

IN BRIEF

4 of gang held after brief exchange of fire

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have arrested four members of a gang after a brief exchange of fire in north-west Delhi's Bawana area, officials said on Friday. All four are members of Gaurav-Monti gang, they said. The accused have been identified as Rinku (24), a resident of Pooth Khurd village, Vishal (24), a resident of Muzafarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh, Deepak (22), a resident of Bajitpur Thakaran, and Lalit (24), a resident of Jharoda Kalan, they said. The police received information that the four accused, who may be armed with illegal firearms, might commit robbery and also indulge in car-jacking and extortion. On Thursday, police spotted a car without a number plate and signalled it to stop, but the occupants tried to flee from the spot, a senior police officer said. When police blocked their way, the occupants of the vehicle fired at police, which also retaliated. A total of 12 rounds were fired, the officer said. During the firing, two of the accused — Rinku and Vishal — sustained injuries. The other accused were overpowered. Both the injured were shifted to MV Hospital in Pooth Khurd from where they were later referred to BSA Hospital, they said. Two semi-automatic pistols, two country-made pistols, one car robbed from Bawana area and 10 live cartridges were recovered from their possession, police added.

3 held for stealing underground cables

New Delhi: Three men were arrested in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar area for allegedly stealing MTNL underground copper cables, police said on Friday. The accused have been identified as Naim (28), a resident of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, Noor Salam (23) and Sahid (31), both residents of Bihar, they said. On Thursday, police were deployed for patrolling at Madanpur Khadar. Around 10 pm, they received information regarding a vehicle having stolen telephone cables in it, a senior police officer said. "Thereafter, a trap was laid. A vehicle was seen coming in the area and it was signalled to stop. The driver of the van stopped it and tried to flee with his other two associates, but they were apprehended," deputy commissioner of police (southeast) R.P. Meena said. On sustained interrogation, they stated that the van contains stolen telephone cable, the DCP said. Later, it was found that an FIR was registered on Thursday regarding theft of MTNL underground cable from Sarita Vihar area, police said. The accused said they stole the cables from Sarita Vihar area. — PTI

Sanitation worker found dead in Noida

Noida: The body of a 50-year-old sanitation worker was found in a park in Noida on Friday, police said. It is suspected that the deceased died due to liquor consumption, they said. The body of Anil Kumar was found on a cot in the park next to a slum near Morna village by locals, who alerted the police, officials said. "Kumar hailed from Moradabad district. He lived in the slum and worked as a sanitation worker at the Morna bus depot. According to his family, he was an alcoholic," an official from the Sector 24 police station said. The deceased's family has been informed and further proceedings are being carried out, the police said. — PTI

Truck catches fire on Yamuna Expressway

Noida: A truck carrying construction material caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida on Friday but no one was hurt, police said. The incident occurred at around 5.30 am near the Dankaur area when the truck was coming to Noida from Agra, they said. "The truck was en route to Noida from Agra. A fire broke out in the truck around 5.30 am and it went up in flames. The truck was taken to a side and the fire doused soon," a police spokesperson said, adding that no one was injured. The police said they are yet to ascertain what triggered the fire. Normal traffic movement on the expressway has resumed, they added. — PTI

Death toll reaches 6,470 with 47 fatalities in 24 hours

Highest single-day spike of 5,891 Covid cases in Delhi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The highest single-day rise of 5,891 fresh Covid-19 cases on Friday took Delhi's tally of infection to over 3.81 lakh, authorities said.

This was the third consecutive day when over 5,000 cases have been reported in a day in the city.

On Thursday, Delhi had recorded 5,739 cases of coronavirus infection.

The national capital also recorded 47 new fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll to 6,470, according to a bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

As many as 59,641 tests for detection of Covid-19 was conducted on Thursday. The number of active cases in the city has risen to 32,363 on Friday from 30,952 the previous day, it stated.

The bulletin said the

Air quality in Delhi-NCR 'very poor', may improve today

New Delhi, Oct. 30: The national capital's air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category on Friday, while a government forecasting agency said some improvement is likely due to favourable wind speed. The air quality largely remained "very poor" in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad. On Thursday, the city's air quality index (AQI) touched 'severe' levels for a brief period before slipping back into the 'very poor' category. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitoring agency, SAFAR, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 36 per cent on Thursday, the maximum so far this season.

The number of farm fires in neighbouring states dropped from 2,912 on Wednesday the highest so far this season to 1,143 on Thursday. Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI) has improved marginally as predicted and remains in the high end of the very poor category, it said.

The wind speed is expected to pick up and the improved ventilation is likely to influence air quality positively, SAFAR said.

A significant improvement is predicted by November 1 and the air quality is likely to slip back into the poor category, it said.

Delhi's air quality entered the severe category for a brief period on Thursday, for the first time since January, as calm winds and low temperature allowed accumulation of pollutants amid a spike in farm fires. — PTI

Crime branch DCP asked to file status report

JNU attack: Professor's plea for separate FIR dismissed

New Delhi, Oct. 30: A Delhi court has dismissed a plea filed by Professor Sucharita Sen — who suffered injuries during an attack allegedly by masked people inside the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus on January 5 — seeking registration of an FIR in the matter as it observed that a case has already been lodged.

The court passed the order after a status report was filed by the police, who informed that an FIR was registered for the said violent act of the mob that gathered at Periyar Hostel, JNU.

Chief metropolitan magistrate Pawan Singh Rajawat, however, direct-

L-G gives approval: Public buses to run with full seating capacity

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Delhi lieutenant governor Anil Baijal has approved the Delhi government's proposal to allow buses to run with full seating capacity even as Covid-19 cases are witnessing a surge in the city. The buses are currently running with 20 passengers in view of the outbreak of coronavirus.

Baijal, who is the chairman of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), has also approved resuming inter-state bus services and the process to plan a standard operating procedure for it is on and the service is likely to restart from next week, a senior government officer said. — PTI

total number of cases in the city has climbed to 3,81,644.

As Covid-19 cases in Delhi continue to rise, health minister Satyendar Jain on Friday urged citizens to consider the face mask like a Covid-19 vaccine, especially in the upcoming festive season.

He further said that the benefits of everyone wearing masks were at par, if not better, with those of a lockdown.

"When we had imposed the lockdown, cases did not go down. If 100 per cent of people wear masks, Covid-19 infection can be controlled to a certain extent. Benefits of

Only 'green' crackers can be sold, manufactured in Delhi: Gopal Rai

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Friday said that the city government has directed all district magistrates and the Delhi Police to ensure that only "green" firecrackers are manufactured, stored and sold in the national capital through licensed traders.

People can burst firecrackers between 8:00 pm and 10 pm only on festivals like Diwali and Gaurpurab, he said. On Christmas eve and New Year's eve, it would be from 11:55 pm till 12:30 am only.

"Only licensed traders can sell firecrackers compliant with PESO prescribed standards. No e-commerce websites can accept any online orders," an order issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said.

The Delhi government has asked all district magistrates and deputy commissioners of police to comply with the directions and submit a daily action taken report to the DPCC, Rai said.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned the use of polluting firecrackers and allowed the sale of green firecrackers in a bid to control air pollution.

wearing masks are just as many as those of a lockdown, if not more. Until there is a vaccine, masks should be considered vaccines," Jain said.

He further said that wearing masks would also help protect people from air pollution.

Regarding the availability of hospital beds for Covid-19 patients, Jain said that around 35 per cent of Delhi's beds were occupied.

"Around 35 per cent of our beds are currently occupied. We wanted to increase the number of beds but the High Court did not allow it. We have asked for 80 per cent of beds in private hospitals to be reserved for Covid-19 patients. That matter is being discussed in court," he said.

The total number of cases in Delhi now stands at 3,75,753, including 30,952 active cases and 6,423 deaths.

"Green crackers" are not as polluting as the conventional types of firecrackers and they contain at least 30 per cent less particulate matter such as Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide.

The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute was tasked with the job of developing 'green crackers'. But only a few varieties were available in the market last year due to licencing requirements.

The minister had earlier said that the government will launch an anti-cracker campaign from November 3.



Shoppers at the Sarojini Nagar Market in New Delhi on Friday.

— PTI

Abducted Delhi contractor rescued from UP's Sitapur

Co-worker among 3 arrested, car used for the crime recovered

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

A Delhi-based contractor who was abducted by one of his co-workers and his associates, was rescued from Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, police said on Friday after arresting three accused from there.

One of the accused, who used to work with the victim, planned the abduction following a dispute over payment with him, they said. The accused have been identified as Irfan Ali (27), Aziz Ali (35) and Bablu (24), all residents of Sitapur, they said.

On October 24, a woman, who is a resident of Malviya Nagar here, lodged a complaint with the police. She alleged that her husband Ramesh Chandra, who had gone to Lakhimpur Kheri in UP for some work on October 23, has been abducted by unidentified people, who had also demanded a ransom of ₹4 lakh for his release, a senior police

INVESTIGATION REVEALED that the victim, Ramesh Chandra, was called to Lakhimpur Kheri by his co-worker Irfan to finalise a deal related to stone works. It was also revealed that Irfan had earlier got into a dispute with Chandra over some payment issue.


A case was then registered under relevant section at Malviya Nagar police station. Investigation revealed that the victim was called to Lakhimpur Kheri by Irfan to finalise a deal related to stone works. It was also revealed that Irfan had earlier also got into a dispute with Chandra over some payment issue, the officer said.

"On the basis of technical surveillance, police reached Sitapur, rescued Chandra from a jungle and arrested the accused


on Wednesday," deputy commissioner of police (south) Atul Kumar Thakur said.

During interrogation, Irfan said he was engaged in the work of stone polishing along with Chandra in Delhi but a dispute had erupted between them over some payment issue. In order to teach Chandra a lesson, he made a plan to abduct him. He asked the victim to come to Lakhimpur Kheri on the pretext of finalising a deal of some work.

When Chandra arrived at Lakhimpur Kheri bus stand on October 24, he was abducted by Vakeel, the elder brother of Irfan, and Aziz Ali, who took him to Sitapur from there in a car, driven by Bablu, the DCP said. The accused also demanded ₹4 lakh as ransom. The car used in the crime has also been recovered, police said, adding that efforts are being made to nab Vakeel and another accused named Samim.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



Saluting his Contribution to Unity of the Nation

Delhi Police pays tribute to India's First Home Minister - The Iron Man of India, Commemorating The National Unity Day

31st October, 2020

"It is prime responsibility of every citizen to feel that this country is free and to defend its freedom is his duty."

— Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

DP/9258/2020

SHORT TAKES

India test-fires BrahMos missile

New Delhi: In a display of its growing combat prowess, the Indian Air Force on Friday successfully test-fired an air launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal, official sources said. The missile hit a sinking ship with deadly accuracy and the test-firing produced desired results, they said. The aircraft, belonging to Thanjavur-based Tigersharks Squadron, took off from a frontline airbase in Punjab and it was refuelled mid-air before the missile was released, they said. The test firing of the missile came in the midst of India's bitter border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh. The missile was fired after the Su-30 MKI aircraft travelled for over three hours covering a "significantly long distance", the officials said. In May last year, the Indian Air Force for the first time had successfully test fired the aerial version of the BrahMos missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. — *PTI*

Palghar man held for raping women

Palghar: The police on Friday arrested a 32-year-old man from Vikramgad taluka of Maharashtra's Palghar district for allegedly raping women and uploading obscene videos of them on the internet, an official said. Acting on a tip-off, a team from the local crime branch laid a trap and nabbed Milind Zade from Pachmad, Palghar police PRO Sachin Navadkar said. The accused allegedly wooed women, raped them and uploaded obscene videos of them on the internet, the official said. Offences under sections 376(N)(rape), 452 (house trespassing), 506 (criminal intimidation), among other relevant provisions of the IPC and Information Technology Act have been registered against the accused at Valiv and Vikramgad police stations, he added. — *PTI*

Malabar Naval exercise to take place Nov. 3-6

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The 24th edition of the Malabar Naval exercise is scheduled in two phases in November 2020. The first phase of Malabar Naval exercise involving "Quad" countries—India, US, Japan, and Australia—is set to commence off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6, 2020. India has invited the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) this year to participate in the Malabar exercise in a message to China. The phase-2 of the exercise is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November.

The phase-1 of Malabar will witness the participation of Indian Navy units with US Navy Ship USS John S McCain (guided-missile destroyer), Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Ballarat (long range frigate) with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force ship JS Onami (destroyer) with integral SH-60 helicopter. The Indian Navy participation in phase-1 will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. Indian Navy units participating in the exercise include destroyer frigate

Shivalik, offshore patrol vessel Sukanya, Fleet Support Ship INS Shakti, and submarine Sindhuraj.

In addition, Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk, long-range maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, and helicopters will also be participating in the exercise.

The exercise, being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of Covid-19 pandemic, will showcase high-levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

MP govt to fix MSP for veggies and fruits

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, OCT. 30

The Madhya Pradesh government has announced to fix minimum support price (MSP) for vegetables and fruits in the state to stop exploitation of farmers by the middlemen. State agriculture minister Kamal Patel, on Friday, told reporters that his department was working on the plan to fix MSP for vegetables and fruits in the state in the line of MSP declared for various food grains by the Centre.

He said the move would not only protect farmers from exploitation by middlemen but also help them in increasing their income.

"We will ensure that their profit margin is increased by at least 50 per cent," he said. Sources said the state

government would discuss with different farmers' bodies in the state on the issue before fixing the MSP for various types of vegetables and fruits. Kerala is the first state in the country to fix MSP for vegetables and fruits in the state. The government's policy on MSP for vegetables and fruits in Kerala will come into force on November 1. The Kerala government has declared MSPs for 16 varieties of vegetables and five varieties of fruits.

3 Naxals held; Jawan injured in booby-trap

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 30

Maoists on Friday ambushed a search party comprising personnel of Indo-Tibetan Border police (ITBP) in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Narayanpur, leaving one jawan injured.

The incident took place at Kohakameta under Kachapal police limits in the district, Bastar police said.

Maoists triggered improvised explosive device (IED) blast targeting the search party, leading to injury to the jawan Ajeet Kumar.

In another incident, 3 Naxals were arrested by a search party comprising district reserve group personnel in the bank of river Mingachal in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Bijapur.

OBC reservation to be introduced in Sainik schools

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The Sainik schools across the country will introduce 27 per cent reservation in admissions to OBC students from the year 2021-22. A letter regarding this was issued to all Sainik schools on 13th October 2020. Sainik schools act as feeder institutions for preparing cadets for the armed forces. At present, there are 31 Sainik schools functioning in the country under the ministry of defence.

Sainik school reserves 67 per cent seats for the candidates from the state (list A) in which it is located and 33 per cent of the seats are reserved for candidates from other states (list B). As per the letter within each list (list A and list B), 15 per cent seats are reserved for Scheduled castes, 7.5 per cent for scheduled tribes and 27 per cent for other backward classes-non creamy layer (OBC-NCL). The reservation for OBC-NCL category will be considered as per the Central list

► **SAINIK SCHOOLS** act as feeder institutions for preparing cadets for the armed forces. At present, there are 31 Sainik schools functioning in the country under the ministry of defence

of other backward classes available in national commission for backward classes (NCBC). Around 13 per cent seats are also reserved for children of service personnel including ex-servicemen (defence category).

Earlier Lok Sabha's Committee on welfare of other backward classes in a report tabled in February 2020, had expressed concern over no provision for reservation of OBCs in admission to Sainik Schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Committee in its report had said that it was not able to comprehend the reasons for not extending the reservation benefits to the OBC candidates in Sainik schools/Rashtriya Military schools.

UP: 3 killed as SUV falls into ditch

Chitrakoot, Oct. 30: A woman and two children were killed and five others injured on Friday when an SUV careened off a road and plunged into a ditch in Bakta village in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district, police said.

The SUV driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the roadside ditch in the afternoon. Munia Devi (48), Ansh (5) and Yash (3) — who were in the SUV — died on the spot, Station House Officer (SHO), Rajapur, Anil Kumar Singh said. — *PTI*

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

1. TENDER NOTIFICATION
Name of work: Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 01 No. CNC Pit Wheel Lathe, Make HYT from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car Shed, KJGY.
Tender Notice No.:13/2020-21

1.1. General :-
UMB division of northern railway invites **single tender** through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 01 No. CNC Pit Wheel Lathe, Make HYT from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car Shed, KJGY".
1.2 The key details are as follows:-

Tender No.	: 30-EL-MEMU-T-13-20-21
Type of tender	: Single
Name of works	: Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 01 No. CNC Pit Wheel Lathe, Make HYT from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car Shed, KJGY.
Approximate Cost	: ₹ 48,08,500/-
Earnest Money	: ₹ 96,200/-
Completion Period	: 04 (Four) Months from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.
Validity of offer	: 45 days.
Tender papers issued by	: Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.
Dt. of closing/opening	: 13.11.2020 at 15:00 Hrs./thereafter
Cost of tender document	: Free of cost.

NOTE :-
1) The required earnest money will only be accepted through on line payment mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. up to tender closing date and time. Exemption from submission of Earnest Money for tenderer shall be as per Railway Board Guidelines.
2) Manual payments through demand draft, banker cheque, deposit receipt, FDR etc are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid.
3) Tender must provide validity of the offer for 45 (forty five) days from the date of opening of tender.
4) Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly. board vide L. No. 2015/RS(G)/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2018 shall be followed.
5) The tender can be seen or upload on web portal as under:
Website Portal: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> **2399/2020**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Priya, D/o Sh. Dhrampal, R/o C-106, Main Mata Wali Gali No. 15, Jhoripur, Delhi, Age: Approx 17 years 11 Months, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Injury Mark: Injury Mark on Right Eye, wearing Pink colour Top, Cream colour Pajama and Pink colour Hawai Chappal in feet, has been kidnapped from her house since 26.06.2019. In this regard a **FIR No. 151/19, U/S 363 IPC, dated 30.06.2019 has been registered at P.S. Gokul Puri, Delhi.****

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : clc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Gokul Puri, Delhi
DP/350/NE/2020 Ph. No.: 011-22562112, 8750870724

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: White T-shirt & Pant and bare footed, has been found in unconscious conditions, from the jurisdiction of P.S. Hauz Khas, New Delhi on 05.09.2020 and he was shifted in AIIMS Hospital where Doctor declared him brought dead on 05.09.2020. In this regard a DD No.110A, dated 05.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi
DP/307/SD/2020 Ph. 011-26867878, 26510077



“A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own, and not in what it can borrow from others.”

Indira Gandhi
Former Prime Minister



“Her vision of a self-reliant India laid the foundations of a progressive nation. Let us today, on her 36th death anniversary, pledge ourselves to upholding Indira ji's ideals of a united India, built on those very foundations.”

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Minor gangraped in Pune district, 2 held

Pune: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four persons, two of whom have been arrested, in Pune district of Maharashtra, the police said on Friday. According to the police, the girl had left her home in Hadapsar following a tiff with her parents on October 26, and when she did not return the next day, the police were alerted and a case of kidnapping was registered. The girl was handed over to the police in Saswad on Thursday and during inquiry, she revealed that she had been raped by four persons, an official said. While two of the accused have been arrested, a hunt is on for two others involved in the crime, he said. An case has been registered under relevant sections. — *PTI*

BJP tries to curb rising infighting in its Bengal unit

■ **Continued from Page 1**

According to provisions of the Representation of People's Act, if a star campaigner is present with a candidate on stage while campaigning, only half the expenditure of the event has to come from the candidate's account, while the rest is paid for by the party. A big relief for candidates during electioneering.

Citing how Mr Nath repeatedly violated the model code of conduct, the EC said it issued a notice to the Congress leader on October 21 following complaints by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as well as the chairperson of the national commission that he had called a woman minister of Madhya Pradesh, "item".

The commission issued an advisory to him to not use such words after finding his reply unsatisfactory.

However, the commission received further complaints against Mr Nath alleging that he had called Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan an actor and suggested that he move to Bollywood for a career in acting, the order said.

The commission further said Mr Nath also used the words "mafia" and "milawat khor" for Mr Chouhan.

The commission has confirmed all the charges levelled in the complaints against him, the order said.

The order dealt a jolt to the Congress ahead of crucial by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

Delhi, Kerala Covid cases see big jump, govt worried

■ **Continued from Page 1**

sequentially, starting from HCWs. Therefore, it is important to create a strong advisory and coordination mechanism at the state and district level to guide the process of Covid vaccine introduction while ensuring minimal disruption of other routine healthcare services, including immunisation," Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter on October 26 stated. The health secretary stressed early tracking of the social media is needed to dispel rumours which could impact the community acceptance of the coronavirus inoculation.

As per government data, 57,386 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours, compared to 48,648 new cases. The national recovery rate has now risen to 91.15 per cent, with 80 per cent of newly recovered cases concentrated in 10 states/UTs. Kerala has contributed the maximum, with over 8,000 single-day recoveries, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka, each more than 7,000 recoveries each.

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan tweeted: "Active case-load below 6 lakhs for the first time after 85 days. Active case-load only 7.35% of total positive cases."

BJP tries to curb rising infighting in its Bengal unit

■ **Continued from Page 1**

even a political force till 2014. Sources said the central leadership has decided to step in after disgruntlement grew over the formation of the new state committee, which has many new names considered close to Mr Vijayvargiya, and the state president disbanded the district committees.

The central leadership also decided to replace organisational secretary Subrato Chattopadhyaya with Amitva Chakraborty in order to contain the factionalism.

Lalu did nothing for women, just put wife on chair: Nitish

Trying to connect to women voters, Bihar CM mentions prohibition, says vote first cook later

Khagaria, Oct. 30: Attacking the Opposition RJD, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Friday appealed to people to not "get misled" by those who "ignored" women and backward classes during their rule. Addressing an election rally at Parbatta here, he said, "They are talking today, but how was the condition of women earlier? They were ignored, nobody paid attention to their issues."

Attacking his bete noire and jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad, without naming him, Mr Kumar said, "When he was sent to jail, he installed his wife (Rabri Devi) on the chair, but did nothing for the welfare of the women otherwise." Mr Prasad, who became chief minister of Bihar in 1990, had anointed his wife on the CM chair after he was sent to jail in 1997 over multi-crore fodder scam cases.

Mr Kumar said when he got the opportunity to work, he gave reservation to women in panchayats and urban local bodies, besides providing quotas to SC, ST and backward classes. "If Bihar has progressed today, the biggest reason is womens participation. Promoting women is our commitment," the JD(U) chief said.

Talking about economic empowerment of women, he said his government started the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP), locally known as JEEViKA, by taking loan from the World Bank and the initiative has expanded today. Trying to connect to his women voters constituency, he mentioned prohibition and asked them to cast their votes first and cook later on polling day and also encourage others in their family to vote.

Mr Kumar declared Bihar a dry state in April 2016. On several occasions he had said he took the step on the demand of the women. He said his government has ensured just development by taking along the SC, the ST, Backward Classes, Extremely Backward Classes and Mahadalits "whom nobody cared about earlier".

He said, "Earlier even cities did not have electricity, but now we have ended



Chief minister Nitish Kumar pays obeisance at Khanquah Mujeebia, Phulwarisharif on the occasion of Id-E-Milad-Un-Nabi in Patna on Friday.

If Bihar has progressed today, the biggest reason is womens participation. Promoting women is our commitment.

— **Nitish Kumar, Bihar CM**

the lantern era and every household gets power now."

Lantern is th poll symbol of the RJD.

"Everybody knows who says what and indulges in what kind of misdeeds. They (the Opposition) neither have the experience to work nor do they want to work. They just indulge in useless talks," he alleged. Speaking about the cooperation between the state and the Centre, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given several projects for the development of Bihar. If you give us another chance to work, we will take Bihar forward and

make it a developed state." He also slammed the RJD over its record on law and order, education, health, jobs and other development parameters. He said if voted to power, he will take irrigation water to every field and provide solar street light in every village.

The constituency goes to poll on November 3 in the second phase. Kumar, who heads the JD(U), also addressed public meetings in Sheohar and Runi Saidpur in Sitamarhi district and listed achievements of his past governments.

Meanwhile, hitting back at Tejaswhi Yadav's barbs that education and health sectors were destroyed under the reign of chief minister Nitish Kumar, president of the BJP in Bihar Sanjay Jaiswal on Friday took a jibe at the Lalu Prasad's family, saying that if voted to power they will help the "sons of two former CMs (Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi) help clear class 10 exams". — *PTI, ANI*

Sena, Cong attack BJP for its 'silence'

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The Shiv Sena on Friday hit out at the BJP for its "silence" on the firing on people during Durga idol immersion in Munger in Bihar, where the latter is in power along with the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U). The Sena, in an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, said the BJP was, however, quick to pounce on and "communalise" the killing of two sadhus by a mob in Palghar district of Maharashtra in April.

One person was killed and over two dozen people, including security personnel, injured in firing and stone-pelting during goddess Durga idol immersion in Munger.

"If this incident had happened in Maharashtra or West Bengal (opposition ruled states), the BJP

would have raised a hue and cry. Why are those who tried to communalise the Palghar lynching quiet over Munger?" the editorial asked.

"Didn't the fake Hindutvawadis feel the insult of Goddess Durga and wasn't the subsequent firing symbol of jungle raj?" Has the BJP put on the glasses of secularism?" the daily asked.

The BJP also came under fire from the state Congress with its spokesperson Sachin Sawant claiming the NDA lead constituent indulged in opportunistic Hindutva politics. "When the Palghar incident took place, the BJP demanded the resignation of the Maharashtra home minister. However, the party has not uttered a word on Munger," Sawant said.

Farooq stopped from leaving for Friday prayers

AGE CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

The J&K authorities placed former chief minister and opposition National Conference president under house arrest for the day on Friday to prevent him from relocating to famed shrine of Hazratbal here to offer prayers on the day of Milad or the birth anniversary of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

A police 'bunker vehicle' stayed parked at the main entrance to Mr. Abdullah's residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road, blocking the access to the premises.

Earlier 83-year-leader and sitting Lok Sabha MP was reportedly informed by the authorities that he cannot move out.

The NC condemned the authorities barring it's leader from joining the

congregational Friday prayers at Hazratbal.

A party spokesman said on the official Twitter handle, "J&K administration has blocked the residence of party president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and stopped him from offering prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. JKNC condemns this infringement of fundamental right to pray, especially on the auspicious occasion of Milad Un Nabi (SAW)."

The recently formed 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' of which Mr. Abdullah is the president also condemned the move. Its spokesperson Sajad Gani Lone, said it "tantamount to interference in the religious rights of Dr. Farooq Abdullah." He added, "This marks a new low in the curtailment of fundamental rights of the people of J&K."

LeT involved in killing of BJP workers: Police

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, OCT. 30

Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed that the militants involved in the murder of a local BJP youth leader and his two associates in southern Kulgam district have been identified and that Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF) carried out the attack on Thursday.

A group of gunmen had at around 8 pm on Thursday shot and critically wounded Fida Hussain Itoo, general secretary of the J&K unit of BJP Yuva Morcha, and two other party workers Umar Ramzan Hajam and Umer Rashid Beigh in Kulgam's Yaripora village. They were evacuated to an emergency trauma hospital along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area but doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range),

Vijay Kumar, during a visit of the area told reporters that the assailants came in a car and opened fire at the trio. "Then the militants fled in the same vehicle. We seized the vehicle near Achabal area of Anantnag," he said adding "With the help of our technical and human intelligence, three militants who carried out the act include a local Nisar Ahmed Khanday, another one namely Abbas Sheikh who was earlier with the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and later joined LeT, and the third one may be a foreigner."

The IGP said that the police had provided 'protection' to Mr. Hussain and that he was lodged at Hotel Dolphin at the Valley's premier resort of Pahalgam. "But he recently gave undertaking that he can move around without security. Now we are investigating what the trio was doing in the Kulgam area," he said.

Urmila Matondkar likely to join Shiv Sena, become MLC

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, OCT. 30

Urmila Matondkar, who contested Lok Sabha election as Congress candidate, is all set to become the member of the legislative council on Shiv Sena ticket. According to reports, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray has personally spoken to the actress, who has agreed to be nominated by the Sena.

Since June 2020, the 12 council seats, which are appointed by the governor from his quota, have fallen vacant in the legislative council of Maharashtra. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which is an alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, on Thursday

decided to recommend 12 names to governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for their nomination to the Upper House. All three parties will get four members each.

Under Article 171, the governor can nominate 12 members with special knowledge or practical experience in the field of literature, art, science, cooperative movement and social service to the state Legislative Council.

Matondkar had joined the Congress in the presence of Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi just ahead of general election in 2019 and subsequently she had been given a ticket form North Mumbai seat, but she had lost to BJP's Gopal Shetty by huge mar-

gin. Around five months after she joined the Congress, Matondkar resigned from the party citing "petty in-house politics" in Congress as a reason for quitting the party.

When asked about Matondkar joining the Shiv Sena, its leader Sanjay Raut said, "I have also heard about the speculation that Matondkar will be nominated by the government to the Council. It is the prerogative of the state cabinet, which has authorised CM to take a decision."

Recently, Matondkar was in news for taking on actress Kangana Ranaut over her remarks in which she had likened the law and order situation in Mumbai to PoK.

EC pulls up Vijayvargiya over his 'chunnu-munnu' jibe at Diggy, Nath

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 30

The Election Commission on Friday cautioned BJP's Kailash Vijayvargiya over the "chunnu-munnu" remarks he made against Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath saying they were in violation of the model code of conduct provisions.

The poll body further advised the senior BJP leader not to use any such word in his public utterances while the model code of conduct was in place.

The commission had issued a notice to Mr Vijayvargiya on October 26 seeking his reply.

The BJP leader had made the statement in



Sanwer, Indore, during an election rally on October 14. He had also dubbed Mr Singh and Mr Nath as "gaddar" or traitors.

The Election Commission order said that the commission has carefully considered the matter "and is of considered view that Kailash Vijayvargiya has violated Para (2) of Part I of the General Conduct Model

▶ **BYPOLLS TO 28 MP** Assembly seats will be held on November 3

▶ **THIS IS the first election** since the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh fell after the defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia in March

Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates".

The commission advised Mr Vijayvargiya that "while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct".

Mr Vijayvargiya responded that the remarks quoted in the

notice are in complete misunderstanding of its context.

He alleged that the complaint was an election driven strategy of the Congress party to change the course of the election.

The BJP leader also said that abiding by the directions of the Election Commission and the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct were paramount for him as well as every BJP worker and he has highest regard of the same.

Bypolls to 28 MP Assembly seats will be held on November 3.

This is the first election since the Congress government in MP fell after the defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia in March.

TN gov approves 7.5% quota for govt schools

Chennai, Oct. 30: Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit has given his assent to a bill envisaging 7.5 per cent reservation to government school students who have cleared the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test in admission to medical courses. A day after the state government took the executive route to implement the quota regime from the current 2020-21 academic year itself and issued a government order to facilitate it, the Raj Bhavan said the governor has given his assent to the Bill. The governor

sought legal opinion of the solicitor-general of India through a letter dated September 26 and the opinion was received on October 29, an official release from the Raj Bhavan said.

"As soon as the opinion was received, the governor has given assent to the bill," the statement said. Amid accusations by Opposition parties that Mr Purohit delayed clearing the bill, the Raj Bhavan made it clear that bill was approved soon after the receipt of legal opinion assumes significance. — *PTI*

THE ASIAN AGE

31 OCTOBER 2020

Don't relax yet, ward off India's 2nd wave

Notwithstanding the steady stream of good news with occasional reverses on the vaccine front, there is little on the ground for the world to breathe easy in the fight against the pandemic Covid-19. At present, 4.54 crore people have been infected the world over with 11.87 lakh deaths as on October 30. The US is leading the tally with 92.1 lakh cases and 2.34 lakh deaths, while India is in the second place with 80.9 lakh infections and 1.21 lakh deaths. The increase in daily caseload, which showed a decline in the beginning of September has reversed the trend. The number was around three lakhs in the beginning of August and showed a softening effect throughout the month but slowly increased the next month. October 30 recorded the highest-ever daily increase of 5.45 lakh new patients. The same is the case with the number of daily deaths: it was around 7,000 in the end of July but it halved towards the end of

The government may re-launch the Jan Andolan in mission mode with increased thrust on the rural areas so that the people take the easy and cheap option of keeping the virus away than the tougher, costlier and often fatal option of fighting it in their bodies

September but the numbers have again crossed 7,000 by the end of October. Many are now suspecting a second wave of the pandemic. The number of new cases in the US is going up in a steady way, and the case is same in many European nations. Britain, which has been reporting close to one lakh new infections every day, has imposed its toughest lockdown in many parts, including in England. France has imposed a national lockdown while German chancellor Angela Merkel, who has ordered tougher measures, has warned of a "long, hard winter" this year. India, too, has seen its ups and downs: the daily increase in the

number of infections peaked in the second half of September and then showed a downward trend. They are hardening again.

Indian authorities and experts have been warning of another round of spike in infections once the festival season ended. The cue came from Kerala, which saw a sharp increase in the numbers after Onam and the state, which contained the virus exceptionally well when others faltered, is at present second only to Maharashtra in reporting new cases. Credit must be given to the Union government that launched Jan Andolan, a mass campaign to make people aware of the need to take precautionary measures such as wearing masks, observing social distancing and hand hygiene. However, it has not gained the traction it should have. Few people bothered about them while celebrating a festival last week and while voting in the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections.

The government may re-launch the campaign in mission mode with increased thrust on the rural areas so that the people take the easy and cheap option of keeping the virus away than the tougher, costlier and often fatal option of fighting it in their bodies. Lockdowns have been proved to have a debilitating impact on the economy and the government may keep that as the last option should the need arise. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned, the virus has not gone away. The government must keep reminding the people about that hard fact.

Pak lies on terror exposed

Pakistan stands self-condemned through the shocking boast of its federal minister Fawad Chaudhry — said to be close to Prime Minister Imran Khan — that the Pulwama terrorist attack on February 14 last year, in which 40 CRPF men were killed, was a "major achievement" of the government and the Opposition parties — meaning the people of Pakistan. Mr Chaudhry was addressing his country's National Assembly or Parliament, and his remarks were direct and emphatic, removing any scope for backtracking as he appeared to do somewhat in a subsequent tweet. So shocking and dramatic was the statement that the Pakistan PM may wonder what his minister was up to, really.

Had he given himself the mission to undermine the PM who has lately found himself in the line of fire of an effective combine of 11 Opposition parties. Was Mr Chaudhry playing the Army's game if the latter is in the process of washing its hands of Mr Khan whom it had propped up in office two years ago?

Such questions are apt to arise in Pakistan's domestic debate, but in India we ought to bear in mind that the evilness of that country's policy toward us derives from the stranglehold the Pakistani military has gained in determining policy since the Ayub coup six decades ago. The civilians make up a huge constituency of incompetents and innocents, who are manipulated at will by the Army.

It is not the Pakistani "Muslim" who is the enemy but the Army. In recent years this premise has sometimes been somewhat obscured in our thinking, and as a by-product, the Kashmir policy too lacks clarity. The Centre misidentifies the inimical forces, targeting even those who have stood by our Constitution and flag.

The broader implications of Mr Chaudhry's self-shaming admission ought to be brought before the world. In this context, raising China's all-season support to Pakistan, which has emerged as its buddy pal, is also to be questioned.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY
Editor in Chief

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



Communist MP in Britain was Tata's cousin, Gandhi's friend

"The older proverbs are the best, Repeat them Bachchoo and leave the rest: 'The Higher the monkey climb The more him parts expose.' And 'Odours change with time Don't sniff the festering rose' And 'Beware the actor who can't tell The pitiful human from the pose'"
— From **One Day Martyr Rum** by Bachchoo

Idle thoughts in a supposedly idle season. I access my mobile phone more times a day than I used to before the plague of Covid restricted my visits to people and places, including the mother country in which the Ganga flows. But, gentle reader, even so, I have not succumbed to the temptations of Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok or other "time-pass" forums and platforms and don't want anyone to know what I ate for breakfast and neither do I wish to pass on to the rest of humanity some video I may have chanced on, or some witticism which has gone "viral". (By the way, isn't this description of popularity a bit

ironic since Covid-19 has invaded all humanity?)

No, no, I am not humourless, but get that way when 20 different people send me a video in which a Chinese-looking youth working at a table hears the standard ring-tone of a mobile telephone and looks around to answer it when he sees that it's his cat seated next to him playing the tune with sticks on a xylophone. Funny the first time and raised a tolerant smile the second, but then...

So, what do I do instead? I cook dishes I find in the cookbooks that have laid on the shelves for years and even download recipes for honey-and-tamarind-marinated pork ribs (apologies to my Muslim, Jewish, vegetarian, vegan and squeamish readers!). And I scribble, as writers must — except I have taken to wondering whether fingering a computer should retain the same metaphor for modest writing as in the era of the fountain pen.

And as everyone does, I read. The latest literary phase has been books and essays on Indians who brought back to India something they had picked up from their sojourns in

the West. The list of such characters includes Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Ambedkar and so, so many more. The latest book, which I am still reading, is a biography of Shapur Saklatvala, who doesn't quite fit the category because he never returned to India after serving twice in the UK parliament as a communist MP from North Battersea in the early 1920s and then again in the late years of that decade.

The book is called *Comrade Sak* and is written by Mark Wadsworth, a black British writer with Caribbean roots. Before I say that this is an essential book which traces the life, convictions and career of this communist Parsi, a cousin of the Tata family, I ought to declare an interest. Or even a couple. Mark, the writer, is a friend and Comrade Sak, Shapur, was a "cousin-brother", as we joint-family-Parsis used to say, of my great grandfather Jamshed Saklatvala. Not that either fact affects my reading or evaluation of the biography which traces not only his life and career but appends his speeches

and his copious correspondence with Mahatma Gandhi about the organisation and representation of Indian workers. Sak was in favour of their unionisation and his ideological insistence led him to support anti-capitalist communism. Gandhi, in very interesting letters in reply, asserted at length that workers and capital could and should live together. He quotes with approval the stance of the Tata capitalists and their supportive benevolence towards their workforce.

I have said above that the factors which may bias my reading don't, but perhaps a few pages of the book do resonate in a personal way. Jamshed Saklatvala, my great grandfather, went to work on the setting up of the steel plant in Jamshedpur, helping the Tata cousins with the survey of the land etc. At the time the Saklatvalas and Tatas were partners in this pioneering capitalist venture.

The Saklatvalas didn't get their name, as I discovered, from some village called 'Saklat' in Gujarat. The surname of my ancestors comes from the fact that they owned mills which turned Bengali

jute into sack cloth which was used for making ships' sails and storage sacks — hence 'sack cloth wala'. And where then did those mills go? Or did the discovery of plastic sacks and the end of sails for ships ruin the trade my ancestors lived off, leaving at least one of us selling words to worthy newspapers and discerning publishers?

Mark's book tells me that Jamshed Saklatvala's private papers emphatically allege that the Saklatvalas were in some sense, through devious means, short-changed or done out of their fortune and partnership by one of the heirs and descendants of the founding capitalist J.R. Tata.

If that is true, just as after the Black Lives Matter explosion, sections of the population of the USA and even of Britain are claiming reparations, perhaps I should, on behalf of the Dhondys and the Saklatvalas claim reparations from the Tata industrial empire. I suppose I would settle for the more profitable branches of the Jaguar and Landrover manufacturing plants and perhaps throw in a small claim on Tata-Tetley tea. Watch this space!

Subhani



Battle for Bihar: Super flop or a blockbuster?

Shobhaa De



It's not the time for *hawa hawaii*," declared our beloved Prime Minister as he savaged the Opposition RJD in Bihar and mocked the "yuvraj" (Tejashwi Yadav). Pandemic or no pandemic, voters in Bihar showed up in decent numbers (54 per cent) during Phase 1 of the Assembly polls — the first major election of the pandemic. I am not holding my breath for Phase 2 (November 3). I don't think too many other people are either. Diwali will soon be upon us, and it's time for some cheer! Without my favourite weekend distraction (movies at the nearest multiplex), I have been getting my giggles via OTT platforms. We are all so spoilt for choice, the head spins!

I was never a gym rat... So I happily imagined I would never turn into a "pandemic binger" — *matlab*, for the first few months of the Covid curse, I stayed away from compulsively watching any and every new show dropping on this platform and that platform. My children kept recommending all sorts of amazing series — Turkish, Korean, Spanish — but I chose books and writing over those. More fool me! Now it is a bit too late to convert, jump in and spend five straight hours feeding on tight, taut, well-scripted international/national series everybody is raving over, but I do what hoarders of precious things frequently attempt — I save up my free hours for the week-end and catch one or two of the latest releases that have caught my fancy. Even though *Serious Men* is nearly a month old, I only managed to watch it earlier this week — and I was hooked from the opening scene itself. Since I hadn't read Manu

Joseph's brilliant and multi-layered book, on which the series is based, my mind was unprejudiced and receptive. In any case, I watch just about anything featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and the dialogue delivered in the trailer had me begging for more. Once I started, I got into it fully, more because the city of Mumbai itself was Aayan Mani's (Nawazuddin's character) co-star! There is something very specific and particular about life in Mumbai's chawls. And director Sudhir Mishra captures the tiny and untidy moments through camera work that is intimate but never intrusive. The script is economical and revelatory without being over-reaching or obvious. Apart from Nawazuddin with his controlled rage, disillusionment, anguish and impatience with his lot, the series is enriched by the presence of a marvelous little chap, Aakshath Das, playing Adi Mani, Aayan's hearing-challenged son, with total transparency. It is a very tough role for a kid to pull off convincingly, since the dialogues are "constructed" (watch... and find out), but the line this kid hurls arrogantly at pompous adults — "Primitive minds: I can't deal you!" — was just brilliant! His clever and ambitious father has tutored Adi to spit out that scathing sentence at those asking him tough questions to establish his "boy genius" credentials. When he is stumped for an answer, Adi throws this well-rehearsed insult at them and stomps off angrily! It is also the line that ends the series on a very poignant note, on a deserted beach. *Serious Men* is a scathing commentary on caste politics, dishonesty and corruption.

Acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood

Personally speaking, I doubt I will be foolish enough to book tickets at a multiplex to watch a big-ticket film — regardless of the star cast. I am a little bratty now and have grown accustomed to calibrating and curating my entertainment hours as per my convenience. I enjoyed *Emily in Paris* over three nights of carefully measured watching... savouring every tiny glimpse of the most gorgeous, most glamorous city on earth. That holds true for another French import *Call my Agent*, shot in Gay Paree (ummmm — pun intended). It features throw-away lines like "Fragility is an actor's strength". Rebecca was a huge let down, as was *A Suitable Boy*. But the Korean *Crashlanding* made up for those wasted hours.

I am looking forward to *Scam 1992*, the Harshad Mehta story that has received great reviews and made an overnight star out of Pratik Gandhi.

These acting opportunities across OTT platforms are creating their own star system, which is far more organic and genuine than the manipulations of mainstream Bollywood. I wonder how many cine-goers will want to pay a packet to watch those tired, overexposed veterans still clinging on to their ancient superstar images. There are any number of competent, credible "non-star" actors delivering big time in one hit show after another. They have created their own fan following and niche. The best thing about watching your favourite shows from home? No masks! It feels great to just breathe minus discomfort and watch a frisky fashionista — Lily Collins as Emily — taking on the snooty French and winning the war!

It's time for "Battle cry Bihar"! And this stellar star cast can take the pants off just about any actor from Bollywood.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

RAJINI'S BETRAYAL

Rajinikanth has let his fans down after giving them high hopes for many decades that he would start a new political outfit to capture power in Tamil Nadu and "set right the system that was bad". He has now played the health card to beg off this challenge. His fans are crestfallen. They realise that he only abused their love to promote his films by hyping his political ambitions whenever they were about to be released. His decision is also a slap on the face of the BJP which had been banking on it.

Tharcus S. Fernando
Chennai

TEJASHWI'S CHALLENGE

RJD LEADER Tejashwi Yadav on Friday asked Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar to speak on issues of unemployment and migration. In a tweet in Hindi, he said, "Respected Nitishji accepts that in 15 years of his government he has destroyed education, health and industries of the state. He also ruined the present and future of two generations. This is the reason why he does not speak anything about unemployment, jobs industries, investment and migration. Shouldn't he speak on these issues?" It would be a serious challenge for Mr Kumar to make his audience believe him if he holds forth on these subjects.

Mohd. Najib
Patna

DEAR DEPARTED

ALL SOULS' DAY, which is celebrated by the Catholic Church on November 2 ever year, is a festival that honours the dear departed. Many people visit the cemetery and decorate the graves of their loved ones on this day. Special masses are celebrated in cemeteries and churches. Catholics on this day remember and pray for the souls of people who have died and who are in purgatory. In 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32, it is said, "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin." Let us love, pray and remember the dead.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

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

IN BRIEF

Man pays to see leopard close, hurt

Davie: A man was mauled by a captive black leopard in a backyard zoo in South Florida, wildlife officials said. The man paid \$150 for a “full contact experience” with the black leopard, which allowed him to play with it and take pictures, WPLG reported. A report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says the incident happened Aug. 31 in Davie, which is near Fort Lauderdale. The agency charged the owner with allowing full contact with an extremely dangerous animal and was cited for maintaining captive wildlife in an unsafe condition. The owner runs a licensed animal sanctuary for rare and endangered animals at the home, WPLG reported.

Oz wildfires adds to climate risk

Canberra: An investigation into Australia's catastrophic wildfire season on Friday recommended greater efforts to forecast the impacts of climate change on specific parts of the country, warning fire behaviour was becoming more extreme. The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements began in February while wildfires were ravaging vast swathes of the nation's southeast in a fire season that is now known as Black Summer. The fires killed at least 33 people including 10 firefighters, destroyed more than 3,000 homes, razed 19 million hectares (47 million acres) and displaced thousands of residents. One firefighter was killed when an extraordinary weather event described by authorities as a “fire tornado” flipped a 10-ton fire truck upside down.

Warsaw braces for mass protest

Warsaw: The Polish capital prepared for a mass demonstration on Friday against a court ruling that would ban almost all abortions. Crowds of protesters are expected to defy coronavirus restrictions and risk contagion to join the demonstration in Warsaw. “We’re prepared to fight till the end,” Marta Lempart, co-founder of the Women's Strike movement, told reporters on Friday. Security is expected to be tight following some clashes between protesters and far-right activists in nine consecutive days of protests. The protest is set to start at 1600 GMT. More than 400,000 people took part in mostly peaceful nationwide demonstrations on Wednesday and organisers are hoping many people will travel to Warsaw for Friday's protest. Women's rights groups organising the protest face possible prosecution since any gatherings of more than five people are currently banned. Smaller rallies are also planned in dozens of other Polish cities including Krakow and Wroclaw, as well as abroad in Barcelona, Vienna and elsewhere.

QUAKE IN TURKEY SEA TOPPLES BUILDINGS IN IZMIR

Istanbul, Oct. 30: A strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea has shaken Turkey and Greece. Turkey's interior minister reports that six buildings in western Izmir province were destroyed.

Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said on Friday's earthquake was centered in the Aegean at a depth of 16.5 kilometres and registered at a 6.6 magnitude. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.9, with an epicenter 13 kilometres north northeast of the Greek island of Samos. The United States Geological Survey put the magnitude at 7.0. Turkish media showed wreckage of a multiple-story building in central Izmir, with people climbing it to reach rescuers.

Smoke was filmed in several spots in central Izmir. The governor said there was no immediate information on casualties. Turkish media said the earthquake was felt across the regions of Aegean and Marmara, where Istanbul is located. Istanbul's governor said there were no reports of damage. The quake was felt across the eastern Greek islands and even in the Greek capital, Athens. Greek media said the residents of Samos and other islands fled their homes, while some rockfalls were reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Both countries reported aftershocks

France put on high alert amid fears of more terror attacks

Soldiers at key sites, places of worship; 47-yr-old in touch with attacker held

Paris/Nice, Oct. 30: France's interior minister said on Friday more militant attacks on its soil were likely and the country was engaged in a war against Islamist ideology following the second deadly knife attack in its cities in two weeks.

Minister Gerald Darnin was speaking a day after an assailant shouting “Allahu Akbar” (God is Greatest) beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in Nice. The man was shot by police and is now in critical condition in a hospital. “We are in a war against an enemy that is both inside and outside,” Darnin told RTL radio. “We need to understand that there have been and there will be other events such as these terrible attacks.”

President Emmanuel Macron has deployed thousands of soldiers to protect important sites such as places of worship and schools, and France's security alert is at its highest level.

Thursday's attack, on the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, took place at a time of swelling Muslim anger across the globe at France's defence of the right to publish cartoons depicting the prophet. Protesters who deem the cartoons an insult to the Prophet Mohammad have denounced France in street rallies in several Muslim-majority countries.

Tens of thousands of Muslims protested in Bangladesh on Friday, chanting slogans such as “Boycott French products” and carrying banners calling Macron “the world's biggest terrorist” as they marched in the streets of the capital Dhaka.

France's chief anti-terrorism prosecutor said the man suspected of carrying out the Nice attack was a Tunisian born in 1999 who had arrived in Europe on Sept. 20 in Lampedusa, the Italian island off Tunisia that is a main landing point for migrants from Africa.

A Tunisian security source and a French police source named the suspect as Brahim Aouissauoui.

A judicial source said on Friday that a 47-year-old man had been taken into custody on Thursday evening on suspicion of having been in contact with the perpetrator of the attack.

The Nice attack occurred



A woman lights a candle in front of the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Basilica in Nice on Friday during a tribute to the victims killed by a knife attacker the day before. — AFP

Macron remains defiant after Islamist knife attack

Nice, France, Oct. 30: French president Emmanuel Macron vowed his country would stand firm against religious extremists after a knife-wielding man killed three people at a church, in the country's second attack blamed on Islamist terrorism this month.

France will not “give up on our values,” Macron said in Nice, after a Tunisian migrant went on a near half-hour rampage with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife, targeting people praying in the southern city's Notre-Dame basilica.

A 60-year-old woman died inside the church and the body of a man, a 55-year-old church employee, was found nearby, his throat also slit.

just under two weeks after Samuel Paty, a school teacher in a Paris suburb, was beheaded by an 18-year-old Chechen who was apparently incensed by the teacher showing a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammad in class.

It was also the second militant attack in Nice in recent years. In July 2016,

Another woman, a 44-year-old Brazilian who had fled the church to a nearby restaurant, died shortly afterwards from multiple knife wounds. “Tell my children I love them,” she managed to say before her death, according to French cable channel BFM TV.

The assailant, who was shot and wounded by police, was identified as 21-year-old Brahim Aouissauoui, who arrived in Italy last month, then travelled to France, judicial sources said.

Aouissauoui who had a copy of the Koran and three knives with him, shouted “Allahu Akbar” (God is Greatest) when approached by police who shot and seriously wounded him, France's anti-terror prosecutor Jean-

a militant drove a truck through a seafront crowd celebrating Bastille Day, killing 86 people.

People gathered in front of the Notre-Dame church on Friday morning to lay flowers and light candles. Frederic Lefevre attached heart-shaped balloons to the church gate.

“I knew him very well,

Francois Ricard told a press conference.

Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi told journalists at the scene the attacker “kept repeating ‘Allahu Akbar’ even while under medication” as he was taken to hospital.

The church killings come after the October 16 beheading in a Paris suburb of history teacher Samuel Paty by an extremist after Paty showed pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad in a free speech lesson.

Macron defended the cartoons and the right to mock religion, sparking widespread anger against France in the Islamic world and several campaigns in Muslim-majority countries to boycott French products. — AFP

the person who was killed in the church,” said Lefevre, 50, who wore a French national rugby shirt. “I’m from Nice and this is a tragedy once again. We’re a free country. Let’s love freedom - that’s a message to the world. Life should be spiritual. No god should kill,” he said. — Reuters

WORLD LEADERS CONDEMN FRANCE STABBINGS

Paris, Oct. 30: World leaders condemned fatal stabbings in the French city of Nice on Thursday that France called an Islamist terrorist attack.

Condemnation came from US President Donald Trump, UN chief Antonio Guterres, as well as European, Arab and Israeli leaders.

“Our hearts are with the people of France. America stands with our oldest Ally in this fight,” Trump tweeted. “These Radical Islamic terrorist attacks must stop immediately. No country, France or otherwise can long put up with it!” One of the first to condemn was Turkey, embroiled in a row with France over the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad that have triggered a wave of attacks against French people.

“We strongly condemn the attack committed today inside the Notre-Dame church in Nice,” a Turkish foreign ministry statement said.

It expressed solidarity with France, and offered condolences to relatives of the three people killed in the attack. — AFP

HK hits out at US over ‘Made in China’ label rule

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Hong Kong authorities on Friday said they will launch proceedings at the World Trade Organisation to challenge a demand by the United States to label imports from the financial hub as “Made in China”. Donald Trump issued an executive order in June declaring the city no longer sufficiently autonomous from the authoritarian mainland after Beijing launched a crackdown against democracy supporters.

The decision, which came as China imposed a sweeping new security law on the business centre, reflected Washington's belief that Hong Kong is now “just another Chinese city” and does not deserve special trade privileges.

The new rules state that products from the city — which used to be allowed to carry a “Made in Hong Kong” label — now needed to say “Made in China”. On Friday, Hong Kong officials confirmed they would bring the dispute to the WTO's settlement mechanism.

“The US unilateral and irresponsible attempt to weaken Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory is highly inappropriate,” secretary for commerce Edward Yau

CHINA VOWS FOR SELF-RELIANT TECH POWER

Beijing, Oct. 30: China's leaders are vowing to make their country a self-reliant “technology power” as a feud with Washington cuts access to US computer chips and other high-tech components, hampering Beijing's industrial ambitions.

Leaders of the ruling Communist Party made the announcement on Thursday after a meeting to draft a development blueprint for the state-dominated economy over the next five years.

President Xi Jinping's government is trying to limit damage from the Trump administration's curbs on technology sales to China in a fight over security and spying. — AP

told reporters.

“Such a move also confuses the market and undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system,” he added.

Hong Kong, one of the world's great trading ports, is a member of the WTO, even though it is part of China. — AFP

Several nations reimpose lockdown to curb Covid

Paris, Oct. 30: France was under a new virus lockdown on Friday, as the resurgent pandemic hit new heights in the United States with a daily record of more than 90,000 cases, just days before the presidential election.

From midnight, France's 65 million people were largely confined to their homes, needing written statements to leave, in the latest drastic measure to curb a disease that has infected more than 44.5 million people worldwide and killed nearly 1.2

million. As lockdowns return, oil prices dropped on fears of a slowdown in demand but tech giants Facebook, Amazon and Google parent Alphabet reported strong quarterly earnings, reflecting the economic shifts caused by the global outbreak.

And in the latest bleak warning, the UN's biodiversity panel said future pandemics could be more frequent, deadly and economically damaging.

The United States, where the coronavirus has over-

shadowed President Donald Trump's November 3 re-election bid, announced 91,295 new cases in 24 hours, surging past the 90,000-mark for the first time to a total of almost nine million.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel has ordered a lighter round of shutdowns from Monday, November 2, until the end of the month. Germans will not be confined to their homes but bars, cafes and restaurants must close, as well as theatres, operas and cinemas. — AFP

Trump, Biden head to face-off in midwest US

Tampa, Oct. 30: Donald Trump and Joe Biden square off with rallies in key Midwestern states on Friday as a resurgent Coronavirus further highlights their sharp differences just four days before the US presidential election.

Even with the United States reaching another daily record in new Covid-19 infections on Thursday, President Trump stuck to his strategy of downplaying its dangerousness and calling for businesses to reopen.

He has also ramped up fear-mongering, warning of rampaging “socialists” and seeking to portray his Democratic challenger as intent on shutting the country down.

Biden has sought to persuade the few remaining undecided voters that he would provide a steady hand on the wheel and heal America's “soul,” calling Trump irresponsible.

The former vice president has held drive-in, socially distanced rallies, while Trump's gatherings have often seen attendees ignore such guidelines and eschew masks.

The two candidates plan to be in three Midwestern states on Friday, with both campaigning in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Trump will also travel to Michigan and Biden also plans to be in Iowa.

Trump's wins in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa helped propel him to victory in 2016.

But polling averages from the RealClearPolitics.com site show Biden up in all four of those states, ranging from 6.5 percentage points in Michigan to just one point in Iowa.

Still, Democrats and Republicans alike have repeatedly warned of the unreliability of polls, pointing to Trump's shock defeat of Hillary Clinton in 2016 despite surveys showing her to be the clear favorite.

Trump and Biden are concentrating their efforts on battleground states that will decide the election in the days before the November 3 polls, and on Thursday both were in the crucial state of Florida. Trump, 74, held another raucous rally in Tampa, telling the cheering crowd that Coronavirus lockdowns under Biden would banish normal life.

“They will allow you nothing,” the Republican said. “We’re never going to lock down again.... We’re open for business,” he said, telling supporters that his own recent bout with Covid-19 proved that it can be beaten. — AFP

JUDGE: FORMER CIA OFFICER SPY CASE TOO COMPLEX FOR SPEEDY TRIAL

Honolulu, Oct. 30: A case against a former CIA officer accused of spying for China is too complex for a trial to happen until at least September 2021, a judge has ruled.

Prosecutors asked the judge to declare the case complex against Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, a former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI. He was arrested in August after an undercover operation in which prosecutors say he accepted thousands of dollars in cash in exchange for his

ZUCKERBERG WARNS ‘CIVIL UNREST’ IN U.S.

San Francisco, Oct. 30: Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday warned of the potential for civil unrest as votes are tallied in a US election that will be “a test” for the social network.

Zuckerberg expressed his concern while describing safeguards against misinformation and voter suppression at the leading social network that are intended to avoid the kinds of deception and abuse that played out four years ago.

“I’m worried that with our nation so divided and election results potentially taking days or weeks to be finalized there is a risk of civil unrest,” said Zuckerberg, who had also been grilled during a session on Capitol Hill earlier this week. “Given this, companies like ours need to go well beyond what we’ve done before.” Confusion early this week over political ads at Facebook marred the onset of what was supposed to be a cooling-off period ahead of the US presidential election November 3.

Rival parties complained Facebook was undermining campaign efforts after blunders arose around a ban on new paid political ads being published in the week before Election Day. — AFP

GRAY WOLF STRIPPED OF PROTECTION

Washington, Oct. 30: US President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday removed endangered species protections for the gray wolf, paving the way for the iconic predator to be more widely hunted.

The move was slammed by conservation groups, which said that while wolf numbers have partly recovered since the animal was first listed in 1974, they remain “functionally extinct” in the vast majority of their former range.

“Today's action reflects the Trump administration's continued commitment to species conservation based on the parameters of the law and the best scientific and commercial data available,” said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. — AFP

NEW | STUDY Journal sequences ancient DNA of 27 dogs from 11,000 years ago

Modern dogs map to Ice Age canines

London, Oct. 30: A global study by an international team of archaeologists has found that there were five different types of dogs more than 11,000 years ago in the period immediately following the Ice Age, a discovery which sheds light on the origin of the many different lineages of humanity's best friend.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, sequenced ancient DNA from 27 dogs, some of which lived up to nearly 11,000 years ago, across Europe and Siberia. The scientists, including those from Francis Crick



DNA from modern European dogs has contributed to breeds around the world, traces of other ice age groups remain, including in chihuahuas. — AFP

Institute in the UK, found that that by this point in history, just after the Ice

Age and before any other animal had been domesticated, there were already

at least five different types of dogs with distinct genetic ancestries.

The findings suggest that the diversity observed between dogs in different parts of the world today originated when humans were still hunters and gatherers. “Some of the variation you see between dogs walking down the street today originated in the Ice Age. By the end of this period, dogs were already widespread across the northern hemisphere,” said Pontus Skoglund, study co-author from Francis Crick Institute.

In the study, the scien-

tists extracted and analysed the genetic material DNA from skeletal material of the dogs. The team showed that over the last 10,000 years, these early dog lineages mixed and moved to give rise to the dogs we know today. Citing an example, they said early European dogs were initially diverse, appearing to originate from two highly distinct populations, one related to Near Eastern dogs and another to Siberian dogs. However, they said this diversity was lost at some point as it is not present in European dogs today. — PTT

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	39,614.07	-0.34
Nifty 50	11642.40	-0.24
S&P 500*	3,252.50	-1.74
Dollar (₹)	74.10	98.9
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.27	-0.20
Euro (₹)	86.94	-0.14
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,727*445	0.89
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	37.35	-0.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.881	0.023
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.859	0.022

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Tencent Games ends access for Indian Pubg users

Tencent Games on Friday said it is terminating all services and access for Pubg Mobile users in India to comply with the government order last month. On September 2, India had banned 118 mobile apps with Chinese links, including popular game Pubg Mobile, citing data privacy concerns and a threat to national security. This took the total count of Chinese-linked mobile apps banned by India to 224.

BPCL puts Bina refinery expansion proposal on hold



BPCL has put on hold its plans to expand its Bina refinery and install a secondary unit at its Mumbai refinery to boost efficiency pending privatisation of the company, N. Vijayagopal said. The Central government wants to sell its 53.29% stake in BPCL to raise funds to rein in a ballooning fiscal deficit. "It is for the new owner to decide whether they want and have the flexibility to add refining capacity," Vijayagopal said.

Vodafone Idea shares jump 5% after Q2 earnings

Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday gained nearly 5 per cent after the company reported significant narrowing of losses to about ₹7,218 crore for the September quarter. The stock rose 4.42 per cent to close at Rs 8.75 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 6.44 per cent to ₹8.92. On the NSE, it jumped 4.79 per cent to close at ₹8.75. In traded volume terms, 939.19 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and 41.75 crore units on the NSE during the day.

IndusInd Bank profit dips over 53% to ₹647cr

IndusInd Bank on Friday reported over 53 per cent decline in its standalone net profit at ₹647.04 crore in the Q2FY2021. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,383.37 crore in the year-ago period. On the standalone basis, total income fell to ₹8,731.05 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year. In the same period a year ago, it stood at ₹8,877.02 crore, IndusInd Bank said.

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

Jio's robust growth offsets RIL's poor refinery growth

Jio's subscriber base hits 406 m, largest ever outside China

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday reported a 15 per cent drop in second quarter net profit after the pandemic-hit oil demand dragged down continued good showing in consumer-facing businesses such as telecom. Consolidated net profit attributable to owners at ₹9,567 crore in July-September compared with ₹11,262 crore a year back, Reliance said in a stock exchange filing.

A plunge in fuel demand after the raging pandemic forced people to stay home and stifled the economy dealt a body blow to the firm's traditional cash cow oil refining and petrochemicals, even as consumer-facing businesses, which account for 35 per cent of the oil-to-telecom-to-retail conglomerate's revenues, continued to do well.

Its digital services, which includes the telecom arm Jio, saw stand-



alone net profit swell to ₹2,844 crore in the second quarter of current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) from ₹990 crore a year back.

This after the four-year-old Jio's subscriber base grew to 406 million, the largest in India.

Net addition of 7.3 million subscribers and per-user revenue rising to Rs 145 helped the telecom business soar.

The gradually 'unlock' that has seen markets and malls reopen helped the company's retail business recover with almost flat revenue and a 14 per cent

lower EBITDA of ₹2,009 crore.

Reliance said 85 per cent of its retail stores were open as of second quarter. It added 232 stores to take the total to 11,931 stores.

Ambani raised an unprecedented ₹2.5 lakh crore since April from sale of stake in the digital and retail units and a rights issue. Of this, over ₹1.76 lakh crore has already flowed into the company, helping it achieve net zero debt status.

Petrochemicals revenue fell 23 per cent to ₹29,665 crore and pre-tax profit dropped 33 per cent at

₹5,964 crore. Refining EBITA almost halved to ₹3,002 crore as revenue slumped 36 per cent.

The firm's twin refineries earned \$5.7 per barrel on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel, as compared to a gross refining margin (GRM) of \$9.4 per barrel last year.

The profit in Q2 was lower sequentially as well as the April-June earning of ₹13,248 crore included one-time gain of ₹7,629 crore from sale of 49 per cent stake in petro retailing business to BP.

Investors such as Facebook, Google and global private equity funds have picked up a cumulative 32.96 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹1.52 lakh crore.

All the deals, except Google, have been completed, bringing ₹1.18 lakh crore into the telecom and technology company.

Another ₹37,710 crore was raised from the sale of an 8.48 per cent stake in its retail unit.

India's forex kitty touches all-time high of ₹560 bn

Mumbai, Oct. 30: The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$5.412 billion to touch an all-time high of \$560.532 billion in the week ended October 23, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended October 16, the reserves stood at \$555.12 billion after increasing by \$3.615 billion.

During the reporting week, the surge in the forex kitty was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

FCA rose by \$5,202 billion to \$517.524 billion, the RBI's weekly data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect

● IN THE previous week ended October 16, the reserves stood at \$555.12 billion after increasing by \$3.615 billion.

of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves were up by \$175 million in the reporting week to \$36.860 billion, as per the central bank data. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by \$8 million to \$1.487 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF also climbed by \$27 million to \$4.661 billion during the reporting week, the data showed.

— PTI

Gold ETFs log ₹2.4K cr inflow in Sept quarter

New Delhi, Oct. 30: Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw staggering net inflows of over ₹2,400 crore in the three months ended September 30, as investors continued to hedge their exposure to riskier assets due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from Covid-19.

In comparison, investors had infused ₹172 crore in this asset class in July-September 2019, according to the data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India.

The category has been among the better-performing ones so far this year and received a net inflow of ₹5,957 crore.

As per the data, a net sum of ₹2,426 crore was pumped into gold-linked ETFs till September 30.

Divam Sharma, co-founder, Green Portfolio, said returns generated by gold ETFs over the last one year have increased number of investors buying the asset.

"Gold investment picked up due to higher economic uncertainty resulting from COVID-19 pandemic," said Harsh Jain of Groww.

— PTI

Indian Oil posts 11-fold rise in profit

New Delhi, Oct. 30: India's top oil firm IOC on Friday reported an 11-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹6,227.31 crore for the September 2020 quarter, on the back of a boost in refining margins and inventory gain on using low-priced crude oil for making fuels. The net profit stands at ₹6.78 per share.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹563.42 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Indian Oil Chairman Shrikant Vaidya said.

"The profit was up due to higher inventory and foreign exchange gains and better refinery margins," he said.

The company earned \$8.62 on turning every bar-

rel of crude oil into fuel in the second quarter of the current financial year 2020-21, compared with a gross refining margin of \$1.28 in July-September 2019.

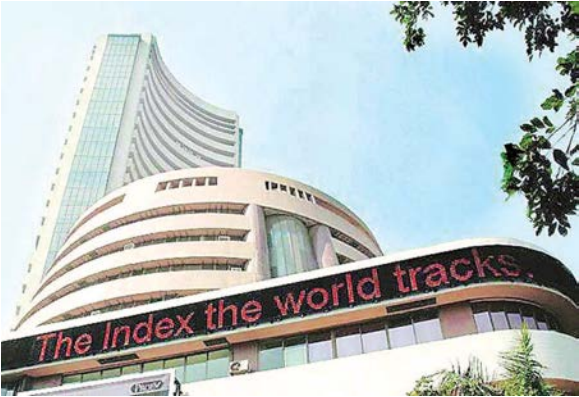
IOC gained ₹7,400 crore on using low-priced crude oil it procured during May and June to convert into petroleum products in Q2. This inventory gain compared to an

inventory loss of ₹1,807 crore in Q2 of the 2019-20 fiscal.

Inventory gain is booked when a company buys raw material at a particular price but by the time it is turned into fuel, the rates have gone up. Since retail pump prices are benchmarked at prevailing global rates, an inventory gain is booked.

— PTI

BSE to seek Sebi views on Future deal with RIL



Mumbai, Oct. 30: India's Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will consult the market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and seek clarifications from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their \$3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, an exchange source said.

Amazon on October 25 won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt Future's deal to sell retail assets to Reliance, arguing the Indian retailer group breached certain contract provisions it entered into last year in a separate deal with the U.S. firm.

Both Indian firms reacted to the decision by saying they want to complete the deal "without any delay". Amazon has now written to capital markets regulator Sebi, as well as the BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), to put the deal on hold in light of the arbitration order, two separate sources said.

A BSE source said it will consult Sebi about its stance on the deal and the exchange later on Friday also plans to seek clarification from Future and Reliance Retail.

The Indian regulator and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment.

Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

The dispute centres around Future Group's decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale and

● AMAZON INC ON October 25 won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt Future's deal to sell retail assets to Reliance.

● BOTH INDIAN firms reacted to the decision by saying they want to complete the deal "without any delay".

● AMAZON ARGUES that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list.

some other businesses to Reliance for \$3.38 billion, including debt.

Amazon argues that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list including any firms from Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani's group.

Amazon has shared a copy of the Singapore arbitrator's interim order with SEBI and the two stock exchanges, hoping they would step in to stall the approval, the second source said.

People familiar with the case have previously told Reuters the Singapore arbitrator's order is not automatically enforceable in India and Amazon may need to get a binding order from an Indian court.

— Reuters

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, OCT. 30

British premium motorcycle maker Triumph on Friday unveiled globally its upcoming entry-level, sport naked, the Triumph Roadster.

The new adventure tourer bike will be the most inexpensive Triumph on sale and will bring the brand to a wider spectrum of prospective buyers in India.

The Triumph Trident Roadster equipped with a 660cc triple-cylinder motor will produce 81HP and 64Nm of torque.

The new bike, which would be launched in India next year, is expected to be priced around Rs 7.50 lakh.

The new bike comes with a 6-speed gearbox and can also be optioned with an up and down quickshifter.

The Trident 660 bike gets an impressive service interval of 16,000 km.

"What we wanted with the new Trident 660 was to give the riders in this really exciting middleweight roadster world all of the things they want from



their bike, with a genuine set of real advantages that set a new benchmark for choice," Steve Sargent, Chief Product Officer at Triumph Motorcycles.

"From the competitive price, to the triple power and performance, plus the benefits of class-leading handling and technology, we believe the Trident 660 is a real milestone in the category, and introduces the Triumph brand and the advantages of a triple engine to a whole new generation of riders across the world," He boasted.

The Trident will get a class-leading electronics package, including Road and Rain riding modes, switchable traction control (integrated into the riding modes), ride by wire throttle and an all-new multifunctional instruments with colour TFT display, with Accessory fit "My Triumph" Connectivity System and all-LED lighting and ABS.

Once launched in India later this year the Triumph Trident will be the most inexpensive bike competing against Kawasaki Z650 bike.

MEGA LISTING

Ant's dual listing to raise \$34.4bn, dwarfing Saudi Aramco's listing

Ant's IPO sees \$3 trillion in retail demand

Hong Kong, Oct. 30: Retail investors placed bids for a record \$3 trillion (2.3 trillion pounds) of shares in Ant Group Co Ltd's initial public offering (IPO), set to be the world's biggest, as mom-and-pop savers bet on demand for its financial services in China.

Ant's dual listing is set to raise about \$34.4 billion, split fairly evenly between Shanghai's STAR Market and Hong Kong, topping Saudi Aramco's \$29.4 billion listing last December.

Investors, both retail and institutional, are rushing to buy into Ant, which operates China's biggest payments platform and other financial services, despite risks of greater scrutiny at home and abroad.

The Shanghai leg of the IPO drew about 19 trillion yuan (2.2 trillion pounds) of bids from retail investors, or 872 times the number of shares earmarked for them, a company filing to the stock exchange showed on Thursday.

The Hong Kong tranche got HK\$1.3 trillion (128.7 billion pounds) in bids, or 389 times the shares on offer, said people with knowledge of the matter on Friday, declining to be identified as the information is not public yet.

The bookbuilding for the Hong Kong leg of the IPO of Ant, backed by e-commerce behemoth Alibaba ran from Monday to Friday, while books for the Shanghai leg were open for one day on Thursday. The \$3 trillion of retail



investor bids, equivalent to the gross domestic product of the United Kingdom, comes against the backdrop of shaky global markets ahead of next week's U.S. presidential election and a dour global economic outlook.

Investors in the IPO, however, have brushed aside company-specific and broader market con-

cerns on hopes that Ant will continue to benefit from the rapid digitization of financial services in China.

Harrison Chan, a 25-year-old financial professional in Hong Kong, spent 40% of his monthly income on applying for Ant shares, and is now wondering whether he will get any, given the

COVID PANDEMIC HITS INVESTOR PERCEPTION OF INDIA: SURVEY

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 30

Among the emerging nations, India seems to be the worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the strength of the economy has deteriorated the most in India in the first half of 2020, finds a study.

The Investors' Macro Ratings Index, which looks at investors' perception of the economy based on parameters like real GDP growth, inflation, fiscal deficit and bank credit, has deteriorated in all the emerging economies, as per a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

However, India was the most affected in the first half and Taiwan was the least affected.

The study examined macro-economic parameters in emerging economies like India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

As per International Monetary Funds' projection, India's real GDP growth is expected to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020, which is the highest contraction among the 10 emerging markets. India is also the only economy with a double-digit contraction. On the other hand, China is expected to see 1.9 per cent growth, the highest among all of them. At 4.9 per cent retail inflation in 2020 will be the highest in India.

— Bloomberg

tion business and also raise the capacity for its active pharma ingredient, or API, business by 50 per cent, Chava said. Funds will also be used to create a research and development facility and a new unit for contract development and manufacturing.

"It's not a flash in the pan but a more structural change for this company," said Sapna Jhavar, an analyst at Dolat Capital Market Ltd.

Laurus Labs is a global supplier of antiretroviral APIs and intermediates. Oncology is one of its core areas in the segment and it plans to expand its portfolio by focusing on molecules in diabetes, ophthalmology, and cardiovascular therapy. The finished dosage segment is involved in developing and manufacturing oral solid formulations for low and middle income countries, North America and European Union markets. "We have to now move from one orbit to the other, get leadership in products and expand into new geographies," he said.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Mike Tyson back in the boxing ring

Los Angeles: Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. insisted Thursday they are preparing for a bruising battle when the two fifty-something fighters face each other in an eight-round exhibition bout in Los Angeles.

Former world heavyweight champion Tyson, 54, will be fighting for the first time in 15 years when he meets four-division world champion Jones, 51, at the Staples Center on November 28. While the California State Athletic Commission-sanctioned event has been dismissed as a "circus act" in some quarters, Tyson and Jones bristled at criticism the pay-per-view fight would not be a legitimate contest.

"Not a real fight? It's Mike Tyson versus Roy Jones. I'm coming to fight and I hope he's coming to fight and that's all you need to know," Tyson told a virtual press conference. Jones, whose last fight came in 2018 with a unanimous decision over cruiserweight Scott Sigmon, also rejected the fight's exhibition tag, while describing himself and Tyson as "freaks". — *AFP*

Boxers Kavinder, Sanjeet in finals

New Delhi: Indian boxers Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) advanced to the finals of the Alexis Vastine International Tournament in Nantes, France after clinching contrasting victories.

However, four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg) settled for a bronze after going down in his semifinal clash. He lost to local favourite Lounes Hamraoui in a 2-1 decision on Thursday.

Kavinder defeated Frenchman Benik George Melkumian 3-0 to set up a summit clash against another local hope Samuel Kistohurry.

Sanjeet, a gold-medallist from the India Open, got the better of American Sherrod Fulghim in a 2-1 verdict. Sanjeet will also be up against a French opponent, Soheib Bouafia in the final. Amit Panghal (52kg) is also through to the finals after beating American Christopher Herrera in a draw that only featured four boxers. — *PTI*

Taylor ton in vain as Zim go down

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Pakistan overcame Brendan Taylor's century through fast bowler Shaheen Afridi's 5-49 to record a 26-run victory in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe on Friday.

The match also marked the beginning of both nations' 2023 World Cup qualification campaigns. Taylor's 112 off 117 balls ended in a losing cause as Zimbabwe was bowled out for 255 in 49.4 overs. Afridi was supported by Wahab Riaz, who claimed 4-41.

In Pakistan's first home international game with no fans because of Covid-19 restrictions at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Haris Sohail (71) and Imam-ul-Haq (58) struck half centuries in their team's total of 281-8.

The three-match ODI series is part of the International Cricket Council's World Cup Super League. Seven of the 13 teams in the league will directly qualify for the 2023 Cricket World Cup in India. — *AP*

Brief scores: Pakistan 281/8 in 50 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 58, Haris Sohail 71; B. Muzarabani 2/39) bt Zimbabwe 255 in 49.4 overs (Brendan Taylor 112, W. Madhevere 55; Shaheen Afridi 5/49, Wahab Riaz 4/41).

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians from 3.30 pm; Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Sunrisers Hyderabad from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

FORMULA ONE

Imola Grand Prix: Practice 1 from 4.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports 2 HD, Star Sports 3

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Sheffield United vs Manchester City from 6 pm; Burney vs Chelsea from 8.30 pm; Liverpool vs West Ham United from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2

Italian League: Crotone vs Atalanta from 7.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Parma from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Bologna vs Cagliari from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

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

BIG BEN STROKES

Stokes, Sanju help Royals snap Kings' win streak

Abu Dhabi, Oct. 30: Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab by seven wickets in a crucial IPL match here on Friday.

Sent in to bat, Chris Gayle smashed a 63-ball 99, while K. L. Rahul hit 46 off 41 as KXIP posted 185 for 4 against RR.

However, Ben Stokes' 26-ball 50 and Sanju Samson's 25-ball 48 helped the Royals chase down the total in 17.3 overs.

Earlier, Gayle and Rahul (46) took the RR bowlers to the cleaners, stitching 120 runs for the second wicket in 13.4 overs to help KXIP post a challenging total after being put in to bat.

Nicholas Pooran played a late cameo of 22 off just 10 deliveries with the help of three sixes.

Gayle, who had four boundaries and eight sixes in his explosive innings, was out just two balls before the end of the innings and he showed his disappointment of missing out on a hundred by throwing down his bat.

During his knock, Gayle took his tally of sixes to 1001 in his glittering T20 career.

KXIP lost their first wicket in the opening over itself when Mandeep Singh got dismissed for a first-ball duck with Ben Stokes taking a brilliant diving catch off an equally superb delivery by Archer.

But Gayle and Rahul maintained a high scoring rate, reaching 53 for 1 at the end of powerplay. The self-styled 'Universe Boss' smacked two fours and six in consecutive deliveries off pacer Kartik Tyagi. Gayle reached his third fifty in six matches in this IPL in style, hitting a six off Rahul Tewati in the 11th over as KXIP cruised along to reach the 100-run mark in the 13th over.

— *PTI*

Ben Stokes of Rajasthan Royals plays a shot against Kings XI Punjab during their Indian Premier League match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday. — *BCCI*

SCORECARD

Kings XI Punjab: K. L. Rahul c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 46, Mandeep Singh c Ben Stokes b Jofra Archer 0, Chris Gayle b Jofra Archer 99, Nicholas Pooran c Rahul Tewatia b Ben Stokes 22, Glenn Maxwell not out 6, Deepak Hooda not out 1. Extras (LB-1, W-8, NB-2) 11. **Total (for 4 wickets in 20 overs) 185.** **FOW:** 1-1, 2-121, 3-162, 4-184.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-26-2, Varun Aaron 4-0-47-0, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-47-0, Shreyas Gopal 1-0-10-0, Ben Stokes 4-0-32-2, Rahul Tewatia 3-0-22-0.

Rajasthan Royals: Robin Uthappa c Nicholas Pooran b Murugan Ashwin 30, Ben Stokes c Deepak Hooda b Chris Jordan 50, Sanju Samson run out 48, Steve Smith not out 31, Jos Buttler not out 22.

Extras (LB-1, W-1) 2. **Total (for 3 wickets in 17.3 overs) 186.** **FOW:** 1-60, 2-111, 3-145.

Bowlers: Arshdeep Singh 3-0-34-0, Mohammed Shami 3-0-36-0, Murugan Ashwin 4-0-43-1, Chris Jordan 3.3-0-44-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-27-0.

IPL POINTS TABLE

Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	12	8	4	0	16	+1.186
Royal Challengers Bangalore	12	7	5	0	14	+0.048
Delhi Capitals	12	7	5	0	14	+0.030
Kings XI Punjab	13	6	7	0	12	-0.133
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.377
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.467
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	5	7	0	10	+0.396
Chennai Super Kings	13	5	8	0	10	-0.532

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

Ruturaj one of the most talented players: Dhoni

Dubai, Oct. 30: A 'reticent' Ruturaj Gaikwad took some time to make a mark in the ongoing IPL but he has managed to impress his CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who believes that the young opener is "one of the most talented players going around".

Gaekwad scored his second straight half-century on Thursday to set up a six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here. He got his chance after Chennai Super Kings decided to field untested players following a disastrous start to the season.

"(The changes) are a conscious effort. We want to give games to people who haven't played and we need them to grab those opportunities. Ruturaj we'd seen



Ruturaj Gaikwad

him in the nets, but then he got Covid positive and took 20 days. Unfortunately but he'll remember this season," said Dhoni at the post-match presentation.

"He's one of the most talented players going around. What makes it difficult is he's not somebody who speaks a lot, so

sometimes it becomes difficult for the management to gauge a player."

Gaekwad, who had tested Covid-19 positive in the lead up to the tournament, has all the shots and his style of play is pleasing to the eye.

Things did not look bright for the 23-year-old after he failed in his first three innings (0, 5, 0).

"Once he started going in the innings, you could see that he was hitting the ball the way he wants to and he was planning. When we made him play the first game, he got out, stepped out.

"It becomes difficult to tell whether it was the pressure that made him step out or whether that's his natural game. One ball isn't enough," Dhoni further added.

— *PTI*

Good start is the key, says Quinton

Dubai, Oct. 30: Mumbai Indians opener Quinton De Kock says having an experienced and strong middle-order is always a plus for any team but it does not make the job of the openers easy since they are responsible for team's good starts.

MI have a strong middle order with the likes of Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Kieron Pollard and Krunal Pandya in the ranks.

Asked whether an experienced middle-order helps him to be aggressive, De Kock said, "Having an experienced middle order, just in general helps out in any situation. I wouldn't say it changes our mind-set up front. We always try and look to get off to the best start possible, whether they're there or not."

"Obviously knowing that



Quinton de Kock

they are behind you, the likes of SKY (Surya), Polly (Pollard), Hardik (Pandya), when you are out there, you just bat to the situation and if you're still lucky enough to be out there batting with them, it's just important you end up giving them strike because they're the bigger strikers of the ball, so yeah," Kock further added.

— *PTI*

SRH lock horns with Virat & Co

Sharjah, Oct. 30: An IPL Play-offs spot at stake, Royal Challengers Bangalore need to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats and put up a strong challenge against strong-willed Sunrisers Hyderabad when the two teams clash, here on Saturday.

But it would be easier said than done since SRH are brimming with confidence after their crushing win over Delhi Capitals.

Going by current standings, RCB are better-placed at number two and they need to win one of their remaining two games — against SRH or DC — to make the cut.

And even if RCB lose both their matches and stay on 14 points, they can still qualify. But for that they need favourable results from other games.

RCB can ill afford to lose both their last two games as it will affect their NRR, resulting in their elimination if other teams on 14 points have higher run rates.

SRH, on the other hand, have nothing to lose. Sitting on the sixth spot with 10 points from 12 games, the Hyderabad outfit need to win their remaining two matches — against RCB and MI — to reach 14 points to stay in the reckoning.

Just winning both the games might not be enough for SRH. They would be hoping that at least one out of RCB, DC (14 points) and Kings XI Punjab (12 points) don't reach the magic fig-

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 15
● Hyderabad: 7
● Bangalore: 7
● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)

MEETING IN 2019

● Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by 118 runs at Hyderabad
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 4 wickets at Bangalore

MEETING IN 2020

● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD

● Virat Kohli who smashed 296 sixes in 278 innings of 293 matches, needs four sixes to become fourth Indians and 24th batsman overall to complete a triple century of sixes in Twenty-20 cricket.
● Manish Pandey who scored 982 runs in 36 innings of 59 matches, needs 18 runs to become fourth batsman to score 1000 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

ure of 16.

If that happens, SRH will progress to the play-offs because of a superior NRR than all the teams which can finish on 14 points.

RCB need to regroup as their confidence definitely took a beating after crushing defeats at the hands of MI and CSK. — *PTI*

Mumbai, Delhi to meet in a big bout

Dubai, Oct. 30: Their play-off berth secured, defending champions Mumbai Indians would look to add to the woes of Delhi Capitals, who are on a three-match losing streak, and consolidate their position at the top when the two teams face each other in their penultimate IPL league game here on Saturday.

CSK six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday sealed MI's play-off berth. The defending champions are currently on 16 points and with an excellent net run rate (NRR), are almost certain to finish in the top two.

Despite three defeats on the trot against Kings XI Punjab, KKR and Sunrisers Hyderabad, DC are placed third with 14 points from 12 games, courtesy their consistent run in

the first phase of the league. The three defeats should come as an eye opener for DC as they can ill-afford to take things lightly and need at least a win to seal their play-off place.

But it won't be an easy task as their last two games are against the top two teams on the table — MI and RCB.

If DC lose their last two games, it is entirely possible that KXIP will go past them on NRR even if they finish on 14 points and in such a case, the Delhi side could be eliminated if other teams on 14 have a higher NRR.

Going by paper, MI definitely have a clear-cut edge over DC and having confirmed their last four berth, the title holders would be playing without any pressure. — *PTI*

NUMBERS GAME — MI vs DC

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 25 ● Mumbai: 13 ● Delhi: 12

MEETING IN 2019

● Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians 37 runs at Mumbai.
● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 40 runs at Delhi

MEETING IN 2020

● Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets at Abu Dhabi.

FOR THE RECORD

● Kieron Pollar who scored 2973 runs in 144 innings of 160 matches, needs 27 runs to become second batsman after Rohit Sharma (3988 runs in matches) to score 3000 runs for Mumbai Indians.
● Rishabh Pant who scored 1989 runs in 63 innings of as many matches, needs 11 runs to become third batsman to score 2000 runs for Delhi Capitals in IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

Antwerp silence Tottenham; easy wins for Milan, Arsenal

Paris, Oct. 30: Jose Mourinho said he would have liked to make 11 half-time changes after his Tottenham Hotspur side slumped to a shock 1-0 Europa League defeat at Royal Antwerp on Thursday, while Serie A leaders AC Milan and Mikel Arteta's Arsenal eased to straightforward wins.

Spurs failed to create a single chance of note in a lifeless display, with Gareth Bale, who rejoined the club on loan from Real Madrid in the close-season, lasting less than an hour before being substituted.

Refaelov found the back of the net for Antwerp and took the match away from Tottenham as the surprise win takes them to the top of the early Group 'J' table after their opening 2-1 victory at Ludogorets last week.

Meanwhile, Milan made it two

THE RESULTS

Antwerp (Refaelov 29)	1	Napoli (Politano 56)	1
Tottenham Hotspur	0	Real Sociedad	0
Arsenal (Nketiah 42, Willock 44, Pepe 46)	3	Leicester City (Vardy 18-pen, Choudhury 39)	2
Dundalk	0	AEK Athens	0
AC Milan (Diaz 24, Leao 57, Dalot 67)	3	Villarreal (Pino 80, Alcacer 85, 90+6-pen)	3
Sparta Prague	0	Qarabag (Kwabena 78)	1

wins from two in Group 'H' with a 3-0 success over Sparta, despite Zlatan Ibrahimovic missing a first-half penalty.

Goals from Ibrahimovic, Rafael Leao and on-loan Manchester United wing-back

Diogo Dalot saw Milan extend their unbeaten run to 23 matches in all competitions.

Also, Arsenal overcame a plucky Dundalk side with a 3-0 handsome win at the Emirates Stadium. — *AFP*



Joe Willock (centre) of Arsenal tries to break through against Dundalk players during their Europa League first round match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday. — *AFP*