

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 26 OCTOBER 2019

WEATHER

Max: 30.6 °C
Min: 22.1 °C
RH: 62%
Rain: Traces
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain, thundershowers likely. Max/Min 31/22/9C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Ashwayuja Bahula Trayodashi till 3.45 pm
Star: Uttara Phalguni till 8.26 am and later Hasta till 5.48 am (early hours of Sunday)
Varjyam: 3.55 pm to 5.20 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6.16 am to 7.48 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Safar 26,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.11 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.54 pm
Isha: 7.02 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.48 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.13 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.09 AM
MOONSET TODAY 4.40 PM

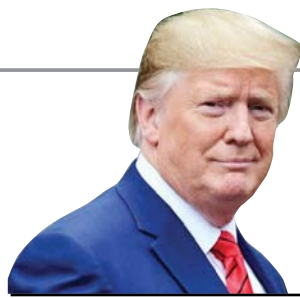
COUNTER POINT



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Terrorists rule PoK: Army chief

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat on Friday described Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as a "terrorist-controlled" part of the neighbouring country and sought to link it with Islamabad's strident criticism of India's decision to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status. In an address at an event, Gen. Rawat also asserted that Gilgit-Baltistan and PoK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan. — PTI



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Bezos set to lose top slot to Gates

TABLOID
Mahesh Babu's family show



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Shine Hospital's owner arrested

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

Dr V. Sunil Kumar Reddy, the managing director of Shine Children's Hospital, and five others were arrested on Friday for the fire in the neonatal intensive care unit that resulted in the death of an infant and burns to four others on October 21.

There were 43 children in the hospital when the fire

broke out in the pre-dawn hours. Vicky, the son of a police constable, Dongari Naresh, who was closest to the refrigerator which caught fire, died. Naresh lodged a complaint with the police.

A police investigation found that the fire was the outcome of the negligence of the hospital management and the staff, who did not take adequate measures to prevent the fire and rescue the children.

The police retrieved footage from the CCTV cameras in the hospital, examined the witnesses and found Dr Reddy had failed to install fire protection equipment, fire alarm systems, fire extinguishing sprinklers as per norms. It was found that he was running the hospital without the necessary permissions and even without a fire no-objection certificate from the Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation. Rachakonda police commissioner, Mahesh Bhagwat, said, "Investigations revealed that Dr Hari Krishna who was the duty doctor when the incident occurred was not even present in the NICU. He did not reach the spot which was blazing for around half an hour."

■ Page 6: Nurses failed to rescue infants

Chautala backs BJP for Dy CM post

BJP decides to take JJP's support to placate Jats; Khattar likely to stake claim today

YOJANA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

The BJP on Friday conceded that Jats play a crucial role in Haryana politics. The party, which installed a non-Jat, Mr Manohar Lal Khattar, to head its first government in the state in 2014, allied with the Jat-dominated Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) of Mr Dushyant Chautala to retain power for a second term on Friday.

The BJP also agreed to the JJP's demand for the post of deputy chief minister even though it had been claiming all through the day that it has the support of independent MLAs to form government.

BJP national president and Union home minister Amit Shah himself announced that his party has decided to ally with the JJP to run a stable government. The JJP has 10 seats.

In the recently concluded Assembly polls, the BJP tally stood at 40, six short of simple majority in the 90-strong Assembly. Several of its candidates, including senior leaders and ministers, failed to win mainly in the Jat-dom-



Jannayak Janata Party chief Dushyant Chautala and his mother Naina Chautala at his residence in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

inated areas. Some BJP leaders belonging to the community also lost, indicating that the party was not the preferred choice of Jats.

Mr Dushyant Chautala earlier held a meeting with Mr Shah at the latter's residence. Mr Khattar was present when Mr Shah announced the decision to ally with the JJP. Speculation is rife that at least two JJP leaders other than Mr Chautala could be accommodated in the BJP-led government.

The JJP chief had claimed that his party would support that party which would agree to its minimum programme, including 75 per cent jobs reservation for Haryanvis and the old age pension. It will now be seen how the BJP implements the poll promises of its ally in the state.

The BJP, which was busy with meetings over government formation in Haryana, had to face severe criticism over its move to seek support from

Lokhit Party's Gopal Kanda, who is facing charges of abetment to suicide of a former woman employee and her mother.

Though a photograph of Mr Kanda, who won the Sirsa Assembly seat, and Independent MLA Ranjeet Singh, accompanied by BJP Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal, was widely circulated on social media, the BJP refrained from any comment. Mr Kanda claimed that all the independents who had won had extended "unconditional support" to the BJP, and revealed his family's association with the RSS.

Outgoing Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is expected to stake claim on Saturday. The BJP has appointed Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and party general secretary Arun Singh as observers for the Haryana Legislature Party meeting.

Earlier, Mr Khattar held a series of meetings with BJP working president J.P. Nadda, state in-charge Anil Jain, general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh and some independent MLAs.

Uma shows moral compass on Kanda

YOJANA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, OCT. 25

BJP senior leader Uma Bharti reminded the BJP of its "moral mission" after the party started hobnobbing with the controversial leader Gopal Kanda, who won the Sirsa Assembly seat as an Independent MLA and is wanted for abetting the suicide of a former employee.

Haryana was the state where the previous Narendra Modi-led government had with much fanfare launched its key campaign *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*.

A former air hostess, employed with Kanda's airline, had committed suicide in 2012 after accusing him of harassment. Months later, her mother ended her life and Kanda was booked for abetting her suicide.

The case has been dragging on for seven years in



Accused Gopal Kanda

a Delhi court which is yet to complete recording of prosecution evidence.

The BJP had launched strong protest against Kanda, then a junior minister in the Bupendra Singh Hooda led Haryana government.

After reports of Kanda's meeting with the BJP top brass on Thursday, Ms Bharti asked the party leadership not to forget its "moral foundation."

■ Page 9: Opposition calls BJP shameless

MURMU IS NEW LT. GOVERNOR FOR J&K UT

New Delhi, Oct. 25: Mr Girish Chander Murmu, a senior IAS officer who worked closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat and is currently the Union expenditure secretary, was on Friday appointed the first Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, six days ahead of the state becoming a Union Territory. Former defence secretary R.K. Mathur was appointed the first Lt Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh.

Mr Murmu, 59, an IAS officer of the 1985 batch, was Mr Modi's additional principal secretary during his tenure as Gujarat CM. He was due for retirement on November 30.

Mr Murmu will be administered oath of office on October 31 in Srinagar after which he will be the administrative head of Kashmir and Jammu provinces. The state's third province, Ladakh, has been carved out as a separate UT. Mr Mathur, 65 will be administered oath of office on October 31 in Leh.

■ Page 9: Satya Pal Malik shifted to Goa

Do not play with lives, says Kishan

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

Union minister of state for home affairs, G. Kishan Reddy, on Thursday said Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, should stop playing with the lives of RTC employees and should put an end to their suffering.

Reacting to Mr Rao's comments on the RTC strike and the Central government, Mr Reddy said that the Centre had nowhere in any law asked any state government to remove RTC workers.

Speaking on the occasion of Ayurveda Day celebrations at the BRKR Government Hospital here, Mr Reddy said that it was the responsibility of the

state government to solve the problems of RTC workers, but the Chief Minister was not being fair in dealing with the issue. After winning the Huzurnagar bypoll, the TRS went on a celebration overdrive, he said, adding, but there is a lot in the future for the ruling party to face.

Admonishing the TRS chief for making unnecessary remarks against the Centre, Mr Reddy pointed out that Mr Rao had the responsibility to hold talks with RTC employees.

Meanwhile, other opposition parties also reacted strongly to Mr Rao's comments against RTC workers on Thursday.

■ Page 4: KCR believes he owns state: Kodandaram

7 people held for treasure hunt

JAYENDRA T. CHAITANYA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

Greed for ancient treasure led a group of ten people on a hunt in a field in Velpupally village in Thurkapally mandal in Yadadri Bhongir district. Instead, seven of them, including three policemen and a former deputy sarpanch, were arrested by the Rachakonda police. Three others are at large.

On October 3, Yadagiri Muralidhar Rao, the farm owner, who lives in Hyderabad, visited his

fields on the outskirts of Velpupally and found the boundary pillars damaged and a fencing erected. Three large pits were dug in the fields, one under an old idol of Lord Hanuman, and two pits under the stones that contained unidentified scripts. He complained to the Thurkapally police. A shepherd in the village saw a group digging late in the day and shouted at them. As soon as he did, they fled.

■ Page 6: Cops suspended for treasure hunt

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■ Page 4: KCR believes he owns state: Kodandaram



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Fee paid

Education secretary B. Janardhan Reddy says money has been released to Intermediate education officers, parents can start claiming reimbursement of fee

Trash collection data misleading

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

The haphazard paper work by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation once again came as a shocker when officials declared that the amount of garbage carried from the city is 7,000 metric tonnes. These numbers came out when about 30 per cent of swachh auto tippers went missing. Surprisingly, the civic body has no counter check and they have been entirely depending on the private agency which has been weighing the garbage at Jawahar Nagar dumping yard.

in quantifying the garbage produced in the city. Sources said that out of 2,500 swachh auto drivers, only 1,975 have reported till Thursday. The civic body has been paying ₹560 per metric tonnes, which has no accountability. Surprisingly, the corporation did not enhance the number of vehicles to carry the additional garbage. Interestingly, the number does not match with the population, which is 1.2 crore and a floating population of about 5 lakh.

Ever since the formation of GHMC, the city has been producing about 2,800 metric tonnes of garbage. The garbage produced in the city reached to 3,500 metric tonnes during 2015 and in four years the quantity has reached 7,000 metric tonnes.

Viswajit Kampati, additional commissioner (transportation), said that the corporation has lifted the additional garbage piled up at the transfer station. He said that the civic body has been clearing additional garbage piled up in the transfer station and for a week it has been transferring about 7,000 metric tonnes to Jawahar Nagar dumping yard. Mr Kampati said that he has been collecting photographs from every transfer station regularly to check whether it has been transported or not. Asked about the scientific mechanism to gauge the garbage transported from city to Jawahar Nagar dumping yard, the transport wing commissioner said that private agency processing the waste are quantifying the trash. Asked whether it was accurate, Kampati said he was 100 per cent sure as now vehicles will have to stop at the transfer station and they will be monitored on CCTV cameras.

Sources in the corporation said that it has been solely relying on the private agency. The quantity of garbage segregation is done only through the number of trips made to the Jawahar Nagar dumping yard without gauging them at the transfer stations.

Sources said that the corporation has conducted a survey and came up with surprising figures that each person produces 500 grams of garbage on daily basis. However, the civic body never unveiled the scientific mechanism involved

CS seeks plan to curb dengue, malaria

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

After facing the wrath of the Telangana High Court for not preventing the outbreak of dengue and malaria, Chief Secretary, S.K. Joshi, on Friday convened a high-level meeting to prepare an action plan to control the spread of vector-borne diseases all over the state.

Mr Joshi thanked the central government for sending a team from the national vector borne diseases control, integrated disease surveillance programme, national centre for disease control and the epidemiology wings following the request by the state government to discuss steps being taken to control the spread of the diseases in Telangana.

Getting set for Diwali



Customers purchase firecrackers ahead of Diwali on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

Fake news not by chance: Sinha

Alt News editor was speaking on misinformation at the OU

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

In an era of too much information, the truth might be a needle lost in a haystack of convenient lies. People like Pratik Sinha, the editor and co-founder of Alt News, are at the forefront of helping people solve this problem. Founded in 2017, Alt News debunks lies and myths that are circulated on social media networks. It also calls out powerful people who help spread these lies like wildfire.

there and offered them some chocolates. This was a time when rumours of mysterious gangs kidnapping children were spreading through social media websites. Onlookers thought this woman was one such kidnapper. In a frenzy, they ganged up on her and beat her to death," he explained. He also spoke of two Assamese men who were tied up and beaten to death by a mob in their own state after being mistaken for child kidnappers.



Pratik Sinha.

Sinha said misinformation is spread in many forms and ways but is always designed to push a person's 'emotional buttons'. "There is a war on your emotions on social media," he said. Sinha said misinformation itself was not new, but its acceleration to the people is a new phenomenon. He referred to how internet usage had exploded just between June 2016 (200 million GB) to March 2017 (1,300 million GB) in

India. "Today, the number is estimated to be 2,000 million GB. There are many new users who are not internet-literate and easily fall for rumours," he said.

Sinha was quick to add that the mobs too need to be treated as victims: "These mobs that kill people based on rumours have to be considered victims of misinformation." Misinformation comes

in many streams. The most common, said Sinha, is the one that targets minorities. There are several examples of messages, doctored pictures and videos which try to paint a minority community in bad light. "In 2017, a video of a woman being beaten to death went viral. The text that accompanied it claimed the woman was a Muslim who was killed for refusing to wear a burqa. However, after some quick fact-checking, we found the video was actually from Guatemala," he said.

Sinha has a word of caution for mainstream journalism outlets as well. "Some major news organisations have tried to spread lies in one way or another. The important thing to remember is that a lot of these outlets have strict deadlines. The people in-charge of putting up content on websites need to be given more time to verify the facts," he said. He called for people to have a critical outlook to information.

Sinha said these messages don't happen by chance. "There is always someone, somewhere who takes some content and tries to spin it in the way they want," he said. He gave the examples of websites like 'insistpost', 'chaskatimes' and 'viralindia' which pandered to BJP and Congress interests. "Such cases are found on all sides of the political spectrum," he added.

The most confounding stream of misinformation is found in the medical sphere. Messages and videos of miracle drugs that cure diseases like dengue and malaria often find their way on YouTube and later WhatsApp inboxes. "It is hard to pinpoint why one would spread lies like that. But in a world where money can be made off of content, someone will try to cash in on the most popular fear of the time," he said.

2020 to be the 'Year of AI': KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday announced that the state government would declare 2020 as the 'Year of AI (artificial intelligence)'. During a meeting with Ms Debjani Ghosh, president of Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) at Pragathi Bhavan, Rama Rao said the state government would promote the use of AI in sectors such as agriculture, urban transportation and healthcare. "The government will host events throughout the year, all centred around AI," he said. Rama Rao also high-

lighted the government's initiatives in emerging technology sectors. "The government is attracting investors from marquee companies that are setting up R&D and technology development centres in emerging technologies such as IoT (internet of things), artificial intelligence, machine learning, cyber security and blockchain," he said. The minister said the government was happy to collaborate with Nasscom in bridging the skill gap in such sectors. Ghosh said that Nasscom would be delighted to collaborate with the government to launch AI applications and create an ecosystem for startups.

Cleanliness vital part of faith, says Syedna

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

Emphasizing that cleanliness is an essential part of faith, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the 53rd spiritual head of the Bohra Muslim community, on Friday, exhorted people to undertake planting and keep their surroundings clean.

The Syedna arrived in Hyderabad on Friday evening to a warm welcome by his disciples.

He is on his maiden visit to the city after his anointment as the 53rd spiritual head of the community. Hundreds of community members, including women and children at the Mohammedi Masjid, Red Hills, welcomed the Syedna with reverence. During the hour he spent in the Masjid, community members were seen trying

their best not to avert their gaze from him.

The Syedna interacted with a few community members. He will inaugurate the Masjid-e-Burhani at Hussaini Alam on Saturday. Two of the three floors of the masjid have been reserved for female members of the community. About 2,500 persons can offer prayers at once in this Masjid.

He will also inaugurate the smart kitchen at Masjid Moahammedi, Red Hills. The kitchen, exclusively set up on the advice of the spiritual leader, is dedicated to the Bohra community and built to provide one meal every day to members of the community, regardless of their economic status.

During his stay in Hyderabad, the Syedna will be staying at Hussaini Villa, Nampally.



Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, greets devotees at the Hussaini Manzil, Red Hills, on Friday, where a reception was organised to welcome him.

— P. SURENDRA

HAPLESS LOT | Govt yet to fulfill its promise to give ₹5 lakh ex gratia to the bereaved families 1,261 workers died in Gulf, relatives cry for help

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

Since the formation of Telangana state in 2014, the bodies of 1,261 migrant workers have been sent back home from the Gulf. The death of the workers has left their families helpless and looking to the government for help. Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, had promised to give ₹5 lakh ex gratia to bereaved families. This has not been done so far. Activists working for the welfare of emigrant workers demanded help for the families suffering after the death of their bread winner. The case of G. Ramesh is

typical. He had migrated to Sharjah and shifted to Dubai where he suffered a brain hemorrhage and died on January 31. He is survived by his wife, Gummala Rajitha, and two children. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Ms Rajitha of Jagtial district, said, "In January he messaged me stating that he was going to ask the company for travel fare to return home as he was not feeling well. That was the last message from him." Twelve days later, his colleague called her to say that Ramesh had died of brain haemorrhage. "My husband worked in the company for almost three years. The company had not paid him for more than five

months," Ms Rajitha said. Ms Rajitha is herself suffering from a cardiac problem. "I have two children to look after. My husband used to send ₹15,000 each month and I used to do tailoring but it wasn't sufficient." One of her children is aged 13 and the other 10, studying in government schools. Ms Rajitha went into a depression after she heard of her husband's death and is just recovering. "My tailoring work doesn't earn me much. Our mandal parishad member promised that he would get me a job as an anganwadi worker. I have gone to government offices since then but in vain. They are making me to do the

rounds but nothing is materialising." She has recently approached the Jagtial collector for help and is awaiting a reply. "We have been sleeping on empty stomachs. For Dasara, I borrowed money and bought dresses and food for my children." She wants government help to get the five-month salary that the Dubai firm owes her husband. The case of Marupaka Anjaiah and his family is similar. Anjaiah went to the Gulf in 2013 to earn money to repay a ₹4 lakh debt. He died of a heart attack in Saudi Arabia and his body was repatriated on September 8. His wife, M. Niraja, works

as a beedi worker and her children are doing their Class 10 and Intermediate final year, respectively. "Since my husband's death I cannot afford their fee. After working all day, I get ₹100 which is not sufficient to feed my children." Her brother Laxmi Narayana said, "The family is struggling. They don't own a house and do not have land to do cultivation. I have been helping them but it is not sufficient. And I have a family to take care of." A migration policy should be implemented and welfare board constituted in view of such cases, activists said. Mr Mandha Bheem Reddy, president, emigrants welfare forum, said, "The NRI

policy, which is in its draft form should be implemented as early as possible." He said Mr Chandrasekhar Rao had promised ex gratia for the families of those, who died in the Gulf and wanted it fulfilled. He said the government should conduct a survey in the state to identify migrants, form a board and implement welfare schemes for them, he said. Mr P. Narayana Swamy, president of the migrants rights council, said, "Then Chief Minister K. Kiran Kumar Reddy had granted ₹1 lakh ex gratia, which was implemented. After state bifurcation, no one has received ex gratia."

Doctors warn of eye wounds during Diwali

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, OCT. 25

As many as 20 patients have rushed to eye hospitals due to firecracker-related injuries for the last two years, say ophthalmologists in the city. Every year, the two days after Diwali seem to be the busiest time for ophthalmologists as there are patients who walk in with firecracker debris in their eyes.

there is some debris that falls into their eyes, they must meet with a doctor immediately. In most cases it is the eyelids that take the brunt of the sparks, causing burns. However, in cases when the embers fall into the eyes, it is important to clean them out, says Dr Sharat Babu Chilukuri. "Children are the most susceptible to such injuries, as they peer towards the cracker to check if it is burning or not," the ophthalmologists said. The crackers contain chemicals like sulphorous and sulphur which are very harmful for the eyes.





Moment of glory

Bolivian President Evo Morales has declared victory in a weekend election, stirring anger among opponents claiming fraud in the count



Not seeking re-election to Congress. Need support for presidency

— Tulsi Gabbard
Democratic presidential hopeful

BRIEF

UN to probe abuses in Chile protests

Santiago: The United Nations said it would send a special mission to investigate human rights abuses in Chile, where a general strike went into its second day following a week of street protests that left 18 dead. President Sebastian Pinera tried to ease tensions by announcing a plan to end a highly unpopular state of emergency and nighttime curfews. "Having monitored the crisis in Chile since it began, I have decided to send a verification mission to examine the allegations of human rights violations," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet said in a tweet. The protests erupted initially against a metro fare hike but spiralled into general discontent at low salaries and pensions, high costs of health care and education, and a gap between rich and poor.

Indians need no visa for Brazil

Sao Paulo: Brazil ended visa requirements for US, Canada, Japan, Australia citizens. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Thursday the South American nation will drop its requirement that visiting Chinese and Indian tourists or businesspeople obtain visas. Bolsonaro, a far-right politician, came to power at the beginning of the year and has made it a policy to reduce visa requirements from a number of developed countries. But the announcement, made during an official visit to China, is the first he has made expanding that policy to the developing world. Earlier this year, the Brazilian government ended visa requirements for tourists and businesspeople from the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia. Those countries, however, have not in return dropped their visa requirements for Brazilian citizens. This is the not the first country that Indian travellers can visit without a visa. While visa to several nations entails a lengthy process, a few others offer electronic visa. Indians also have the visa on arrival option in several countries.

COURT GRANTS BAIL TO AILING NAWAZ SHARIF

Lahore, Oct. 25: A Pakistani court on Friday granted bail to jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif who was undergoing treatment after being diagnosed with an acute immune disorder. The 69-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo was rushed to the Services Hospital in Lahore from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office late on Monday night after a massive drop in his platelet count. A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court, headed by Justice Baqar Najafi, heard the petition of PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif seeking the release of his elder brother from the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on medical grounds in the money laundering case and accepted it. The three-time premier's lawyer Ashtar Ausaf told the court that his condition is "extremely serious" and he should be granted bail. The NAB's prosecutor did not challenge the defence's plea, saying since it is a matter of serious health issue of the former premier, it does not oppose his bail. Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif has been under treatment at the Services Hospital since Monday night after his condition deteriorated in the NAB's custody. He is also serving a seven-year imprisonment in the Al-Azizia corruption case.

California wildfires



Flames from a wildfire are seen close to a residence in Santa Clarita. Around 50,000 people were asked to flee their homes north of Los Angeles as a fast-moving wildfire driven by high winds erupted and raged out of control. —AP

TikTok raises security concerns: US Senators

App leaves American users vulnerable to Beijing spying

Washington, Oct. 25: Two senior US senators called for the government to study national security risks possibly posed by Chinese-owned video app TikTok, saying it could leave American users vulnerable to Beijing's spying.



SENATORS also warned it could potentially be used to influence voters in next year's elections

THEY WARNED TikTok collects substantial personal data from users, making it a security risk

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and Republican Senator Tom Cotton asked the Directorate of National Intelligence to "conduct an assessment of the national security risks" posed by TikTok. "With over 110 million downloads in the US alone, TikTok is a potential counterintelligence threat we cannot ignore," they said. Schumer and Cotton suggested that TikTok's owner ByteDance could be forced to share user information with Chinese intelligence. It could also conceivably

offer Beijing's spies a backdoor into users' smartphones and computers, similar to allegations against Chinese telecoms giant Huawei. Chinese laws could compel the company "to support and cooperate with intelligence work controlled by the Chinese Communist Party," they said. They noted that TikTok collects substantial personal data from users, making it a security risk. With 500 million users worldwide, TikTok has exploded in popularity in the past two years, offering a platform to produce and publish music-synced videos up to 60 seconds long. The senators also warned it could potentially be used to influence voters in next year's election in the same way Russians

manipulated US social media in the 2016 campaign. "Questions have also been raised regarding the potential for censorship or manipulation of certain content," they said. "TikTok reportedly censors materials deemed politically sensitive to the Chinese Communist Party, including content related to the recent Hong Kong protests, as well as references to Tiananmen Square, Tibetan and Taiwanese independence, and the treatment of Uighurs." They acknowledged that the app does not operate in China, where ByteDance offers the similar but separate Douyin app, and that TikTok's user data is stored inside the United States. However, they said, "ByteDance is still required to adhere to the laws of China." —AFP

WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE WHISKEY SOLD

London, Oct. 25: The "Holy Grail" of whiskeys smashed the record for the most expensive bottle ever sold, going for nearly 1.5 million at a London auction. The Macallan 1926 60-year-old single malt from cask number 263 had been expected to sell for up to £4,500,000, but went under the hammer for 1.45 million (\$1.9 million), beating the 1.2 million fetched last year by another bottle from the same cask. Distilled over 90 years ago and aged in European Oak for 60 years, the bottle was one of only 40 that Macallan, based in Moray, northern Scotland, has confirmed were bottled from Cask 263 in 1966. "This is the most iconic of all bottles of Scotch whisky, the essential centrepiece of any great collection," said Sotheby's auction house, which organised the sale. —AP

No more NYT, Post for US Prez Donald Trump

Washington, Oct. 25: US President Donald Trump has cancelled the subscription of leading American dailies *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, calling them "fake" and asked other federal agencies to do the same, according to a media report. Trump's unusual move came days after he hinted of the same in an interview with the *Fox News*. Trump termed *The New York Times* "a fake newspaper," saying "we don't even want it in the White House anymore."



THEY ARE FAKE newspapers, we don't even want them in the White House anymore.

DONALD TRUMP, US President

"We're going to probably terminate that (*The Times*) and *The Washington Post*," he said. "They're fake," *The New York Times* quoted him saying in the interview. Officials in the West Wing on Thursday announced that copies of the two newspapers would no longer be delivered to the White House and the administration is moving

to force other federal agencies to end their subscriptions to the papers, as well, the NYT reported. According to a report, Trump called members of the press "enemies of the people," deemed critical coverage "fake," accused news organisations of treason and threatened to

MEXICO ISSUE ■ Many families have suffered by Trump's widely maligned effort against illegal immigration

Tally of children split at border tops 5,400 in new count

San Diego, Oct. 25: US immigration authorities separated more than 1,500 children from their parents at the Mexico border early in the Trump administration, the American Civil Liberties Union said on Thursday, bringing the total number of children separated since July 2017 to more than 5,400. The ACLU said the administration told its attorneys that 1,556 children were separated from July 1, 2017, to June 26, 2018, when a federal judge in San Diego ordered that children in government custody be reunited with

their parents. Children from that period can be difficult to find because the government had inadequate tracking systems. Volunteers working with the ACLU are searching for some of them and their parents by going door-to-door in Guatemala and Honduras. Of those separated during the 12-month period, 207 were under 5, said attorney Lee Gelernt of the ACLU, who sued to stop family separation. Five were under a year old, 26 were a year old, 40 were 2 years old, 76 were 3, and 60 were 4.

"It is shocking that 1,556 more families, including babies and toddlers, join the thousands of others already torn apart by this inhumane and illegal policy," said Gelernt. "Families have suffered tremendously, and some may never recover." The Justice Department declined to comment. The count is a milestone in accounting for families who have been touched by Trump's widely maligned effort against illegal immigration. The government identified 2,814 separated children who were in government custody on June

26, 2018, nearly all of whom have been reunited. The US health and human services Department's internal watchdog said in January that potentially thousands more had been separated since July 2017, prompting US District Judge Dana Sabraw to give the administration six months to identify them. The ACLU said it received the last batch of 1,556 names one day ahead of Friday's deadline. The administration has also separated 1,090 children since the judge ordered a halt to the practice in June 2018

More Russian military police arrive in Syria

Moscow Oct. 25: Around 300 more Russian military police have arrived in Syria, the Russian defence ministry said on Friday, under an accord between Ankara and Moscow which halted Turkey's military incursion into northeast Syria. The deal, reached on Tuesday by Presidents Tayyip Erdogan and Vladimir Putin, requires that Russian military police and Syrian border guards remove all Kurdish YPG militia from within 30 km of the Turkish border by next Tuesday.



Displaced Syrian children sit on classroom tables at a school turned into a shelter in Hasakeh, Syria. —AP

The military police, from the southern Russian region of Chechnya, will patrol and help with the withdrawal of Kurdish forces and their weapons to 30 km of the Syrian-Turkish border. Russia said the peace plan was being implemented smoothly and RIA news agency quoted an SDF official as saying Kurdish fighters had already withdrawn from the border area. However, the YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) accused Turkey of launching a large land offensive on Thursday targeting three villages in northeast Syria despite the truce, forcing thousands more civilians to flee. The UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, said the ceasefire seemed to be holding "by and large" as major powers gather in Geneva ahead of the first meeting of Syria's Constitutional Committee next week. Pedersen was holding talks with senior officials from Arab and Western countries ahead of the committee meeting.

TURKISH, SYRIAN ENVOYS CLASH AT UNSC

United Nations, Oct. 25: The Turkish and Syrian ambassadors at the UN are clashing at their first Security Council encounter since Turkey launched a cross-border offensive earlier this month. Turkish ambassador Feridun Sinirlioglu called it a limited counter-terrorism operation "to eliminate the longstanding existential terror threat along our border with Syria" and "to enforce Syria's territorial integrity and unity." Syrian ambassador Bashar Ja'afari said his government "condemns in the strongest terms the Turkish aggression, and vehemently rejects attempts by the Turkish regime to justify its actions under the pretext of self-defense or counter-terrorism." The council met on Syria's humanitarian situation. —AP



JAPAN MINISTER RESIGNS OVER BRIBING VOTERS

Tokyo, Oct. 25: Japan's new trade minister has submitted his resignation after being accused of violating election law by offering voters money and gifts. Prime Minister Abe Shinzo said on Friday. Isshu Sugawara had been in the hot seat after a magazine reported he was suspected of paying 20,000 yen (\$185) to a bereaved family in his constituency. He was also reported to have given gifts to other voters, including pricey melons and even crabs, Kyodo news agency said. The sums involved, while small, would constitute a violation of Japan's public office election law. Abe said Sugawara submitted his resignation after a cabinet meeting and that he had accepted it. "I bear responsibility in having appointed him. I deeply apologise to the Japanese people," Abe said. —AFP

China to tackle trafficking issue

Beijing, Oct. 26: China called on Friday for joint efforts to counter human smuggling after the discovery in Britain of 39 dead people believed to be Chinese who stowed away in a shipping container. Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily briefing that China could not yet confirm the victims' nationalities or identities but was working in cooperation with local authorities. "The British police are still in the intensive process of verification and are still unable to confirm at the moment," Hua said. "But I think that no matter where these victims come from, this is a great tragedy which drew the attention of the international community to the issue of illegal immigration," she said. "I think the international community should further strengthen cooperation in this area, strengthen sharing of information and intelligence in this regard, and conduct early intervention in these activities so as to prevent such tragedies from happening again in the future." Hua said Chinese authorities were also seeking information from police in Belgium, from where the shipping container in which the bodies were found was transported to England. Human smuggling from China is believed to have fallen drastically in recent years amid a rapidly growing domestic economy. However, some Chinese, particularly those with lower education levels, continue to be drawn to Europe and North America by the promise of much higher wages than they can earn at home, despite the considerable risks involved. Parts of China, especially the southeastern province of Fujian, have long histories of sending migrants abroad. The issue is a difficult one to confront for China's ruling communist party, which is intensely sensitive about China's international image and has staked much of its legitimacy to rule on improving living standards for the bulk of China's 1.4 billion people. The party newspaper *Global Times* said authorities in Britain and elsewhere hadn't done enough to crack down on people smuggling. —AP





Ready to rally

Fernando Alonso confirmed he will drive for Toyota in the 2020 Dakar Rally being staged in Saudi Arabia. The Spaniard retired from Formula One last year

Games

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 08/2019-2020 Dated : 24.10.2019. Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System. Table with columns: S. No., Tender No., Brief Description, Qty., Closing Date.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU) E-TENDER NOTICE. NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.) ePROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in CORRIGENDUM No. 01

Indian Institute of Mass Communication Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, JNU Campus, New Delhi 110 067 CORRIGENDUM. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), having its main campus in New Delhi and Regional Campuses at Alzawl, Amravati, Dhenkanal, Jammu and Kottayam, had advertised 14 vacancies in Faculty posts at various levels in the field of Mass Communication through Advt. No. V/1444/2019(2).

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIHAHA BHAWAN CAMPUS, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st Call) SYSTEM TENDER No. 57597/ NIT No. 05/SAC/2019-20, KASDOL, DATED: 22.10.2019

Ladies day out



Elina Svitolina (from left), Simona Halep, Petra Kvitová, Naomi Osaka, Belinda Bencic, Karolina Plisková, Bianca Andreescu and Ashleigh Barty pose for a selfie before the start of the WTA Finals in Shenzhen on Friday.

Milwaukee Bucks up in NBA

Los Angeles, Oct. 25: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points to propel the Bucks to a 117-111 victory in Houston on Thursday, spilling the debut of newly formed Rockets star duo James Harden and Russell Westbrook.



He has all the qualities to lead the Tour and we look forward to working together. — Novak Djokovic on Andrea Gaudenzi as new ATP chairman

GERMAN LEAGUE

Injury-hit Bayern take on Union

Berlin: Pressure is mounting on head coach Niko Kovac as injury-hit Bayern Munich look to beat minnows Union Berlin Saturday with just two points separating the top nine Bundesliga teams.

No home comfort for Stan

Basel (Switzerland), Oct. 25: Stan Wawrinka was forced to withdraw from Friday's Basel quarterfinal showdown against best friend Roger Federer with a back injury, just an hour after struggling past America's Frances Tiafoe in a gruelling second round clash.

the final game before the home favourite got the crowd on its feet with a backhand winner down the line to seal the success. TSITSIPAS IN QUARTERS Stefanos Tsitsipas reached his 13th quarter-final of the year when he came back to claim a 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-4 win over Lithuanian qualifier Ricardas Berankis.



Medal winners of the XI South Zone Shooting Championship in shotgun events pose with Anurag Sharma (front row, third from left), former Telangana Director General of Police, and Amit Sanghi (front row, second from left), Telangana Rifle Association president, at the Sports Authority of Telangana State Shooting Ranges in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

Aman, Ayush and Muneek shoot big at South meet

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD OCT. 25 Aman Sanghi, Ayush Rudra Raju, Muneek Battula, Yeswanth Chowdary Reddy, Venkata Lakshmi Lakku and Rajah Rajagopal Tondaiman emerged winners in the XI South Zone Shooting Championship in shotgun events (NR and ISSF) organised by the Telangana Rifle Association at the Sports Authority of Telangana State Shooting Ranges in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

- Telangana's Aman won the Clay Pigeon skeet junior men's individual (NR) title with 34 points. Hassan Bin Yesrab with 32 points and Tamil Nadu's C. N. Nalin with 30 followed him.
- In the Clay Pigeon skeet men's (ISSF) event, Muneek Battula of Telangana stood first with 48 points, followed by Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq (46) and Ayush Rudra Raju (35).

points, followed by Gusti Noria with 103. THE RESULTS Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship Junior Men (Individual): 1. Aman Sanghi (TRA) 34 points, 2. Hassan Bin Yesrab (TRA) 32 points, 3. Nalin C. N. (TN) 30 points. Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship Men (Individual): 1. Yeswanth Chowdary Reddy (AP) 37 points, 2. Aminuddin Ahmeduddin Owaisi (TRA) 36 points, 3. Abdur Rehman (TRA) 35 points. Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting (NR) Championship Women (Individual): 1. Venkata Lakshmi Lakku (TRA) 28. Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Men (ISSF) Championship (Individual): 1. Muneek Battula (TRA) 48 (108) points, 2. Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq (TRA) 46 (112) points, 3. Ayush Rudra Raju (TRA) 35 (109) points. Clay Pigeon Skeet Shooting Junior Men (ISSF) Championship (Individual): 1. Ayush Rudra Raju (TRA) 109 points, 2. Muneek Battula (TRA) 108 points. Clay Pigeon Skeet Veteran Men (ISSF) Championship (Individual): 1. Rajah R. Rajagopal Tondaiman (TN) 107 points, 2. Gusti Noria (TRA) 103 points. Clay Pigeon Skeet Junior Men (ISSF) Championship (Team): 1. Telangana 329 points (Viqar Ahmed Shafeeq 112, Ayush Rudra Raju 109, Muneek Battula 108).

THE CO-OPERATIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLY SOCIETY (CESS) LTD SIRICILLA-505301, DIST. RAJANNA SIRICILLA RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO.1/2019 DT. 25.10.2019

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा संभाग जांजगीर, जिला जांजगीर चाम्पा (छ.ग.) संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना - 08/19-20 (चतुर्थ आमंत्रण)

Table with 6 columns: क्र. (No.), टेंडर नं. (Tender No.), कार्य का नाम एवं स्थल (Work Name & Location), ठेके की लागत (Contract Price), धरोहर राशि (Security Deposit), ठेकेदार की श्रेणी (Contractor Category).

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा, संभाग जांजगीर जिला-जांजगीर चाम्पा (छ.ग.) G-743992/

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU KADAYANALLUR MUNICIPALITY E-Tendering Notice Dated: 18.10.2019

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Table with columns: NIT NO., NAME OF WORK, Estimate Amount (ECV), Start Date/Last Date, Name Address Officer.

PARADIP PORT TRUST E-TENDER CALL NOTICE Name of the work: "Allotment of 09(Nine) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/ Iron Ore Pellet Plots at IOHP". License Fees: Rs. 2,61,87,150/-

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM No. ECR-CAO-Con-N-ETN-96-19-20, Date: 21.10.2019

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Corrigendum No. ECR-CAO-Con-N-ETN-95-19-20, Date: 21.10.2019



Sidelined

Injured Neymar has been left out of the Brazilian squad for their friendlies against Argentina and South Korea next month

It's important for Pepe. When he scores it's good for him and the team.

— Unai Emery, Arsenal coach on Nicolas Pepe scoring against Vitoria Guimaraes in their Europa league match

SHORT TAKES

Bumrah, Smriti get Wisden award

Bengaluru: Premier speedster Jasprit Bumrah and batswoman Smriti Mandhana are the two Indian names among the five winners of the prestigious Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award which was announced on Friday. The other winners from Asia are Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne and Afghanistan Rashid Khan. The seventh edition of the annual cricket publication for 2019 and 2020 also features Mayank Agarwal for his stellar domestic run leading to a successful Test call-up. Mandhana is the third woman to be named 'Cricketer of the Year', after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma. Stalwarts Gundappa Viswanath and Lala Amarnath are inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame. Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team by Prashant Kidambi has been adjudged the Wisden India Book of the Year. — PTI

Mithun 'tricks in Karnataka win

SUMIT SINGH | DC BENGALURU, OCT. 25

Manish Pandey led Karnataka side clinched the Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Tamil Nadu by 60 runs through the VJD method in a rain-affected final at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

When rain halted proceedings after 23 overs, the hosts were 146/1 chasing a target of 252 with the par score being 86 runs at that stage with KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal batting on 52 and 69.

The victory though was set up by the Karnataka bowlers with birthday boy Abhimanyu Mithun who did the major damage with the ball after Manish Pandey won the toss and opted to field. A hat-trick and a five-for (5/34) on his 30th birthday restricted Tamil Nadu to 252 after being 148/2 at one stage.

BRIEF SCORES: Tamil Nadu 252 (49.5 overs): A Mukund 85, B. Aparajith 66, V. Shankar 38, Mithun 5-34; Koushik 2-39 lost to Karnataka 146/1 (23 overs): K.L. Rahul 52*, M.A. Agarwal 69*.

GAMBHIR IS ELATED WITH SANJU IN SIDE

New Delhi: Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir is a happy man after Sanju Samson was selected in the Indian T20 team for the three-match series against Bangladesh, saying it was "long overdue".

Gambhir has been advocating for the talented Kerala cricketer's inclusion in the Indian team for a long time. The series against Bangladesh starts November 3. "This is well & truly through the gap by @iamSanjuSamson!!! Congratulations on being picked in the T20 squad. Soft hands, nimble feet and hopefully a sane head... go Sanju grab ur moment, long overdue." Gambhir tweeted.

Samson played his sole match for India — a T20 — in July 2015 when a second-string team toured Zimbabwe. He was 19 then. Since that high, it has been a roller-coaster ride for the wicketkeeper-batsman, who has been dropped from the Kerala team on disciplinary grounds.

He has not been consistent enough, has had fitness issues but every now and then, he came up with innings befitting his rich batting talent. — PTI

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20
Printed and Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha



Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli (left) heads the ball past Vitoria Guimaraes' goalkeeper Miguel Silva (right) to score the equalising goal during their UEFA Europa league Group 'F' match at the Emirates stadium in London on Thursday. Arsenal won 3-2.

GUNNERS LOAD & SHOOT

Super Sub Pepe comes off the bench to lead Arsenal to win at home

Paris, Oct. 25: Nicolas Pepe came off the bench to rescue Arsenal at home against Vitoria Guimaraes with two late free kicks in the Europa League on Thursday.

Arsenal came from behind to win 3-2 and stay perfect in Group 'F'.

They are one of only two teams on nine points from three games, along with Sevilla, who beat Dudelange of Luxembourg 3-0 in Group 'A'.

Manchester United are one of the teams on seven points and need just one more win to ensure they qualify from Group 'L' after eking out a 1-0 win against Partizan on an emotional day in Belgrade.

Celtic came from a goal down to beat Lazio 2-1 in Glasgow and remain top of Group 'E'. PSV Eindhoven were held 0-0 at home by Linz but still lead Group 'D' Rangers drew 1-1 in Porto in Group 'G'.

At the Emirates, Arsenal made 10 changes from the team that lost at Sheffield United on Monday in the Premier League. For much of the match, they looked even worse.

Arsenal dominated possession but were outshot 14-11.

They made the worst possible start, falling behind after nine minutes to a goal by a former Tottenham player.

In the ninth minute, Marcus Edwards, once compared by Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino to a young Lionel Messi, fired a shot under

THE RESULTS

Arsenal (Gabriel Martinelli 32, Nicolas Pepe 80, 90+2)	3
Vitoria Guimaraes (Marcus Edwards 8, Bruno Duarte 36)	2
Sevilla (Vazquez 49, 75, Munir 78)	3
Dudelange	0
Eintracht Frankfurt (Abraham 28, Hinteregger 73)	2
Standard Liege (Amallah 82)	1
Celtic (Christie 67, Jullien 89)	2
Lazio (Lazzari 40)	1
FC Porto (Diaz 36)	1
Rangers (Morelos 44)	1



FK Partizan's Sadiq Umar (in black and white stripes) vies with Manchester United's Scott McTominay during their Europa league Group 'L' match at the Partizan stadium in Belgrade on Thursday. United won 1-0.

RACE FOR NUMERO UNO IN SERIE 'A' HEATS UP

Milan, Oct. 25: Champions Juventus turn their focus back to maintaining their Serie 'A' supremacy ahead of nearest challengers Inter Milan with both Italian teams riding high after their European successes this week.

Juventus are just one point ahead of Inter Milan in the Italian league after eight games.

Maurizio Sarri's side head to promoted Lecce, while Antonio Conte's Inter are at home against Parma.

Third-placed Atalanta return to the comforts of home against Udinese licking their wounds after a bruising 5-1 defeat to Manchester City.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli, one point behind the Bergamo side in fourth and six adrift of Juventus, need a result at relegation-threatened SPAL to keep pace with the leaders.

New Genoa coach Thiago Motta's first game in charge of the club where his playing career took off a decade ago will be against Brescia.

"In 2008, Genoa changed my situation. Now I really want to coach the squad and change our fortunes," said Motta.

Former Italy international Motta's only previous coaching experience is with PSG's U19 team, which he managed until July.

 — AFP

City look to cut gap on the Reds

London, Oct. 25: Manchester City have the chance to exert some short-term pressure on runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend as Manchester United look to end their away day blues.

Jürgen Klopp's side saw their long winning streak ended by a hungry United in a draw at Old Trafford last week but still have a comfortable six-point lead over second-placed City.

Guardiola's defending strikers can cut that gap to just three points, at least temporarily, if they beat Aston Villa at home on Saturday.

Frank Lampard's young Chelsea side travel to Burnley on the back of a six-match winning run in all competitions while third-placed Leicester visit Southampton on Friday.

Emiliano Martinez. Brazilian teenager Gabriel Martinelli replied with a header but Vitoria regained the lead before half time with a goal from Bruno Duarte.

With Arsenal's young strikers struggling, Pepe, who had not yet scored a goal from open play for the Gunners, came on in the 64th minute.

After 80 minutes he curled a free kick inside the far post. He repeated the trick three minutes into added time to secure the victory for Unai Emery's men.

 — AFP

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Pep Guardiola urged his team to be more clinical after their 2-0 victory last week against Crystal Palace and his team responded by thumping Atalanta 5-1 in the Champions League.

Despite Guardiola's exhortations, City have not been shy in front of goal this season, hitting 29 in just nine Premier League matches.

 — AFP

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Virat on board for day & night Tests, says Sourav

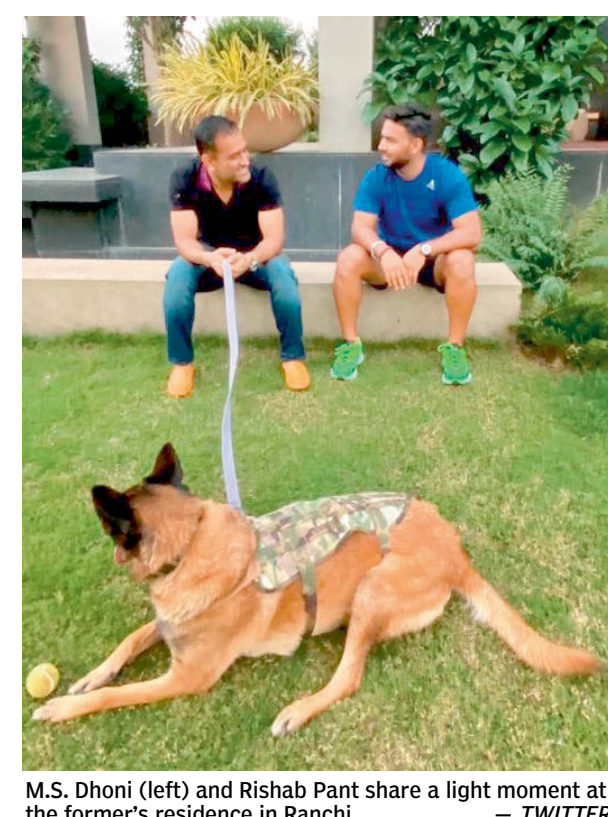
Kolkata, Oct. 25: The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday said that Indian skipper Virat Kohli is open to the idea of playing day-night Tests and it could be a reality in near future.

He had a meeting with Kohli in Mumbai on Thursday where the idea was floated.

"I must say that Virat Kohli is agreeable to it. There are reports that he does not want to play day-night Tests which is not the fact. So once the captain of India is agreeable to it, life becomes a lot easier. We will see how we can push it. The game needs to forward," Ganguly said during the sidelines of his felicitation by the CAB at the Eden Gardens.

The former India captain had been a vocal advocate of pink ball Test in order to bring back the spectators to the stadium. "We all are thinking about this and we will do something about it. I am a firm believer in Day Night Tests. I don't know when will that happen. But till the time I am around, I will be pushing for it," Ganguly said.

However it must be mentioned that if Ganguly's tenure is not extended beyond July, the Day-Night Test might not be reality as India next play five-day games at home only in December 2020-January, 2021. The home Tests against Bangladesh are last for this season.



M.S. Dhoni (left) and Rishab Pant share a light moment at the former's residence in Ranchi.

Not picked in my first trials: Sachin

Mumbai, Oct. 25: Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar on Friday revealed that he was not selected when he appeared for his first selection trials and the rejection spurred him to work even harder on his game.

"When I was a student, the only thing in my mind was to play for India. My journey started at the age of eleven," Tendulkar said in Marathi while interacting with the students of Late Laxmanrao Dure school in western Maharashtra.

"I even remember when I went for my first selection trials, I was not selected by the selectors. They had said that he will need to work hard and improve his game. At that time I was disappointed because I thought I had batted well, but the result was not as per expectation and I was not selected. But after that my focus, commitment and capacity to work hard increased further. If you want to realise your dreams, then short-cuts won't help," he added.

"For my success in cricket, I owe it to my family — all the members. I will start with my parents, my brother Ajit and elder brother Nitin, who does not usually come forward, supported me," he said.

"My elder sister, who now resides in Pune after marriage, she supported me. In fact, my sister had presented the first cricket bat to me in my life. After marriage (wife) Anjali and (kids) Sara and Arjun and Anjali's parents supported me," he added.

 — PTI

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