

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 21°C
Rainfall: 1 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 26
Tithi: Ekadashi
Star: Uthiram
Rahukalam:
12 noon to 1.30 pm
Yamagandam:
7.30 am to 9 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.52 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.41 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.04 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 2.43 PM

CORONA COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|-----------|----------|
| (+39,071) | (+415) |
| 86,30,101 | 1,27,519 |

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,146)
TN: 7,48,225 11,387

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,15,37,959

DEATHS

12,73,806

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
216

worldometers.info

Cinema theatres in TN reopen after 8 months

Chennai: Cinema theatres in Tamil Nadu reopened on Tuesday, after a gap of nearly eight months of closure due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown, but only few of them threw open their screens to fans as the issue of Virtual Print Fee (VPF) weighed in on them. Among the theatres and multiplexes which reopened today, some offered contactless scanners and hand sanitiser dispensers as part of Covid-19 protocols.

Sensex hits 43,000-mark for first time

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks rallied to fresh lifetime highs on Tuesday, propelled by banking and finance stocks, after positive results from Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine trials turbocharged global market sentiment. Climbing for the seventh session on the trot, the BSE Sensex soared 680.22 points or 1.60 per cent to close above the 43,000-mark for the first time at 43,277.65. The broader NSE Nifty too ended at its all-time high of 12,631.10, up 170.05 points or 1.36 per cent.

COUNTER

POINT



The vaccine is more effective in polls than in clinical trials!

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Health minister C. Vijayabaskar would legally proceed against the leader of the Opposition M.K. Stalin by filing a case against him for allegedly issuing false statements on the passing away of agriculture minister R. Duraikannu at the Kauvery Hospital in Chennai on

October 31 due to covid-related illness.

Mr Stalin, in a statement to the media on November 8, had said that the honchos of the AIADMK government had demanded from the family members of Duraikannu, even as he was fighting for his life in hospital, the money that he held with him and that his death was announced only



after the family members obliged them. Reacting to that statement, based on reports published by some

media outlets, Dr Vijayabaskar said it was unfortunate that the State had an opposition leader who sought to make political gains in a minister's death when there were many other issues in which he could have played politics.

He explained in detail the sequence of events starting from Duraikannu developing breathlessness on

October 12 up to his passing away on October 31 and said he was shifted to the Kauvery Hospital because he had earlier taken treatment there for diabetes, blood pressure and heart conditions on the advice of his family.

He detailed the help the government was providing consultancy through government doctors and how he and

the Chief Minister had regularly monitored the health of the Minister in hospital.

Dr Vijayabaskar accused Stalin of belittling the noble services of doctors through his statement and even attached a copy of the report given by the doctors at Kauvery Hospital, explaining the treatment given to the deceased minister while he was under their care.

'Govt is in talks with domestic, foreign vaccine manufacturers'

New Delhi, Nov. 10: A day after Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE announced more than 90 per cent efficacy of their potential vaccine for the coronavirus, the health ministry on Tuesday said the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 is in conversation with all vaccine manufacturers, including

domestic and foreign ones.

Asked whether the vaccine would only be available in the metro cities initially since the Centre is planning an early 2021 roll-out, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the government makes no discrimination between metro cities and non-metro cities. **PTI**



STATE | 3

HC cracks whip on derogatory video by former judge Karnan



WORLD | 5

Ready to write next chapter: Harris

FINANCIAL CHRONICLE | 7

Promote only RuPay card, FM tells banks



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ADVANTAGE NDA AS BJP PROVES METTLE

■ NDA all set to cross 123 mark but JD(U) loses heavily ■ RJD emerges as single largest party

Patna, Nov. 10: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) maintained an edge over the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Grand Alliance on Tuesday, winning 90 seats and leading in 34 others as counting progressed slowly in Bihar.

The RJD, leading the opposition five-party alliance, has won 60 seats, and along with allies, was leading in 113 others, according to the Election Commission website.

Out of nearly 7.3 crore voters, 57.09 per cent had cast votes in the polls.

Despite the NDA leading the table, having won or leading in 122 seats, three more than the number required for a simple majority in the 243-member assembly, it's not done and dusted yet.

The RJD and its partners have won or are leading in 113 seats, nine fewer than the ruling coalition.

NDA's senior ally, the JD(U) of Nitish Kumar, has won 32 seats and its candidates were leading in other 11 places. Tejashwi Yadav, the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate is leading in Raghopur, the seat he is seeking to retain, and so is his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav in Hasanpur.

NDA

| | Won | Leading | Total |
|-------|-----|---------|-------|
| BJP | 49 | 23 | 72 |
| JD(U) | 30 | 12 | 42 |
| VIP | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| HAM | 3 | 1 | 4 |

MGB

| | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|
| RJD | 58 | 19 | 77 |
| INC | 13 | 6 | 19 |
| CPI-ML | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| CPI | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CPM | 2 | 0 | 2 |

OTHERS

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|
| MIM | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| BSP | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| LJP | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ind | 1 | 0 | 1 |

NDA ally and HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi is also leading after trailing for a while in Imamganj. Another NDA partner Mukesh Sahni of the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) is also leading in Simri Bakhtiyarpur.

Going by the trends, the RJD looks set to emerge as the single-largest party with having won or leading in 76 others. — **PTI**



NDA supporters celebrate after party's lead during the counting of votes for the Bihar Assembly election in Patna, on Tuesday. — **PTI**

Nitish Kumar ends up big loser in BJP's Paswan game

SANJAY BASAK | DC

NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

If there's a major loser in the keenly fought Bihar elections, it is Nitish Kumar. Bihar's wily old fox, who always came out on top, was ambushed by the BJP, which used Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan as its "Shikhandi" to cut Mr Kumar to size.

While top BJP leaders, from Prime Minister

Narendra Modi to home minister Amit Shah, maintained a stoic silence over Mr Paswan's decision to go it alone and take on Mr Kumar, the lone voice which stood by the Chief Minister was his "old friend", deputy chief minister Sushil Modi. He was the only one who called Mr Paswan a *vote katta* (one who cuts votes). The LJP did not merely field candidates against the JD(U), but Mr Paswan

unleashed a vitriolic campaign against Mr Kumar as the top BJP leaders watched silently. The damage was palpable: Mr Kumar went down by nearly 40 seats, making his JD(U) the third-largest party.

Psephologist Yogendra Yadav, analysing the elections, found the BJP's game-plan to "use Mr Paswan against its chief ministerial candidate a dangerous gamble". ■ **P4**

BJP wins 19 seats in MP; sweeps most state bypolls

DC CORRESPONDENTS

NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV. 10

The BJP on Tuesday won byelections in 11 states, heading for victory in 40 of the 56 Assembly seats that went to the polls, with new BJP entrant Jyotiraditya Scindia ensuring the party remains in power in Madhya Pradesh, where it won 19 of 28 seats.

These seats had fallen vacant after Mr Scindia quit the Congress and joined the BJP with his followers, that led to the fall of the Kamal Nath government in the state.



BJP's Raghunandan Rao wins Dubbak Assembly bypoll

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The BJP on Tuesday delivered the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) a shocker when its candidate M a d h a v a n e n i Raghunandan Rao defeated the latter's Solipeta Sujatha by a margin of 1,079 votes in the byelection held in Dubbak assembly constituency.

The bypoll held on November 3 was necessitated due to the death of sitting TRS MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy in August this year due to health issues. The TRS had fielded Ms Sujata, his wife.

Mumbai Indians win 5th IPL title



Mumbai Indians won their fifth IPL title on Tuesday as they got the better of Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final at Dubai. Skipper Rohit Sharma led Mumbai's successful chase from the front after pacer Trent Boult (3/30) restricted Delhi to 156. ■ **Report on P8**

— **BCCI**

Vijayabaskar to sue Stalin for making false charges in min's death

DC CORRESPONDENT

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OTHER STORIES

Two more die of corona infection in Pondy, toll reaches 604

Puducherry, Nov. 10: Puducherry posted two more deaths due to Covid-19 on Tuesday while the case tally touched 36,000 with 102 new additions.

Both the deceased were women and hailed from Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

Director of Health and Family Welfare Services S Mohan Kumar said in a release that the new cases were identified during last 24 hours after examination of 3,721 samples.

He said that 113 patients were discharged.

The test positivity rate was 2.7 percent in Union Territory. The fatality and recovery rates were 1.68 percent and 95.35 percent respectively.

Of the 3.44 lakh samples tested so far, 3.02 lakh were found to be negative and result of test of remaining samples was awaited, he said.

Of the total 102 new cases identified today, Puducherry region accounted for 57 fresh cases followed by Karaikal 10, Yanam 2 and Mahe 33.

The Director said of the 36,000 Covid-19 cases, 1,071 were active, 34,325 patients recovered and discharged.

The toll rose to 604 with two more fatalities.

The two women who died of infection were in the age group of 67 and 75 years and had Covid-19 pneumonia, the official said.

—PTI

6 men booked under Pocco Act for abusing 5 girls

Puducherry, Nov. 10: Six men have been booked under the Pocco Act for allegedly sexually abusing five minor girls in their farm, police said here on Tuesday

The children were sold to a man last month by their parents and kept as bonded labourers in their farm, where they were sexually abused, Senior Superintendent of Police Prithiksha Godara told reporters. Acting on information, the Child Welfare Committee of Puducherry first rescued two of them last month and the others some time later, she said. All the children were first taken to the child care centre 'Udhavum Karangal' here and were later admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government Child Hospital for medical examination and treatment. Godara quoted the children as having told police that six men sexually abused them and forced them to work as bonded labourers.

—PTI

New lease of life



The Palkeni kulam is a small precious water body in Pallavaram municipality. The government is now executing works as part of measures to conserve and nurture this pond. For a long time, there was no headway in the works despite the government sanctioning funds for its restoration, as there were administrative issues with the PWD, the HR&CE department and the department of municipal administration & water supply. All these issues were cleared and the government sanctioned Rs 2.25 crore for carrying out the restoration works in Palkeni kulam, in addition to a couple of other water bodies in the neighbouring areas. The works include strengthening of bunds, pathway for workers, restrooms for visitors, landscaping and illumination. The work began early this year, but was shelved due to the lockdown. The work has resumed now and is gathering pace.

— E.K. Sanjay

City reports steep fall in coronavirus cases

T. SUDHEESH | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 10

The Covid-19 recovery rate is reported to have come down in the city for the last 20 days, and active cases continue to show a negative growth for over 80 days now.

According to data provided by the state health department, a total of 15,949 patients recovered in the past 20 days and at least 23,852 were discharged in the period prior to the last 20 days.

The trend of daily recovery shows 1,803 (between June 24 and July 14) to 1,313 (July 14 and August 3) to 1,038 (August 3 and 23) to 1,220 (August 23 and September 12) to 1,039 (September 12 and October 2) to 1,192 (October 2 and 22) to 797 (October 2 and November 9).

While case recovery improved between August 23 and September 12, a decline was seen between August 3 and 23. The number of recovered cases declined from 26,274 (between July 14 and August 3) to 20,759 (between August 3 and 23).

The trend shows that the numbers had quadrupled between May 3 and May 13, doubled between May

13 and May 23, rose between May 23 and June 3, and improved between June 13 and June 24 as 18,673 cases, and climbed to 36,079 in between June 24 and July 14.

The test positivity of Covid19, meanwhile, has registered a dip in the last 20 days compared to the previous 20 days. Data shows at least 11,280 people tested positive in the last 20 days, while there were 23,274 positive cases in the previous 20 days (between October 2 and 22).

As many as 22,434 cases were reported between September 12 and October 2, and 22,202 cases between August 23 and September 12. Meanwhile, active cases recorded a steep decline in the city in the same period from 11,107 cases on October 22 to 5,813 on November 9.

The death rate also recorded a downward trend in the last 20 days. A total of 146 Corona deaths were registered in the past 20 days against 328 in the previous 20 days.

Data show that the daily death rate increased from 26 (between June 3 and June 24) to 31 (June 24 between July 14) to 44 between July 14 and

August 3. But the daily death rate had started declining between August 3 and 23 as 20 and 19 in between August 23 to September 12. The rate touched 14 in-between September and touched 16 in-between October 2 and October 22. It fell to just seven between October 22 and November 9.

The latest serological survey in the city found that one-third of the population has been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 infection, and had developed antibodies.

On March 9, the first case of Covid 19 was reported in Chennai, and cases started spiraling with the Tablighi Jamaat incident and crowds at the Koyambedu vegetable wholesale market. Densely populated slums in the city was also one of the reasons for the spike.

Zones including Tiru-vika Nagar, Anna Nagar, Kodambakkam, Teynampet, Royapuram and Tondiarpet, accounted over 60 per cent of the deaths, while Teynampet remains the worst-hit with 469 deaths.

The health department has conducted a total of 1,06,36,999 sample tests, while 10,63,60,803 individuals were tested across the state.

Vandalur zoo to reopen today after eight months

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 10

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park, closed to public from March due to the coronavirus pandemic, is all set to reopen from Wednesday. The Vandalur Zoo is one of the largest zoological gardens in South and Southeast Asia attracting 20 lakh visitors annually. However, the zoo was closed on March 17 due to the pandemic.

The decision to reopen was based on the announcement made by the Chief Minister and as per the standard operating procedures issued by the revenue and disaster management department. The zoo will be reopened to the public with strict Covid-19 precautionary measures, said a press release on Tuesday.

A release said visitors are encouraged to book their tickets online on the zoo website <https://tickets.aazp.in/> or by using the Zoo Mobile App instead of manual ticket booking. Most of the zoo will be open for visitors but crowding points will



Vandalur zoo authorities have marked circles for visitors to maintain distance while viewing the animals and birds.

—DC

Facing losses in biz, man ends life

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 10

A 43-year-old Nanganallur resident allegedly ended his life on Tuesday morning. His wife said in a complaint that he had been upset over the business loss.

The deceased has been identified as L.Kishore Kumar (43), a resident of No. 8, 39th street in Nanganallur. His wife Sai Prasanna is a private doctor. Police said the duo had been running a medical related-products wholesale business.

At 8.30 am on Tuesday, Kishore Kumar left for the shop/ office located in the neighbourhood. Within a few hours, Sai Prasanna got a call from the office informing her husband was found hanging in his room. She rushed to the spot and cut the rope. Subsequently, Palavanthangal police and an ambulance were called in. However, Kishore died. The body of the deceased has been sent to the Chrompet GH for post-mortem.

Kanchi, Chengalpet collectors test positive for coronavirus

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Kancheepuram collector Maheshwari Ravikumar positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, here in the city on Tuesday.

A senior official at the collector's office said the collector suddenly experienced high fever on Monday morning and a swab test was taken. The collector, on confirmation of the test being positive, initially went into isolation but was admitted to the hospital in Chennai on Tuesday morning.

Chengalpet district collector John Louis has also been tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday morning. He has been undergoing treatment in Guindy King Institute.

The collector had a fever for the last two days and hence he got himself tested for the coron-

A senior official at the collector's office said the collector suddenly experienced high fever on Monday morning and a swab test was taken. The collector, on confirmation of the test being positive, initially went into isolation but was admitted to the hospital in Chennai on Tuesday morning

avirous. Following this, his test result came back positive on Tuesday. On the advice by the doctors, he has been admitted to the hospital. John Louis on Saturday overruled Irumbulicheri flyover construction along with other government officials.

The health officials initiated the process of identifying all those persons who came in contact with both the administrators and they were to be tested.

Bid to smuggle gold worth ₹1.85 crore at Chennai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Five persons were arrested and 3.5 kg gold worth ₹1.85 crore, was seized by the Chennai air customs. According to a release, four passengers who had arrived from Dubai by Emirates flight EK 544 were intercepted at the exit on the suspicion of carrying gold, on Monday. Searching them, two packets of gold paste weighing 114 grams were found stitched inside the face mask of one passenger and a gold chain of 50 gram was also recovered from the same person.

Other three passengers accepted to be carrying gold paste bundles concealed in their rectum. 16 bundles of gold paste were recovered from their rectum. Total 1.84 kg gold valued at ₹97.82 lakhs was recovered and the three were arrested by the customs.

Earlier on the same day, seven passengers who had arrived from Dubai by Flights Indigo 6E 66 and Emirates EK 542 were intercepted. On search, plastic pouches of gold in the form of paste stitched inside his jeans were recovered. From another passenger gold cut bits were recovered from the pant pocket. Five passengers on persistent questioning accepted to be carrying gold paste bundles concealed in their rectum. In all, 12 bundles of gold paste were recovered from their rectum, 6 strips from jeans and 5 gold cut bits were recovered from the pant pocket. Total 1.65 kg gold valued at ₹87.48 lakh was recovered from them. Two have been arrested.



Cargo at Chennai airport.

— DC

Chennai airport sees increase in export, import trade

P.A JEBARAJ | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Air Cargo business is showing signs of recovery with the rise in exports and imports in Chennai airport. The cargo handled at Chennai airport registered a year-on-year growth in October – the first time since the imposition of lockdown in March.

According to sources, the Chennai airport in the month of October handled 380 tonne higher than that handled in October 2019, in the export and import business. October has been very positive for us as we proceeded 28, 652 tonnes of cargo which is 380 tonnes higher than October 2019 tonnage signaling an encouraging trend, said an official at the department.

The bulk of leather, veggies, garments, chemical products, Automobile spare parts, are exported from Chennai airport to at least 20 countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, America, Qatar, Oman,

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Sharjah. The novel coronavirus had severely hit exports trade in Chennai for the last few months. The exporters usually prefer to carry cargo via passenger flights to ensure the quality of their products. But with the airlines increasing freight charges, this trade had been a hit, they said. It has brought the entire value of fruits and vegetable export to a standstill.

However, after the increase in passenger flight / day, the exports and imports, now at the Chennai airport is a recovery sign.

Miscreants rob doctor's family at knifepoint

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 10

A woman doctor based in Sriperumbudur and her family were threatened at knifepoint by masked men barged into their house in the early hours of Tuesday. The gang robbed diamond and gold jewels from the house in Pondur village in Sriperumbudur district.

According to the police, the doctor, Josephine Anistal, residing in Pondur village, has been practising Homeopathy

Incident happened on Tuesday early morning when five masked men broke through the house from the terrace and threatened the family with a knife, sickle and other weapons asking for money and jewels

and had set up a clinic at her residence. Her husband Aruldas is a physiotherapist and the couple has two children.

The incident happened on Tuesday early morning when five masked men

broke through the house from the terrace and threatened the family with a knife, sickle and other weapons asking for money and jewels.

The couple were attacked when they tried

to retaliate. Aruldas got a slit in his hand.

The robbers then moved all around the house collecting all the jewels from the bureau. They robbed gold jewels worth 13.5 sovereigns, a diamond necklace, ₹5,000 and also jewels Josephine was wearing that time.

They also broke the hard disk containing CCTV footage erasing all the evidence of the robbery. In addition to this, they confiscated the couple's mobile phone and warned them of robbing them

again if they lodged a complaint with the police.

The couple stayed inside the house the whole night panicking and then went to the police station in the morning. Sriperumbudur police registered a case. Forensic experts have examined the house and investigations are on.

It has been known that the couple had already been robbed of a two-wheeler, expensive stones and had been advised by the police to fix CCTV cameras then.

HC summons HR&CE commissioner

J. STALIN | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Slamming the officials of HR & CE for their inability to save the properties of Arulmigh Vadakkuva Selvi Amman Temple, Kottailarungulam village, Thisayanvilai taluk, Tirunelveli district, the Madras high court has directed the commissioner of HR & CE to appear through video conferencing before the court on November 22, 2020.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and B.Pugalendhi gave the directive on a petition which sought a direction to the authorities to get the compensation amount for the acquisition of land belonging to the temple for interlinking of river project and also to take steps for installation of moolavar idol and conduct consecration in the Arulmighu Vadakkuva



Selvi Amman temple in Tirunelveli district.

Petitioner contended that the temple was administered by one thakkar. As he indulged in malpractice, an enquiry was conducted and thereafter, he was suspended, dated September 14, 2015. On same day, the Executive Officer of Arulmighu Thiruvilanjikumarar Thirukoil, Ilanji, was appointed as a fit person to discharge the duties and perform the functions of the trustee. However, the said order has not been implemented. Nainar Naikar, continues to hold

the post of the fit person-thakkar and he has not handed over the charges to the newly appointed fit person, he added.

He alleged that Nainar Naikar, who was suspended from the post of fit person, was trying to get compensation for the temple land, which has been acquired for the purpose of interlinking of river project. Moreover, Nainar Naikar was said to have allowed the quarry operation in the land belonging to the temple to a company without getting any approval from the temple authorities for exploiting the minerals for many years. Therefore, he has approached this court, he added.

Taking note of the serious allegations, the bench had on October 28, 2020, directed the land acquisition authorities not to pay any compensation amount payable for acquiring the temple land to Nainar

Naikar or his nominees.

When the matter came up for hearing on November 5, the joint commissioner, HR & CE department, filed a report stating that many complaints were received against Nainar Naikar-Thakkar of the temple and the charges were framed against the hereditary trustee and by proceedings dated September 14, 2015, he was suspended. On the same day, the Executive Officer, Arulmighu Thiruvilanjikumarar Thirukoil, Ilanji, was appointed as a fit person to discharge the duties. Though the officer was appointed on September 14, 2015, he could not take charge. The hereditary trustee failed to hand over the charges and hence, the fit person was said to have assumed charge on November 1, 2016. Even after assuming charge, the suspended hereditary trustee failed to hand over

the charge. Thereafter, the Executive Officer of Valliyoor, has been appointed as a fit person, by proceedings dated November 2, 2020 and he has been advised to take charge and report immediately, he added.

The bench said it was seen from the facts, admitted by the officials themselves that even though the fit person has been suspended and a new fit person has been appointed as early as on September 14, 2015, the HR & CE officials were unable to take possession of the temple and assume the administration even today.

“The sorry state of affairs would reveal that the temple properties are not safe. No action has been taken by the authorities even after 5 years, and it would show the inability of the officials. Though the temple properties are spoiled and exploited, no criminal complaint has

been filed against Nainar Naikar and the company and what is the loss caused to the temple properties till date, has not been assessed. The government shall file a report as to whether the compensation has been paid to Nainar Naikar or not and the official is capable for taking charge at least before the next date of hearing. Since the idol from the temple is said to have been stolen, it is appropriate to suo motu implead the Superintendent of Police, Idol Wing-CB-CID as respondent in the petition. The newly impleaded respondent is directed to file a report as to whether the idols of the temple or the properties of the temple are stolen or not. He shall assess the damage caused to the temple land and the value of the minerals exploited so far”, the bench added and posted to November 20, 2020, further hearing of the case.

OTHER STORIES

Liver transplant with a surprise donor

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Dr Rela Institute & Medical Centre in Chennai saved the life of a 44-year-old Sri Lankan professor by mobilising a team of competent surgeons to perform a liver transplant surgery amid strict lockdown restrictions even as the original donor prospect, who was the patient's wife, turned out to be medically unfit to donate her organ.

The patient, had flown into Chennai his wife, mother in law and brother in law by a cargo flight on July 4 in the midst of the Covid-19 lockdown. But a routine CT scan showed the wife to have features of a low-grade tumor arising from the small intestine, which made her unsuitable for organ donation. Luckily the patient's brother-in-law came forward to be a living liver donor at the last moment and the 9-hour long transplant surgery was done successfully on September 24.

The hospital also performed a surgery on the professor's wife to remove the low-grade tumor. Now the entire family was ready to return to Sri Lanka, a hospital press release said.

Ready for Guru peryarchi: Collector

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, NOV. 10

Corona preventive measures will be strictly implemented at the 'guru peryarchi' festival to be held at Sri Vasistheswaraswamy temple at Thittai near Thanjavur on November 15, said Collector M Govinda Rao.

Guru Bhagawan moves from dhanusu to makara rasi at 9:30 pm on November 15 (Sunday). There is a separate Guru Bhagawan sannidhi at Sri Vasistheswaraswamy temple at Thittai and thousands will throng the temple every year for guru peryarchi.

At an official meeting held here on Tuesday, the collector discussed preparations for this year's festival. Because of the pandemic, Rao advised officials to subject devotees to thermal scanning test, washing of hands, using sanitizers and maintaining social distancing, while visiting the temple.

Medical camps and mobile medical units will function near the temple. Panchayat administration has been asked to put water taps so that people may wash their hands.

The collector said that children below 10 years and elderly people above 60 years would not be permitted to visit the temple.

Kanyakumari now open for tourists, says CM

ARULOLI M | DC
KANYAKUMARI, NOV. 10

"Kanyakumari district has been opened for tourism from today," declared Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisami, here on Tuesday.

Interacting with the media after the corona review meeting at the collectorate here in Nagercoil, Palanisami said the decision to open up tourism in the district was taken as Covid infection



had come under control.

"Ferry service to the Vivekananda rock memorial and Tiruvalluvar statue also has been

resumed," added the chief minister.

Responding positively to the long-pending demand of tourists to Kanyakumari, for a bridge connecting the rock memorials of Swami Vivekananda and Thiruvalluvar, the chief minister announced the construction of a hanging bridge connecting the two rock memorials in the sea at an estimated cost of ₹35 crore.

Ferry service to

Tiruvalluvar statue was cancelled often during low tides, as the spot around the memorial is shallow and rocky, compared to the deeper waters around the Vivekananda rock memorial. Hence, the number of ferry services to Thiruvalluvar statue are less compared to those operated to the Vivekananda rock memorial. The construction of the bridge connecting the two rock memorials is expected to enhance tourism.

Lankan Navy arrests 4 TN fishermen, rescues 14 stranded from Karaikal

Nagapattinam, Nov. 10:

Four Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on Tuesday when they were allegedly fishing in the sea off Kodiakara coast, a fishermen association here said.

The fishermen belonging to Tarangambadi in this district were apprehended for allegedly entering Lankan territorial waters. The fishermen ventured into the sea on November 7 and were fishing about 20 nautical miles southeast of Kodiakara this morning when the Lankan naval

personnel came to the spot and arrested them, representatives of the association claimed. The fishermen have been taken to Kangesanthurai in the island nation, they said and added that they have lodged complaints with the officials of the fisheries department.

Meanwhile, 14 fishermen belonging to neighbouring Karaikal district in the union territory of Puducherry, who drifted to Lankan territory due to an engine snag in the boat were rescued by the Navy of the island nation, an official said. All are being

sent back home and are expected to reach on Wednesday, a report from Karaikal said.

The fishermen ventured into the sea from Karaikal on November 8 and drifted in the sea the next day, Kaviyarasam, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Karaikal, said. When their boat was struggling in the sea near Kaalai area in Sri Lanka, the Lankan Navy helped them reach the shore at Kaalai town. Their boat has now been set right and the fishermen have been sent back home by the Lankan authorities, he said.—PTI

T'kudi-bound flight carrying CM delayed by 17 minutes

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

A Thoothukudi-bound private flight carrying Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami was delayed by 17 minutes on Tuesday morning, the airport officials said.

According to sources, the Indigo flight to Thoothukudi usually takes off from the domestic terminal, bay 55 /57. However, on Tuesday, the airport authorities announced that the flight would take off from Old airport bay 2. This sudden announcement forced a near 20 minutes delay and the flight later took off at around 8:55 am and proceeded for its destination. CM Palaniswami is travelling to Thoothukudi on a two-day visit.

HC notice to police on custodial death case

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

The Madras high court has directed the police to file counter affidavit to the petition filed by the wife of Selvamurugan, who died allegedly due to custodial torture in Virudhachalam jail on November 4, which sought to register a murder case against three police men allegedly involved in his death and investigate the same in accordance with law.

Justice T.Ravindran posted to November 18, 2020, further hearing of the petition filed S.Prema, wife of the deceased, which also sought a direction to the authorities to conduct the post-mortem on the body of her husband Selvamurugan, by appointing doctors from Jipmer Hospital in Puducherry.

Fast track flyover work



DMK members led by Ma Subramanian on Tuesday protest against the undue delay in completing Chennai Port-Maduravayal flyover.

— DC

Stalin hails Celine Gounder's appointment in Joe Biden's Covid-19 task force

Chennai, Nov. 10:

DMK President M K Stalin on Tuesday hailed the appointment of Celine Gounder in the Covid-19 Advisory Board of US President-elect Joe Biden, saying she was a "woman of Tamil origin."

The leader of the opposition in the state Assembly greeted Gounder on her appointment.

"Glad to hear about the appointment of Celine Gounder to President-

Elect Joe Biden's National Pandemic Taskforce to combat COVID-19. Happy to hear about the appointment of a woman of Tamil origin to this crucial task force," he said in a Facebook post.

"Congratulations & best

wishes," he added.

Gounder is one of the members of the COVID-19 task force that will guide Biden on dealing with the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed over 2,36,000 lives in the US.

Indian-American physician Dr Vivek Murthy is one of the three co-chairs of the task-force.

— PTI

Catching them young



Children participate in safe Deepavali and coronavirus awareness cycle rally organised by the fire and rescue services department at high court fire station. —DC

TNSTC to pay ₹5.3 lakh to victim's kin

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Four years after death of a senior citizen following injuries sustained in a mishap caused by a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) bus, Motor Vehicle Accident Claim Tribunal, Chennai directed the corporation to pay a compensation of ₹5.3 lakh to his family members.

In the petition family members of the victim, Raghuraman, 65, submitted that Raghuraman was work-

ing as a vegetable vendor. His family members depended on his income. He was waiting to cross the road, when a rashly driven government bus, which was coming from Kancheepuram towards Kalpakkam, hit him. The mishap took place in April

2013 and Raghuraman sustained serious injuries and was under continuous treatment. However, he succumbed to the injuries in September 2016.

Denying the averments, the transport corporation stated that the accident happened due to the negligence of the pedestrian as he tried to cross the road without looking for passing vehicles. Despite the efforts by the driver to halt the bus, the accident happened.

On completion of trial, the tribunal judge held that the accident happened only due

to negligent driving by the bus driver. Though the elderly man was injured and died only three years later, the tribunal relied on the doctor's report to hold that the heirs are eligible for compensation.

As per the doctor's report, the injured man had died due to septicemia and primary brain failure caused due to the impact of the head injury sustained by him in the accident.

The tribunal directed the corporation to pay a compensation of Rs 5.3 lakh to the family members in a month.

9-year-old turns Karate champ

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUVARUR, NOV. 10

A karate student from 'The Tigers Karate & Yoga Training school' in the district, bagged the first place in the national-level online yoga and sun salutation championship competition, held on behalf of India and the Maldoc branches of

the Yogasana European association recently.

Over 200 contestants from various states participated. In Tiruvavur district, on behalf of Tamil Nadu, students Kishore, Brinda Sai, Kapilesh, Hasini, Thashvan, Hrithik, Karthik Balaji, Kaviyach Selvan, Kurucharan, Gunasundari, Santosh, and Ga-

nesh participated. Dashwan, a nine-year-old boy, has bagged first place in the under-10 category.

Tiruvavur DSP M Durai presented the winners certificates and cash prizes, and congratulated them. He motivated the students to be mentally and physically fit by doing yoga during the pandemic period.

Remove derogatory videos by former judge Karnan, says Madras high court

J. STALIN
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

The Madras high court has directed the state government and police to block the URL sites of Facebook, Google inc and YouTube, in and by which Justice C.S.Karnan, former judge of the Madras high court and D.Dhanasekaran, claiming himself as the secretary of Democratic Dynamic Party, has shared ill-content of Justice Karnan (making serious scandalous, vituperative, obscene and unparliamentary utterances against former judges and some of the sitting judges of the Supreme Court of India as well as former judges and sitting judges of the Madras high court as well as the family members, especially, the women-folk), which have been uploaded and circulated by Dhanasekaran.

A division bench comprising Justices M.Sathyannarayanan and R.Hemalatha gave the directive on a petition filed by the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu



and Puducherry represented by its secretary C.Rajakumar, which also sought a direction to the authorities to initiate appropriate legal action including criminal action against Justice Karnan and Dhanasekaran based on his representation dated November 6, 2020, and take necessary follow-up action.

Concurring with the submissions of senior counsel S.Prabhakaran, who is also the co-chairman of the Bar Council of India, the bench

said this court has also gone through the vernacular version of the various uploads as well as rough English translation of the same and it is rather unfortunate to note that Karnan, who held one of the important Constitutional post, had gone down to such a level and repeatedly making serious scandalous, vituperative, obscene and unparliamentary utterances against the former judges and some of the sitting judges of the Supreme Court of India as well as former judges and sitting judges of this court as well as the family members, especially, the women-folk and that apart, the tirades continues to be unabated by making similar kind of allegations against female staff of high court also and women lawyers also including a designated senior advocate."This court, on a thorough appreciation of the submissions made and consideration of the relevant materials, is of the considered view that the said acts of the 9th respondent (C.S.Karnan),

prima facie, constitute commission of various cognizable offences, including the Sexual Harassment on Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013", the bench added.

The bench said it was also pointed out by senior counsel S.Prabhakaran that Karnan was also instrumental in uploading the said obscene messages through visual media platforms and therefore, prayed for appropriate interim orders and also pointed out during the course of argument that Karnan along with some other persons, also barged into the premises of a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, who was also having a permanent residence here and despite a complaint has been lodged in that regard and registration of FIR, no action, whatsoever, has been taken by the Commissioner of Police, Chennai. This court, on a careful scrutiny and consideration of the materials and taking into consideration the majesty of this institution

in general as well as the judiciary in particular, was of the considered view that if Dhanasekaran continues to upload the said kind of messages in public/social media platforms viz Facebook, Google inc and YouTube, damage will continue to be incalculable and will totally undermine this institution and thus, a prima facie case has been made out for grant of interim order; otherwise, these kind of tirades continue to happen which will not only cause embarrassment to the former and sitting judges of the apex court as well as to the former and sitting Judges of this court, but also to the family members, especially, the women-folk. The allegations, prima facie, appear to be highly defamatory also. "Thus, balance of convenience as on today, lies in favour of the petitioner, which is a statutory body. Hence, there shall be an order of ad-interim direction as prayed for, until further orders. Call on December 18, 2020", the bench added.

The Lakshmi Narayana Swamy temple is located in Aadiyur, Tirupattur district. On Tuesday, a mysterious bag was seen in front of the temple entrance. Residents of the area opened the bag and found inside it an Amman idol made of panchaloka. They informed the VAO and Tirupattur taluk police. Police retrieved the idol and handed it over to the HR&CE department. It is suspected that the idol could have been looted from another temple. Police are investigating.

— K. Senthil Nathan



SHORT TAKES

LESS THAN 40K
NEW COVID-19
CASES REPORTED

New Delhi, Nov. 10: The number of new Coronavirus infections reported in India in a span of 24 hours dropped below 40,000 for the second time this month, as India's Covid-19 caseload rose to 85.91 lakh while the total number of recoveries neared 80 lakh, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The Covid-19 caseload increased to 85,91,730 with 38,073 new infections being reported in a day while the death toll climbed to 1,27,059 with 448 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 79,59,406 pushing the national recovery rate to 92.64 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.48 per cent.

The number of active cases remained below six lakh for the twelfth consecutive day. There are 5,05,265 active cases of Coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprise 5.88 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5.

It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

PUNJAB REVOKES
'GENERAL
CONSENT' TO CBI

Chandigarh, Nov. 10: The Congress-led government in Punjab has revoked its general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for probing cases in the state, joining several other non-BJP ruled states that have carried out a similar move.

The states such as West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh had already withdrawn the "general consent" to the CBI.

According to the state government notification issued on November 8, a prior consent of the Punjab government will be required by the CBI, which comes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, to investigate any case in the state.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Central Act No 25 of 1946), the government of Punjab hereby withdraws the general consent accorded to the members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment, anytime herein before, as per the notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary, department of home affairs and justice. In view of revocation of all previous general consents issued earlier, prior consent of the government of Punjab shall be required, hereinafter, on a case-to-case basis for investigation of any offence or class of offences under section 3 of the aforesaid Act, by the Delhi Special Police Establishment, it further said. The Punjab government had earlier withdrawn consent from the CBI for investigating the 2015 sacrilege incidents there after the state assembly had passed a resolution in this regard in 2018.

SC TO HEAR
ARNAB PLEA FOR
INTERIM BAIL

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

The Supreme Court will hear on Wednesday the Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's plea for interim bail in an alleged abetment to suicide case involving an interior designer and his mother.

Goswami on Tuesday knocked the doors of the top court challenging Bombay High Court's order not granting him an interim bail in the alleged abetment to suicide case and instead asking him to seek regular bail from the Sessions Court in Alibaug.

Arnab Goswami's plea for interim bail is listed before a vacation bench comprising Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Indira Banerjee.

Goswami is accused of alleged abetment to suicide by interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother Kumud Naik in 2018.

The High Court by its November 9 order while refusing to grant interim bail had said that Goswami had an "alternate and efficacious" remedy under the code of criminal procedure to approach the session's court for regular bail.

Shivraj's charisma saves the day for BJP

MP CM successfully crushed the rebellion in the party and led from the front in the Assembly bypolls

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 10

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has led ruling BJP to landslide victory in the Assembly by-elections in Madhya Pradesh which was turned into a battle of charismas between him and Congress veteran Kamal Nath.

Chouhan led his party from the front in the Assembly by-elections by not only containing the rebellion in the party triggered by nomination of 25 former Congress MLAs as BJP candidates from their respective Assembly constituencies but also by successfully countering the narrative by Congress describing its former legislators as 'Gaddars' (betrayers) during its electioneering.

"The by-elections turned out to be the most challenging elections faced by us in Madhya Pradesh so far since the core BJP cadres and local leaders were up in arms against the 25 BJP candidates who have joined our party from Congress barely 8 months ago. It was an emotional, social and political issue with the core cadre and leaders of the party who were apprehensive of being politically eclipsed due to the party's decision to give ticket to the newly inducted party men in the by-elections", BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal told this newspaper.

"We won half the battle when the party leadership nipped in bud a brewing rebellion in the party by pacifying the aggrieved party cadres and synchronising them with the new entrants in the party at the booth level", he added.

Chouhan took charge of the affairs when the 'Gaddar' narrative by Congress to put BJP in 25 Assembly constituencies on defensive had appeared to be catching imagination of the people by aggressively projecting failure by the former chief minister Kamal

● SHIVRAJ SINGH Chouhan had also succeeded in generating sympathy for him among the electorates by playing victim when Congress leaders including Nath launched personal attack on him by calling him names such as 'nayalayak' (good for nothing), 'kameena' (mean) and 'bhookha-nanga' (extremely poor), thus helping the party in the polls.

Nath to fulfill promises given by him to the farmers to waive their crop loans.

Chouhan had also succeeded in generating sympathy for him among the electorates by playing victim when Congress leaders including Nath launched personal attack on him by calling him names such as 'nayalayak' (good for nothing), 'kameena' (mean) and 'bhookha-nanga' (means extremely poor), thus helping the party in the polls.

Even Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia who has joined the BJP from Congress in March this year had chosen to play second fiddle to Chouhan in the by-elections.

"BJP is fighting by-elections under Mr Chouhan's leadership", was his constant refrain during campaigning.

Nath too chose to fight the by-elections on his charisma by making a narrative on his vision for MP the focus of the Congress campaign. He had also tried to evoke sympathy among the voters by narrating how his democratically elected government was pulled down by the former rebel Congress leaders.

"However, the 74-year-old Nath had failed to take the senior leaders of his party along with him in the by-elections", a senior Congress leader said unwillingly to be quoted.

"We were visible on social media, but not on the ground. That has caused the party's debacle in the by-polls", the Congress leader said.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP State President V.D. Sharma greet each other as they celebrate their party's lead in Madhya Pradesh bypolls in Bhopal on Tuesday.

— PTI



BJP supporters react during counting day of Madhya Pradesh Assembly bypolls, at party headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday.

— PTI



JMM candidate Basant Soren celebrates his victory in the Dumka Assembly by-election on Tuesday.

— PTI

Two ministers in Shivraj govt
lose; Congress wins C'garh bypoll

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 10

The BJP has registered a landslide victory in the assembly by-elections in Madhya Pradesh results of which were declared on Tuesday by winning 19 out of 28 seats that went to by-polls on November 3.

Congress won 7 seats and is ahead of its nearest BJP rivals in 2 other assembly constituencies, reports reaching last said.

Two out of 12 ministers in the Shivraj government lost the polls, while another minister was trailing, reports reaching last here said.

The two ministers who lost the elections are Giriraj Dandotia and Anand Singh Kansana.

State minister Imarti Devi whom former chief minister Kamal Nath referred to as 'item' inviting criticism from all

quarters was trailing by a thin margin of 14,000 votes behind her nearest Congress rival, reports reaching last said.

The state ministers who won the polls are Bisahul Singh, Prabhuram Choudhury, Pradyumna Singh Tomar, Govind Singh Rajput, Tulsil Silawat, Mahendra Singh Sisodia, Rajvardhan Singh, Suresh Dhakad, and O.P.S. Bhadouria.

Interestingly, 7 out of 25 former Congress MLAs who were given tickets by BJP in the by-elections lost the polls.

In Gwalior-Chambal region, said to be the stronghold of senior BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, BJP won 10 seats and lost in 5 seats. The party was trailing in another constituency, reports reaching last said.

Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hailed the

massive win by his party in the by-elections saying "People have given us the opportunity to work for the development of the state".

Congress veteran and former chief minister Kamal Nath said he respected the people's mandate asking Congress to sit in Opposition.

He congratulated the chief minister for BJP's handsome win in the by-elections and hoped that the Shivraj government would work for development of women, farmers and other sections of people in the state.

The strength of ruling BJP in 230-member MP assembly is poised to go up from 107 to 126 following the outcome of the assembly by-elections, while the strength of Congress is set to increase from 87 to 96.

The by-elections necessitated the resignation of 25

Congress MLAs and demise of 3 sitting legislators.

Meanwhile, Congress won the by-elections in the Marwahi (ST) assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh. Congress candidate K.K. Dhruv defeated his nearest BJP rival Gambhir Singh by a margin of 38,197 votes. The seat was a pocket borough of the Jogi family.

Former chief minister late Ajit Jogi had won the seat 4 times and his son Amit represented the constituency in 2013-18.

The by-elections to the constituency necessitated following demise of Ajit Jogi. Earlier, nominations of Jogi junior and his wife Richa for the constituency were rejected following controversy over their tribal status. Both of them had filed nomination for the seat as candidates of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh.

Naveen proves
to be invincible

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 10

Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday proved that it was invincible in bypolls as it won the two Assembly seats that went to elections following the death of two incumbent lawmakers in July.

The regional party headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrested the Balasore Sadar seat which was represented by the Madan Mohan Dutta of the BJP and retained the Tirtol seat.

Though the official figures with the regard to the votes polled by the candidates were not announced till this report was filed, reports from counting centres said the BJD nominee Swarup Das, a fresh face, defeated Manas Kumar Dutta, son of Madan Mohan Dutta

by a huge margin of around 13,000 votes.

In Tirtol, the regional party's candidate Bijaya Shankar Das crushed his BJP rival by around 40,916 votes.

The ECI reports said the BJD bagged 52.39 per cent votes while the BJP got 35.56 per cent. The Congress finished third with just 10.31 per cent votes.

By-elections in the two constituencies were held on November 3, following the demise of BJP MLA Madan Mohan Dutta in Balasore and BJD legislator Bishnu Charan Das in Tirtol.

The ruling BJD has not lost any Assembly bypolls in the last 14 years. For the first time in his 22 years of political career, the party president and CM Naveen Patnaik did not campaign for the party in the constituencies. He rather focussed on virtual campaigns.

Advantage NDA as
BJP proves mettle

From Page 1

The HAM and VIP, the other two allies of the NDA, are ahead in three and five constituencies respectively.

The RJD has won two seats and its nominees are leading in 68 others, giving a close competition to the BJP to emerge at the top of the table. Ally Congress is leading in 19 seats.

The Magathbandhan's Left partners look set for a resurgence, with the CPI-ML leading in 13 places, CPI and CPI-M three each.

The LJP, whose walking out of the NDA in Bihar just ahead of the polls

had set off talks that it upset the ruling alliance's apperact, was down in the dumps with its candidate leading in just one seat.

Meanwhile, hailing the BJP's strong performance in assembly bypolls in various states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised the party's leadership there and expressed his thanks to people. Powered by the "progressive agenda" of the government under Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan and the hardwork of its workers, the BJP has emerged as the "unparalleled choice" of people in Madhya Pradesh, he said.

PTI

Nitish Kumar ends
up big loser in polls

From Page 1

But the gamble seems to have paid off. A BJP leader remarked: "Nitish was surrounded and butchered like Abhimanyu." He went on to add: "While the saffron army pulled back, Mr Nitish was left on his own to ward off attacks from the LJP and the Mahagathbandhan." Battling 15 years' anti-incumbency, he was already on weaker ground.

As the JD(U) kept hurtling down the electoral tally, senior leader K.C. Tyagi made the party's feelings against Mr Paswan amply clear:

"We are hurt." During the campaign, Mr Kumar's so-called socialist politics had been "hurt" time and again. As Mr Kumar tried to woo his minority votebank by openly opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC, BJP Hindutva face and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath carried on with a tirade against the minorities, saying the "infiltrators will be thrown out". Mr Kumar's humiliation continued as the Prime Minister joined in: "These people don't like to hear Jai Shri Ram. The opponents of Bharat Mata have got united and are seeking votes".

Left: Grassroot work
helped us win seats

From Page 1

It was RJD which had stuck its neck out and gave the Left 29 seats, despite objections from other alliance partners. Some of the seats contested by the Left had been won by the RJD in the last Assembly polls. The CPI-ML (Liberation) had grabbed three seats as the other two Left parties drew a blank.

It is to be noted that only CPI-ML (Liberation) had an understanding with the RJD in 2015, but not the other two Left parties.

"The leads so far are on the expected lines and we hope to catch up in three more seats," said

Dipankar Bhattacharya, general secretary of the CCPI (ML) Liberation. "This was a different kind of election. This was more a people's movement. We banked on young candidates, student leaders, candidates who were part of farmer struggles, working class people. That seems to have worked".

According to CPI general secretary D. Raja, while the alliance with the two parties has helped in vote conversion, what has also led to the good performance is the cadre base of the three parties that helped spread the reach of the Mahagathbandhan.

DECCAN Chronicle

11 NOVEMBER 2020

Act responsibly, heed NGT ban on crackers

The decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to impose a total ban on all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region from November 9 to 30, and extend it to all cities and towns where the average of ambient air quality is “poor” is welcome. The NGT has mandated that only green crackers that pollute less will be allowed in cities and towns where air quality is “moderate” or below. In other towns and cities, the state governments are given the freedom to impose more stringent restrictions. The duration for bursting of crackers has been limited to two hours during festivals.

The NGT decision comes in the wake of the extreme poor air quality reported in the national capital and elsewhere in the country and the renewed threat the coronavirus has been posing of late to the lives of people. With fog and crackers, the air quality is sure to go down further, inconveniencing even healthy citizens. That apart, the ban on crackers will have a salutary effect on the fight against Covid-19 as the pandemic is resurfacing as a wave in Delhi and some other states. Cracker bursting is a community activity in most places and can turn into a super-spreader event. It can be fatal for some people who are suffering from the disease, which impairs, among others, the lungs most. The ban would, thus, help the nation save precious lives.

But the purpose will be served fully only if the state governments and more importantly, the people, took it seriously and implemented it wholeheartedly. It is natural for governments to be hesitant in pouring cold water on the festive spirit and invite the wrath of the people, though some states such as Rajasthan and Odisha have already banned crackers. The procrastinators have a ruse now in the form of the order of the NGT, and can go all out and ensure that the order is implemented in its spirit.

But there is only so much the governments can do on public health; it should primarily be the concern of the public. They must come forward and understand why the tribunal and governments have been forced to come out with such restrictive orders. Reports from the ground suggest that there is little progress in the way Indians grasp the enormity of the threat the pandemic is, and that they go ahead with their lives and manners throwing caution to the wind. They swarm markets, shops, malls, public places and places of worship as if the virus either did not exist or has vanished. Since neither is true, it is incumbent upon them to restrict themselves and keep the virus at bay. The Union government should intensify the Jan Andolan awareness campaign but is for the people to pick the right lessons from the nation's experiences and protect themselves. Celebrations and festivals are a yearly phenomenon; life is but a once-in-a-lifetime offer. It's important that we live on to celebrate them.

Hope across sectors

Valuations on the Indian equity markets soared on Tuesday after a report jointly issued by drug makers — Pfizer from the United States and BioNTech from Germany — announced a significant success in the development of a vaccine for the most infectious Covid-19 disease. While the broader Indian markets were mirroring euphoria witnessed around the world, India's benchmark index BSE Sensex hit an all-time high on Tuesday.

The vaccine may not be available immediately. However, it gives hope to businesses across sectors like aviation, travel and hospitality, tourism, movies among others that were shut because of the highly human contact nature of their operations. It will reopen a significant part of the economy which is either shut or severely underperforming. The rise in the Sensex and the Nifty was primarily driven by bank stocks, which indicate an optimistic assessment of the economy by investors.

This assessment goes against claims made by several analysts that the Indian economy would take a year or two to crawl back to its size in March 2020. However, the bullishness of investors, who look at future earnings before taking investment decisions, should keep us optimistic about the return of normalcy in the economy.

Another factor that has been driving the growth in equity markets across the world, including India, is the victory of Democratic candidate Joe Biden in the US Presidential elections. Investors were happy about the election result because they expected global trade would return to normalcy under the Biden administration. However, with incumbent US President Donald Trump preparing for protracted legal challenges to invalidate mail-in votes that predominantly favoured Mr Biden and several grey areas existing in the US electoral system, the field is still open in Washington. It would be ideal for Indian investors to be cautious and watchful about the unfolding events in US politics.


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Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax : 0495 4019018
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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Gehlot denied his choice of chief secretary

N.K. Arya, the new chief secretary of Rajasthan, is not the first choice of state chief minister Ashok Gehlot for the position. Until the last moment, the last working day of outgoing chief secretary Rajeev Swarup, the Gehlot government hoped to push for a tenure extension for Mr Swarup. But the Centre denied its consent and Mr Arya was drafted in, superseding eight IAS officers in the process. He was additional chief secretary for finance. Besides appointing Mr Arya, the government also effected a major reshuffle involving 21 senior IAS officers. The drama was building for some time. Sources say that Mr Gehlot had worked hard to ensure Mr Swarup was appointed chief secretary in early July this year and then pushed for his extension. It is said that to appoint Mr Swarup to the state's top post, the chief minister reportedly “struck a deal”

with the previous chief secretary D.B. Gupta who was slated to retire in September. Under this supposed deal, Mr Gupta resigned in July and was immediately appointed advisor to the CM for a year and Mr Swarup stepped in as his successor.

The babu grapevine has it that Mr Swarup endeared himself to the chief minister during the Gehlot-Sachin Pilot standoff, which may not have gone down well with the Centre.

HAVE ‘COOLING-OFF’ PERIOD FOR BABUS, SAYS EC
The Election Commission (EC) is now likely to recommend to the Centre a “cooling off” period for IAS, IPS and other officers who join politics soon after retirement or after resigning the service. Sources say that the poll panel was jolted into this line of thinking after former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey resigned

from the IPS in September and promptly joined a political party barely weeks before the Bihar Assembly elections. His resignation was accepted immediately, even though government regulations stipulate that an officer who wishes to join private employment after service needs to wait a year after retirement or resigning from service.

Though the demand for a cooling-off period is not a new one and is usually raised around election time when babus who have political ambitions often quit to join a political party. The government has so far rejected it, arguing that barring former babus from joining politics immediately after leaving service can be interpreted as an infringement of their right to equality.

But the poll panel is now keen to ensure that the government insists on a cooling-off period for AIS officers seeking to join poli-

tics, just as it does for those seeking corporate jobs. The commission is yet to work out the modalities of how long this cooling-off period should be, but sources say it could be at least two years.

FOREST TRANSFERS IN UTTARAKHAND: A U-TURN
The forest department of Uttarakhand and the state government seem to be at odds with each other. The government recently cancelled all the transfers of forest department officials done between September and October for violating an order that prohibited transfer of any official during 2020-21. Apparently, the department has done around a dozen such transfers without first seeking clearance from the state government. Earlier, in July, sources say, the government had revoked the transfer order of 11 deputy conservator of forests (DCFs) within 48

hours of the issuing of the orders. At the time, Anand Bardhan, principal secretary, forest department, had issued a terse statement saying that it was a government order “and we are simply following it”.

However, according to sources, several Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers say that the order was revoked since the transfer list contained several names that were not presented before the civil service board for transfers. Further, some officers on deputation were given additional charge, which is apparently against the rules. According to a Supreme Court ruling, no transfer can be done without the approval of the civil services board. So why was this being done? That's a mystery.

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

Subhani



India-US ties might be stronger under Biden



Vishnu Prakash

It was difficult to believe one's eyes when the so-called leader of the free world stood before the cameras to announce that his opponent was trying to “steal” the just-concluded American presidential elections, which he claimed he had already won, with barely half the votes tabulated. In the supercharged atmosphere, such an incendiary assertion was bound to spark protests and violence across the nation. Unfortunately, it did.

India may not be a perfect democracy, but it has a fairly enviable record of peaceful transition of power, notwithstanding the heated rhetoric. Even Mrs Indira Gandhi, having imposed an ill-advised Emergency in 1975, bowed out of office gracefully upon losing at the hustings in 1977. Every credit goes to India's Election Commission for meticulously organising the gigantic parliamentary elections last year, involving a 850-million strong electorate.

Curiously, the United States doesn't have a Federal Electoral Commission. Each of the 50 states and Washington D.C. is responsible for holding the elections and framing procedural/policy guidelines, even without judicial oversight. As such, there is a wide variation in practices. Some states allow early voting by all, some don't. Some use EVMs, while others have only paper ballots. Some undertake simultaneous or early ballot counting, while the others do so only after the polls have closed.

Even more unique is the institution of an “Electoral College” which actually elects the President and vice-president. An eligible voter votes for the President and the Veep, but also for the elector. Both the popular and the Electoral

College votes are tallied, but the latter takes precedence. At least five times in US history has a candidate won the popular vote while his rival has taken office by virtue of garnering a majority in the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is a historical legacy. America's 1787 constitutional convention was not ready to bestow universal franchise and was bitterly divided over allowing semi-literate or underprivileged individuals to choose the President. That is when a compromise was struck. Political parties could nominate their representatives to contest for the Electoral College. Towards the end of the 18th century only property-owning white American men were enfranchised, who comprised just six per cent of the population. Women got the right to vote only in 1920. Surprisingly, the system has worked extremely well till now.

However, not even America's founding fathers could have foreseen and insulated the electoral architecture against an iconoclast and narcissist like Donald Trump, for whom the ends justify the means. As of November 9, he continues to claim victory and vows to wage a futile legal battle to get the results annulled or the ballots recounted, essentially on frivolous grounds.

All the same, much to the relief of the world and a majority of the American people, former vice-president Joe Biden is all but certain to be the next occupant of the White House. His running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, half black and half Indian, will become the first woman and the first non-white person to become the vice-president of the United States.

The question that is uppermost in the minds of most Indians is about Mr Biden's disposition

towards India and China. Some analysts contend that he would be soft towards China and Pakistan. It would be recalled that in October 2008, Islamabad had conferred the “Hilal-i-Pakistan” (Crescent of Pakistan), its highest civilian honour, on him “in recognition of... consistent support for Pakistan”. That said, the geostrategic scenario has undergone a sea change in the past five years, and Pakistan has been totally exposed. Its utility for the US has diminished, and it is now firmly in the Chinese camp, which makes it a bigger suspect.

At the same time, China has grievously erred by overtly stepping up its efforts to displace America as regional hegemon. It challenged the might of the US by flexing its military muscle with most maritime neighbours, some of whom, like Japan and Philippines, are under the US security umbrella. It also aims to wrest the crown as world leader in innovation, infotech and biotech. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is expanding its economic and strategic footprint across the globe. As these directly threaten America's primacy, no US President, not even an internationalist like Joe Biden, can afford to turn a Nelson's eye.

On the other hand, Mr Biden has stayed invested in India-US relations for decades. He has visited India several times and officially once while he was vice-president in 2013. He has been an admirer of India's democratic moorings and pluralism. As a senator, he voted in favour of India-specific motions at least six times. He backed the civil nuclear agreement with India as well as India's permanent membership of the UN

There is a growing convergence in our regional and global outlook. We particularly view Chinese aggression, ambition and threats from a similar prism.

Security Council. Earlier this year he assured the Indian American community: “I'll continue to believe and continue... standing with India and confronting the threats it faces in its own region along its borders.”

In any event, leaders are guided by national interests in cultivating ties with other countries. India and the US have over 60 dialogue mechanisms in addition to the “2+2” ministerial consultations encompassing a wide range of subjects, including the economy, trade, education, energy, science and technology, security and defence, outer space, counterterrorism and cyber security, in addition to regional and international issues. It is natural for the world's largest and (soon to be) third largest economies to enhance their synergies.

There is a growing convergence in our regional and global outlook. We particularly view Chinese aggression, ambition and threats from a similar prism. It is said that “where you stand in the world has a good deal to do with where you sit”. And there are a handful of matters where our interests do diverge, such as India's ties with Iran and Russia. This is primarily due to our geographical and security imperatives.

It is reasonable to expect, therefore, a continued emphasis and attention on infusing greater momentum in bilateral ties. America's interest in the “Indo-Pacific concept” or the “Quad” should remain undiminished. Given the trajectory that China is following, it is not inconceivable for India to opt for an enhanced partnership with the US. “If the US and India became closer friends and partners, then the world will be a safer place”, Mr Biden had observed 15 years ago. It's time to make that happen together!

The writer is a foreign affairs analyst and a former Indian high commissioner to Canada and ambassador to South Korea

LETTERS

KAMALA'S INDIAN CONNECTION

DMK president M.K. Stalin has written a letter in Tamil to US vice president elect Kamala Harris congratulating her on her victory mentioning that she had proved that a ‘Tamilian’ is capable of ruling America through hard work. Kamala Harris was seen as an Indian and not related to any language, religion or caste by any person or political party till now/ all along. It is really a matter of concern/ a matter to ponder why politicians, especially the DMK is trying to capitalise/ bring a language into the picture for political gains. Let us be proud that Kamala Harris is an Indian and not relate her to any language.

M.C. Vijay Shankar, Chennai

FALL OF TRUMP

AS EXPECTED, Joe Biden has won the American presidential election defeating incumbent President Donald Trump with a thumping majority. The Americans as well as the entire world were witnessing with all anguish and anger the erratic decisions taken by Trump in the last four years, his right wing leanings including his indirect support to the white supremacists which led to a big communal divide among Americans. His autocratic decisions on many issues, some of which had huge global ramifications made people long for his exit from the White House paving the way for a non-controversial and unbiased leader, first to set right the mess created by this autocrat and then to find ways and means to get the US back to the number one position the oldest democracy of the world has been enjoying for centuries.

Tharecius S. Fernando, Chennai

STOP BOAT DESTRUCTION

IT IS baffling how the learned judges of the Sri Lankan courts have ordered to destroy the poor Indian fishermen's boats! Fishermen may have entered into the Sri Lankan waters knowingly or unknowingly but such unkindest dictat to destroy their boats who venture into the seas risking their life only to earn their living is unjust. There are many incidents where fishermen often enter into the neighbouring countries territorial waters, nay they were hauled-up but their boats were never destroyed. It is hoped the Lankan authorities with basic humanity will consider, release their boats notwithstanding the judicial order. And henceforth they should not treat the fishermen sneaking into their seas as a serious crime or offence but show basic human sympathy, release them and their boats to maintain good friendly relations with India.

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Sensex | 43,277.65 | 1.60 |
| Nifty 50 | 12,631.10 | 1.37 |
| S&P 500* | 3,543.39 | -0.20 |
| Dollar (₹) | 74.18 | -0.03 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 98.27 | -0.96 |
| Euro (₹) | 87.57 | 0.50 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 50,338,662 | 1.31 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 43.14 | 0.74 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.916 | 0.040 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.961 | 0.003 |

* As of 8:30 PM IST

States may cut capital outlay on infra by 40%: Icra

Impacted by the pandemic, states are likely to cut capital outlay on infrastructure by up to 40 per cent, Icra said. States account for 37-40 per cent of the total infrastructure capital expenditure. Major states together had a budgeted capital outlay of over Rs 5.7 lakh crore for 2020-21 against Rs 5.1 lakh crore in 2019-20. "The capital outlay on infrastructure by states could decline 10-40 per cent in FY2021," Icra said.

WhatsApp adds shopping button to push catalogue



WhatsApp said it has added a new shopping button on its app to make it easier for people to discover a business catalogue to get details about the goods and services offered by a firm. More than 175 million people message a WhatsApp Business account every day. Previously, people had to click into the business' profile to see if it had a catalogue. Now, the shopping button, resembling a storefront icon, will lead to catalogue.

SBI board nod for divesting UTI Trustee stake

SBI said its board has approved divestment of over 8.5 per cent holdings in UTI Trustee Company. It said the nod from the executive committee of the central board is for divesting 8,510 equity shares constituting 8.51 per cent of the bank's stake in UTI Trustee Company Pvt Ltd. As per Sebi regulation, no sponsor of a MF, its associate or group firm can have 10 per cent shareholding or voting rights in another mutual fund.

Crompton promoters sell ₹1,630 cr shares

Macritchie Investments Pte Ltd and Amalfiaco Ltd, promoters of Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd, offloaded the firm's shares worth over Rs 1,631 crore through open market transactions. Macritchie sold over 1.89 crore scrips at an average price of Rs 296.54 per scrip, valuing the deal at Rs 561.23 crore, as per bulk deal data on NSE. Amalfiaco offloaded over 3.6 crore shares at Rs 296.57 apiece.



Pandemic helps nearly 80% schools to adopt tech

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

Covid-19 has helped faster technology adoption by schools. While only 15 per cent of the schools in India had working computers prior to Covid-19, now almost 80 per cent of them have made some level of technology adoption.

Covid-19 has disrupted the education sector and forced them to adopt tech-

nology faster. Prior to the pandemic, out of the 15 lakh schools in the country, only 2.6 lakh or 14 per cent had working computers. This includes 35 per cent private aided schools, 30 per cent private unaided schools, 9.8 per cent government schools and 7 per cent other schools.

However, in the case of higher education, about 85 per cent of the 55,000 colleges had working comput-

er facilities, as per a study by Bengaluru-based RedSeer Consulting and Mumbai-based Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

"Schools and other education institutes were caught off guard after the onset of Covid and lockdowns. However, despite low technology maturity, both in terms of device/infrastructure readiness and teacher's technological

readiness, schools were remarkably resilient in adjusting to the "new normal", said Anil Kumar, founder, RedSeer Consulting.

In the past six months, technology adoption has been at different levels across schools. Less than five per cent schools use dedicated/advanced tech solutions like teacher-centric tools and administration management. Almost

20 to 30 per cent schools are using live tuitions, sharing digital content through shared cloud, e-mail and the like. Another 45 to 55 per cent schools have basic digital communication through Whats-App and similar platforms and they share pre-recorded digital content. However, 15 to 25 per cent schools have shut down, with no tech adoption.

Further, 75 per cent of

the surveyed school students are making use of live lectures to connect with the teachers, which used to be under 10 per cent before the lockdown - an eight-fold jump. Private schools performed above average with 90 per cent students and parents making use of technology to join live classes, while this was 60 per cent for government schools. However, not a significant difference in

pattern was observed in bigger cities and smaller cities.

In the case of colleges, 80 per cent students are making use of live lectures to connect with the teachers, which earlier would be close to 30 per cent, a 2.5 times jump. Engineering colleges were equipped with technology requirements. But non-engineering colleges were also able to catch up fast.

■ Banks say it's a money losing proposition

Promote only RuPay card, FM tells banks

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 10

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked banks to promote only RuPay cards and ensure that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) becomes a brand-India product. But bankers argue that with no MDR charges on transactions, RuPay cards give zero revenue and they lose money on it. Besides, the card is not as competitive for customers as MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards.

Addressing the 73rd annual general meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) virtually, Sitharaman said, "I would not think it is necessary today in India when RuPay is becoming global, for Indians to be given any other cards first

than RuPay itself. So, promote Rupay cards. Make sure that the NPCI becomes a brand-India product, which can be promoted elsewhere in the globe and NPCI therefore should be a priority."

"Whoever needs the card, RuPay will be the only card you will promote," she said.

MDR, or merchant discount rate, usually 1 to 3 per cent of a transaction, is the fee charged to a merchant by payment processors for debit and credit card services.

After the government revoking merchant charges on digital payments, Rupay debit cards seem to have lost their popularity with the banks, which are choosing Visa and MasterCard.

An IIT-Bombay study authored by Prof. Ashish Das has revealed that RuPay is facing differen-

tial treatment in the pricing structure. The study found that fewer RuPay debit cards were being issued by banks from September 2019 to August 2020. The study also revealed that only 65 lakh debit cards were issued in August 2020, compared with 4.6 crore cards in the same period of 2019.

A senior banker said, "RuPay is India's own card. There is no MDR on RuPay card, but banks generally lose money when MDR is not there, as there is a cost involved. So banks are happy to promote Visa and MasterCard. Even the RBI's Pathak committee had suggested not to make MDR zero. So the government has to relook at its decision."

"Secondly, MasterCard and Visa are already established international companies. The transac-

tion experience is seamless and they burn money to attract and retain customers with so many offers such as free lounge access at airports, campaigns, etc. On the other hand, the transaction drops are high with UPI transactions. The government should have a reasonable MDR to help us recover expenses on RuPay," added the banker.

Sitharaman also gave lenders a deadline up to March 31, 2021 to link all bank accounts with Aadhaar.

"I want Aadhaar card-seeded accounts," "... by March 31, 2021, every account should have a PAN where needed and where applicable, and Aadhaar in every one of your accounts," she said.

She also said banks should discourage non-digital payments and promote digital transactions.

Sensex in 43K zone

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV.10

The bulls were unstoppable for the seventh consecutive session, as the global market rallied on hopes of a coronavirus vaccine hitting drug stores soon, fresh cases in India falling to 38,000 and the NDA seemed taking a comfortable lead in Bihar elections.

The Sensex closed above the 43,000-mark for the first time at 43,277.65, gaining 680.22 points and the Nifty -50 closed at 12,631.10, up 170 points.

However, underperformance and profit taking in the broader market shows the market rally is getting stretched now and could see some profit taking before Diwali. The BSE



Mid-cap Index fell 0.10 per cent while the Small-cap fell 0.48 per cent against Sensex's rise of 1.60 per cent.

The volatility index, NSE's India VIX, rose 7.28 per cent to 21.58.

Foreign portfolio investors pumped another Rs 5,627.32 crore into equities, as per the provisional data, making it Rs 20,340.45 crore investment in the last four sessions post-the US presidential

elections. FPIs have net invested Rs 15,874 crore in November so far.

The domestic institutions, meanwhile, have been booking profit and were net sellers by Rs 2,309.19 crore on Tuesday.

Devvarsh Vakil, deputy head of retail research, HDFC Securities, said, "Indian markets shot up on positive overnight cues from global markets and Asian peers opening higher."

Banking stocks continued to outperform, as the Nifty Bank Index gained a massive 3.89 per cent. At the same time IT and pharmaceuticals stocks corrected while beaten down stocks such as those tied to travel and leisure, movie theaters, and theme park moved up.

Premji most generous Indian in FY20: Hurun

Mumbai, Nov. 10: Wipro's Azim Premji donated Rs 22 crore a day, or Rs 7,904 crore, in a year to emerge as the most generous Indian in FY20 and topped a list of philanthropy.

Premji pipped HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, who had earlier topped the list collated by Hurun Report India and Edelgive Foundation, by a wide margin. Nadar's donations stood at Rs 795 crore for FY20 against Rs 826 crore in prior year. Premji had donated Rs 426 crore in the previous fiscal.

Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries retained the third spot among the list of givers by donating Rs 458 crore against Rs 402 crore a year ago, it said.

The pandemic had the corporate honchos repurposing their donations to fight Covid infections, and the top giver on this turned out to be Tata Sons with a Rs 1,500-crore commitment, followed by Premji at Rs 1,125 crore and Ambani's Rs 510 crore.

A bulk of the corporate commitments seemed to have gone to the PM-CARES Fund, with



Azim Premji

Reliance Industries committing Rs 500 crore, and Aditya Birla Group donating Rs 400 crore.

The Tatas' commitment also includes a Rs 500 crore donation to the newly created fund.

Premji's generosity pulled the total donations up by 175 per cent to Rs 12,050 crore in FY20, the list said.

Azim Premji Endowment Fund owns 13.6 per cent of the promoter's shareholding in Wipro and has the right to receive all money earned from promoter shares.

Individuals who have donated more than Rs 10 crore numbered 78 against 72 a year ago.

With a donation of Rs 27 crore, Amit and Archana Chandra of ATE Chandra Foundation are the only professional managers to

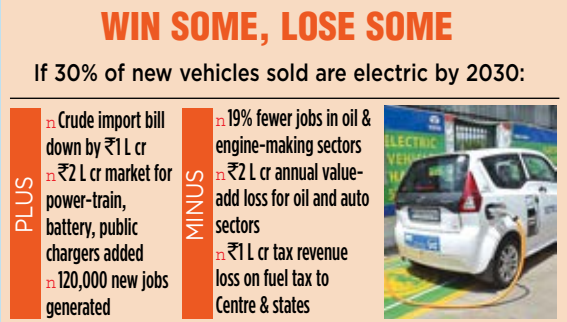
EV era: Oil bill to dip by ₹1 L cr; govts to lose ₹1 L cr revenue

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

India can save Rs 1 lakh crore on crude oil imports annually if electric vehicles (EVs) were to garner 30 per cent share of new vehicle sales by 2030, says a study.

Meeting the 30 per cent EV penetration target in 2030 will also have several environmental benefits, including a 17 per cent decrease each in primary particulate matter and nitrogen oxide and dioxide (NOx) emissions, 18 per cent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions, and a 4 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the business as usual scenario, found a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a New Delhi-based think-tank.

The higher EV penetration would also mean 19 per cent fewer jobs in the oil sector and the internal combustion engine-making sector combined. Further, the annual value-add loss in the oil and automobile sectors



could amount to about Rs 2 lakh crore. In addition, the central and state governments would lose over Rs 1 lakh crore in tax revenue annually from reduced sale of petrol and diesel.

However, the increase in EV penetration could also increase the combined market size of power-train, battery and public chargers to over Rs 2 lakh crore in addition to creating 120,000 new jobs in this sector. Further, a substantial number of new jobs are likely to be created in emerging areas such as battery recycling, telematics, and allied construction and services.

The Pully, Switzerland-based company said it's the first to combine the need in the international Russian wheat market for a fast trading platform with a more thoroughly traceable execution programme. Russia is the world's top wheat producer. Transactions span wheat as well as corn, barley and other grains and vegetable oil markets.

"Traders can now be 100 per cent certain they really did the trade, versus traditional over-the-phone brokerage," Andrei Grigorov, Cerealia's chief executive officer, said in the statement. "Instantly, they have digitally signed contracts and blockchain-

registered records 'forever'."

Agricultural commodity blockchain trading platforms have been projects among both startups and heavyweights in recent years. Prime Shipping Foundation piloted bulk commodities payments via blockchain, shipping wheat from Russia to Turkey. Covantis SA was announced in 2018 after the world's largest agricultural commodities traders--Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., Bunge Ltd., Cargill, Cofco Group, Louis Dreyfus Co. and the agriculture arm of Glencore Plc -- teamed up to streamline trading.

— Bloomberg

MAHINDRA BIDS ADIEU TO PLANE MANUFACTURING

Mumbai, Nov. 10: Mahindra Group on Tuesday said it has closed down its aircraft manufacturing business in Australia and is scouting for a buyer, more than a decade after venturing into high-cost plane-making business.

The decision also comes little over a year after one of the planes, manufactured at the Australian facility, crashed in Sweden killing nine persons.

In 2009, Mahindra Group acquired 75.1 per cent stake each in two Australian aerospace firms, Gippsland Aeronautics (Gipps Aero) and Aerostaff Australia, for Rs 175 crore as part of its plans to manufacture aircraft and allied components to service global market.

"We have shut down our Gipps Aero business, which was into the manufacturing of 8- and 10-seater planes in Australia," Mahindra & Mahindra deputy managing director and group CFO Anish Shah told reporters in a post-earnings call. — PTT

SHORT TAKES

Alia first female director in PCB

Islamabad: The Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed a female director for the first time. Human resources executive Alia Zafar has been included among four new PCB directors. The others are finance executive Javed Kurieshi, economist Asim Wajid Jawad and corporate executive Arif Saeed. Zafar and Jawad were appointed for two-year terms. The PCB's new constitution makes it mandatory to include at least one woman among four independent directors on its board of governors. I welcome the newly-appointed independent members, especially Ms Alia Zafar, the first female independent member, which is a giant step forward in enhancing the PCB's governance structure, PCB chairman Ehsan Mani said. — *AP*

Bangla captain tests positive

Dhaka: Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque has tested positive for Covid-19 and he is undergoing home isolation, according to a report here. Haque's coronavirus positive result came close on the heels of another senior player Mahmudullah Riyad contracting the virus which forced him to miss the Pakistan Super League play-offs. Bangladesh Cricket Board chief physician Dr Debashish Chowdhury confirmed Haque's test result to local news website. Haque, on his part, said that he had mild fever and got himself tested. "I only came to know yesterday that I have tested positive for Covid-19. I had fever for the last two days. Even I am running temperature today. But otherwise, there aren't any other symptoms," Haque said. — *PTI*

Bairstow to make Big Bash debut

Sydney: England wicketkeeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow will make his Big Bash League debut this year after signing for the Melbourne Stars. The 10th edition of Australia's Twenty20 tournament begins on December 10, although the 31-year-old will not be available until after Christmas. "I've always watched the BBL no matter where I've been in the world and it will be nice to finally be a part of it," said Bairstow late Monday. "I know the Stars are one of the competition's profile clubs and have a track record of being in contention in finals." Bairstow will join forces with the likes of Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa at the Stars. "His experience and versatility will be a valuable addition to our batting line-up, and we've got several 'keeping options in the squad as well," said Melbourne coach David Hussey. — *AFP*

Pak whitewash Zimbabwe in T20

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Leg spinner Usman Qadir grabbed four wickets to guide Pakistan to a 3-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe with an eight-wicket victory in the third Twenty20 here on Tuesday. The 27-year-old Qadir — son of the late star spinner Abdul Qadir — finished with 4-13 from four mesmerising overs to restrict Zimbabwe to a paltry 129-9 in 20 overs. That proved a walk in the park for the home team, which cruised to victory in 15.2 overs losing just two wickets. Pakistan lost Fakhar Zaman (21) and Haider Ali (27) but debutant Abdullah Shafique top-scored with 41 and saw Pakistan home with Khushdil Shah (36 not out). — *AFP*
Brief scores: Zimbabwe 129/9 (Chibhabha 31, Qadir 4/13, Wasim 2/27) lost to Pakistan 130/2 (Shafique 41, Khushdil 36)

Live on TV

CRICKET

Women's Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Sydney Sixers from 9 am; Brisbane Heat vs Sydney Thunder from 1.35 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

International Friendlies: Norway vs Israel from 10.30 pm on Sony Six; Turkey vs Croatia from 11.15 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Belgium vs Switzerland from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1; Germany vs Czech Republic from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; Netherlands vs Spain from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; France vs Finland from 1.40 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3

WWE

NXT: Bout: 6.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1

MUMB-HIGH FIVE!

Rohit & Co. hammer Delhi by 5 wickets to take fifth IPL title

Dubai, Nov. 10: A peerless Rohit Sharma led defending champions Mumbai Indians to their fifth IPL title with a one-sided demolition of Delhi Capitals here on Tuesday, closing an immensely successful tournament that had to be played in a controlled environment amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

If last year's one-run win over Chennai Super Kings was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit's aristocratic 68 off 50 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4 overs.

Five IPL titles are certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe.

He has played way better knocks than this in the past and will play a few more special ones in the future.

But he might never play a more significant one considering the little whirlpool of controversy that his "once damaged and now on the mend hamstring" created.

The 'Hit-Man' has given an altogether new meaning to what has one known till now about crushing pain barriers.

A hamstring injury can be very painful but the manner in which India's regular white-ball skipper exploded inside the 'Ring of Fire' at the Dubai International Stadium, he was fighting a battle of his own.

The cover drive was about his class, the whiplash behind square was his swagger and the so very familiar "Rohit Sharma pull shot" was an assurance to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly that "All Is Well".

And to prove a point, he fetched those doubles, tap and run singles including a misjudged one that saw Suryakumar Yadav (19) sacrificing his wicket for his skipper and rightly so. The carrom ball bowled by Ashwin was deposited to point fence with a cracking square cut and the straight six off leg spinner Praveen Dubey was "Boss Man" written all over it.

There has never been an edition where a team has



Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma (left) and team celebrate their win over Delhi Capitals in the final of IPL Season 13 in Dubai on Tuesday. — *BCCI*

● **If last year's one-run win over Chennai Super Kings was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit Sharma's aristocratic 68 off 50 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4 overs.**

● **Five IPL titles are certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe.**

looked in a different league compared to seven others.

As Rohit had said earlier, it's not rocket science but investing in pure match-winners that has given Mumbai Indians such a menacing look.

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither a champion outfit that has now won five titles out of the

six finals it has played.

If Jasprit Bumrah wreaked havoc in the Qualifier one, Trent Boult (3/30) decided that final was his turn to inflict the damage and he did it with a first ball beauty that Marcus Stoinis will remember for years to come.

Nathan Coulter-Nile looked like a weak-link

but got the dangerous Rishabh Pant (56 off 38 balls) at the nick of time to put the brakes.

Rohit's batting only finished what looked inevitable but it was his captaincy that set it up.

Only 45 runs conceded in the last five overs during the DC innings was a game-changer as Shreyas Iyer (65 not out 50 balls) literally struggled during the end overs.

That was the time when save for Bumrah (0/28 in 4 overs), Boult and Coulter-Nile took the pace off the deliveries with slow bouncers and cutters making it difficult to hit.

And the decision to have off-spinner Jayant Yadav replace leg-spinner Rahul Chahar also proved to be a success. — *PTI*

KXIP LIKELY TO RETAIN RAHUL-KUMBLE

New Delhi, Nov. 10: Kings XI Punjab are likely to continue with the captain and coach combine of K.L. Rahul and Anil Kumble even after finishing sixth in a closely-contested 2020 Indian Premier League.

A team source said that the owners want Rahul and Kumble take the team forward in the 2021 edition, scheduled in less than six months.

Rahul, who captained the team for the first team this season, had another stellar season with the bat, amassing 670 runs at an average of 55.83. It was Kumble's first season with the franchise.

KXIP, who have never had a settled unit, have finally found a core group of players around whom a team



K.L. Rahul (left) and Anil Kumble.

can be built. That group includes Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mohammad Shami, Chris Gayle and youngsters like Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh.

The management wants to plug the gaps in the middle order and bowling department, which has been an issue for a number

of years. "The owners are happy with captain and coach. Rahul was exceptional with the bat and team scripted a remarkable comeback in the second half of the season. Had that short run not being called in the first game (against DC), the team would have been in play-offs" the source said. — *PTI*

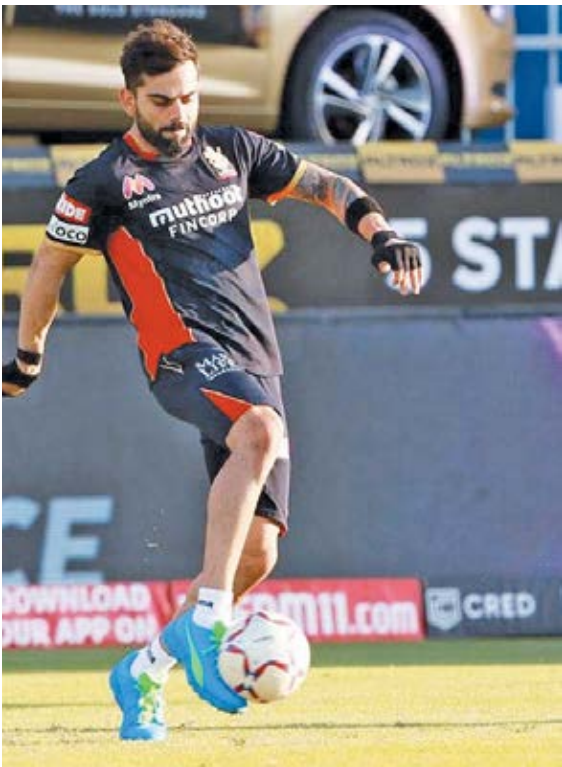
Waugh sad about Virat pullout

Sydney, Nov. 10: Australian great Steve Waugh said on Tuesday he was surprised and disappointed that India captain Virat Kohli will miss three Tests to be at the birth of his first child, with his absence detracting from the blockbuster series.

The 32-year-old and his Bollywood star wife Anushka Sharma are expecting a child in January, and Kohli has been given permission by the Indian cricket board to return home after the first Test in Adelaide, which begins on December 17.

While the absence of the superstar batsman could improve Australia's chances of regaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy, it is a blow to broadcasters and cricket chiefs already feeling the effects of a pandemic-affected year.

"I'm a little bit disappointed he's not going to



AUSTRALIA TOUR

be there — and a bit surprised," former skipper Waugh, who played 168 Tests, said.

"This was really shaping up as one the key series of his whole career after he's achieved just about everything. But obviously family comes first."

India are due leave this week for Australia, where they will spend two weeks in quarantine in Sydney before the first one-day international on November 27.

Kohli will lead India in three ODIs, three T20 and the first Test — a day-night match in Adelaide — before heading home.

The second Test starts in Melbourne on December 26 followed by matches in Sydney on January 7 and Brisbane on January 15, all played under strict bio-security protocols. — *AFP*

DRUMS BEAT FOR PUCOVSKI AFTER BACK-TO-BACK TONS

Sydney, Nov. 10: Australia's selectors were under pressure on Tuesday to pick Will Pucovski as an opening batsman for the Test series against India after the young prodigy smashed back-to-back double centuries.

The 22-year-old hit an unbeaten 255 for Victoria in the Sheffield Shield last week, sharing in a record opening stand of 486 runs with Marcus Harris against South Australia.

He followed it with 202 against Western Australia on Monday which saw former Australia captains add their weight to calls for him to open alongside David Warner, at the expense of incumbent Joe Burns.

"It's against a good team, India, but this kid's ready... Now is his time,"

former skipper Michael Clarke told reporters.

"Got to pick him. The fact this series is in Australia is a great way to get him into that Test series as well. He is playing in conditions he is accustomed to."

Fellow former captains Ian Chappell and Kim Hughes expressed similar sentiments, as did Mark Waugh.

"I would definitely be picking him for the first Test against India," Waugh told Fox Sports. "He should be picked as an opening batsman."

"Joe Burns has got a decent enough record, but his start to the season hasn't been ideal and he just hasn't nailed that spot down."

Selectors are finalising the squad for the first of four Tests against India in Adelaide on December 17.

— *AFP*

CA chief reveals Kohli missing Tests was on cards

Melbourne, Nov. 10: Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley is not surprised by Virat Kohli's withdrawal from three Test matches here as he prepares for fatherhood in January, taking solace from the fact that the superstar will be there for a major part of the eagerly-awaited showdown across formats.

Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma are expecting their first child in January. The BCCI has granted Kohli a paternity

leave and he will return to India after the opening Test, scheduled for December 17 in Adelaide.

Hockley, who is CA's interim chief executive, said that Kohli missing a major part of the Test series was expected but he is glad that the stylish batter will be available for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs starting November 27.

"When they announced their pregnancy earlier, I think it was always on the cards," Hockley told

We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs, three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child.

— **NICK HOCKLEY**
Cricket Australia chief executive

Sydney radio station SEN. "We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs,



three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to

respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child.

"Clearly, (he is) one of the game's absolute superstars. We're looking forward to seeing him here for seven out of the 10 matches," he said.

Hockley said both teams have enough stars to ensure that cricket fans will be hooked to the series. "You've got a good number of players from both sides who played the last series in Australia which India won. There'll

be a huge amount to play for ... it will be fascinating series."

Hockley said it looks highly unlikely that Kohli could get back to Australia to play the latter part of the series.

"I think it's pretty challenging (for him to return). Obviously a mandatory 14-day quarantine period," he said.

"Logistically it's very much more complicated and being brutal it's much harder than normal."

— *PTI*

BCCI INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SELECTORS

New Delhi, Nov. 10: The BCCI on Tuesday invited applications for replacing three outgoing selectors in the senior men's committee. The deadline for sending applications is Sunday, November 15, with an age-cap of 60 years and a minimum eligibility criteria of 30 first-class matches.

However, it goes without saying that international experience (7 Tests or a combination of 10 ODIs and 20 first-class matches) will be given preference.

The three outgoing selectors are Devang Gandhi (East Zone), Sarandeep Singh (North Zone) and Jatin Paranjape (West Zone).

While the BCCI has done away with the zonal policy officially, the convention has been to replace the candidate from the same zone as Sunil Joshi (South) replaced MSK Prasad, who was the chairman of the last committee.

Similarly, Rajasthan's Gagan Khoda was replaced by Harvinder Singh as the central zone selector. — *PTI*

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