be obtained from Officer-in-Charge on Telephone No.: 9624923868/9149481170.**

SEARCH OF MISSING/ KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl, (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Priyanka, D/o: Gaurav, R/o: H.No. 97, Gali No. 02, Sonu Khari, In front of MCD School, Delhi Aged: about 14 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since 11.09.2020. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 745/20, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 11.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:**

Height: 5' Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Red Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Hawal Chappal in her feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, PS Khajuri Khas, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> or Fax No. 011-24368639, Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641, Extn. 2101.



Priyanka

S.H.O
P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi
Ph. 011-22962735, 22195181

DP/325/NE/2020.



Gupteshwar Pandey

SHIV SENA TO CONTEST 50 SEATS IN BIHAR ELECTIONS

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has announced that it will contest 50 seats in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. The party has also decided to field its candidate against former Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey, who is likely to contest the polls on JD(U) ticket.

Mr Pandey had criticised the Mumbai police and Maharashtra government in the actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. He later joined the ruling Janata Dal (United) after taking voluntary retirement from the service. He is expected to contest the elections on a JD(U) ticket from Buxar.

Senior Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai said, "Maharashtra, Mumbai and Shiv Sena were unnecessarily defamed in the Sushant Singh death case by playing vendetta politics. The Shiv Sena will now fight back by contesting the polls. We will contest 50 seats in Bihar."

According to Sena leaders, the party had contested the 2015 assembly polls too, in which it had polled more than two lakh votes.

Defending the decision to contest against the former Bihar DIG, Mr Desai said, "Not just Maharashtra but the entire nation saw his theatrics. His statements were unbecoming for his post. But our Shiv Sainik is ready to fight against him."

The Shiv Sena had earlier accused the Bihar politicians of trying to make Sushant Singh's death an electoral issue. Some issues can be shipped from Mumbai if they don't have real issues, another Sena leader Sanjay Raut had said.

Bihar will go to polls in three phases: October 28, November 3 and November 7.

Bihar polls: BJP spares 11 seats for its ally, VIP

Patna, Oct. 7: The BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar assembly polls.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced at a joint press conference Tuesday that while JD(U) will spare some seats to Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 122 seats and the BJP will accommodate VIP from its quota of 121 seats in the 243-member assembly.

JD(U) has provided seven seats to HAM.

The seat distribution to VIP was announced at a press conference addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal and VIP chief Mukesh Sahni.

Jaiswal told reporters that VIP will also be provided one seat in Bihar legislative council in future.

VIP floated a couple of years ago by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, was with the opposition Grand Alliance till last week.

Sahni had on Friday last announced an abrupt exit from the opposition coalition in protest against "back-stabbing" by RJD,

which helps the anti-NDA grouping, and its de facto leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Sahni expressed happiness over return to the BJP-led NDA with which he had started his political innings in 2014 general election with an aim to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister of the country.

Meanwhile, Bihar BJP leader Usha Vidyarthi joined the Lok Janshakti Party on Wednesday after meeting its president Chirag Paswan, and is likely to be fielded from the Paliganj assembly seat where the JD(U) will contest as well.

Vidyarthi, a former MLA, joined the LJP a day after another senior BJP leader from the state, Rajendra Singh, who was associated with the RSS for a long time, joined Paswan's party.

Singh wanted to contest from Dinara but the seat has been allotted to the JD(U) as part of its seat-sharing arrangement with the ally BJP for the Bihar assembly polls.

The Lok Janshakti Party, which has announced that it will contest from seats given to the JD(U) and not fight against the BJP, hopes that many more leaders from other parties will join it in the coming days.

— PTI

I-T RAIDS LOCATIONS IN BIHAR, U.P. IN PROBE AGAINST BUSINESSMAN

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The Income Tax Department has conducted searches in poll-bound Bihar and Uttar Pradesh against a businessman involved in mining and the hotel industry and the chairman of a "large" cooperative bank, the CBDT said on Wednesday.

It said the raids were conducted on Tuesday in Patna, Sasaram and Varanasi on the basis of "actionable intelligence" and ₹1.25 crore cash was seized while fixed deposit receipts of ₹6 crore were placed under "prohibitory orders."

"During the search, an amount of ₹75 lakh was found in a car belonging to the businessman involved in mining and hotel industry. Subsequent investiga-

tions led to the finding that this amount was unaccounted and was also linked to the chairman of a large cooperative bank," the CBDT said in a statement.

"Unaccounted cash and documents with details of substantial cash transactions were found and seized. These transactions are not reflected in the corresponding returns of income," it said.

The Board did not identify those who were raided but sources said the businessman has links with a political party in Bihar.

Polis for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will take place on November 10. — PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED "A State Government Undertaking"	
Press Tender Notice (e-Tendering Mode Only)	
Online tender in two parts are invited for the following work:-	
Tender specification No.	Name of work
SSD-463/2020	Check Survey, Fabrication, Galvanization & Supply of Tower material & its accessories, ACSR, 'PANTHER' Conductor, 24-Fibre OPGW along with Hardware fittings for Panther conductor and OPGW Polymeric Insulators (120 KN & 90 KN) Stubbing, Erection of Towers & earthing Stringing & Sagging of Conductor and OPGW and Rerivment work for construction 132kV D/C Transmission Line from 220/132kV Sub-Station Kangoo to proposed 132/33 kV substation AIIIMS project site (Kohlpura) Bilaspur on Turnkey basis.
The dates of sale, receipt and opening of Tenders are mentioned in the detailed Notice Inviting Tenders which can be downloaded free of cost from the website https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEBL . For other details on e-tendering please contact on Mobile Nos. 09418377600, 09816163225 and 08091381583.	
-sd- Superintending Engineer (Design) E S, HPSEB Ltd., Hamirpur Tele/Fax - 01972-221469, E-mail: sedeshmr@gmail.com	

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & F C DIVISION
SRINAGAR

Fresh e-NIT No. 21 of 2020-21 Dated: 03/10/2020

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or authorised dealers of OEMs or Joint ventures for following item of work which should be uploaded on the e-procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> upto the last bidding date of 17/10/2020 upto 1600 Hrs. to be received by the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar. The bidding process shall be completely online in Two (02) Cover System Cover 1st Containing Technical bid in form of Earnest Money and Tender document fee details, fulfilment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to the terms and conditions of the Tender. Cover 2nd containing Financial bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost of work (₹ in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Cost of Tender Dec. (in ₹)	Class of contract	Time of Completion
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01.	Design, manufacture, providing installation, Testing and commissioning of floating Jetties/Decks for Pontoon HDPE Cube for River Jhelum at specified spots from Pantha Chowk to Chattabal Weir Srinagar including barrier railing.	54.76	109620/-	5000/-	OEM or Authorized dealer of OEM & Joint Venture	30 days
Major Head of Account :		SWADESH				
Position of funds :		Available				

1. The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of the Technical bid shall be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar on the date given below:

1	Date of Publication of Tender Notice	03/10/2020
2	Date of downloading of bidding documents	03/10/2020 from 1500 Hrs.
3	Bid submission start date	03/10/2020 from 1500 Hrs.
5	Bid Submission end date	17/10/2020 upto 1600 Hrs.
6	Date & time of opening Cover-1(Technical Cover) on line	19/10/2020 at 11:00 AM
7	Date & time of opening Cover-2 (Price Bid) (on line)	The date of opening of price bid will be notified separately after evaluation of cover-1

2. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 04 and 05 above payable at Srinagar.

a) Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for one year or more after last date of receipt of Bid.

b) The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of Treasury Challan/Receipt or e-challan to be deposited under MH: Rev Misc in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar.

3. The complete bidding process will be online on <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money and tender fee shall not be forfeited.

5. Queries by email if any should be made at exen@jktenders.gov.in or exen@jktenders.gov.in.

No: IFDCS/CS/4880-91
Dated: 03/10/2020
DIPK-6843/20 Dated 07.10.2020

SD/
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F C Division
Srinagar.

SHORT TAKES

SSR CASE: PLAINT AGAINST AIIMS DOCTOR FILED

SAURABH JOSHI
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), probing suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has now received a complaint application from the lawyer of Rajput's family, against an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) doctor for allegedly leaking Rajput's forensic analysis report.

The complaint mentioned professional misconduct on the part of the doctor stating that it led to bias and boastful conclusion of the evidence that was already insufficient. The lawyer, Varun Singh, has also sought for a fresh panel of AIIMS doctors to conduct assessment into the actor's death.

"Despite asking for a copy of the report, there has been no response. The head of the forensic team was not submitting a post-mortem report but was only expressing opinion on the findings of Cooper Hospital, which conducted the autopsy," Singh's complaint application stated.

Singh reiterated that the Cooper Hospital did not do a videography of the post-mortem alleging that they did not retain sufficient viscera for future examination. He added that the autopsy report did not mention any time of death.

9 HURT IN BLAST AT PETROL PUMP IN ODISHA

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 7

Nine people were injured in a blast at a petrol pump station near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday afternoon. All the injured were rushed to Capital Hospital. Two of the injured who suffered 60 and 40 per cent burn injuries, respectively, were later sent to SCB Medical College and Hospital.

The impact of the blast could be gauged from the fact that pounds of human flesh and severed limbs of the injured were strewn around the filling station. According to a helper of an oil tanker which was waiting for its turn at the filling station to unload Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the underground CNG tank of the petrol pump blasted at around 1.02 pm.

"The blast occurred when another oil tanker which had arrived before us was delivering CNG to the filling station. Before we could understand what happened, the area was engulfed with fire and smoke. We ran away from the spot to save our lives," the helper said.

As many as five fire tenders doused the flames after an hour of efforts. "As per our preliminary information, some people have suffered serious injuries in the mishap. They were all sent to different hospitals. At this moment, we are focusing on the efforts to ensure that the petrol and diesel reserves stored underground remain safe and do not catch fire," Commissioner of Police Sudhansu Sarangi said.

DISHA BILL WILL BE CLEARED SOON: MAHA MINISTER

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, OCT. 7

In the wake of the gruesome Hathras gangrape and murder case, Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday asserted that his government will get Disha Bill cleared in the next session of the state legislature. The women politicians from Maharashtra's ruling parties, who met the home minister, demanded installation of CCTVs, a dedicated police force at local level and mechanisms for prompt action on cyber-crimes.

A meeting was organized at Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai on Tuesday, which was attended by ministers of state for home Satej Patil and Shambhuraj Desai, women members of ruling parties including NCP leader and Baramati MP Supriya Sule and Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande among others. Deputy Chairperson of the legislative council Neelam Gorhe also joined the meeting online. Mr. Deshmukh said that a draft of the Disha Act has been finalized and the government would incorporate more suggestions from the women and experts on the issue.

Festive spirit



An elderly woman paints a Chalchitra, a traditional decorative item, ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festival in Nadia district on Wednesday.

— PTI

3 militants killed in Shopian encounter

YUSUF JAMEEL
SRINAGAR, OCT. 7

Three militants were killed in a 20-hour-long unfruitful with the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district, the authorities said here on Wednesday.

They said that all the slain men were local Kashmiris. They were identified as Sajad Ahmad Malla, Junaid Rashid Wani and Waseem Ahmad Magray. While Malla was associated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the two others were Al-Badar cadres — "all part of groups involved in planning and executing several terror attacks on security forces establishments and inflicting atrocities on civilians," the police said.

Meanwhile, a large number of mourners attended the funeral of

J&K policeman Altaf Hussain who fell to the militants' bullets while foiling an attempt on the life of a local Bharatiya Janata Party leader in central district of Ganderbal on Tuesday night. One of the two or three assailants was also killed in the PSO's retaliatory fire, the police said.

The officials said that fighting broke out in Shopian's Sukan area late Tuesday evening after the J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) with the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and the 178th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) laid siege to it to conduct a search operation.

A police spokesman here said that the militants holed up in a private house during the cordon-and-search operation at Sukan were asked

to lay down their arms and surrender before the security forces but they preferred to fight.

"During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter," the spokesman said.

He said that the operation was suspended in view of the darkness but the whole area was put under strict cordon.

"Terrorists trapped inside made certain attempts to break the cordon and escape from the spot. In the wee hours, the operation was resumed and in the ensuing encounter three terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter," the police

added.

Meanwhile, DGP Dilbag Singh said here on Wednesday that the militant who was killed in the retaliatory fire of the PSOs of BJP second-rung leader Ghulam Qadir in Nunar area of Ganderbal was a close associate of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Reyaz Naikoo.

He identified him as Shabir Ahmed Shah, a resident of southern Pulwama. Naikoo was killed in a fire fight with the security forces in his home district Pulwama earlier this year.

He said that the BJP leader was targeted by militants while he was leaving his ancestral home for a safe cluster accommodation in the neighbouring Kangan area.

A police statement added, "The terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the protected person. However, his PSOs

namely Altaf Hussain and Jahangir Ahmad exhibited a highly professional conduct by quickly retaliating against the terrorists and saved the life of the protected person thereby fulfilling their professional commitments".

It added, "The exemplary valiant act of the accompanying security officials resulted in the killing of an active terrorist on the spot thereby defeating the purpose of terrorist without caring for their own lives".

Constable Hussain was, however, grievously injured in the exchange of fire and succumbed on the way to a hospital in Srinagar.

Singh and several other senior officers of the J&K police and other security forces attended the wreath laying ceremony for the slain cop held here on Wednesday.

5 Naxal leaders killed by rivals

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 7

The ongoing fratricidal killings among the naxal cadres in south Bastar district of Bijapur triggered by the recent murder of 10 civilians in the region by the ultras have claimed lives of five more rebels, a senior police officer posted in Bastar told this newspaper on Wednesday.

The five victims of fratricidal killings among the Naxal cadres carried bounties ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹3 lakh.

"We have received information that five other Naxal leaders were killed by their rivals in the Naxal cadres in separate incidents recently over the recent murder of civilians in Bijapur district. All the five slain

Maoists carried bounties on their heads", Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraj told this newspaper.

The five slain Maoists are Budharam Kurasam, platoon section commander of local 'jan militia' (armed Maoist guerrillas), Lakhu Helma, in-charge of Maoist schools in the region, Dasru Mandavi, president of local jantana sarkar (local government created by Maoists), and Kamlu Punem, militia platoon commander. They carried bounties of ₹1 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹3 lakh, ₹1 lakh and ₹1 lakh respectively. On Oct. 1, Modiyam Vijja, divisional committee member and in-charge of Gangaloor area committee, was killed by his deputy Dinesh Modiyam.

Vijja carried a reward of ₹8 lakh on his head.

JK govt to recruit 1,700 doctors, says L-G Sinha

Udhampur (JK), Oct. 7:

The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to recruit 1,700 doctors to strengthen the healthcare system, lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

"There is a shortage of paramedics and doctors in J-K. There are vacancies. We are going to start the recruitment of 1,700 doctors soon," Mr Sinha told an event organised as part of the "Back-to-Village-3" campaign in Udhampur district's Kud area.

"Since we are facing a pandemic and new lifestyle diseases, we have ensured universal life and health cover for all people in our villages.... We will deliver on this," he added.



Manoj Sinha

The Lt-governor appreciated the progress achieved by the district in the health sector and stressed on expediting the work on recently approved new medical colleges.

S u m m a r i s i n g achievements of the "Back-to-Village" programme, the L-G announced that 1.79 lakh beneficiaries have been linked with the Jammu & Kashmir Health Insurance

Scheme, 65,000 farmers have been provided Kisan Credit Card, 1.55 lakh ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar and more than 55,000 farmers have benefited under PM Kisan initiative.

"It is heartening to know that school enrolment in the district has increased over the past years; three new colleges are coming up while four others are already operational. It should be our collective responsibility to reduce the school dropout rate in the district," said the Mr Sinha.

He complimented the district administration for the 'Back to School' initiative which has led to resumption of studies for school dropouts.

— PTI

Tamil family found dead in United Kingdom

London, Oct. 7: Scotland Yard has launched a murder investigation after three members of a Tamil-origin family were found dead in their flat in west London. Officers from the Metropolitan Police forced entry into a block of flats in Brentford on Tuesday after concerns were raised for the well-being of Poorna Kaameshwari Sivaraj.

Inside, they discovered the body of the 36-year-old woman and her three-year-old son, Kailash Kuha Raj. Her husband, Kuha Raj Sithamparanathan, was found with severe stab injuries and died at the scene soon after.

The police believe the 42-year-old fatally injured himself when officers entered the property. While the police are yet to



Poorna Kaameshwari Sivaraj with her Kailash Kuha Raj

confirm their line of inquiry and a post-mortem on the bodies is scheduled for Thursday, it is suspected to be a case of murder-suicide.

"Although we are in the infancy of this investigation, it appears that Poorna and Kailash had been dead for some time.

This is a murder investigation and my team will work diligently to establish the sequence of events that led to their murders and the death of Kuha Raj Sithamparanathan," said detective chief inspector Simon Harding from the Met's Specialist Crime

Command, who is leading the investigation.

He said that their initial enquiries had established that Poorna and Kailash had not been seen or heard from for some days, perhaps since around the September 21.

"We know the family often walked their dog, a poodle cross breed, in and around the local area and I would ask anyone who saw them at any time in the last month to contact police so we can begin to build a full picture of their lives," said Harding.

"I know I speak on behalf of all the officers in my team that words cannot sufficiently sum up the devastation that this horrific incident will have on the families of those involved. However, I can reassure them that we will do all we can to provide

them with the answers they need about what has happened here," he said.

The police force also sought to reassure the neighbourhood following the deaths of family, from Malaysia and of Sri Lankan and Tamil heritage. "This horrific incident has understandably caused enormous shock and concern among local residents and across the borough; all our thoughts are with the family and friends of those affected," said Peter Gardner, the local area commander for the Met Police. He praised the London Ambulance Service (LAS) paramedics who rushed to the scene and worked "tirelessly and professionally under extremely traumatic circumstances" as they tried to save the life of Sithamparanathan. — PTI

Kerala sees 10,606 cases in 24 hours

Single-day highest spike in Covid cases is due to increase in testing

GILVESTER ASSARY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 7

Kerala on Wednesday reported the highest single-day spike with 10,606 Covid-19 positive cases even as the total number of active cases in the state inched towards the 1-lakh mark. With the new cases, the number of people infected with the virus in the state so far has reached 92,161. The single-day highest spike is also attributed to the increase in testing.

During the last 24 hours, a total of 73,816 samples were tested in the state which is a higher figure compared to the testing carried out on previous days.

Of the new cases, 9,542 contracted the infection through contact, the source of infection among 741 is yet to be traced, 54 came from abroad and 164 from other states and 98 health workers also got infected.

The state also recorded 22 deaths on Wednesday taking the official death toll to 906.

Kozhikode district reported the highest number of cases at 1,576 followed by Malappuram 1,350, Ernakulam 1,201, Thiruvananthapuram 1,182, Thrissur 948, Kollam 852, Alappuzha 672, Palakkad 650, Kannur 602, Kottayam 490, Kasargod 432, Pathanamthitta 393, Wayanad 138 and Idukki 120.

At present 2.67 lakh persons are under surveillance across the state including 2.38 lakh are under home/institutional quarantine. Meanwhile, with 72,049 fresh cases, India's overall tally of Coronavirus cases reached 67.57 lakh on Wednesday. In the last 24 hours 986 deaths were recorded taking the total toll to 1,04,555.

Union health ministry data said so far close to 57.45 lakh persons have recuperated taking the national recovery rate to 85.02 per cent. The Covid-19 case fatality rate in the country has declined to 1.55 per cent.

"India has crossed a significant milestone. The national recovery rate has jumped past 85% on Wednesday with the continuous streak of high number of recovered cases being reported in the past few weeks. The recovered cases have exceeded the new confirmed again during the past 24 hours.

As many as 82,203 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours in the country compared to 72,049 new confirmed cases.

"The sustained high levels of recoveries have led to further widening of the gap between active and recovered cases. Recovered cases exceed the active cases (9,07,883) by more than 48 lakh. The recovered cases are 6.32 times the active cases ensuring that the recoveries are consistently rising. The active caseload of the country has further slid to 13.44% of the total positive cases and is consistently declining," health ministry officials said.

As many as 18 states/UTs have Recovery Rate more than the national average while 75% of the new recovered cases are being reported from ten states — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Delhi.

Maharashtra is topping the list with nearly 17,000 recoveries while Karnataka contribute more than 10,000 to the single day recoveries.

Union minister of parliamentary affairs, coal and mines Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19 and was under home quarantine.

"I have tested positive for #Covid. As I am asymptomatic, as per doctor's advice I am in home quarantine," he tweeted.

Joshi, an MP from Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency, played a crucial role in the conduct of the recent Parliament session amid the pandemic in his capacity as the Parliamentary affairs minister.

Joshi is the latest addition to prominent politicians from Karnataka who have tested positive for Covid.

Most of them have either recovered or under recovery. They include Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, several Ministers in the state cabinet and a number of legislators.

In a related development, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday suggested an increase in frequency of local trains in Mumbai to check overcrowding, as the government has granted permission to several sectors to resume work.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a bunch of petitions, seeking a direction to the government of Maharashtra to include lawyers and their clerical staff under essential services and permit them to use the local trains.

Public places can't be occupied indefinitely

Continued from Page 1
December 15, 2019, and continued for over two months before it was dispersed in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

The top court's judgment came on a batch of petitions, including one against Delhi high court order wherein it had asked the authorities and Delhi Police to deal with the situation in accordance with the law, rules, regulations while keeping in mind larger public interest.

Apparently not impressed by the way the high court had dealt with the matter, the 13-page judgment said that the court should have "monitored" the issue, rather than disposing of it and "creating a fluid situation".

Observing that it is the responsibility of the authorities to take "suitable action" that should produce results, the court said that the manner in which the administration should act is their responsibility and they should not "hide behind the court orders or seek support therefrom for carrying out their administrative functions".

"The courts adjudicate the legality of the actions and are not meant to give shoulder to the administration to fire their guns from.

Unfortunately, despite a lapse of a considerable period of time, there was neither any negotiations nor any action by the administration, thus warranting our intervention," said Justice Kaul, hauling up the administration for not intervening in a timely manner and diffusing the situation.

The court said that it was the "hand of God" which subsequently "intervened and overtook the situation" as not only our country, but also the world grappled with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Tracing the history of protests to freedom struggle against colonial rulers, Justice Kaul said that the erstwhile mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy.

Justice Kaul, heading the bench also comprising Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Krishna Murari, added that the state "must respect and encourage" the "treasured rights," the right of freedom of speech and the right to assemble peacefully to protest for the strength of a democracy. However, he said that these rights are accompanied with reasonable restrictions.

THE ASIAN AGE

8 OCTOBER 2020

Quad's future: Too early to talk of an 'Asian Nato'

While the physical gathering of the foreign ministers of India, the United States, Australia and Japan in Tokyo this week — fairly unusual in these Covid-19 times — sent an unmistakable signal to China that these nations were determined to stand up to its bullying in the neighbourhood and beyond, and uphold the principle of a “rules-based international order” in a “free and open Indo-Pacific region”, which India’s external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said meant “respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty and the peaceful resolution of disputes”, it was left to US secretary of state Mike Pompeo to really turn the heat on Beijing. In a direct attack not only on the Chinese government but also the Communist Party of China, America’s chief diplomat — who made it a point to go ahead with his visit despite the churn back in election-eve

All four nations are united on the need to counter the waves of disinformation from Beijing, such as over the source of the coronavirus, or the use of so-called 'wolf warrior diplomacy'...

Washington — blasted China’s “exploitation, corruption, and coercion” in the “South (China Sea), East China Sea, Mekong, the Himalayas and the Taiwan Straits”. He also openly accused China of initially “covering up” the coronavirus pandemic in Wuhan and “silencing the very brave Chinese citizens who raised the alarm”.

The Quadrilateral, the grouping of the four nations that met in Japan, has been around for a while, but what has given the strategic partnership new heft is China’s renewed aggression of late — most visibly in the People’s Liberation Army’s intrusions into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh — which Mr Pompeo pointedly referred to in his remarks, but also in its newfound claims to the South China Sea, which mostly lies in international waters, and its blatant attempts to intimidate the democratic government in Taipei through an excessive show of force in the Taiwan Straits. India has a direct interest in ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, through which so much of our trade transits, which recently prompted New Delhi to send naval warships to show the Indian flag in these waters.

Everybody is well aware that the “Quad” is aimed at countering China, but it was noticeable only the US leader explicitly targeted the People’s Republic, while India, Australia and Japan were more circumspect. That doesn’t mean they don’t share the same views about Beijing’s aggression, which affects them far more than it does the US, but they also don’t want to aggravate China beyond a point — to ensure, say in India’s case, it doesn’t adversely impact the ongoing negotiations over the Ladakh de-escalation process. Japan too has become more vigilant as China has got increasingly assertive about its claims to some islands. All four nations are united on the need to counter the waves of disinformation from Beijing, such as over the source of the coronavirus, or the use of so-called “wolf warrior diplomacy” by which the PRC targets smaller nations — like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or Nepal — to name just a few in our neighbourhood.

Where is the “Quad” headed? Will it, as some commentators predict, evolve into a kind of “Asian Nato”? Or will it focus not just on security, but also try to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative and help develop 5G networks that don’t depend on Huawei? There are many in India who may welcome an “Asian Nato”, but we should remember that if we want an independent foreign policy, we have to safeguard our borders ourselves, this can’t be easily outsourced even to our closest allies.

AIADMK: Who really won?

In what was a win-win situation, a long drawn imbroglia in Tamil Nadu’s ruling party, AIADMK, came to a close, on expected lines and at the expected hour on Wednesday. Deputy chief minister O. Panneerselvam, who started it all on Independence Day when some posters made an appearance in his hometown expressing his followers’ desire to see him as the next chief ministerial candidate of the party, concluded it by announcing his rival Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the chief ministerial candidate.

But the acrimony with which the two leaders fought the battle for supremacy and fact that unlike many other political parties in the State or the country, AIADMK is no more a personality oriented or ideologically driven party give rise to the doubts if the differences can really blow over.

For, what we have is a cabal of leaders, who had been chosen to whatever positions they held by the former supremo J. Jayalalithaa, or by default her confidante V.K. Sasikala. Of them, many aspire to lead the party or the government run by it, though the opportunity has come to only two of them through cruel twists of fate.

Those two on whom the mantle had fallen agreed among them to one being chief minister and the other deputy chief minister, ensuring that the rest remained in the sidelines. But when the deputy became more ambitious on seeing the chief minister cornering all the glory and anything else that came along with the job, the fight started.

With the rest of the leaders on the sidelines sensing the dangers such an in-fighting could engender, put an end to it. But the fact that the parleys went into the small hours of Wednesday and that there are some loose ends to be tied up, too, only indicate that it can erupt again. For it is not clear as to who the victor is now.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Ex-DGP Pandey and the power of 'good offices'

The three-month mandatory cooling-off period has been waived for IPS officer Gupteshwar Pandey, who was DGP Bihar and sought voluntary retirement (VRS). This was done to allow him to join politics and possibly contest the upcoming state Assembly elections. Mr Pandey, who shot into the headlines with his controversial comments on the investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s suicide, applied for VRS and received the approval from the Bihar government within 24 hours!

Normally, an officer seeking VRS has to give a three-month notice to the government before quitting. Sources say that it takes up to two months for the government to clear the paperwork before granting retirement. In Mr Pandey’s case,

however, there was an unseemly hurry to grant his request.

Few, however, were surprised at Mr Pandey’s resignation from the IPS. His political ambitions had been the subject of much speculation weeks before he actually took the plunge. He has gone down this road earlier in 2009 when he took VRS to fight the Lok Sabha elections that year. He lost and was reinstated into the IPS. It pays to be well-connected.

HARYANA TO SEE CHANGES AT THE TOP

With the retirement of Haryana chief secretary Keshni Anand Arora and the appointment of principal secretary to the chief minister, Rajesh Khullar, as executive director of the World Bank, observers expect a major adminis-

trative change in the state.

According to those in the know, several senior IAS officers are in the succession race. Among them, Vijay Vardhan, a 1985-batch IAS officer and current home secretary, is the strongest claimant for the post of chief secretary. Others in the fray are 1986 batch IAS Sanjeev Kaushal, and 1987 batch IAS Rajeev Arora. V. Umashankar, a 1993 batch IAS and additional principal secretary to CM, is reported to be very close to the CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Apparently, being close to the CM makes one a good contender for a plum posting.

Some observers point out that the caste factor may play an important role. Both Keshmi Anand Arora and Rajesh Khullar are Punjabis, as is chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar. So, will he choose babus

from the Punjabi community to fill the slots? Will the caste factor play a role? Any guesses?

BABUS AND OTHER VIP SQUATTERS

There is nothing new about the reluctance of public servants to move out of the residential accommodation allotted them after retirement from service. It has been debated in public and private by citizens and VIPs, discussed in the courts who have issued directions to governments, but not much has changed.

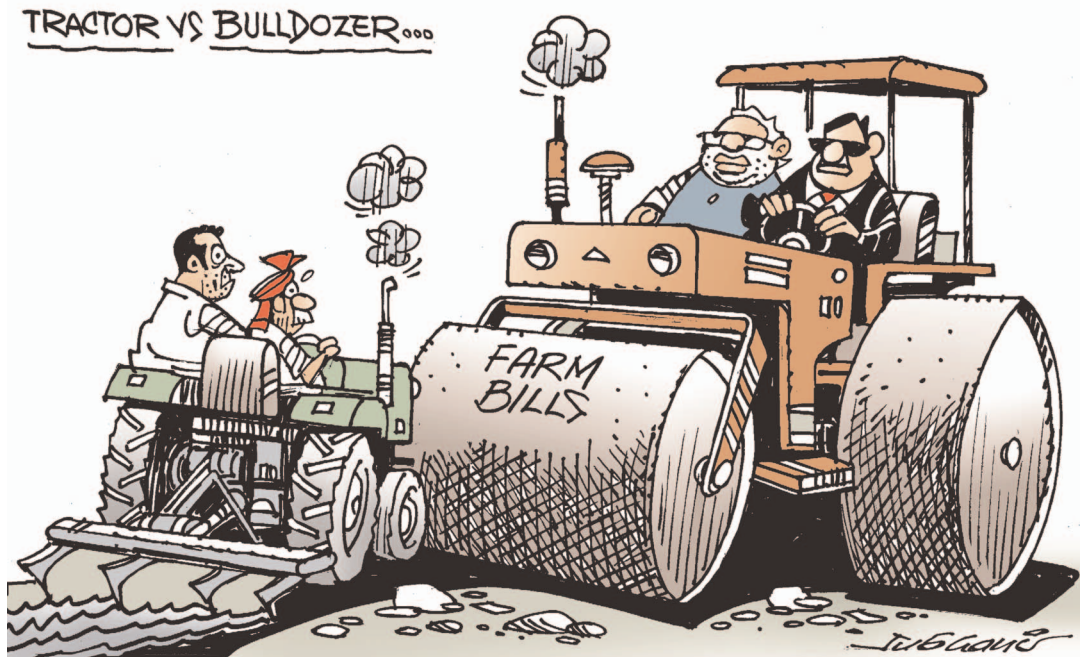
The latest effort to ensure that government accommodation is not misused by babus is a directive from Delhi high court to the Centre to ensure that it gets illegally occupied houses vacated and recovers the rental dues for the period of the

illegal occupation. Apparently, according to the data submitted by the ministry of housing and urban affairs, the government has managed to wrest 565 government accommodations that were illegally occupied by retired public servants and recovered Rs 3 crores in rental dues. However, it also stated that Rs 9 crores was still outstanding from other illegal occupants and it has issued notices to the offenders.

For now, the dispensers of justice seem to have been appeased but this issue is not off the table. And won’t be until babus, and our worthy netas, learn to let go of their official trappings once they no longer have the privilege to enjoy them.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](#). Let’s multiply the effect.

TRACTOR VS BULLDOZER...



Subhani

Empower IAF to fight aerial war on 2 fronts



Abhijit Bhattacharyya

At 88, the Indian Air Force (born in 1932 as the Royal Indian Air Force) can certainly look back with pride as it evolved into an outstanding professional force, which is the nation’s pride and the envy of our neighbours.

Even before the RIAF was born, an 18-year-old Indian pilot, Lt. Indra Lal Roy of the Royal Flying Corps, had downed 10 German fighters in just 14 days in the skies over France, and laid down his life while still in his teens, on July 22, 1918. Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Roy was India’s sole flying ace in the First World War. The standard set in 1918 continues to date.

The IAF officers of today remain worthy torchbearers of their legendary predecessors, notwithstanding a few hiccups over the pace of its fleet modernisation. War or peace, they operate with great elan. Their offensive as well as defensive ops over the “forward edge of battle area” in the 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars have been true to the Latin dictum “Per Ardua ad Astra” (Through adversity to the stars). However, India faces a major challenge today from an aggressive Communist Party of China, and the IAF, and India, have to be adept at tackling it.

Forty years ago, in 1980, China’s infant aviation industry was based mainly in Shenyang and Harbin; with the Soviet-licensed Yak-18, AN-2 biplane and Mi-4 helicopter; besides the F-6 (MiG-19), and F-7 (MiG-21) under production. With the start of the 1978 Deng Xiaoping era, by 1990, things had changed visibly. “Chinese factories carry out sub-contract work on Airbus A-300, A-310 and A-320; ATR-42; British Aerospace 146; Boeing-737, 747, and 757; McDonnell Douglas MD-

80 series” (*Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft 1991-92*). A Chengdu factory develops the JJ-5 (MiG-17), J-7 (MiG-21F); multi-role helicopter Zhi-8; Harbin made SH-5 maritime bomber; China-France joint ventured Z-9 Haitun helicopter; Nanchang made Q-5 close-air-support fighter (also exported to Pakistan); Shaanxi Aircraft developed Y-8 (derivative of Soviet AN-12 transport); Shenyang Aircraft built J-8 air-superiority fighter; and Xian Aircraft produced (Soviet-licensed Tupolev-16) strategic bomber.

From early on, China made its intent to build indigenous aircraft quite clear. It was determined to be self-sufficient and reduce its dependence on imported aircraft to fight its foes, just like the United States and the erstwhile Soviet Union earlier. It would build its own war machine, keep the best for its own forces and give the second best to its friends, allies and followers with a lower price tag; keeping them militarily and financially dependent on the CPC. Military hardware is an effective tool of foreign and defence policy and serves as an instrument of geostrategic influence by putting smaller client states under pressure, enhancing their non-planned expenditure.

Indeed, China aggressively pursued an unfriendly posture from the start of the twenty-first century — with self-production, market distribution (selling it to smaller, friendly foreign customers) and consumption of its own product, thereby cutting import costs. This entire area needs a thorough relook by the Indian ruling class, as imported equipment still rules the roost in this country. Mass scale indigenous defence hardware/software production eludes the IAF.

By 2001, China had

exported its J-7 single-seat fighter and close air support machine to India’s neighbourhood — Bangladesh (16), Pakistan (24), Sri Lanka (4). The Pakistan Air Force too started acting “big” — “Number 2 Squadron Masroor, Numbers 18 and 20 Rafiqi and Number 25 Mianwali” (*Jane’s All the World’s Aircraft 2000-01*). A clear signal was given to New Delhi two decades ago — that the Dragon was working in tandem with the Pakistani military-ISI — but the Indian government failed to react, and in fact opened its economic and commercial doors to China around the same time.

After Islamabad made a mockery of Atal Behari Vajpayee’s Lahore bus diplomacy, the Kargil misadventure followed, and though it led to a “victory” for India, it was over the dead bodies of over a thousand soldiers. The history of 1965 was repeated in 1999, when the initial loss and subsequent recapture of our own territory couldn’t be hidden behind India’s “Kargil Vijay Diwas” celebrations. It was not an inspiring message for citizens.

China must have made a careful note of India’s plight in tackling Pakistan. By 2010, Beijing moved further up the aerial ladder. It set up a helicopter hub at Tianjin, general aviation at Zuhai and aero engines at Shanghai. Its long-term aviation policy was aimed not just at competing, but also challenging the West by stealing its technology and “compelling” it to “voluntarily” cooperate with Beijing. The West was lured into Beijing’s trap over its greed for profits.

Beijing was deeply embedded to Airbus for commercial aircraft

The Indian Air Force, with its back to the wall, needs to give high priority to the production of multi-combat craft, as it is the actual user, and boost its in-house research and development capabilities

development, and a key supplier of fighters to Pakistan. Of 19 multi-role fighter types in the world, China, with four types (CAC J-7, CAC J-10, SAC J-8 AND SAC J-11B), stood joint second with Russia (MiG-29/MiG-35, Su-30M, Su-35, Su-50) as the United States remained number one, with five types (Boeing F-15E, Boeing F/A-18E/F, Lockheed F-16, Lockheed F-22 Raptor and Lockheed F-35 JSF). Regrettably India, with its sole (developing) light combat aircraft, was nowhere in global aircraft production competition. A big country like India can’t expect to win long-drawn battles only with imported fighters.

China’s PLA Air Force banks heavily on indigenous research, development and production of combat aircraft. This can be seen from *Military Balance 2020 (London)*, the “2,517 combat capable aircraft” of the PLA Air Force comprise indigenous (and not imported) inventory — bombers, fighters, electronic warfare, tankers and transporters. India’s slow indigenisation process, and its unplanned forced expenditure due to the rising threat from China, poses a major hurdle for this country: our excessive reliance on imported fighter jets will have its repercussions.

The Indian Air Force, with its back to the wall, needs to give high priority to the production of multi-combat craft, as it is the actual user, and boost its in-house research and development capabilities. No time should be lost. The fighter, transport and rotor-craft production base must be widened, because otherwise the country’s indigenous production capacity and capability will not proceed at battle speed, retarding its readiness for multi-front conflicts. The IAF must make the fullest use of its human resources, the sooner the better.

Today, October 8, is Indian Air Force Day

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College. The views expressed here are personal.

LETTERS

THE FAULT WITHIN

There is an opinion gaining ground including among RSS-BJP constituents. It is that the UP government has handled the Hathras case very badly. What the government needed to do was to ensure correctives both in the immediate context to hold perpetrators as well as officials in Hathras accountable and in the medium-term by instituting structural reforms in the criminal justice system with respect to its intersection with political power. Not only did the UP government fail in its task of protecting the life, liberty and dignity of a young dalit woman, but it first sought to cover up the incident and is now using it to attack critics, and those who raise their voices for justice, constructing conspiracy theories invoking the proverbial foreign hand. The government should look within.

B. Ahsanullah
New Delhi

DONALD’S TRUE FACE

DONALD TRUMP has turned down the proposal to keep monetary relief going for US citizens in forced privation due to Covid. Mr Trump would rather utilise the legislative time to have his nominee to SCOTUS confirmed. No surprise this when he deliberately ignored advice to use the protective mask even as he receives the best medical care. Sad that he should do much by political egotism and so little for his citizens whom he is under oath to protect.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

GOOD LUCK, KHARA

THE APPOINTMENT of Dinesh Khara as chairman of State Bank of India must be well-received. Khara lost the race for the top post to outgoing chairman Rajnish Kumar in 2017 but his experience in the bank’s overseas offices and having overseen more than a dozen bank mergers in a 35-year long career tilted the scales in his favour this time around. The new head honcho will, however, have his task cut out in riding out the challenges that the banking sector is currently facing. Here’s wishing him well.

N.J. Ravi Chander
Bengaluru

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

IN BRIEF

N. Korea ex-envoy to Italy defected

Seoul: A senior North Korea diplomat who had vanished in Italy in late 2018 lives in South Korea under government protection, a lawmaker said Wednesday. If confirmed, Jo Song Gil, the North's former ambassador to Italy, would be the highest-level North Korean official to defect to rival South Korea since the 1997 arrival of Hwang Jang-yop, a senior ruling Workers' Party official who once tutored leader Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong Il. South Korea's spy agency earlier told lawmakers that Jo had left his official residence in Rome with his wife in November 2018 and was under protection at an unspecified location outside the European country. Lawmaker Ha Tae-keung, who sits on the intelligence committee of the National Assembly, wrote on Facebook that Jo arrived in South Korea last year and is under the protection of the South Korean government.

40 nations flay China over HR

United Nations: Nearly 40 mainly Western countries criticised China's treatment of minority groups, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, on Tuesday and expressed grave concern at the impact of its new national security law on human rights in Hong Kong. The US, many European countries, Japan and others called on China to allow "unfettered access" to Xinjiang for independent observers, including UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, and to urgently refrain from detaining Uighurs and members of other minorities. The 39 countries also urged China in a joint statement read at a meeting of the General Assembly's human rights committee, "to uphold autonomy, rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, and to respect the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary". It was immediately followed by a statement from Pakistan on behalf of 55 countries opposing interference in China's affairs when it comes to Hong Kong.

Guitar legend Eddie Van Halen dies

New York: Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65. A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday due to cancer. The person was not authorised to publicly release details in advance of an official announcement. "He was the best father I could ask for," Van Halen's son Wolfgang wrote in a social media post. "Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift." With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fuelled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump," "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher". Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

PM FOR A DAY: TEEN FILLS TOP JOB IN FINLAND

Helsinki, Oct. 7: Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin faced a quieter day than usual on Wednesday after handing power to a 16-year-old as part of a campaign to promote girls' rights. Aava Murto, from Vaasky in southern Finland, said she was having an "exciting day" as she faced media on the steps of parliament after meeting with the chancellor of justice. Murto added that she had "learned some new things about legislation". In the afternoon, the student who actively campaigns on climate and human rights issues was to speak with MPs and the minister for development and foreign trade. Her message to decision-makers has been that girls "need to realise more how important they are, and how they are just as good at technology as boys," she said. "I think young people could teach adults to be more innovative and think more about the future," she added. The swap is part of a global "Girls Takeover" campaign by children's rights charity Plan International, which aims to raise awareness of girls' digital skills.

Pence, Harris all set for one-off V-P debate

Washington, Oct. 7: Vice President Mike Pence and his Democratic challenger Senator Kamala Harris are all set for a crucial debate, which comes as President Donald Trump is ill with Coronavirus that has claimed over 200,000 American lives and battered the country's economy. Harris, whose mother was from India and father from Jamaica, scripted history in August when she was picked up by the Democratic Party as its vice presidential nominee. She is the first Black woman and the first Asian-American woman to be selected as the vice presidential nominee of a major political party in the US. It will be for the first time in the American history that an Indian-origin person will be taking up the podium for a vice pres-

Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid

Washington, Oct. 7: Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday said he is against participating in his second debate with Donald Trump next week if the president still suffers from Covid-19. "I think if he still has Covid, we shouldn't have a debate," Biden, a former

US vice-president, told reporters on his return from Gettysburg. The first of the three presidential debates between Biden, 77, and Trump, 74, was held on September 29. The second debate is scheduled for October 15 in Miami and the final one on October 22 in

Nashville, Tennessee. Biden said they should follow very strict guidelines. "Too many people have been infected. It's a very serious problem, so I will be guided by the guidelines of the Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said.

—PTI

idential debate in Salt Lake City, Utah on Wednesday night. Political analysts believe that an aggressive Harris, 55, who aspires to be the first woman vice-president in history, will easily

prevail over Pence, 61, during the only vice-presidential debate and help Biden, 77, to widen his lead over Trump, 74. The debate comes nearly a week after the first of the three presidential debates in Clevel-

and on September 29 wherein Biden termed Trump a "liar" and a "clown" as the two candidates fiercely clashed over a number of issues, including racism, economy and climate. Following the first presi-

dential debate, Trump was tested Covid positive and admitted to a military hospital, a development that upended his hectic campaign just weeks before the presidential elections on November 3.

He returned to the White House on Monday night after spending four days at the hospital, but his doctors say the president may not entirely be out of the woods. Biden, in the last few days, has widened his lead over Trump by double digit. However, the Trump Campaign believes that Pence could come out with a stellar performance during the debate. The debate gains added significance, given the Covid-19 infecting Trump, triggering speculation that Pence may be taking over the reigns of the country temporarily.

—PTI

Belarus Oppn asks Germany to mediate

Berlin, Oct. 7: Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Wednesday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel would be an ideal person to mediate the political crisis in her country.

Tsikhanouskaya said in Berlin that Merkel is "aware of what's going on there" and "would be really helpful in solving this problem."

Tsikhanouskaya met with Merkel behind closed doors on Tuesday. Tsikhanouskaya laid out her aspiration following talks with Norbert Roettgen, a top lawmaker in Merkel's conservative party.

"So, our main ask for her was to be a leader in this mediation, to call for other countries to partici-

pate in mediation for starting these negotiations," Tsikhanouskaya said. Merkel has not indicated whether she would be willing to take on such a role, and even if she did, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has rejected repeated calls for dialogue with the opposition.

Tsikhanouskaya went into exile in Lithuania after the Aug. 9 presidential election in Belarus, which election officials claimed that Lukashenko won in a landslide. Opposition figures and some poll workers say the results were fraudulent and tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest.

—AP

Court: Greek party criminal body

Guilty verdicts delivered against many of the far-right Golden Dawn party's ex-lawmakers

Athens, Oct. 7: A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial. The court on Wednesday delivered guilty verdicts against several of the party's former lawmakers for participating in a criminal organisation, and deemed others guilty of leading a criminal organisation. The 68 defendants in the trial include 18 former lawmakers from the party that was founded in the 1980s as a neo-Nazi organization and rose to become Greece's third largest party during the country's decade-long financial crisis.

The court was assessing four cases rolled into one: The fatal stabbing of Greek rap singer Pavlos Fyssas, attacks on migrant fishermen, attacks on left-wing activists and whether Golden Dawn was operating as a criminal organisation. The presiding judge of the three-member panel delivered a guilty verdict against Giorgos Roupakias for the murder of Fyssas.

That prompted applause inside the courtroom and among the crowd outside. —AP



Thousands of people gather for a protest outside a court in Athens on Wednesday.

—AP

COURT ORDERS ISSUING ADS TO SUMMON NAWAZ

Islamabad, Oct. 7: A Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered that advertisements be issued in newspapers to summon former premier Nawaz Sharif after his representative in London refused to receive the arrest warrant against him in corruption cases. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was irked by the attitude of Sharif's representatives at his residence in London and ordered that the advertisements be posted in *Dawn* and *Jang* newspapers. The court directed the federal government to bear the cost of the advertisements and the additional attorney general Tariq Khokhar was asked to pay the fees within two days.

The order followed after an official posted at the Pakistani High Commission in London informed the IHC that a representative of Sharif had initially agreed to receive the arrest warrants but later changed his mind.

The IHC in its last hearing had directed Hanan to record a statement in the next hearing of the case via a video link. The court last month issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif. —PTI

Virus stimulus bill after poll: Don

Washington, Oct. 7: President Donald Trump has instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the Democrats on another stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit US economy until the November 3 presidential election, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding talks in good faith.

Trump's sudden decision on Tuesday to pull the plug on the negotiations is a major blow to millions of Americans still struggling with the fallout from the pandemic that has badly hit the economy and killed over 210,000 people in the country. "I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small businesses," Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday.

Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where he was treated for Covid-19. For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration were negotiating with the House Democrats on a major stimulus package before the presidential election. Analysts have warned that the recovery of the world's largest economy risks stalling without further aid. While the US has regained about half the jobs lost in

ISRAELI PM'S WIFE MAY HAVE VIOLATED CURBS

Jerusalem, Oct. 7: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife may have violated the country's Coronavirus lockdown by inviting a hairdresser into the official residence last week to prepare her for a public service video advocating the wearing of masks.

The incident, first reported by the Yediot Ahronot daily, was the latest in a string of lockdown violations by Israeli leaders and public figures — drawing widespread criticism. —AP

March and April, more than 10 million people remain unemployed. "Nancy Pelosi is asking for \$2.4 trillion to bailout poorly run, high crime Democrat states, money that is in no way related to Covid-19. We made a very generous offer of %1.6 tril-

Another Trump aide tests positive for virus

Washington, Oct. 7: Stephen Miller, a top aide to President Donald Trump, tested positive for Covid-19, taking the number of White House staffers infected by the deadly virus to at least 10.

"Over the last five days I have been working remotely and self-isolating, testing negative every day through yesterday. Today, I tested positive for Covid-19 and am in quarantine," Miller said in a statement.

President Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump, tested positive for Coronavirus last Thursday, soon after it was known that their close aide Hope Hicks contracted the infection. Trump was admitted to a military hospital on Friday and was discharged on Monday. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany and three of the staff from the press office also tested positive.

At least three journalists working at the White House tested positive for the infection. On Tuesday, the White House issued an updated guideline on health and safety of the residence staff. —PTI

delay but to focus full time on approving his outstanding nominee to the US Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett.

"Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" Trump said.

In another tweet, he alleged that "crazy" Nancy Pelosi and "the radical Left" Democrats were just playing "games" with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments. "They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be," he alleged. But Pelosi accused Trump of "putting himself first at the expense of the country". "He shows his contempt for science, his disdain for our heroes... and he refuses to put money in workers' pockets, unless his name is printed on the cheque," she added.

"Clearly, the White House is in complete disarray," the top Democrat said. —PTI

lion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith," the Republican president alleged. "I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country," he said.

Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to

T-Rex fossil sells for record \$31.8 mn

New York, Oct. 7: One of the most complete specimens of a T-Rex fossil in the world was sold for a record \$31.8 million Tuesday by Christie's in New York, nearly quadrupling the previous highest price for a dinosaur at auction.

The apex predator made mincemeat of Christie's opening price of between six and eight million dollars, showing off the last power of the T-Rex.

It then shredded the previous record set by a specimen called Sue that was sold for \$8.4 million in October 1997 by Sotheby's to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Only around 50 Tyrannosaurus fossils have been discovered since the first was unearthed in 1902. Bids hit the \$9 million mark in less than two minutes after the start of the auction, but after 14 minutes there were just three bidders left in the race, until the hammer came down on an offer of \$27.5 million, to which were added costs and commissions.

The sale was organised in New York, where the expert assessor was located, but with lines open to Hong Kong and London, where Christie's specialists were taking calls from collectors. The fossil, nicknamed Stan, stands 13 feet (four metres) high and 40 feet long, with puncture marks in the skull and neck that experts believe show evidence of fights with fellow T-Rexes. He would have weighed in at around eight tonnes when alive, some 67 million years ago.

The fossil was discovered in South Dakota in 1987 and named after the amateur paleontologist who came across the remains, Stan Sacrison.

Paleontologists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in South Dakota spent more than 30,000 hours excavating and then assembling the 188 bones of the skeleton. Casts were then taken for dozens of museums around the world. —AFP

Pearl killers get 3 months' more jail

Islamabad, Oct. 7: British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides — the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl — will remain in jail for another three months, according to an order issued by Pakistan's Sindh government on Wednesday. The announcement of extending their detention was made by prosecutors during a hearing of the Supreme Court, which

was to decide on Sheikh's release. The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them. Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the government prosecutor, Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case.

The court accepted his argument and adjourned the hearing till October 21. —PTI

Charpentier, Doudna win chemistry Nobel

Stockholm, Oct. 7: Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to "molecular scissors" that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer. Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.

PEACE PRIZE: WHO, GRETA OR PRESS WATCHDOGS?

Oslo, Oct. 7: The World Health Organisation is the bookies' favourite to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, though experts say Greta Thunberg or press freedom groups are also contenders. —AFP

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said

Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments." He said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage," adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities." But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care." It has already raised serious ethical questions. —AP



French researcher in Microbiology, Genetics and Biochemistry Emmanuelle Charpentier (left) and US professor of Chemistry and of Molecular and Cell Biology, Jennifer Doudna. —AFP

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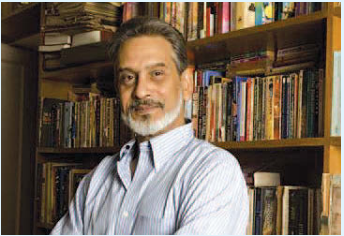
INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,878.95	0.77
Nifty 50	11,738.85	0.66
S&P 500*	3,404.35	1.29
Dollar (₹)	73.32	0.20
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.72	0.56
Euro (₹)	86.22	0.28
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,215*694	1.35
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	41.66	-0.99
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.014	-0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.780	0.040

* As of 9:30 PM IST

NHAI awards 1,330 km NH projects in H1

The NHAI said it awarded projects for building 1,330 km of highways in April-Sept., up 60 per cent from the year-ago period. The projects are valued at Rs 47,289 crore. "NHAI has awarded projects for a total cumulative length of 1,330 km in the current financial year. The projects awarded so far in first half of the current financial year are 1.6 times higher of 828 km awarded in FY19-20 and 3.5 times higher of...FY18-19."

Stimulus should continue for 3 yrs: Pranob Sen



The Centre should continue with the stimulus to revive the economy for three years and it should not be a one-off measure, Pranob Sen, chairman of the standing committee on statistics, ministry of statistics and programme implementation, said. The improvement in economic activity at the moment is due to the pent up demand, he said. "The government game-plan should be to continue with the stimulus for three years."

Nilesh Shah re-elected Amfi chairman

Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC has been re-elected as chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India. Some new faces have also been inducted to the Amfi. Vishal Kapoor, CEO IDFC AMC has been elected as chairman, Amfi standing committee of certified distributors. Radhika Gupta, CEO Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd, has been elected as the chairperson of Amfi ETF committee.

Maruti reports 26% rise in Sept. production

Maruti Suzuki India said its total production in September increased 25.63 per cent to 1,66,086 units. It had produced a total of 1,32,199 units in the same month last year. Passenger vehicles production stood at 1,61,668 units last month as compared with 1,30,264 units in September 2019, a growth of 24.1 per cent. Production of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso models were at 30,492 units versus 23,073 units.

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Q2 profit misses analysts estimate TCS unveils ₹16K cr share buyback plan

New Delhi, Oct. 7: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Wednesday announced a mega Rs 16,000-crore buyback plan at Rs 3,000 per equity share. In 2017 and 2018 too, TCS had undertaken buyback offers of similar sizes. The current offer price of Rs 3,000 per share is 9.6 per cent higher than the stock's closing at Rs 2,737.40 on the BSE on Wednesday.

TCS, which reported a 5 per cent rise in net profit for the September 2020 quarter but missed analysts estimates, said its board has declared a second interim dividend of Rs 12 per equity share. In a regulatory filing, TCS said its board has approved "a proposal to buyback up to 5,33,33,333 equity shares of the company for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,000 crore, being 1.42 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital at Rs 3,000 per equity share."

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route through the stock exchanges, it said. A public announcement setting out the process, timelines and other requisite details will be released in due course following the buyback regulations, the filing said.

In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback plan worth up to Rs 16,000 crore, offering Rs 2,100 per equity share and entailing up to 7.61 crore shares.

In 2017, TCS had conducted a similar share purchase exercise. The company had said its buyback offer was part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said its chief financial officer V. Ramakrishnan would be retiring from the company on April 30, 2021 and the board has appointed Samir Seksaria as CFO-designate. TCS reported 4.9 per cent



WIPRO TO CONSIDER BUYBACK ON OCT. 13

New Delhi, Oct. 7: IT services major Wipro on Wednesday said its board will consider a buyback plan on October 13. However, no other details were provided.

"The outcome of the Board meeting will be communicated to the stock exchanges soon after conclusion of the Board meeting on October 13, 2020," Wipro said in a regulatory filing. —PTI

ny had said its buyback offer was part of its long-term capital allocation policy of returning excess cash to shareholders.

In a separate filing, TCS said its chief financial officer V. Ramakrishnan would be retiring from the company on April 30, 2021 and the board has appointed Samir Seksaria as CFO-designate.

TCS reported 4.9 per cent

rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, excluding Rs 1,218-crore provision towards legal claim. Including this number, the net profit is Rs 7,475 crore. The company had a net profit of Rs 8,042 crore in the September 2019 quarter. TCS missed analysts' profit estimates of Rs 7,805 crore, according to Refinitiv data.

Its revenue grew 3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 40,135 crore from Rs 38,977 crore a year ago.

TCS said the interim dividend will be paid on November 3 and the record date for the same is October 15.

Also, the company will roll out salary hikes effective October 1. TCS's consolidated headcount stood at 4,53,540 as of September 30.

"We want to thank all TCsers for the incredible resilience they have shown during these trying times. We are happy to announce that we will be rolling out salary increases, effective October 1st," Milind Lakkad, global head, HR of TCS said. —Agencies

Rajeshwar Rao appointed RBI deputy gov



M. Rajeshwar Rao

New Delhi, Oct. 7: The government on Wednesday appointed RBI's senior-most executive director M. Rajeshwar Rao as the deputy governor of the central bank.

Rao was appointed to the post vacated by N. S. Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds.

According to the RBI Act, 1934, the central bank needs to have four deputy governors—two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist to head the monetary policy department. —PTI

Most generic drug ingredients made in Asia: EU lobby group

Berlin, Oct. 7: Two-thirds of the active ingredients needed to make generic drugs are manufactured in Asia, a study showed on Wednesday, the latest evidence to underscore Europe's reliance on foreign imports for its medicines.

European governments were rattled at the start of the coronavirus outbreak when India, one of the biggest producers of drug ingredients, banned exports of certain products relevant to the pandemic, prompting concerns about disruptions to supply chains and a shortage of medicines.

Although those fears were largely unfounded, European Union health ministers have vowed to boost local drugs production to safeguard against future bottlenecks.

The study by German generics lobby group Pro Generika analysed the global production of 565 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and found 63 per cent of the quality certificates,



which grant them suitable for use in medicinal products, were held in Asia, up from around 31 per cent in 2000.

Price pressure and lower regulatory requirements have led to a shift in drugs production from Europe to Asia over the past two decades, Pro Generika said.

More than 80 per cent of Asia's certificates are held by manufacturers in India and China where the majority of producers are concentrated in just a few states and provinces, the study found. For more than half of the APIs, there are only a handful of manufacturers worldwide.

Europe holds 31 per cent of API certificates, down from 59 per cent in 2000

with producers mainly in Italy, Germany, Spain and France focussing on ingredients with low sales volumes that are complex to manufacture.

Spooked by the pandemic, France in June announced plans to bolster local production of medicines with president Emmanuel Macron pledging 200 million euros (\$236m) to help domestic research and manufacturing of medicine.

Austria is also investing money to shore up production at a antibiotics plant owned by Swiss drugmaker Novartis's Sandoz division in Tyrol.

Industry players warn bringing production home may be a complicated process, saying higher labour costs and tougher environmental standards make it impossible to compete with Asian suppliers on price.

Novartis said it was seeking to establish at least two sources for key ingredients to have fallback options. —Reuters

HDFC Bank to give up to ₹40 L loan to pay Apollo medical bills

Mumbai, Oct. 7: HDFC Bank on Wednesday announced a tie-up with Apollo Hospitals through which its customers can avail unsecured loans of up to Rs 40 lakh to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain.

The loans will be disbursed almost instantly as and when a need for money arises, and the hospital patients who are customers of HDFC Bank will also receive preferential treatment, its CEO & MD Aditya Puri told reporters.

Apollo executive chairperson Shobana Kamineni said HDFC Bank has 65 million customers who can take advantage of this facility.

She stressed that while availing of health insurance is necessary, it does not cover all the aspects despite providing cashless facilities and hence, such a tie-up will help.

Apollo had launched 'the Healthylife Programme' earlier this year to take care of multiple diseases and ailments, and HDFC Bank customers who will be registering as

part of the tie-up will be made part of the same, she said. Currently, there are 4 million members on the platform, Kamineni said.

HDFC Bank group head (corporate banking) Rahul Shukla said the base programme subscription comes without any charges for its customers.

Puri said the bank is not stressed and has a healthy capital adequacy of over 18 per cent, which will ensure that it will keep lending. —PTI

Electric 2-wheeler mkt picks up in September

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 7

After prolonged sales slump due to Covid-19-induced lockdown, the electric two-wheeler industry is showing signs of revival in Asia's third biggest economy.

In September, sales of high-speed electric two-wheelers (HS E2W) increased 72 per cent year-on-year. The registration stood at 2,544 units in September 2020, as against 1,473 vehicles sold in the corresponding month of the last year.

"We are experiencing huge customer interest in greener vehicles as they have seen how the environment looks like when no fuel-guzzling vehicles are running on roads," Sohinder Gill, director general at the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, or SMEV, said on Wednesday.

The lockdown has increased customer interest in greener vehicles, he said.

The upcoming festive season would add to the pent-up demand and help companies to recover what they lost in the first two quarters due to the lockdown, Gill pointed out.

Hero Electric Vehicles, Okinawa Autotech, Ather Energy, Ampere Vehicles, Revolt Intellicorp, Jitendra New EV-Tech, are some of the major EV players in the country.

The first six months of the FY21 have been a jumpy ride for the EV industry. The financial year started with uncertainty due to Covid-19 and lockdown.

Between April and September '20, the industry registered sales of 7,552 units of HS E2W as against 10,161 HS E2W sold in the corresponding months last year.

Gill said lately there have been many positive news on the EV policy front from central and state governments that has led to a higher confidence amongst manufacturers, component suppliers and investors.

"We look forward to a big push by the government to set right what went wrong with FAME 2 so as to assist generation of demand," he added.

Not many companies seeking loan restructuring: SBI chief

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India's (SBI) newly appointed chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, in his first press interaction, on Wednesday said his top three priorities would be safety of the bank's employees, safety of customers and maintaining quality of the bank's balance sheet.

In his inaugural address, Khara said his endeavour would be to deliver value and customer convenience and quality. "The bank has embarked on a journey of digital distribution and is increasingly leveraging digital and analytical capabilities and will continue this journey."

In context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Khara said that business is "70-80 per cent back to the pre Covid-19 levels," for the bank.

The government had on Tuesday appointed Khara as SBI chairman for three years, effective from October 7. Before this, Khara was a managing director at the bank and



Dinesh Khara, SBI chairman

was responsible for overseeing global markets and subsidiaries of SBI.

On a question on credit growth, Khara said, "We are witnessing a credit growth of 6-7 per cent. I think, I am sanguine that retail is doing well. On the corporate loan growth, many companies are going to the debt capital market. So if we look at growth in our non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) portfolio, the growth is 10 per cent. We have to re-adjust to the corporate desire whether it is credit or investments."

Speaking about the bank's response to loan restructuring both retail and corporate, Khara said both corporate and retail loan

restructuring requests are within manageable limits.

"We are very closely observing the behaviour of people who are showing interest in restructuring. We have created a website for people wanting to enquire about restructuring. The hits on the site reflect the interest of people wanting to restructure and we feel that the number is quite manageable considering our book. When it comes to corporate restructuring, I think as of now we have not seen many of the corporates reaching out for restructuring, but, yes ofcourse there are some. But whatever numbers are seen, I would say it is not very unusual but within the manageable limits."

Khara also ruled out any immediate plans for the bank to raise equity capital. "There were options in tier I and Tier II category also apart from the equity raising. So I think what we have decided as of now is that we have raised money from Tier I and Tier II and our current capital adequacy position is fairly comfortable," he said.

Govt's interest waiver is manageable, say analysts

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, OCT. 7

The government's decision to waive interest-on-interest on loans under moratorium would be a manageable outcome, as the value impact of waiving interest-on-interest is limited, feel experts.

According to rating agency Icr, assuming that not more than 30-40 per cent of the overall loans of the banks and NBFCs would be eligible for relief, the cost to the government should not exceed Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 crore.

Jefferies India analysts in a report said, "If the extent of waiver from banking sector to borrowers is limited to interest-on-interest only, it would be a manageable outcome as value impact of waiving interest-on-interest is quite limited and will also address the overhang."

Anil Gupta, vice president, financial sector ratings at Icr, said, "Assuming not more than 30 to 40 per cent of the overall loans of the banks and NBFCs will be eligible for relief, the cost to the government should not exceed Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 crore. This is assuming all borrowers are given relief irrespective of they are availing of the moratorium or not."

"Given the intent of the government to absorb the cost of the waiver, we expect the impact to be minimal on profitability of lenders," added Gupta.

The Centre, in an affidavit in the Supreme Court, has supported waiving compound interest or 'interest on interest' for small ticket loans up to Rs 2 crore. The relief would be available to all borrowers, the government said.

According to a Reuters report, domestic banks fear that the government's decision would create unnecessary work for lenders and lead to more litigation, without providing much of a boost for the sagging economy. "Getting the money back from the government is a painful exercise," it quoted a senior banker as saying.

FRESH | CHALLENGE

Abuse of Android OS position in smart TV market alleged

Google faces new antitrust case in India

ADITI SHAH & ADITYA KALRA NEW DELHI, OCT. 7

Alphabet Inc's Google is facing a new antitrust case in India in which the US tech giant is alleged to have abused its Android operating system's position in the smart television market, a source and two lawyers involved in the case said.

The case is Google's fourth major antitrust challenge in India, one of its key markets where it is currently facing public criticism from local start-ups for enforcing certain policies and company charges they contend hurt their growth.

It also comes as Google faces new antitrust challenges in the US and a

potential antitrust probe in China that is set to look into how it allegedly uses its dominance of its Android mobile operating system to stifle competition. Google has denied any wrongdoing.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has since June been looking into allegations that Google engages in anti-competitive practices by creating barriers for firms wanting to use or develop modified versions of Android for smart TVs, such as Amazon Fire TV's operating system, according to the source.

The case has been filed by two antitrust lawyers, Kshitiz Arya and Purushottam Anand. They both confirmed the case filing against Google

for alleged abuse in the smart television market, but declined to comment further.

The source said the CCI had directed Google to submit its written responses to the allegations and that the company has sought more time.

Smart TVs, or Wi-Fi-enabled TVs with apps for streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, have become increasingly popular in India.

Data from Counterpoint Research shows 8 million smart TV sets were sold in India in 2019. Three in five smart TVs sold in India are based on Google's Android system, which also powers nearly 99 per cent of India's half a billion smartphone user base. —Reuters

GOOGLE, ORACLE IN COPYRIGHT CLASH

Washington, Oct. 7: Tech giants Google and Oracle are clashing at the Supreme Court in a copyright dispute that's worth billions and important to the future of software development.

The case before the justices Wednesday has to do with Google's creation of the Android operating system now used on the vast majority of smartphones worldwide. Google says that to create Android, which was released in 2007, it wrote millions of lines of new computer code. But it also used 11,330 lines of code and an organization that's

part of Oracle's Java platform. Google has defended its actions, saying what it did is long-settled, common practice in the industry, a practice that has been good for technical progress. But Oracle says Google "committed an egregious act of plagiarism" and sued, seeking more than \$8 billion.

The case has been going on for a decade. Google won the first round when a trial court rejected Oracle's copyright claim, but that ruling was overturned on appeal. A jury then sided with Google, calling its copying "fair use." —AP

SHORT TAKES

Oz women equal win streak record

Brisbane: Australia demolished New Zealand by 232 runs in the third women's ODI to equal the world record of 21 consecutive ODI victories set by Ricky Ponting's all-conquering men's team in 2003. After smashing their way to 325 for five off their 50 overs at Brisbane's Allan Border Field, the Australians then bowled New Zealand out for just 93 to record their biggest ever win against the Kiwis. Australia dominated all aspects of the match, with Rachael Haynes (96) and Alyssa Healey (87) putting on an opening partnership of 144. Annabel Sutherland (35), Ash Gardner (34) and Beth Mooney (29 not out) chipped in to set the visitors an imposing target. New Zealand were never in the hunt, particularly after they lost captain Sophie Devine in the first over for a duck. — AFP

Lakers, one step closer to crown

Orlando: LeBron James scored 28 points as Los Angeles Lakers moved to within one win of a 17th NBA championship on Tuesday with a 102-96 victory over Miami Heat. Humbled by Miami in Game Three on Sunday, James and the Lakers came roaring back in a hard-fought defensive battle that was finely balanced until Los Angeles pulled away in the closing minutes. The win leaves the Lakers 3-1 up in the best-of-seven series, meaning they can clinch the championship with victory in Game Five on Friday. James started slowly but clicked in the second half to lead the scoring while providing eight assists and hauling down 12 rebounds. Anthony Davis meanwhile finished with 22 points. — AFP

Hero riders in top 15 after Stage 1

Villamartin, Spain: Hero MotoSports Team Rally has started their first campaign of the season on a positive note with all three riders delivering decent performances in the first stage of the Andalucia Rally. Joaquim Rodrigues made an impressive start to maintain pace throughout the stage, finishing just outside the top 10, at 11th place. Sebastian Buhler wasn't too far behind from his mentor and finished the stage in the 15th place. Indian ace C. S. Santosh brought the stage home with a 23rd place finish. The first full stage of the Rally kicked-off from the Rally Headquarters at Villamartin, covering 59 kms in liaison to reach the start line near the town of Moron De La Frontera. The special stage of 258 km exposed the competitors to almost all types of terrains, including technical sections, sand, open tracks, narrow piste and even vegetation.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kings XI Punjab from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

French Open: Matches from 2.30 pm on Star Sports, Select 2

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KNIGHTS PIN KINGS

KKR ride on Tripathi knock; Chennai misfire yet again

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday. Batting first, KKR were all out for 167 despite Rahul Tripathi's 51-ball 81. In reply, CSK were stopped at 157 for 5 in the stipulated 20 overs. Chasing a tricky target of 168 on a pitch that seemed to have slowed down, CSK were off to a brisk start with Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis adding 30 runs in less than four overs. Watson made 50 off 40 balls, while Ambati Rayudu contributed 30 off 27 balls, but the others could not do much as CSK fell short. Earlier, batting first, KKR lost three wickets in the last over with Dwayne Bravo removing two of them. Bravo, a CSK veteran, celebrated his 37th birthday by returning impressive figures of 3/37 in his quota of four overs. Tripathi enjoyed his promotion to the top with an excellent fifty but Chennai Super Kings bowlers applied the brakes to bundle out Kolkata Knight Riders. Tripathi picked up from where he left off against Delhi Capitals and raced to his fifth IPL fifty in 31 balls to give KKR a solid foundation after Dinesh Karthik called it right at the toss. At 93 for two at the mid-way stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that. Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/25), Shradul Thakur (2/28), Sam Curran (2/26) claimed two wickets each as the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side bounced back in the back 10 by taking eight wickets while giving away just 74 runs. — PTI



Rahul Tripathi of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot against Chennai Super Kings during their Indian Premier League at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. — BCCI

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	0	8	+1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	0	8	+1.060
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
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	-0.417
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	0	4	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	0	2	+0.178

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

SCORECARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: R. Tripathi c Watson b Bravo 81, S. Gill c Dhoni b Thakur 11, N. Rana c Jadeja b Sharma 9, S. Narine c du Plessis b Sharma 17, E. Morgan c Dhoni b Curran 7, A. Russell c Dhoni b Thakur 2, D. Karthik c Thakur b Curran 12, P. Cummins not out 17, K. Nagarkoti c du Plessis b Bravo 0, S. Mavi c Dhoni b Bravo 0, V. Chakravarthy run out 1. **Extras:** (LB-4, W-6) 10. **Total:** (all out in 20 overs) 167. **FoW:** 1-37, 2-70, 3-98, 4-114, 5-128, 6-140, 7-162, 8-163, 9-166. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-47-0, Sam Curran 4-0-26-2, Shardul Thakur 4-0-28-2, Karn Sharma 4-0-25-2, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-37-3.

Chennai Super Kings: Shane Watson lbw b 50, Faf du Plessis c Karthik b S. Mavi 17, A. Rayudu c S. Gill b Nagarkoti 30, M. S. Dhoni b Varun 11, S. Curran c Morgan b Russell 17, K. Jadhav not out 7, R. Jadeja not out 21. **Extras:** (LB-2, W-2) 4. **Total:** (for 5 wkts in 20 overs) 157. **FoW:** 1-30, 2-99, 3-101, 4-129, 5-129. **Bowling:** P. Cummins 4-0-25-0, S. Mavi 3-0-32-1, C. Varun 4-0-28-1, K. Nagarkoti 3-0-21-1, S. Narine 4-0-31-1, A. Russell 2-0-18-1.

Bottom placed KXIP face SRH

Dubai, Oct. 7: Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here on Thursday. KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far. KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper K. L. Rahul has been in scintillating form this year, scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half-century and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team. But despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack. Apart from Mohammed Shami, all the other bowlers have failed to take wickets. And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit. However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive

NUMBERS GAME

- HEAD TO HEAD**
- **OVERALL:**
 - Matches: 14
 - Hyderabad: 10
 - Punjab: 4
- MEETING IN 2019**
- Kings XI Punjab beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Mohali.
 - Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Kings XI Punjab by 45 runs at Hyderabad.
- FOR THE RECORD**
- Sandeep Sharma who took 97 wickets at an average of 24.21 in 81 innings of as many matches for Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad, needs just three wickets to become the 15th bowler to complete a century of wickets in IPL.
 - Lokesh Rahul with 302 runs at an average of 75.50 and a strike rate of 141.78 in four innings is only batsman to cross 300-run mark in this IPL.
- S. PERVEZ QAISER



This file photo was taken on Saturday, which was released by the Melbourne Cricket Club on Wednesday, shows a small group of family members attending a ceremony for late Australian cricketer Dean Jones as a hearse transporting his coffin makes one last lap around the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne following his death at the age of 59 on September 24 in Mumbai. — AFP

CAPTAIN SMITH PENALISED FOR SLOW RATE

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined ₹12 lakh for his side's slow-over rate during their Indian Premier League match against Mumbai Indians here. Rajasthan Royals suffered a 57-run loss to defending champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday. Given that this was his team's first offence of the season, Smith was fined ₹12 lakh under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences. "Rajasthan Royal's Captain Steven Smith has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Mumbai Indians in Abu Dhabi on 6 October 2020," the IPL said in a media statement. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Smith was fined ₹12 lakh," it added. — PTI

My ailing dad told me to get back to field: Stokes

London, Oct. 7: Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes has revealed that his ailing father, for whom he took a break from cricket, encouraged him to return to action in the IPL by telling him that he was duty-bound "to do the job". Stokes took compassionate leave in the middle of the home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who has been diagnosed with brain cancer. After spending five weeks with his family, Stokes, who is contracted with Rajasthan Royals, has landed in the UAE and is currently in quarantine. "Saying goodbye to my dad, my mum and my brother in Christchurch was tough. It has been a difficult time for us as a family, but we've pulled together and supported each other as best we can," Ben Stokes wrote in his column for the



Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals in this file photo.

Daily Mirror.

"And I was able to get on the plane with my parents' love and blessing after we reached the decision, for me to get back playing, as a family with no external influences," he added. Recalling the conversation he had with his parents in New Zealand, the 2019 Ben said, "My dad was also very strong on the responsibilities I have. He told me I have a

duty to do the job that I do and I have a duty as a husband and father as well." Talking about his current quarantine in the UAE, he said, "Sitting in a hotel room in quarantine once again after leaving New Zealand is not how I thought I would be arriving at the IPL, but here I am and all things considered, I'm in a good place." — PTI

ROHIT HEAPS PRAISE ON SURYAKUMAR

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 7: Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma feels that Suryakumar Yadav's shot selection was perfect during their team's comprehensive win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here. Yadav was back among the runs with a 47-ball 79, propelling Mumbai Indians to 193 for 4. Then, their bowlers led by Jasprit Bumrah bundled out RR for 136 to register a 57-run win. "It (a big knock) was coming, I spoke to him (Surya) before the game as well. He was batting really well all these games. He got off to a good start and it was just about making sure that the shot making sometimes can be very important and today his shot-making was perfect," Rohit said. "We wanted him to bat till the end because of those innovative shots that he has, it was quite handy towards the end," he added. — PTI

Farewell for Dean in last lap of MCG

Melbourne, Oct. 7: Former Australia batsman Dean Jones has been farewelled in a poignant final lap of an empty Melbourne Cricket Ground following his sudden death last month. The casket of Jones, who collapsed and died aged 59, was draped in an Australia flag and carried in a white hearse adorned with flowers spelling "324", his Test cap number and his highest first-class score, achieved at the MCG. "Rocket Man" by Elton John — a friend of Jones — echoed through the 100,000-capacity arena as the hearse, followed by only 10 mourners due to anti-coronavirus rules, proceeded around the field on Saturday. "We have been deeply moved by the outpouring of love for Dean over the last week and can't thank everyone enough for their support and for sharing their memories with us," Jones's widow Jane said. "We will forever miss

Dean's energy, his zest for life, passion for cricket and his love for us as a family," she added. The father of two, a colourful and popular character who played regularly for Victoria and Australia at the MCG, died while working in Mumbai as a commentator for the Indian Premier League. He played 52 Tests from 1984-1992, amassing 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55, while his 164 one-day internationals yielded 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61. Known universally as "Deano", and an inspiration for his aggressive batting, Jones was remembered as a fierce competitor whose knockabout demeanor concealed a keen cricketing mind. At Chennai in 1986 Jones, vomiting and shaking at the crease, defied severe heat and dehydration to score 210 and save Australia's hopes in only the second test Test in cricket history. — AFP

Nadal, Nadia breeze into semifinals

Paris, Oct. 7: Rafael Nadal reached his 13th Roland Garros semifinal early Wednesday with a straight sets win over Italian teenager Jannik Sinner but claimed it was "dangerous" to finish at 01:30 in the morning when the temperature had plummeted to 12 degrees (53°F). Nadal, the 12-time champion, defeated 19-year-old Sinner 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1 to clinch a 98th victory in his 100th match at the French Open. He will next face Diego Schwartzman, the diminutive Argentine over whom he holds a 9-1 career advantage, as he moves closer to equalling Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors. However, Nadal, more accustomed to the bright sunshine of Mallorca than the autumn chill of a



Rafael Nadal celebrates after defeating Jannik Sinner in the men's singles quarterfinal match of French Open in Paris on Tuesday. Nadal won 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-1. — AFP

French Open pushed back four months due to the Coronavirus pandemic, was unhappy with organisers who scheduled five matches on the main Court Philippe

Chatrier. "I know footballers play under these conditions, but they are all the time moving," said Nadal after the latest ever finishing match

at the tournament. Argentine 12th seed Schwartzman defeated US Open champion and third seed Thiem in a five-hour epic to reach his first ever

Grand Slam semifinal. The 28-year-old Schwartzman triumphed 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2. It was one marathon too many for Thiem, the runner-up in Paris for the last two years, who had needed five sets and three and a half hours to draw world number 239 Hugo Gaston in the fourth round. The 5ft 7in (1.70m) Schwartzman's success came on the same day that compatriot Nadia Podoroska, the world 131, reached the last-four of the women's singles. Having never won a main-draw Grand Slam match before last week, Podoroska could hardly believe it after her 6-2, 6-4 quarterfinal victory over third-seeded Elina Svitolina on Court Philippe Chatrier. — AFP

Match-fixing investigation looms over French Open

Paris, Oct. 7: The Paris prosecutor's office has opened a police investigation into suspicions of match-fixing at the French Open. The office said the investigation is being conducted by a French police unit that specialises in betting fraud and match-fixing probes and which, among other investigations, has previously worked with Belgian authorities in investigating suspected fixed matches at the lower levels of professional tennis. But match-fixing probes targeting Grand Slam tennis are comparatively rare. The Paris prosecutor's office said the investigation is centered on suspicions

concerning one match at Roland Garros and also casting a broader look for any other evidence. It did not specify the match. German newspaper Die Welt and French sports daily L'Equipe said there were suspicious betting patterns in the first round of a women's doubles match on September 30. Played on Court No.10 at Roland Garros, it opposed Romanian players Andreea Mitu and Patricia Maria Tig against Madison Brengle of the United States and Yana Sizikova of Russia. In the match, Sizikova is broken to love serving in game five of the second set, during which she double faults twice.

According to Die Welt and L'Equipe reports, large sums were allegedly placed on the Romanians to win that fifth game across several operators in Paris and from different countries. Die Welt cited unnamed insiders claiming several hundred thousand euros were bet on the game, and that the fifth game in the second was a focus of the betting without saying specifically how much of the total betting was on that game. The prosecutor's office said probe was opened on October 1, the day after. The police are investigating possible charges of organised fraud and sporting corruption. — AP