

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | FRIDAY 13 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 3 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 28
Tithi: Thrayodashi/
Chaturtashi
Star: Chithirai
Rahukalam:
10.30 am to 12 noon
Yamagandam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.52 am
Jumma: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.41 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm

Actor Asif Basra found dead in Dharamshala

Dharamshala (HP): Actor Asif Basra, a familiar face in several movies and TV shows including *Jab We Met*, *Kai Po Che!* and *Paatal Lok*, was found hanging in a private residential complex here on Thursday, police said. He was 53.

COUNTER POINT



Preserve these banners, posters... for Bengal polls!

STATE | 3

Removal of Arundhati's book from MSU's MA syllabus draws flak



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WORLD | 5

Biden transition picks up, Klain chief of staff

SPORT | 6

Recovered Kapil turns up for golf



I-T raid on jeweller yields undisclosed income of ₹500 cr

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

The income tax department on Thursday said it has detected undisclosed income to the tune of ₹500 crore during searches on the premises of leading wholesale bullion and gold jewellery dealer in Chennai.

The search operation that began on Tuesday was carried out at 32 premises located in Chennai, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichy, Madurai and Tirunelveli.

The evidence unearthed includes unaccounted stock maintained by the assessee at various places.

Schools in TN to remain shut

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Days after seeking the views of parents, the state government on Thursday reversed its move to reopen schools on November 16 for classes 9 to 12 and said they will continue to remain closed.

"The order on reopening schools from November 16 for classes 9-12 is cancelled. An announcement on reopening schools will be made later based on the situation," an official release said.

The government has revised its plans for the colleges, too. It was decided to open the colleges on November 16 but the government has now said colleges and universities shall reopen on December 2 only for research schol-

ars and final year post-graduate students of science and technology streams.

"The opening of colleges for other courses will be announced later," the government said in an official release adding hostels would be opened only for those students who shall resume studies next month.

The government said the parents of students of private, government and aided schools were divided in their opinion on reopening schools for higher classes.

Parents of some schools wanted the institutions to reopen, but others were against such a move in view of the coronavirus and the school education department analysed the opinions holistically, the release said.

Restrictions on all gatherings to stay

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

The state government on Thursday cancelled its order allowing social, political, religious and cultural events from November 16 allowing participation of a maximum of 100 people.

Citing festival season and people congregating in large numbers in public places throwing caution to winds, the TN government said curbs shall continue as regards such programmes including those related to entertainment and education. An official release

said the government has noted that people gathered in large numbers in public places like markets and bus stands without paying attention to social distancing and wearing masks.

The government said though the spread of the virus has been controlled in the state due to slew of measures, with a possibility of a second wave of the pandemic seen in some foreign countries, it has become imperative to intensify curbs. In view of the Deepavali on November 14, shopping hubs like T Nagar here are teeming with people.

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | FC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

In a move to bring the Covid-hit economy back on track, the Union government on Monday announced yet another stimulus package of 12 additional measures worth over ₹2.65 lakh crore under Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0, which mostly focuses on job creation for the poor, farmer's uplift, credit support to stressed sectors like housing, real estate as well as construction and boosting exports, among others.

Unveiling the third tranche of measures finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told media that the government is also launching a scheme to incentivise the creation of new jobs, a move to fuel a rebound of the economy.

To start with, the finance minister announced an Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, under which EPF-registered organisations would get benefits on recruiting new people who did not have an EPFO account before or those who lost their jobs between March 1 and September 30.

"The scheme will cover any new employee joining

● Govt to pay EPF share of new employees and employer for two years

● ₹18,000 cr more for PM Awaas Yojana

● I-T relief for developers and home buyers

● ₹900 cr for R&D of Indian vaccine

employment in EPFO-registered establishment on monthly wages less than ₹15,000. It will also cover EPF members drawing monthly wages of less than ₹15,000, who lost their jobs during Covid-19 pandemic from March 1, 2020 and is employed on or after October 1, 2020," she said.

"Employees contribution (12 per cent of wages) and employer's contribution (12 per cent of wages) totalling 24 per cent of wages would be given to establishments for two years. However to avail the scheme, operational till June 30, 2021, establishments with up to 50 employees will have to add a minimum of two new employees and those with more than 50 staff, will have to give a minimum of five new jobs," she added. ■ P4

Chinese daily rejects disengagement plan

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper on Thursday said Indian media reports on a "detailed border disengagement plan" in the Pangong Tso area in eastern Ladakh between India and China are "inaccurate".

It was reported on Thursday that India and China have been moving

closer towards an agreement on a disengagement plan at some of the flash-points, including the most contentious one, Pangong Tso, in eastern Ladakh.

However, the *Global Times* report said India always had "unrealistic" ideas about the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and disregarded history, unilaterally believing that Fingers 4 to 8 (on the northern banks of Pang-

ong Tso) are its patrolling areas, and has sought to gain bargaining chips in talks by fishing for inter-est in the disputed border area. The Chinese Army's occupation of the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 on the north bank of Pangong Tso in May 2020 is one of the most sticky points in resolving the six-month military standoff between India and China.

Tejashwi calls NDA win deceit; Cong admits it's the weak link

Patna, Nov. 12: Rashtriya Janata Dal leader (RJD) Tejashwi Yadav was on Thursday elected the leader of the Grand Alliance's legislature group and claimed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won the Bihar elections by "deceit" amid a call in the Congress for "deep introspection" over its

dismal performance that thwarted the coalition's bid for power.

Congress general secretary Tariq Anwar came out with the candid admission that his party, on account of its poor performance, emerged as the weak link, preventing the Mahagathbandhan from forming its government in the state. — PTV

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OTHER STORIES

Furniture worth ₹20 lakh destroyed in fireDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Furniture worth lakhs of rupees were reduced to ashes in a fire caused by short circuit at a furniture factory in Kundrathur near Chennai.

According to sources, the fire started in the factory located in SIDCO, Thirumulivakkam in Kundrathur on Thursday afternoon. Firefighters from Ponnammalle, Tambaram and Tambaram sanatorium rushed to the spot and doused the fire. No casualty was reported. Although flames were doused, thick smoke continued to billow from the factory until evening.

An electrical short-circuit is suspected to have caused the fire. Initial probe indicated loss of furniture worth ₹20 lakh.

The Kundrathur police registered a case and are investigating the matter.

Pondy logs 66 new Covid-19 cases, 2 deaths

Puducherry, Nov. 12: Puducherry added 66 fresh coronavirus infections and two related deaths on Thursday, pushing the overall tally to 36,179.

The Covid-19 toll climbed to 607 with two more fatalities.

Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release that the new cases were identified during the last 24 hours ending 10 am on Thursday.

The two patients who died of the viral infection were women and had complaints of COVID pneumonia. The deceased were in the age group of 58 and 82 years.

The Director said that of the overall 36,179 cases, 1,071 were active, 34,501 patients recovered and were discharged so far.

Kumar said 69 patients were discharged from hospitals during last 24 hours. The fatality and recovery rates were 1.68 percent and 95.36 percent respectively.

Of the total 3.51 lakh samples tested so far in Union Territory 3.09 lakh turned out to be negative and result of examination of remaining samples was awaited.

Puducherry region accounted for 50 out of the 66 fresh cases reported today while Karaikal had six, Yanam one and Mahe nine cases.

— PTI

IAS officers transferredDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Tamil Nadu Government on Thursday ordered transfers and postings of 14 IAS officers. The following transfers and postings are notified.

Dr S. Sameeran, IAS, Director of Fisheries and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Fisheries Corporation has been transferred and posted as Collector of Tenkasi District replacing G.K. Arun Sundar Thayalan, IAS.

V. Vishnu, IAS, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, and Director of Employment and Training (in charge) is transferred and posted as Collector, Tirunelveli District in a post held by Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, IAS.

P. Madhusudhan Reddy, IAS, Deputy Commissioner (Health), Greater Chennai Corporation is transferred and posted as Collector, Sivagangai District replacing J. Jayakanthan, IAS.

Dinesh Ponraj Oliver, IAS, Director of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils is transferred and posted as Collector, Ramanathapuram District in a post held by K. Veera Raghava Rao, IAS.

Sandeep Nanduri, IAS, Collector, Thoothukudi District is transferred and posted as Collector, Tiruvannamalai District replacing K.S. Kandasamy, IAS.

A.R. Gladstone Pushparaj, IAS, Joint Secretary to Government, Health and Family

Welfare Department is transferred and posted as Collector, Ranipet District.

Dr K. Senthil Raj, IAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission is transferred and posted as Collector Thoothukudi District in a post held by Sandeep Nanduri, IAS, who is now transferred to Thiruvannamalai.

J. Jayakanthan, IAS, Collector, Sivagangai District is transferred and posted as Director of Fisheries and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Fisheries Corporation.

K. Veera Raghava Rao, Collector, Ramanathapuram District is transferred and posted as Director of Employment and Training vice, where V. Vishnu, IAS, was holding additional charge.

G.K. Arun Sundar Thayalan, IAS, Collector, Tenkasi District is transferred and posted as Joint Secretary to Government, Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, IAS, Collector, Tirunelveli District is transferred and posted as Joint Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department.

K.S. Kandasamy, IAS, Collector, Tiruvannamalai District is transferred and posted as Special Officer, Grievance Redressal, e-Governance. Jacintha Lazarus, IAS (MN:2005), on inter-cadre Deputation, is posted as Director of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

The services of S. Divyadharshini, IAS, are placed at the disposal of Greater Chennai Corporation for appointment as its Joint Commissioner (Health).

‘Allow MGNREGS workers to help in farm work’DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, NOV. 12

Farmers of Kumbakonam area have appealed to the government to permit the Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGS) workers to get involved in agriculture works, as agriculture labourers have become a scarcity in the district.

Shower lashes Chennai city, thunderstorm warning issuedDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Heavy rain lashed Chennai and neighbouring districts on Thursday morning. The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, has said that thunderstorms packing heavy rain would raid Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam districts till Friday morning.

The rains are also expected to continue at isolated places over south coastal Tamil Nadu on Deepavali weekend, November 14 and November 15, as the latest weather predictions suggested that it was going to be a rainy week for residents in Chennai.

On Friday, November 13, thunderstorm with heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvallur and Mayiladuthurai districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal area. On Sunday, November 15, thunderstorms with heavy rain are predicted over isolated places in coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal followed by Monday, where heavy rain is predicted in isolated places along the coast. A thunderstorm warning has been issued for the next five days from November 12 to 16 at isolated places in the state.

With intermittent rains and thunderstorms likely to continue in Chennai for the next 48 hours, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 28 degree Celsius and 24 degree Celsius. Weather blogger Pradeep John said that the rains in Chennai may continue in the city with steady and varying intensity, more rains will be expected in Chennai from late night or Friday morning” he added.



A huge tree lies uprooted at Chepet following heavy rain on Thursday.



A flooded road at R A Puram.

The Greater Chennai Corporation has opened 24x7 emergency control rooms to lodge complaints regarding the issues caused due to northeast monsoon. People can contact to - 044 - 25384530 , 044 - 25384540, 1913

Scale down Deepavali celebrations amid corona pandemic, rain threat

B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

As people gear up to celebrate Deepavali, the first major festival after months of lockdown, amid pandemic threat, the state government is pulling out all stops to prevent the congregation of people in public places for social, political, religious and cultural events.

While some states have already banned bursting of crackers, the Telangana high court on Thursday directed the state government to ban the sale and use of fireworks in view of coronavirus concerns. Similarly, the Maharashtra government has informed the Bombay HC that it would implement the National Green Tribunal's order banning firecrackers in districts where the air quality index was poor or worse.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government has fixed timings, like last year, for bursting firecrackers. In line with the Supreme Court directive, crackers can be burst in



People shopping ahead of Deepavali near Vilakkuthoon in Madurai without wearing masks and maintaining safe distance. — K. Manikandan

the state between 6 am and 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm on Deepavali. Also, Chennai police commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal has warned of strict action against those violating the timings fixed for bursting crackers during Deepavali.

With Tamil Nadu almost fully opened up, there has been a huge increase in consumer spending.

However, it has also raised fears that a fresh surge in positive cases could affect the state's hard-won gains in its battle against the pandemic. One can still witness people gathering in large numbers in public places like markets, shopping hubs, bus terminals forgoing safe distance and masks. Also, heavy rain and thundershowers have been predicted for the next

one week. Experts have already warned that winter may add to corona numbers.

The spread of coronavirus has been controlled in Tamil Nadu due to concerted efforts. But it is imperative that people be warned of any laxity. They must avoid socializing and enjoy Deepavali this year with their families at home.

Centre again asks state to give job to scavengerT. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has sent a memo to the state government to fulfil its promise of providing a job to Manikandan, a manual scavenger from K. M. Garden near Pullianthope slum in the city.

The DC had published a report titled “Govt yet to keep promise given to manual scavenger” on last September 19.

The memo signed by S.L.



Bourasi, section officer, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment again

requests the state government to take appropriate action on the matter.

It was on September 4, 2017, the Union ministry directed the state government to provide him a permanent job at the city's slum clearance board.

Based on the direction, on January 24 this year Mr. K. Sridharan, Deputy Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, sent a letter to the Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), asking

to take immediate action with regard to a permanent job and one-time cash payment offered to Manikandan. The letter also said that a copy of the action taken report (ATR) should be sent to the government immediately.

It has been three years since the state government was given direction, but Manikandan, father of four daughters aged between 7 and 19, continues to be jobless struggling to make ends meet.

Manikandan says the Union Ministry of Social

Justice and Empowerment in 2017 offered him the job after one of his pictures standing in the neck deep muck courted controversy. “Since then, I have written to many officials. I hoped that the promise would be fulfilled when the municipal administration department wrote to the GCC administration. But nothing happened. I expect the GCC authorities will take up the matter seriously as the Ministry of Social Justice sent a memorandum”, he said.

Care for animals from crackersT. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

With the government allowing bursting of crackers, Deepavali celebrations are set to bring horror to the animals.

The city's Deepavali celebration has a record of bringing a lot of trauma for animals due to the noise of firecrackers.

It may be recalled that in 2017, a cattle shed in suburb Madipakkam caught fire from stray crackers and burnt five cows alive.

Alokparna Sengupta, managing director, Human Society International-India, urged everyone to celebrate Deepavali with lamps and lights and not with loud firecrackers.

“Given the situation we are in, it would also be prudent to not burst firecrackers to protect our health and the environment. Make this festival a happy one by not bursting crackers as the year has been a struggle for both humans and animals alike”, she said.

She also advised parents to keep their pets indoors and in a familiar room. “Switch on soothing music or television if possible. Keep all doors and windows closed and draw the curtains to reduce the noise,” she added.

Aditi Madhusudhanan, trustee, ‘Born to Win’, a city-based NGO, who has been conducting a campaign against bursting of crackers during Deepavali, said that the city had witnessed many cases of missing pets due to noise of firecrackers. It's important to create an

ADVISORY TO KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

■ Store fireworks safely in a closed box, somewhere cool and dry, and out of reach of pets.

■ Do not keep fireworks containers under stairs or exposed in passages. Decorate with lights, lamps and diyas that are friendlier to the environment and animals.

■ Refrain from bursting crackers near an animal shelter or zoo. Noise can cause panic and fear. Pollution from burning firecrackers is

also harmful to their health.

■ Take dogs for a walk during the day-time before the celebrations begin.

■ Consult a veterinarian if your pets are prone to acute anxiety or distress from loud noises.

■ Ensure pets are wearing collars and identification tags with current contact information. All pets, even those kept indoors, should always wear collars with identification tags.

■ Make a first aid kit in preparation for helping injured animals. Have a bucket full of water handy for emergencies and for putting used sparklers into.

■ Keep contact information for local municipal corporations and surrounding shelters handy and approach them immediately in case of lost pets. If you find a lost pet, either take her to the address on the tag or a local animal shelter.

Cops in Nilgiris extend festive niceties to tribalsB. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, NOV. 12

Cops here turned ‘good samaritans’ as they reached out to tribal hamlets with gifts and delicacies to usher in the Deepavali ambience and keep the tribesmen and other dwellers there in good humour, and garner their support for Maoist control activities in the jungles.

While Covid-19 crisis has certainly dampened the Deepavali spirit in the Nilgiris, SP V Sasimohan, has urged his department personnel across the Nilgiris to visit tribal hamlets with gifts which are otherwise inaccessible to the tribes, and arranging to serve delicacies like biriyani, to cheer up the tribes-

men and their families. Philanthropists and some NGOs are also coordinating with this initiative. This attempt is to gain the confidence of the tribesmen and also to exhibit the finer side of the police department. This could inspire the tribal communities to easily mingle with the mainstream population and



Government Kilpauk Medical College and hospital dean Dr P. Vasanthamani inspects ‘First Aid Burns’ ward readied for Deepavali. — DC

induce them to lend their hands in nation building, and also help cops maintain security in the jungle environs. SP Sasimohan, himself drove to a couple of tribal villages in New Hope on the Nilgiris border, and also to Chengalpudur tribal hamlet to ignite the Deepavali celebrations.

banned polluting firecrackers in 2018 the situation on ground isn't any different. The TNPCB had last year fixed time slots

to burst firecrackers between 6 am and 7 am and from 7 pm to 8 pm. But residents continued to burst firecrackers.

SHORT TAKES

YES BANK SCAM
ACCUSED ROSHNI
KAPOOR GETS BAILSHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 12

A magistrate court here on Thursday granted bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's daughter Roshni Kapoor, an accused in the Yes Bank fraud case linked to DHFL, after she appeared before the court in response to summons issued to her.

A non-bailable warrant could have been issued had she not appeared before the court on the summons issued to her. The court had issued summons to her last month at the time of taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the Central probe agency CBI. The agency has named her as one of the eight accused.

The CBI had filed charge sheet against Rana Kapoor and others under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC. However, the charges of corruption were dropped by the special CBI court because the prosecution did not obtain the sanction needed to prosecute under the PC Act. As a result the case was transferred to the magistrate court for trial.

SCORPENE CLASS
SUBMARINE
LAUNCHEDPAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

The fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir for the Indian Navy was launched in Mumbai on Thursday.

The submarine will now undergo comprehensive and rigorous tests and trials for more than a year to ensure delivery of a combat worthy submarine, capable of operation in all modes and regimes of deployment.

The crew will also, at some point of time, sail the submarine for "sea acceptance trials" after which the submarine will be delivered to the Navy. The addition of the submarine will be critical for the Indian Navy which is operating at a less than ideal strength given India's vast coastline.

The Vagir submarine has the ability to launch a crippling attack on an enemy with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles whilst underwater or on surface.

Vagir has the ability to carry out multifarious missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, which include anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance. Six Scorpene submarines were to be manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, under programme Project-75 with a \$3 billion contract.

Shivraj rules
out expansion
of his ministryRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPLAL, NOV. 12

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday ruled out expansion of his ministry in near future indicating that he was in no hurry to accommodate the 2 former ministers who resigned from his cabinet on October 21 when their 6-month mandatory period to continue in their position as non-MLAs ended.

Former ministers Tulsi Silawat and Govind Singh Rajput were among 22 ex-Congress MLAs who had resigned from the Assembly and subsequently from their party in March to pull down the 15-month-old Kamal Nath government.

All the 22 former MLAs later joined BJP. 14 of them including Silawat and Rajput were later inducted in the Shivraj ministry.

As per the constitutional provision, a non-MLA can join a state ministry, but he or she needs to be elected to the House within 6 months of being inducted in the ministry.

Accordingly, Silawat and Rajput, who were inducted in the Shivraj cabinet on April 2, resigned from the Shivraj

● **SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN** indicates that he is in no hurry to accommodate the 2 ex-ministers who resigned from his cabinet on October 21 when their 6-month mandatory period to continue in their position as non-MLAs ended.

cabinet on October 21. Both of them were however elected to the Assembly in the November 3 by-elections in the state.

"Ministry expansion is not in my agenda right now", Chouhan told reporters here.

He also refused to commit as to when he was planning to expand his ministry.

Meanwhile, out of the 12 non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj ministry, three have lost the elections, while the rest nine have won the polls.

The three ministers who lost the polls are Imarti Devi, Anand Singh Kansana and Giriraj Dandotia.

Meanwhile, Kansana announced his resignation from the ministry immediately after he lost the polls.

The other two ministers who lost the polls were yet to announce their resignation from the ministry.

Flouting Covid-19 norms



A view of crowd at Sadar Bazar due to Diwali shopping in New Delhi on Thursday. Single-day increase of 47,905 infections took the country's Covid-19 caseload to 86,83,916, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease have surged to 80,66,501. The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,28,121 with 550 new fatalities.

— PTI

Have made no claims
to CM's chair: Nitish

JD(U) chief will meet Guv soon after meeting with NDA partners

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 12

After the victory of NDA in Bihar polls, Nitish Kumar is all set to take oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the next term.

On Thursday, he visited JD(U) office to greet party workers and said that the NDA was currently assessing the poll results and the dates for oath ceremony has not been finalised yet. Reports suggest that he is expected to meet Bihar governor after meeting with all four NDA partners soon.

While interacting with the media at the JD(U) office he said, "I have made no claim for the Chief Minister's post, the decision will be taken by NDA. It has not been decided yet when the oath ceremony is going to take place, whether after Diwali or Chhath Puja. At the moment we are assessing the poll results and all four NDA partners will also meet soon".

The NDA led by Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has won 125 seats, three more than the number required to form the government in Bihar. Reports suggest that Nitish Kumar has been upset over the performance of his party in the polls.

● **THE NDA** led by Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has won 125 seats, three more than the number required to form the government in Bihar.

● **THE JD(U)** has been holding Chirag Paswan responsible for the low tally and has been accusing him of 'cutting votes' on most of the seats fielded by the party.

This is the first time in 15 years that the JD(U) has slipped to number three position in the state after the RJD and NDA partner BJP.

The RJD with 75 seats has emerged as the single largest party followed by the BJP which has won 74 seats.

The JD(U) got only 43 seats and two smaller partners Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insaan Party won four seats each.

The JD(U) has been holding Chirag Paswan responsible for the low tally and has been accusing him of "cutting votes" on most of the seats fielded by the party.

On Wednesday, while talking about his party's performance in the Assembly elections Chirag Paswan had said that it was his party's goal to cause a dent to the JD(U) and make the BJP stronger.

Sources said that the JD(U) leadership has urged

the BJP to initiate action against Chirag Paswan and his party for aggressively campaigning against Nitish Kumar and fielding candidates on most of the seats where JD(U) had fielded its candidates.

As per an assessment, the LJP harmed the JD(U) on 20-30 seats during the polls.

"It's the BJP which has to decide whether any action is to be taken against him (Chirag Paswan) or his party. It's for the BJP to decide whether or the LJP should remain in the NDA", Nitish Kumar said.

Meanwhile, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in his first remark after the Assembly election raised doubts over the electoral process in the state.

He also alleged discrepancies in postal ballot count and demanded recounting in more than 20 seats where the grand alliance candidates lost by a thin margin.

Talking to the media after being declared as the

legislative party leader of the Grand Alliance on Thursday, Tejashwi Yadav said, "They have hijacked the people's mandate once again. In 2015 also people's mandate was in favour of the Grand Alliance but it was the BJP which made backdoor entry to gain power".

Chief Electoral Officer H.R. Srinivas, meanwhile, submitted the list of winning candidates in the Assembly elections to Governor Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhavan.

Tejashwi Yadav also announced that he would soon take out a "Dhanyawad Yatra" to thank the people of the state for voting in favour of the grand alliance.

The RJD leader said that "The verdict was in our favour but the results were declared in their favour. I am confident that the grand alliance would have won at least 130 seats if the counting was done in a free and fair manner."

‘Paatal Lok’ actor
Asif Basra ends life

Dharamshala (HP), Nov. 12: Actor Asif Basra, a familiar face in several movies and TV shows including "Jab We Met", "Kai Po Che!" and "Paatal Lok", was found hanging in a private residential complex here on Thursday, police said. He was 53.

He hanged himself around 12-12.30 pm on Thursday. We are investigating the matter. We have sent the body for post-mortem... Prima

facie it is a case of suicide," Kangra Senior Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan told reporters here.

The actor's body was recovered by police officials, he said. Further details are awaited, Ranjan added.

Basra had reportedly leased a property in McLeodganj, Upper Dharamshala, about five-six years ago and visited the place regularly. The news of the sud-

den death of the character actor, which comes months after Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai on June 14, led to shock in the industry with several of his colleagues expressing their grief.

"What? This is too shocking!! Shot with him just before Lockdown!!! Oh My God!!!!" tweeted actor Manoj Bajpayee.

— PTI

Asean key to India's
Act East Policy: ModiDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday participated in the 17th Asean-India virtual summit at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Vietnam is the current chair of Asean.

"A S E A N - I n d i a engagement has evolved over the years into a deep, robust and multi-faceted partnership. Asean and India became summit-level partners in 2002, and strategic partners in 2012. The breadth of our partnership is covered by several dialogue mechanisms cutting across various sectors like defense, cyber security, counter terrorism, commerce, telecommunications, agriculture, energy, environmental issues, tourism, etc," said Riva Ganguly Das, secretary (East) in ministry of external affairs.

The annual Asean-India summits provide the opportunity for India and Asean to engage at the highest

level. The 17th ASEAN-India Summit is the eighth summit attended by Prime Minister. He attended the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok in November last year.

Speaking at the summit, Modi underlined the centrality of Asean in India's Act East Policy and noted that a cohesive, responsive and prosperous Aseans is central to India's Indo-Pacific vision and contributes to security and growth for all in the region.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of strengthening convergence between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific to ensure a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

NDA WON POLLS
BY DECEIT, SAYS
TEJASHWI

From Page 1

"It was undoubtedly a mandate for change. The NDA won by dhan, bal and chhal (money, muscle power and deceit)," Tejashwi Yadav told a press conference after he was elected the leader of the five-party Grand Alliance, which gave a stiff competition to the NDA before the latter scraped through.

Asked whether the Mahagathabandhan would try to muster numbers to form its own government, he said, "We will go to the people who gave the mandate. If they express such a wish we will act accordingly."

Quoting election data, he claimed the NDA got only 12,270 votes more than the Mahagathabandhan.

"How can it convert into their victory in 15 more seats than us? We believe that had the counting of votes been fair, we would have returned with a tally of more than 130 seats," said Yadav, whose coalition has won 110 seats, 12 less than the magic figure of 122.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. UBL/TRD/01/2020-21, Dated: 05.11.2020
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (IREPS) for the following work:

Description of Work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of Traction	Rs. 4.79.92.213/-
Distribution maintenance & breakdown activities in Ballari-Rayadurg, Ballari-Hosapete, Toranagallu - Ranajipura, Hosapete-Hariapur section with sidings for 2 years period.	
Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 15/12/2020	
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in	
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TR	Hubbali

PLB/192-AAV/PRE/SWR/2020-21

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION PARKS DEPARTMENT
P.D.C.No/P2/1155 & 1180/2020
TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer / Parks for the following work as per details furnished below:
Redevelopment of Playground in Dn-65 and Formation of Playground in Dn-68, Zone-6
Approx. value of work in Rs. 144.99 Lakhs - E.M.D: 1,45,000/-
For more information see www.totenders.gov.in and www.chennaicorporation.gov.in
Due Date and Time for Submission of tender: 30.11.2020 upto 3.00 pm
Tender opening date and time :01.12.2020 @ 3.30 pm.
DIPR/4257/Tender/2020
Superintending Engineer (Parks)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI- 600 002.
TENDER NOTICE
Wax sealed and superscribed tenders are invited for the following Work/ Material from the eligible tenderers who shall submit documentary evidence.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK	E.M.D Amount
1) Procurement of Retro Reflective Stickers	Rs. 10,000/-
2) Providing cement concrete pavement for 1500sq.m at Adambakkam Bus Terminus in Depot.	Rs. 25,000/-

Sale of Tender Documents : From 13.11.2020 (10.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. for SI.No:1)
Sale of Tender Documents : From 13.11.2020 (10.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M. for SI.No:2)
Last date for sale of Tender Documents : 28.11.2020 upto 05.00 P.M. (For SI.No:2)
Last date for submission of Tender : upto 02.30 p.m. 30.11.2020 (For SI.No:1)
Last date for submission of Tender : upto 03.00 p.m. 30.11.2020 (For SI.No:2)
Date of opening : 03.00 p.m. on 30.11.2020 (For SI.No:1)
Date of opening : 03.15 p.m. on 30.11.2020 (For SI.No:2)
The Tender document is available in Government website (www.tenders.in.gov.in) Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.
DIPR/4249/TENDER/2020
MANAGING DIRECTOR

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (तमिलनाडु)
REGIONAL OFFICE (TAMILNADU)
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
Employees' State Insurance Corporation
143, स्टर्लिंग रोड, चेन्नई-600 034.
143, Sterling Road, Chennai-600 034.
Phone: 28306300
(100 lines)
Fax : 28238559
Email:rd-tamilnadu@esic.nic.in
Website:www.esic.nic.in
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified)
E-Tender Notice
Notice Inviting e-Tender (Expression of Interest) from Central/State PWDs/PSUs UNDER TWO BID SYSTEMS

Sl. No.	Location	Estimated cost in Rs	Tender submission Date and Time	Technical Bid opening Date and Time
(i)	ANNUAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WORKS/SPECIAL REPAIRS WORKS (Civil and Electrical works) for the existing infrastructure of ESIC properties comprising of Buildings, Medical college, Hospitals, Dispensaries, Staff quarters, DG sets, Chiller plants, Lifts, STPs, RO Plant and Laundry, Roads, and other services etc., at various locations in Tamil Nadu State	Rs.36,00,00,000/-	29/10/2020 to 26/11/2020 upto 3.00 p.m	27/11/2020 at 11.00 a.m

Interested tenderers may submit online tender at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Tender document can also be viewed at www.esic.nic.in and www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Pre Bid Clarification Meeting shall be on 10/11/2020 at 11.00 a.m at the Chamber of the Additional Commissioner/Regional Director, Regional office, Chennai

Sd/-

Additional Commissioner & regional Director

Davp:23117/11/0005/2021

CHINESE DAILY
REJECTS
MOVE BACK PLAN

From Page 1

The Global Times report underlines the challenge of implementing any disengagement plan with China to end the six-month military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

This is why India is moving cautiously in dealing with any agreement with the Chinese side.

After the Global Times report, the status of the disengagement plan will become clear only at the next corps commanders' meeting.

"The Indian media's reports that detailed arrangements for a proposed disengagement plan are being discussed and finalised by the Chinese and Indian militaries are inaccurate and not helpful for the two sides to reach their established goals," the state-owned newspaper said, in a report quoting sources. The report said while the momentum brought by the eighth round of corps commanders' talks was good, the "disengagement plan" mentioned by the Indian media is "not accurate".

Earlier too, India and China had agreed to mutually move back from Galwan Valley, Gogra Post, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. However, it was only in Galwan Valley that soldiers from both sides had moved back to some extent. In Pangong Tso, the Chinese Army refused to move back from the Finger 4 ridgelines.

Govt offers more sops
for home-buyers

From page 1

Besides, Sitharaman announced an additional outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to be provided for PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana in the current financial year, a move to boost employment in rural belts.

In Budget 2020-21, the government had provided Rs 61,000 crore for MGN-REGA and an extra Rs 40,000 crore in the first Atmanirbhar package. So far, Rs 73,500 crore has been already spent.

For farmers, the government also extended its support to the agriculture sector by providing Rs 65,000 crore for subsidised fertilisers.

In order to boost the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in urban areas, the government also gave an additional outlay of Rs 18,000 crore for PM Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban). "This will help 12 lakh houses to be grounded and 18 lakhs to be completed," she said.

To promote construction, the finance minister also announced a cut in performance security cut to 3 per cent from 5 per cent. Moreover, to benefit home buyers and real estate developers, Sitharaman also announced relaxations in income tax rules to allow sale of primary residential units of up to Rs 2 crore value below the circle rate. Also, the

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORRIGENDUM
No.71/20/1191 Dated:- 10.11.2020.
Sub: Corrigendum to the Tender Case No. 71/20/1191 scheduled to be opened on 17.11.2020 for procurement of 107 sets Complete Auxilliary Cubicle HB1 alongwith all equipments and cabling for WAG-9 loco, 110 sets Complete Auxilliary Cubicle HB2 alongwith all equipments and cabling for WAG-9 loco and 82 sets of Filter Cubicle alongwith all equipments and cabling for WAG-9 loco. [1.0] The Tender Item Description: The item description of tender has been changed: [I] FROM: EXISTING; TO BE READ AS: COMPLETE AUXILLIARY CUBICLE HB1 ALONG WITH ALL EQUIPMENTS AND CABLING FOR WAG-9 LOCO AS PER SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/019/E OR LATEST. [II] FROM: EXISTING; TO BE READ AS: COMPLETE AUXILLIARY CUBICLE HB2 ALONGWITH ALL EQUIPMENTS AND CABLING FOR WAG-9 LOCO AS PER SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0192/F OR LATEST. [2.0] All other terms and condition will remain unaltered. All concerned are requested to please note.
By, Chief Materials Manager (System)/CLW/Chittaranjan
For and on behalf of the President of India.
RDS-157
Like us on: www.facebook.com/cbrailways

IN BRIEF
Shots fired at Saudi embassy in Dutch

The Hague: Several shots were fired early Thursday at Saudi Arabia's embassy in The Hague, Dutch police said. Nobody was injured and police were investigating. Spokesman Steven van Santen said police were alerted around 6 am(local time) to shots being fired at the building on a stately avenue in the Dutch city. Officers found several bullet casings outside the building and local media showed images of bullet holes in windows. The motive for the shooting was unclear. Police appealed for witnesses. Calls to the embassy went unanswered early Thursday.

CARDI B SORRY FOR GODDESS DURGA LOOK

Los Angeles, Nov. 12: American rapper Cardi B has apologised for appropriating Goddess Durga's image for a magazine cover shoot. The 28-year-old musician recently appeared on the cover of Footwear News magazine, posing as Goddess Durga with shoes in her hands, while promoting her first line of sneakers with Reebok.

In the magazine's cover photo, Cardi B is seen holding a shoe while multiple arms stretched out around her from her shoulders.

The singer was then slammed on social media with many Indian users claiming that she has insulted the Hindu goddess, while others took offence to her outfit. On Wednesday, Cardi B took to her Instagram story and apologised to her Indian fans.

In a video message, the musician said, "When I did the shoot, the creatives told me I was going to represent a Goddess; that she represents strength, femininity and liberation, and that's something I love and I'm all about."

"And though it was dope, if people think I'm offending their culture or their religion I want to say that was not my intent. I do not like offending anyone's religion; I wouldn't like it if someone did it to my religion," she added.

Biden transition picks up, Klain chief of staff

Long road ahead for duo to fight Covid, heal divided nation

US military won't be used as political pawn, says Gen Mark

Washington, Nov. 12: US President-elect Joe Biden pressed ahead with his transition on Wednesday despite Donald Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat, naming a seasoned Democratic operative as chief of staff in his first public White House personnel choice.

Biden tapped longtime aide Ron Klain, who previously served as his first chief of staff while vice president, acknowledging the two had a long road ahead in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic as well as healing a deeply divided nation. "His deep, varied experience and capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely what I need in a White House chief of staff as we confront this moment of crisis and bring our country together again," Biden said.

He made the announcement after visiting the Korean War Memorial in Philadelphia earlier in the day for a solemn wreath-laying ceremony to mark Veterans Day in the US. President Trump attended a separate, simultaneous ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, in what should have been a moment of national unity but instead highlighted the Republican's refusal to acknowledge election defeat.

Asian leaders to sign huge China-backed trade pact

Hanoi, Vietnam, Nov. 12: Fifteen Asia-Pacific nations are set to sign an enormous free trade deal at an online summit that started on Thursday, with the pact seen as a coup for China in extending its influence across the region. Once signed, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be the world's largest trade pact in terms of GDP, according to analysts. The pact, which was first proposed in 2012 and viewed as a Chinese-led rival to a now-defunct US trade initiative, loops in 10 Southeast Asian economies along with China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

"After eight years of negotiating with blood, sweat and tears, we have finally come to the moment where we will seal the RCEP Agreement this Sunday," said Malaysia's trade minister Mohamed Azmin Ali, ahead of the virtual meeting. Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc also confirmed the pact would be signed this week during opening remarks at the online summit.

India had been due to sign the pact but pulled out last year over concerns about cheap Chinese goods entering the country, though it can join at a later date if it reverses its position. — *AFP*

\$500 mn to be pledged at Paris forum for cure

UK crosses 50,000 Covid-19 deaths

London, Nov. 12: The UK has become the first country in Europe to cross the grim milestone of 50,000 Covid-19 related deaths as Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "we mourn everybody who's gone".

As per the official figures released by the government, 1,256,725 people have tested positive for the virus after 22,950 new cases were recorded this week. A further 595 fatalities due to the deadly viral infection on Wednesday took the death toll to 50,365, making the UK the fifth country in the world to cross the 50,000-mark after the US, Brazil, India and Mexico. "We're not out of the woods yet. Every death is a tragedy, we mourn everybody who's gone and our feelings are with their families and friends," Johnson said. "It is a global pandemic whose effects, whose treatments, whose implications for the economy, all those have been

becoming clearer as the months have gone on," he said. — *PTI*

Taipei, Nov. 12: Alleged censorship of Taiwan on the World Health Organisation's Facebook page inspired some creative trolling on Thursday, with special characters and foreign scripts used to bypass filters that also censored Winnie the Pooh, a character used to poke fun at Chinese President Xi Jinping. The deluge came after Taiwan politicians and social media users shared screenshots showing messages containing "Taiwan" or "Taiwan can help" failing to upload underneath a banner advertising a WHO livestreamed event on the Coronavirus. — *AFP*

Paris, Nov. 12: Several countries and foundations are set to pledge more than \$500 million on Thursday for a global pool aimed at ensuring equitable access to coronavirus tests, treatment and vaccines for all nations, organisers of a French forum said.

The third edition of the Paris Peace Forum, which seeks to address governance issues with concrete projects, takes place Thursday and Friday in the French capital and is dedicated to finding ways to ease and get out of the Covid-19 pandemic. It takes place as the number of cases is rising rapidly across Europe and beyond. It also comes just days after American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech reported highly promising results for their vaccine candidate, raising hopes globally.

During the forum, several countries are expected to announce funding for the so-called ACT-Accelerator, a mechanism led by the World Health Organisation that aims to ensure access to tests, treatments and vaccines for all. According to a statement by organisers, France will be announcing a commitment of 100 million euros, Spain 50 million and the European Commission 100 million specifically for the vaccines part of ACT-A.

The British government is also set to declare a contribution of one additional pound for each four dollars announced. Organisers added that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was also due to "announce an important commitment during the discussion." — *AP*

ARMENIA DETAINS CRITICS OF KARABAKH DEAL

Yerevan, Nov. 12: Armenia on Thursday arrested 10 leading opposition figures for violently protesting against a Russian-brokered peace deal that ended weeks of fighting with Azerbaijan and sparked fury with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Prosecutors announced the arrests hours ahead of a fresh demonstration called by the opposition against the accord that sees Armenia give up swathes of disputed territory in Nagorno-Karabakh to their long-standing foe. — *AFP*

LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,357.19 -0.54
Nifty 50	12,690.80 -0.46
S&P 500*	3,558.67 -0.39
Dollar (₹)	74.63 -0.34
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.40 0.23
Euro (₹)	88.15 -0.52
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,057.81 0.16
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.28 0.48
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.903 0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.916 -0.073

* As of 8:30 PM IST

TCS to acquire select assets of Pramerica Ireland

TCS said it has inked an agreement with Prudential Financial, Inc (PFI), under which the Indian firm will acquire over 1,500 employees and select assets of Pramerica Systems Ireland Ltd. The move will help strengthen TCS' delivery capability in Ireland, it said. Pramerica is PFI's subsidiary based in Letterkenny, Ireland. PFI will retain the Pramerica Ireland entity, which will continue to operate from Letterkenny.

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Measures likely to increase fiscal deficit of central govt Incentives seen costing ₹1.2 L cr

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Though the government has estimated that the benefits of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 will amount to Rs 2.65 lakh crore, the measures are likely to cost the exchequer Rs 1.19 lakh crore to Rs 1.2 lakh crore, find analysts. The measures are likely to increase the fiscal deficit of the Centre.

According to Barclays India, the measures announced on Thursday will cost the exchequer Rs 1.19 lakh crore, or 0.6 per cent of the GDP. Icrs said the cost would be around Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

Among the measures announced, the enhancement in the outlay for fertiliser subsidies is Rs 65,000 crore. This will directly raise fiscal spending, says Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icrs.

The Rs 1.46 lakh crore production-linked incentive scheme for ten sectors will be spent over a period of five years. If at all it is evenly distributed across five years, the cost will be around Rs 29,000 crore in FY21.

The government also raised allocations for urban affordable housing by Rs 18,000 crore in order to offer some relief for construction and infrastructure companies. The government has also promised an equity injection of Rs 6,000 crore for the National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) to encourage greater debt financing.

The government has also added an extra Rs 10,000 crore for rural employment assistance, and is looking to provide Rs 10,200 crore for capital

ECONOMY SEEING STRONG RECOVERY: FM

New Delhi, Nov. 12: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the Indian economy is witnessing a strong recovery after a long and strict lockdown. Addressing the media, she said macro-economic indicators are pointing towards recovery. She noted that Covid-19 active cases have declined from over 10 lakh to 4.89 lakh with case fatality rate (CFR) at 1.47 per cent.

Giving out details of recovery, she said composite purchasing managers index (PMI) rose to 58.9 per cent in October versus 54.6 per cent in the previous month, registering strongest increase in output in close to nine years. Energy consumption



growth trended higher in October at 12 per cent year-on-year, while GST collections have grown 10 per cent to over Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Daily railway freight tonnage grew by an average 20 per cent year-on-year versus 12 per cent, she said adding bank credit has improved 5.1 per cent. Also, FDI inflows in April-August at \$35.37 billion was a 13 per cent year-on-year. — *PTI*

equipment spending. It may also release Rs 3,000 crore for the Export-Import Bank of India to boost exports.

However, there is no indication that the borrowing programme will remain unchanged at Rs 12 lakh crore. or estimated 6 per cent of GDP, says Barclays. "While activity indicators are improving, government revenues continue to significantly trail estimates. The finance minister indicated that the new fiscal projections remain a work in progress. But we believe that Thursday's extra spending will raise the deficit. As such, we raise our consolidated deficit forecast to 13 per cent of the GDP for fiscal year 2020-21, from 12.4 per cent previously. Of this, we expect the centre's

fiscal deficit to rise to 7 per cent of GDP, from 6.4 per cent earlier," said Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist, Barclays.

Financing pressures should remain manageable, in our view, with the RBI supporting market yields through sustained Open market purchases, he added.

"At present, our forecast for Indian real GDP in FY2021, is of a contraction of 11 per cent. We will revisit this projection in early December 2020, after the data for Q2 FY2021 is released by the NSO. By then, there will be greater clarity on the likelihood of the endurance of the festive season uptick, as well as the pace of new covid-19 infections domestically and in major trading partners during the colder months," said Nayar.

EPF subsidy may not have much impact, say experts

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

In a country, which has lost millions of jobs across different income brackets due to the pandemic, the Employees' Provident Fund subsidy might not make a major impact as it will not incentivise struggling companies to hire more.

"The scheme might have a small impact. A company will hire more people if it sees demand for its products and services in the market. It will not hire for Rs 1800 subsidy per person," said Aditya Narayan Misra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services

The scheme, known as Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, will benefit workers with wages up to Rs 15,000 who have been employed for the first time by an establishment covered by the EPFO. EPF members drawing a monthly wage of less than Rs 15,000 who made an exit from employment during the pandemic from March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 and are employed on or after 1 October 2020" will also be a part of the scheme, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The central government will give subsidy for two years for new employment from October 2020-June 2021. It will cover both employers' and employees' contribution towards EPFO, which is 12 per cent

each if the company has up to 1000 employees. For a person with a salary of Rs 15,000, the employee and employer will get a benefit of Rs 1800 each. Establishments with more than 1,000 workers will be entitled for subsidy towards the employer's share only.

"The employee might have a little more disposable income at hand. But Rs 1800 per person is not a big amount that can make a big difference in terms of the country's consumption," said Misra.

According to Sitharaman, about 65 per cent of workers under the formal sector will be covered under the scheme. However the formal sector accounts for only 10 to 12 per cent of the workers.

The scheme is for entry level jobs and also low level jobs which need less skilled or semi skilled workers, finds Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive VP of TeamLease Services.

"We cannot say how many jobs will get created due to this short-term incentive. Further, employers will have to add just two new employees if they have a total workforce of less than 50 and employers will have to hire a minimum of five new employees if their workforce is more than 50. A scheme like production-linked incentive will add more jobs at different levels, but that is a long-term measure," she said.

Industrial output leaves contraction zone in September

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

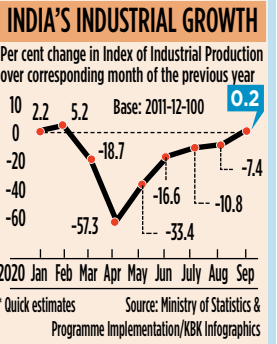
The country's industrial output moved back to positive territory after six months contraction to clock a modest 0.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in September, while retail inflation inched up to 7.61 per cent in October, over elevated food prices, government data released on Thursday showed.

The rise in industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), is significant when contrasted against 8 per cent contraction in August and 4.6 per cent contraction a year ago in September 2019.

"With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in economic activity by varying degrees as well as in data reporting," the government said in a statement, adding that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The September IIP growth was marked by a positive rise in both electricity and mining whilst the key category of manufacturing is still in the negative territory, registering a decline of 0.6 per cent. The speedy recovery is cushioned by a turnaround in the core sector output which shrunk at its slowest pace at 0.8 per cent this fiscal," the release said.

As the core sector output constitutes over 40 per



cent of the IIP, the output of mining and power segments grew by 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

Joseph Thomas, head of research, Emkay Wealth Management, said, "The IIP is almost flat at 0.20 per cent, from a deeply negative number for the period before that there is some economic recovery happening at present, but the price level too is rising. To sustain the early gains in recovery, control of the price level is critical."

As per data, the retail inflation stood at 7.61 per cent in October against 7.27 per cent in September. It was at 4.62 per cent in October 2019.

In October, inflation in meat and fish rose to 18.7 per cent while vegetable prices rose 22.51 per cent.

"This may have an impact on the trajectory of interest rates, and RBI may have to continue to focus on liquidity provision rather than rate action... Persistently high inflation could invite action from the RBI by way of even reducing the free liquidity," Thomas said.

SHORT TAKES

Mother of tennis star Evert dead

Deerfield Beach (UK): Colette Evert, the matriarch of a tennis family that produced five children who were successful in the age-group and professional ranks, including 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert, has died. She was 92.

She died last Thursday in Deerfield Beach, Florida, according to a tweet by Chris Evert and an online obituary posted by Fred Hunter's Funeral Home in Fort Lauderdale.

Born Jeanne Colette Thompson on June 15, 1928, in New Rochelle, New York, she went by her middle name and was the youngest of 10 children.

In 1952, she married Jimmy Evert, a tennis teaching professional in Florida whom she met at the wedding of a mutual friend in New York.

The couple's five children played tennis collegiately or professionally. — AP

Shah ensures safe T20 WC next year

Dubai: The BCCI is committed towards hosting a safe and healthy ICC T20 World Cup next year and "will leave no stone unturned" in its endeavour, board secretary Jay Shah said as the countdown for the much-anticipated event began on Thursday.

The ICC T20 World Cup was scheduled in Australia in October-November this year but had to be postponed to 2022 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India, however, will be hosting the 2021 edition of the global event as per schedule in October-November.

"The BCCI will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the health and safety of everyone concerned in this showpiece event is taken care of," Shah was quoted as saying in an ICC statement. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

Women's Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Melbourne Renegades from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six

FORMULA ONE

Turkish Grand Prix: First practice from 1.25 pm, Second practice from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

GOLF

Augusta Masters: From 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

WWE

SmackDown: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

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Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

Finland pip France

Forss, Onni spoil Thuram's party; Portugal rock Andorra

Paris, Nov. 12: Finland spoiled Marcus Thuram's party on Wednesday after beating France 2-0 on the day the Borussia Moenchengladbach attacker emulated his father Lilian Thuram by making his debut for Les Bleus.

Thuram was picked by Didier Deschamps for the friendly at the Stade de France over 22 years after his dad won the World Cup at the same ground, but despite a strong performance on the left wing could not stop the Finns from coming out on top.

The 23-year-old hit the bar with less 15 minutes gone and soon after flashed a difficult volley over as he and Lucas Digne caused continual problems down the left flank for the away side.

However, Marcus Forss stunned the hosts when he collected the ball after a Moussa Sissoko mistake and rammed home at Steve Mandanda's near post. France barely had any time to react before Onni Valakari doubled the away side's lead with a stunning effort after being left to stroll towards goal.

RONALDO CONTINUES GOAL QUEST

Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest to snatch the all-time record for most international goals when he struck his 102nd Portugal goal in their in a 7-0 win over Andorra.

Pulinho netted brace as Pedro, Sanches, Felix scored one goal each to get past Andorra.

France's opponents on Saturday in what could be a Nations League 'A', Group 3 decider strolled past their weak opponents in Lisbon despite not starting a single player from the team that beat Sweden 3-0 last month.

Ronaldo missed that match after testing positive for Coronavirus and was introduced at half-time on Wednesday, but had to wait until there were only five minutes remaining to boost his record bid with a close-range header. — AFP



Belgium's Michy Batshuayi (left) vies for the ball against Switzerland's Loris Benito during an international friendly football match at the King Power stadium in Leuven, Belgium, on Wednesday. Belgium won 2-1. — AP

Belgians boss over Swiss

THE RESULTS

Finland (Forss 28, Onni 31)	2	Netherlands (Van de Beek 47)	1
France	0	Spain (Canales 19)	1
Portugal (Neto 8, Paulinho 29, 61, Sanches 56, Garcia 76-og, Ronaldo 85, Felix 88)	7	Germany (Waldschmidt 13)	1
Andorra	0	Czech Republic	0
Belgium (Batshuayi 49, 70)	2	Turkey (Tosun 23-pen, Turuc 41, Under 58)	3
Switzerland (Mehmedi 12)	1	Croatia (Budimir 32, Pasalic 53, Brekalo 56)	3

Leuven (Belgium), Nov. 12: Striker Michy Batshuayi scored twice to help a makeshift Belgium side come from behind to beat Switzerland 2-1 in a friendly game.

Batshuayi showed clinical efficiency to convert Belgium's two best chances in the second half after Switzerland deservedly took the lead with an early goal that rewarded its intense pressing. Ahead of upcoming Nations League matches against England

and Denmark, Belgium coach Roberto Martinez played mostly his backups and handed debuts to youngsters Dodi Lukebakio, Hannes Delcroix and Charles De Ketelaere.

Regular starters Kevin De Bruyne, Dries Mertens and Romelu Lukaku were rested. FIFA's top-ranked team was also without Real Madrid star Eden Hazard, who remained quarantined in Spain following a positive Covid-19 test. — AFP

KRUNAL PANDYA BRIEFLY DETAINED AT MUMBAI AIRPORT FOR CARRYING UNDISCLOSED GOLD

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 12

Cricketer Krunal Pandya, who was part of this year's IPL winning team Mumbai Indians, was on Thursday detained at the Mumbai International Airport by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for allegedly being in possession of undisclosed gold and other valuables, DRI sources said.

According to DRI sources, Krunal had returned shortly after 5 pm by a flight from UAE when he was stopped at the airport by DRI personnel.

According to reports, Krunal had purchased valuables, including gold chains, totalling to a huge amount, which was much above the permissible limits as per Indian laws. As per rules promulgated by the Indian Government, from April 1, 2016 all male passengers coming back to India from other countries can bring gold jewellery up to 20 grams but not costing more than ₹50,000 as a duty-free allowance.

Team India reach Sydney

Sydney, Nov. 12: A 25-strong Indian squad, led by its star skipper Virat Kohli, reached here on Thursday for a gruelling two-month Australia tour that starts with a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period on the outskirts of the city.

The Indian contingent along with Australian stars such as David Warner, Steve Smith, Pat Cummins arrived late in the afternoon and were whisked away to the Sydney Olympic Park.

With New South Wales government allowing the

Indian team to train during the two-week quarantine period, their sessions will be conducted at the Blacktown International Sports Park, which has also been turned into a bio-secure venue.

Captain Kohli, who will return home after the opening Day/Night Test in Adelaide (from December 17 - December 21) for the birth of his first child in early January, is set to get a special treatment during quarantine period, according to a report. The Pullman Hotel

where the Indian team would put up for next two weeks was also the base for rugby side New South Wales Blues, who have now shifted to another hotel.

The hotel authorities will provide the Indian captain a special penthouse suite where Australian rugby legend Brad Fittler normally puts up. It is understood that a limited number of families are also being allowed and the players' families will need to adhere to the quarantine protocols. — PTI

Recovered Kapil turns up for golf

New Delhi, Nov. 12: Two weeks after undergoing an angioplasty, World Cup-winning former India captain Kapil Dev was back to playing golf, a sport he took up passionately after bidding adieu to cricket.

The 61-year-old had said that he would like to get back to playing golf as soon as the doctors allowed him and on Thursday he was seen teeing off at the Delhi Golf Club. "You can't express in words what fun it is to be back on the golf course or a cricket ground. It is beautiful to be back at the golf course, having fun and playing with friends. That's what life is all about," Kapil posted a video message on his Twitter handle.

Kapil has been an avid amateur golfer since his



In this screengrab Kapil Dev is seen posing with the golf club in his hand after recovering from a heart-attack.

retirement from international cricket back in 1994 and also taken part in many events over the years. — PTI



This handout photo released by the press officer shows Argentine football legend Diego Maradona (right) shaking hands with his doctor Leopoldo Luque in Olivos, Buenos Aires province, Argentina, on Wednesday. — AFP

Maradona allowed to leave hospital

Olivos (Argentina), Nov. 12: Argentine football legend Diego Maradona left hospital on Wednesday followed by a convoy of supporters, eight days after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain.

Maradona did not speak

to the crowd of journalists and chanting fans gathered outside in masks as he left the Olivos clinic in Buenos Aires by ambulance shortly after his doctor Leopoldo Luque told reporters he could go home. — AFP

Edwin in awe of coach Laszlo

NEHA SURANA | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

It's been just under a week since he took charge of Chennaiyin FC's preparation camp at Goa, but new head coach Csaba Laszlo seems to have already earned many an admirer in the squad. It's always difficult to fit into the shoes of the predecessor, especially after a memorable season, but the Hungarian seems to have already made a headstart at Chennaiyin FC.

CFC's local favourite Edwin Sydney Vanspaul, who had shared a great rapport with previous coach Owen Coyle in his stupendous debut season, has confessed that he is in awe of Laszlo.

"He is the kind of person who always thinks about football. He has a good vision for the club. He had a personal conversation with every player. He was very humble and the way he spoke to us was nice," said Edwin.

Before landing in Goa, Laszlo did extensive homework by going through the footage of CFC's last year's campaign. Edwin said Laszlo wants him to improve in all aspects. "He asked me to play like a mature player. I think, what he said was right. I need to be more consistent and stay focused throughout. I will put my best foot forward for the club and perform much better than last sea-



Chennaiyin FC coach Csaba Laszlo (left) greets Edwin Sydney.

son," he said. Edwin said his improvement will not only benefit the club but also help him achieve his dream of playing for the country.

The seventh season of ISL begins on November 20. In their opener, Chennaiyin will take on Jamshedpur in what will be an interesting match-up. CFC's ex-boss Coyle is current at the helm of Jamshedpur with last year's golden boot winner Nerjis Valskis going up against his ex-club.

Edwin said it would be an exciting contest. "Valskis and I are good friends, so nothing will be personal. We thought he would move to a bigger club in a different country. We are still happy to see that he chose to stay and play here. I am happy and excited to play against him. I am sure it will be a good game," Edwin said.

The ISL teams have started to refine their strategies by playing pre-season friendly games in Goa. Chennaiyin played two matches, but lost

both. Edwin doesn't want to read too much into the results. "After being away from the sport for long, it's kind of difficult. But we won't use it as an excuse. These are just testing times. We will improve and get back stronger."

Speaking about the bio-bubble, Edwin said: "We can't go out anywhere. We understand that safety is of paramount importance. The team management is putting a lot of effort to keep the bubble a happy environment. We are

playing different games like table tennis and carrom and there's not a dull moment. The bubble has helped us bond well."

CHENNAIYIN LAUNCH THEIR OFFICIAL APP

Chennaiyin FC have launched their official application, to provide the club's supporters with updates, information, and a holistic fan engagement platform ahead of the 2020-21 Indian Super League season. Complete with football quizzes, trivia games and polls, the CFC official app is now available for free download on the Google Play Store and Apple AppStore.

CFC official app users will enjoy instant updates on club news, exclusive content, and interactive polls. And the most exciting aspect of the app will be the Fan Zone that includes CFC and ISL games, trivia, filters and much more that can be enjoyed by supporters as they root for their Marina Machans virtually. The platform promises to be the perfect destination for fans to voice their support for the club through the many fun offerings like filters, polls, and live contests.

