

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 9 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 31°C  
**Min:** 23°C  
**Rainfall:** Nill

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Aippasi 24  
**Tithi:** Navami  
**Star:** Magam  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am  
**Yamagandam:** 10.30 am to 12 noon  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.52 am  
**Zohar:** 11.58 am  
**Asar:** 3.12 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.41 pm  
**Isha:** 6.54 pm

## CORONA C·UNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+33,969)	(+362)
85,41,173	1,26,525

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+ 2,334)  
**TN:** 743,822 | 11,344

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,05,21,740

### DEATHS

12,59,506

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

216

worldometers.info

**'Commons Indians will have to wait till 2022 for vaccine'**

**SANJAY KAW**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Amid rising coronavirus cases in the country, Delhi-AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, has said that common Indians will have to wait till 2022 to get Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr Guleria, who is also a member of the national task force on Covid-19 management, asserted that it will take 'more than a year' for an authentic vaccine against the coronavirus to hit the Indian market.

"In our country the population is large; we need time," he said.

■P4

## COUNTER POINT



How come we are losing even in the survey we sponsored?

# Delhi sees big spike in Covid-19 cases

**New Delhi, Nov. 8:** India's Covid-19 caseload went past 85 lakh on Sunday with Delhi reporting a record single-day spike of 7,745 new cases and 77 related deaths.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the national capital has hit the peak of the third wave of Covid-19 and the number of cases suggests it has been the worst so far.

The government has increased the number of beds for COVID-19 patients in hospitals in Delhi, but there is no plan to rope in hotels and banquet halls, the minister said.

Nationally, the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 78,68,968 pushing the national recovery rate to 92.49 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The total coronavirus cases

mounted to 85,07,754 with 45,674 infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,26,121 with 559 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The case fatality rate stands at 1.48 per cent.

The number of active cases of Covid-19 remained below 6 lakh for the tenth consecutive day. There are 5,12,665 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 6.03 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. A cumulative total of 11,77,36,791 samples have been tested up to November 7. —Agencies

## NO COALITION GOVT IN TN: AIADMK

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV 8

The AIADMK on Sunday ruled out any scope for talks on a coalition government in the state after the 2021 Assembly elections and said such a formula will be rejected by the people. Senior party leader and fisheries minister D. Jayakumar said the AIADMK will win polls with an absolute majority early next year. "There is no room for talks on a coalition government in Tamil Nadu. The AIADMK will get a decisive mandate in the 2021 Assembly elections and return to power. We will script history," the minister told reporters here.

## TROOPS ON LAC STOCK UP TO STAY FOR 1 YEAR

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

With the beginning of the harsh winter, Indian troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh are stocked up to sustain for a year. From provisions, arms and ammunition, warm clothing to medical supplies, among other essentials, they have double what is required. ■P4

# India, China to exercise restraint but no word on disengagement

**PAWAN BALI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

The Indian Army said Sunday there was a "candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views" at the eighth round of military talks held at Chusul on Friday, but no signs of a concrete breakthrough on the disengagement of troops.

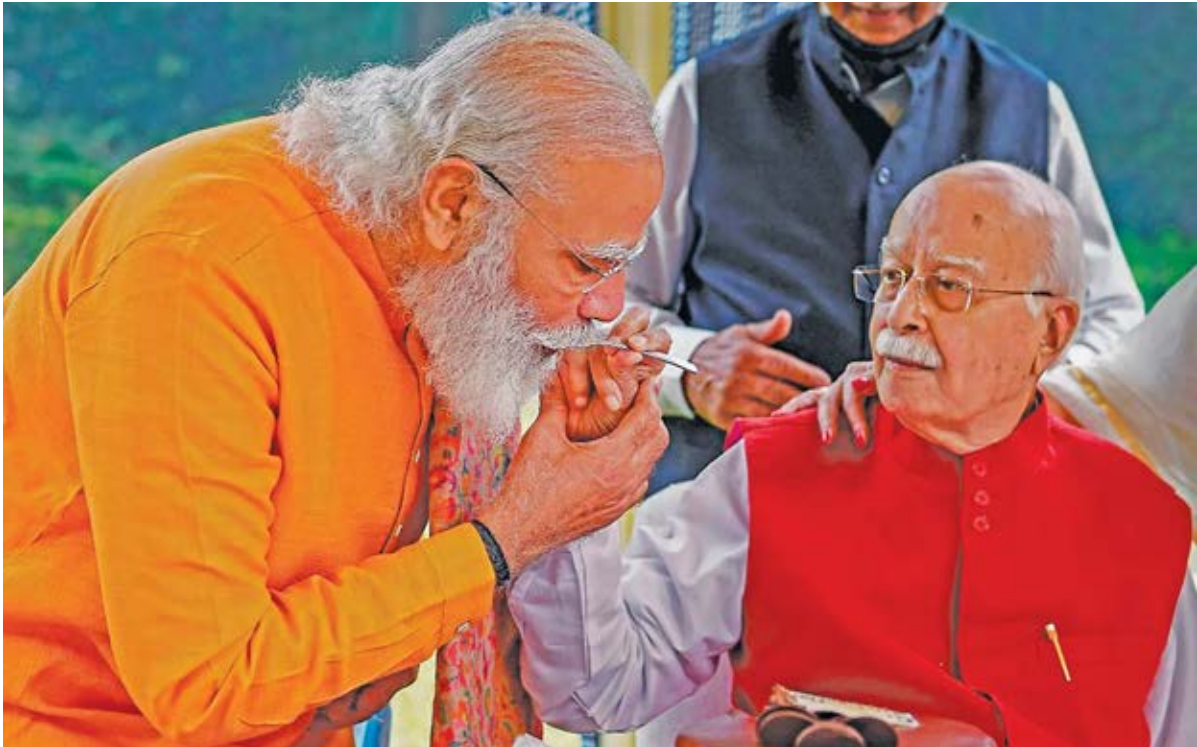
Both sides agreed to

ensure their troops would exercise restraint and avoid misunderstandings and miscalculation, a joint statement said.

A news agency, however, reported that India and China are likely to disengage from some friction points in the next few days, and were discussing the modalities for doing so in a phased manner.

The report said the dis-

cussions between the two sides include pulling back tanks and armoured vehicles from their present positions, and some development is likely in the next few days. However, there was no clarity on the flashpoints from which the Chinese and Indian troops will disengage. Another meeting of the corps commanders is likely to be held soon.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates the 93rd birthday of senior BJP leader LK Advani, at latter's residence in New Delhi on Sunday.

— PTI

# Another MLA revolts against Mamata

**Kolkata, Nov. 8:** After state transport minister Shubhendu Adhikari, another key Trinamul Congress MLA, Mihir Goswami, has revolted against party supremo Mamata Banerjee in what appeared to be a growing dissent over her style of leadership ahead of the Assembly Election in West Bengal next year.

The two-time legislator of Coochbehar South in North Bengal also called

election strategist Prashant Kishor's firm: Indian Political Action Committee a "contractor" and accused it of "destroying" the TMC amid the chief minister's "silence." "Today when I see a contractor think-tank company destroying the home after entering Didi's party while insulted public representatives are protesting but Didi remains in dark and silent, is it not natural for long-standing

faith for Didi to get destroyed like that home?" Mr Goswami posted on Facebook on Friday.

On Saturday he alleged of neglect of development in North Bengal by the Mamata Banerjee government like the previous ones. "Did we ever imagine a deputy CM from North Bengal?" asked the rebel TMC MLA before warning his party of "suffering the outcome in future for creating a divi-

sion and distance" between the north and south. Rattled by his volley of attacks, the TMC dared him to quit his post and the party. "Criticism of Ms Banerjee while staying in her party is not suitable. We also have not got anything. But we do not have the guts to criticise her. Mr Goswami should quit the MLA post and the party," said TMC Coochbehar district general secretary Abdul Jalil Ahmed.

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**Former IAS officer to join Cong today**



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**Delhi to meet Mumbai in IPL final**



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# 5 lakh Indians may get US citizenship

■ **Prez, PM greet Biden, Harris on win**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

As the government of India gears up towards working with the Biden administration and Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiating the process of bond-building by saying "he is looking forward to working closely together once again", there is good news coming from the new team for the immigrant community. The Democratic camp's thrust on family unification could lead to granting citizenship to nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants - including more than 5 lakh from India, a document of the Biden campaign has said.

"He (Biden) will immediately begin working with Congress to pass legislative immigration reform that modernises our system, with a priority on keeping families together by providing a roadmap to citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants - including more than 500,000 from India," the document said.

"And, he will increase the number of refugees we welcome into this country by setting the annual global refugee admissions target to 125,000." ■P5



Women of Thulasendrapuram near Mannargudi draw rangolis congratulating Kamala Harris for winning the US election on Sunday.

— DC

# Celebration time at Thulasendrapuram

**G. SRINIVASAN | DC**  
THANJAVUR, NOV. 8

It was puja and celebration time at Thulasendrapuram, ancestral village of Kamala Harris, Indian origin vice-president elect of the US, near Mannargudi on Sunday, as news about the result of the US presidential election reached the world.

People started gathering at the Dharma Sashta temple in the village on Sunday morning itself.

Contributions from Kamala Harris' family continue for the temple and her name is mentioned in an epigraph there. While people burst crackers and distributed sweets, food minister R. Kamaraj, Tiruvavur MLA and DMK district secretary Poondi Kalaivanan, performed pujas, offered worship at the temple. People gathered in large numbers carrying the photos of Ms Harris and handmade signs. ■P3

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said demonetisation helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and improved transparency, inviting a rebuke from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who said it "destroyed" the economy. "Demonetisation has helped reduce black

● **Mr Gandhi said demonetization was aimed at helping a few of Mr Modi's "crony capitalist friends" and had "destroyed" the Indian economy.**

money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and given a boost to transparency," Mr Modi tweeted on the fourth anniversary of demonetization.

Mr Modi had on November 8, 2016, announced the decision to ban all currency notes of higher denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 from midnight. "These outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Mr Modi tweeted using the hashtag 'DeMolishingCorruption'.

Along with his tweet, the prime minister also

sary of demonetization. Mr Modi had on November 8, 2016, announced the decision to ban all currency notes of higher denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 from midnight. "These outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Mr Modi tweeted using the hashtag 'DeMolishingCorruption'.

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# 'Cong still part of Gupkar alliance'

**Jammu, Nov. 8:** Asserting that the Congress was very much part of their grouping, People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said they would fight the District Development Council polls in Jammu and Kashmir "together", but there was no official word on it from the national party.

His remarks came a day after the Congress announced its decision to put up candidates for the upcoming DDC elections. Dr Abdullah said that J-K Congress president G.A. Mir came to meet him on Sunday and said "we are fighting the elections together".

Dr Abdullah, who was speaking to reporters at Raghunath Bazar in the heart of the city, was asked whether the Congress which was a signatory of the Gupkar declaration has separated from the alliance since it has not attended any of its meetings so far. "Where have they separated? There should be no misconception. The Congress is part of the alliance and we are fighting the (DDC) elections together," the National Conference leader replied. When his attention was drawn to Mr Mir's statement on Saturday that his

action. The firefight stopped at 4 am," he said.

Col. Kalia added: "Soon more troops were rushed to the area and the movement of terrorists was tracked through surveillance devices. Contact was reestablished at 10.20 am when heavy fire was drawn by our own search parties approximately 1.5 km from the LoC and in the ensuing firefight two more terrorists were killed. Our own troops suffered three KIAs (killed in action) and two jawans were injured, who have been evacuated. The operation is in progress".

The Army initially refused to disclose the names and other particulars of the slain officer and jawans as they have to inform their families first. But later Army, BSF and J&K police sources identified them as Lt. Asutosh Kumar, Havildar Parveen Kumar and Sepoy Rada of the Army and Constable Sudeep Sarkar of the BSF's 169th Battalion.

The sources also said two AK assault rifles with magazines and about 60 rounds of live ammunition, one pistol with two magazines and 29 rounds of ammunition, one radio set and Rs 50,000 cash in Indian currency were found on the slain men.

J&K lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha, paying tribute to the slain men, said he saluted their supreme sacrifice.

shared a graphic on how demonetisation has ensured better tax compliance, improved tax and GDP ratio, made India a lesser cash based economy and gave a boost to national security.

Mr Gandhi said demonetization was aimed at helping a few of Mr Modi's "crony capitalist friends" and had "destroyed" the Indian economy.

■P4

— PTI



## OTHER STORIES

## Prince of Arcot congratulates Biden, Kamala

Chennai: The Prince of Arcot, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, as a scion of an old and historic erstwhile ruling family of South India, warmly congratulates the 46th US President-elect Joe Biden, on his resounding and historic victory in the United States presidential election. "Yours has been a long and exceptional journey to the American Presidency," the Prince said. "We, in India, are delighted to see that the US Senator, Ms. Kamala Harris, whose mother hailed from India and was a Tamil, will serve as US Vice President, during Biden's administration. We expect you soon to take meaningful policy initiatives to address and resolve the festering Palestine problem justly and in an enduring way. This could be the key of lasting peace in the West Asian region.

"We are confident that the bilateral and cordial relationship between the two great democratic nations, Indo-US, will continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come," the Prince said in a statement.

## SL court orders seized Indian fishing boats to be destroyed

Rameswaram, Nov 8: A court in Sri Lanka has permitted officials to destroy several Indian mechanised fishing boats seized in the last 3-4 years for allegedly crossing into the island nation territory, officials here said on Sunday. The court in Jaffna gave the orders for destroying 27 out of the 94 boats of fishermen from this region in Lankan custody, they said, quoting information received by them.

The development triggered tension in this island town and fishermen association leader P. Sesuraja appealed against destruction of the seized boats and said steps should be taken to return to their owners.

Sri Lankan Navy had seized several boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters in recent years.

Some of the seized boats had been released in batches in the past and brought back by the fishermen. —PTI



With Deepavali round the corner, shoppers throng MC road in Washermenpet on Sunday throwing caution to winds. — DC

## Resume Tamil course in Oman schools: CPM MP

A. ARUL PALANI | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV 8

CPI (M) MP Su Venkatesan has requested Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank to resume teaching of Tamil language in schools run by CBSE in Oman.

He has sent a letter to the minister and chairperson, CBSE, New Delhi, to resume teaching of Tamil language in Indian schools in Oman. Nearly 5,000 students were affected due to halt in teaching the subject.

Citing a representation given by the parents to the chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools, Oman, the Lok Sabha member from Madurai said it is understood that there are around 22 Indian schools run by the Embassy of India in Oman for the welfare of the Indian community living in Oman. All these schools follow CBSE syllabus. CBSE had made provision in its curricu-

**Tamil has been one of the languages mentioned on the list of languages that a child may prefer to learn**

lum to offer the language of student's choice under Part 2.

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The schools affiliated to CBSE, following CBSE syllabus and preparing students for CBSE examinations at the end of Class 10 are expected to provide the language of the child's choice, more particularly when such language is the mother tongue of the child. He requested the minister to take appropriate measures to issue guidelines to CBSE to Indian schools in Oman to offer Tamil as one of the languages under Part 2.

## Bedi purposely blocking govt quota for med courses: CM

Puducherry: Chief Minister of Puducherry V Narayanasamy on Sunday alleged that Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi was blocking 10 per cent horizontal reservation for government school students in medical courses. The allegation comes a day after Bedi announced that she had referred to Union Home Ministry the proposal of territorial government to provide the quota. Narayanasamy told a virtual press meet that he had convened a joint meeting of leaders of all parties on Monday.

—PTI

## Slash in property tax penalty lousy: Residents

T. SUDHEESH | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

City residents demand complete abolition of the penalty system on property tax default, though the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has come up with a decision to slash the penalty on property tax default from two per cent to 0.5 per cent.

The civic body, which introduced a two per cent penalty earlier in September, now rolled back the decision due to public pressure. But residents say even the reduced slab is unacceptable as they are still struggling to cope up with the pandemic.

B. Kannan, secretary, T Nagar Residents Welfare Association, said that bureaucrats were trying to bulldoze their decision on the common people without understanding the ground reality. Government officials and ministers who get their salaries on time don't get to feel the hardship of people who have lost their jobs and salaries. Today even an advocate can't practice his profession as he doesn't have money to pay petrol charges to commute. In this context, what

Kannan, secretary, T Nagar Residents Welfare Association, said that bureaucrats were trying to bulldoze their decision on the common people without understanding the ground reality. Government officials and ministers who get their salaries on time don't get to feel the hardship of people who have lost their jobs and salaries.

is the point in imposing penalty on tax default? There is an old saying that tax must be levied without making the payer feel the burden. Here, the authorities don't have the boldness to slap penalties on buildings built in violation of all norms, but are now exploiting the law-abiding common man. Hence, we demand complete abolition of the penalty on property tax, he said.

Jayaraman, secretary, Motilal Street residents welfare association, stressed that GCC authorities had no moral authority to slap penalty on property tax without providing better service to taxpayers. "If you go out in the streets or roads, you can't walk straight for a metre through the walkway due to encroachments by traders and hawkers. For a long time, we have been asking the GCC to evict

the encroachers, but they have done nothing. Now, they claim that they slashed penalty charges in view of the pandemic. Then, on what basis did they introduce a two per cent penalty in the middle of the raging pandemic? At this juncture, imposing penalty on property tax is deplorable," he added.

V. Rama Rao of Nanganallur residents welfare association demanded for property tax break for the next three months, instead of slapping or slashing penalty. "People have lost their livelihood due to the pandemic. Penalty on property tax was unheard of in the history of the civic body. Authorities say that penalty was imposed as people deliberately keep avoiding paying tax. In that case, the civic body should strengthen their tax collection machinery, without putting additional

burden on the cash-strapped residents," he said.

It was on September 28 that the Commissioner, GCC, G. Prakash, issued a statement asking residents to pay tax on time. GCC had said that people could pay property tax within the given time-frame and avail five per cent incentive, failing which defaulters will have to pay two per cent penalty. Now the penalty rate is slashed to 0.5 per cent.

According to Praksah, the penalty was slapped after the state government amended the Tamil Nadu Laws and Greater Chennai Corporation Municipal Act 1919. The earlier version said, "Those who fail to pay tax within the first half-year initial period (April 1 to 15) and second half-year initial period (October 1 to 15) will be slapped with a penalty of interest not exceeding two per cent per annum in addition to the net property tax payable. If any outstanding amount is due to be paid within 15 days from the date of issue of the order, the prescribed amount can be paid with two per cent interest per annum."

## PM pays rich tributes to Ayurveda doyen

Coimbatore, Nov. 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid rich tributes to managing director of Arya Vaidya Pharmacy P. R. Krishnakumar and said the void caused by his death would be hard to fill.

In a message sent to the remembrance event held here, Modi said his remarkable efforts to serve



the Ayurveda will be widely remembered. Addressing the event,

Mizoram Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai said Krishnakumar played a key role in getting international recognition for Ayurveda.

Ministers S. P. Velumani and M. C. Sampath also spoke about the yeomen services rendered by Krishnakumar, who died of Covid-19 in September.

Chief secretary K. Shanmugham, district collector K. Rajamani and former Meghalaya Governor C. V. Shanmuganthan were among others who paid encomiums to Krishnakumar, who was also the chancellor of Avana Shilpa University for Women, here.

—PTI

## Of marriage, big bucks and bigger egos



Apsara Reddy

## And the point is..

Just this week I was at a parlour, flipping through some unflattering pages of a city glossy magazine when I noticed that there was an interesting conversation happening right next to me. A young woman in her early 20s walked in hurriedly to the stylist sitting right next to me. The stylist who is popular in the city for both hair and make-up was being asked what her rates are for the complete bridal package. The young woman was curious, excited and anxious as her engagement was round the corner.

She was dusky, acne-dotted skin but her hair lustrous and long. As she asked a million questions, I realised just how important it is for a bride these days to look her absolute best in front of the family and world that always stands on judgment on a woman.

Her absolute attention to detail and the way she was enquiring about foundation tones, eye shadow brushes and airbrushing techniques laid bare her innocence about 'wanting to look fair and acceptable to all my family members and in-laws'. Will my hair be traditional enough, my centre parting is too wide, I don't want people to think I am balding' she said letting out a nervous giggle.

What struck me was that the Indian shaadi market is one of the most viable and money lucrative industries - couture, catering, make-up, hair, jewellery, event management, guest relations all rolled into one big fat showcase of wealth and might.

At the centre of this big family drama is a woman on the threshold of a new life who is most often never told a thing about domestic violence laws, marital rape, her role as a woman, often educated too. Or the dowry laws that exist in this country. The only thrust, even in evolved societies and cultures seems to be to look beautiful, pleasant, thin, fair, her arms and neck drenched in diamonds - her body a map of her family's socio-economic standing.

The amount of moolah invested in declaring to the world that her single life is finally over and she is "settling down" into a happy marriage most often doesn't justify the yield from the marriage.

In India in most families, how getting a 'damad/dulha', is like winning a lottery. Every family, often even young cousins who are already married, reinforce the world compromise, adjustment, understanding the in-laws and being obedient. Next comes the pressure to reproduce, bear fair children, preferably a boy (at least in most Indian families).

Amidst all these thoughts I am reminded of Rashi, my childhood friend, who was wise, witty and vulnerable too. How family and especially

her father's word was like gospel to her. She married into wealth, progressive guy, a regressive marriage with dowry et al...two kids later a scandal of straying, financial doom and divorce!

Now she's single, heartbroken, with two kids to raise and readjust back into her family that placed utmost importance on her to make the marriage work.

But this time around, no friendly cousins or family, guiding her to be single again. Fighting stigma at her kids school, in her peer group at 'couples dinners' and strangely even a female friend's glance becomes judgmental. And in some cases, if a woman is young enough, parents re-package her asking her to hit the gym, spruce up and doll up yet again for the next catch.

An Indian marriage celebrates so little of us, the women that we are, the women that we hope to be, the dreams we so vividly see but crushed quickly by a promise of a 'happy life'. Very often, a woman's dreams, desires, passions and pleasures remain inconsequential in this big industry of big bucks and even bigger egos.

After an argument regarding the matter, Sneha pulled out a bottle of kerosene which she had brought, from her handbag. She allegedly doused herself and lit the fire.

While trying to stop her, Santhosh suffered burns too. On hearing her screams for help, passerby rushed to their help and doused the flames.

Sneha was taken to the KMC hospital. She suffered 90 per cent injuries and succumbed to her burns on Sunday evening.

Based on the complaint by Sneha's family, the Cheyyur police have registered a case of abetment of suicide under section 306 of the IPC against Santhosh.

The police on Sunday arrested Santhosh and his friend Vicki.

Police are investigating them.

## Lover says no to wedding: Girl sets herself ablaze

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

A 19-year-old girl on Saturday allegedly ended her life by immolating self after her boyfriend refused to marry her, police said.

The incident occurred in Cheyyur on East Coast Road. The deceased identified as Sneha, of Periyar Venmani in Cheyyur and Santhosh (20), an auto driver, had been in a relationship for the last two years.

As the duo was from different communities, the families refused their proposal. Police said, Owing to that Santhosh and Sneha did not talk with each other in the last six months.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Sneha texted Santhosh to meet her at a secluded place in the village. Police said Santhosh and his friend Vikki went to the spot on Saturday night when Sneha allegedly requested her boyfriend to marry her.

However, Santhosh refused to marry her citing the family's refusal.

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## ROAD TO NOWHERE



Sewage mixed rain water has been stagnating in the area affecting Viduthalai Nagar and Sunambu Kolathur residents, for the last four days. Motorists from these areas seek immediate action from officials. — DC

## Adding a dash of humour to Tamil politics



G. Babu Jayakumar

## Just spamming

Comedy is integral to Tamil culture. Be it performing arts or cinema or popular journalism, rib-tickling has its own place of pride in the form of jokes, cartoons and comic interludes. In the digital era, a serious attempt was made to turn politics into a laugh riot through memes that borrowed visuals from comic interludes in films. Comedian Vadivelu, perhaps, was the actor who contributed most of the visuals in the political memes. But now politics in the State has started generating its own jokes, threatening to render meme creators irrelevant.

The latest joke on the political front was the registering of All India Thalappathi Vijay Makkal Iyakkam as a political party. The fun did not end with that as the real joke followed. After it was told that the father of actor Vijay has registered the name of the good old fan club-cum social service organization as a political party, the son said he had nothing to do with that. Vijay's father and mentor S. A. Chandrasekhar, who had always nurtured dreams of seeing his son as a successful politician, suddenly registering the fan club's name

as a political party was itself a joke.

But just as the people started laughing at it, Vijay distanced himself from the party and his father and told the fans not to bother about his father's machinations, turning the whole episode into a farce. So, does the movie mogul Chandrasekar think that forming a political party is such an easy joke? Does he believe in mobilizing his sons' film fans and also the common crowd by just forming the party without consulting even his son?

In fact, going by certain recent developments, there seems to be a popular perception that launching a political party, contesting elections and of course winning are all things that can be conjured up from thin air. All that is required is a popular face, known to people through cinema. Before Chandrasekar, some members of the fan club of actor

Rajinikanth started fervently inviting their icon to launch his own party. Despite the actor himself citing medical reasons and shying away from it, the fans desperately wanted him to come to politics and hold the reins of the State.

Those fans started their campaign on Twitter and when it did not work, went straight to the reluctant actor's house to convince him, making a farce of politics itself. Even the Vijay fiasco was followed by a Twitter campaign, which in itself was a joke because nobody could make out what the fans wanted. Did they want Vijay to join politics or were they snubbing his father? All that one could understand was that a hashtag with the initials of the newly registered party (the initials when read together sounded awful) was trending till the next morning.

The next funny thing too

jumped out of Twitter. It was a short musical action video portraying state BJP president L. Murugan in many avatars with the background song praising 'Karupasswamy', a folk deity of subaltern communities. Brought out by the state BJP's cultural wing on the eve of the party's 'Vetrivel yatra', the video not just showed Murugan walking on the road, doing exercise, donning the lawyer's black robes and also as an agriculturalist in many forms, it subtly compared him with AIADMK founder and former matinee idol M G Ramachandran, known popularly as MGR.

The visuals of Murugan as farmer, be it with the plough or driving a tractor, are juxtaposed with images of MGR with the plough or on the tractor, which apparently is aimed at sending across the message that the BJP leader is the inheritor of MGR's legacy. But the

joke is that MGR acted in those roles as farmer for films and Murugan was posing as a farmer. Of course, the background song says that the 'Karupasswamy' who rides a white stallion had come to capture the state.

One cannot ask the question, without laughing, as to how the state BJP or Murugan himself believe that the people of the state would accept Murugan as the inheritor of MGR's political legacy. But the video makers had unabashedly used the image of MGR even when the party launched by him was in power and was leading the alliance in which the BJP was a part in the state.

Another joke was cracked by the founder of Makkal Needhi Maiaam Kamal Haasan when he said that his party which ostensibly enjoyed 10 to 15 per cent support of voters hoped to win 100 to 150 seats (out of

the total 234). Going by back of the envelope arithmetical calculations, how one can hope to garner about 50 per cent seats with the help of 10 to 15 per cent voter base is not clear. But then such gaffes are quite common in state politics now.

One vociferous woman supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi went on record in a video interview, which went viral on the internet, saying that ₹5,000 crore had been deposited in the bank accounts of 8,000 crore people.

The veracity of the bank deposit apart, if ₹5,000 crore was divided between 8,000 crore people, a single individual would not get even a single rupee. The identity of the woman is not important here - she was magnanimous enough to stand corrected - but that's a sampling of the political jokes cracked in the state nowadays.



## OTHER STORIES

## Perarivalan undergoes tests at private hospital

Chennai, Nov. 8: One of the life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and now on parole, A G Perarivalan, was taken to a private hospital in Villupuram for a medical check-up, hospital sources said. Perarivalan, who has urological issues, was accompanied by his mother T Arputhammal, and was escorted from his house in Jolarpettai in Tirupathur district by police personnel. He was treated as an outpatient and tests were performed as he is suffering from urological problems, the hospital sources said. Later, he was taken to another private hospital on Tiruchy Road for a general check-up. On September 24, a division bench headed by Justice N Kirubakaran of the Madras High Court granted 30-day leave to Perarivalan. His ordinary leave expires on November 9. On Friday, a division bench comprising Justice M M Sundresh and Justice D Krishnakumar extended the parole by two weeks (till November 23) while allowing an application moved by Perarivalan's mother. — PTI

## Illegal marriage: Man gets 10-year jail term

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUVARUR, NOV. 8

The district fast track Mahila court on Saturday convicted a 40-year-old tractor driver here to undergo 10 years imprisonment for marrying a teenage girl as his second wife, by giving false promises.

According to the prosecution, the accused Baskar of Kaarakkottai, was already married and had children. Meantime, he married the teenage girl in 2014 and settled his second family at Tirupur.

The girl realised that she was cheated and came to Tiruvavur along with her child and preferred a complaint with the All Women Police station here in 2016. AWP registered a case against the accused before the Mahila Court.

Judge Sundararajan convicted the accused and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment, and also slapped a fine of Rs 10,000 on the accused, which if he failed to remit, shall undergo five more months in jail.

## 'AIADMK tampering with voters' names'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARUR, NOV. 8

District DMK party in-charge and Aravakkurichi MLA V Senthil Balaji blamed the ruling AIADMK men of attempting to remove names of DMK voters from the voters list, across the district.

He told newsmen here on Sunday that there were 1,031 polling booths in the district and the AIADMK men gave a list of at least 200 voters of the DMK and its allied parties with permanent address in each booth to Collector S Malarvizhi, and asked her to remove such voters from the voters list.

He said, the Collector also gave instruction to the respective polling booth officers in this regard. The ruling party's key aim is to remove at least 25,000 voters of the DMK party and its allied parties in all the four assembly segments in the district, and add 10,000 new voters from outside in favour of the AIADMK.

## Coming days challenging in controlling Covid: CS

Chennai, Nov. 8: Tamil Nadu on Sunday reported 2,334 new Covid-19 infections pushing the overall tally to 7.43 lakh while the state government cautioned that in view of festive season coming days would be 'challenging' in controlling the spread of the disease. The recoveries stood at 2,386, taking the total number of people walking out of health care institutions after getting cured to 7.13 lakh till date, a health department bulletin said.

The Covid-19 toll in the state climbed to 11,344 with 20 related fatalities. Active cases including those in isolation were at

As many as 75,384 samples were tested on Sunday with the cumulative specimens examined till date touching 1.05 crore. Chennai accounted for 2.04 lakh cases of the total 7.43 lakh cases in the state

18,894. Meanwhile, Chief secretary K. Shanmugham said being the festive season, the coming days will be challenging as far as controlling coronavirus is concerned. Stressing the need to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the virus, he said restrictions can be relaxed if there was a decline in active cases. Briefing reporters in

Coimbatore after reviewing various developmental schemes and Covid-19 situation, Shanmugham said the number of infections was more in villages and there was a need to ramp up testing in districts. As many as 75,384 samples were tested on Sunday with the cumulative specimens examined till date touching 1.05 crore. Chennai accounted for

2.04 lakh cases of the total 7.43 lakh cases in the state.

The state capital clocked 601 new infections followed by Coimbatore 205, Thiruvallur 133, Chengalpet 120, Erode 103. Ramanathapuram recorded the least with seven people contracting the contagion. All the 20 deceased had comorbidity or chronic illness. Seventeen of them were above the age of 60 years. The youngest victim was a 47-year-old man from Salem while the oldest being an 85-year-old man from Coimbatore. Of the 11,344 deaths, Chennai alone accounted for 3,716, the bulletin said. — PTI



Police vehicle check at Pillayar Kupam, Vellore border, for Vel yatra participants; The Vellore BJP unit had announced that Vel Yatra would start from November 6 in Tiruttani and after touring the state, conclude on December 6 in Thiruchendur. But the government had banned it. In the meantime, police received a tip-off that the yatra was being planned to take place in Chennai, Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram on Sunday, subsequently reaching Ranipet and Vellore districts by Monday, and later to Tirupattur and Krishnagiri the following day. It was also said that BJP cadres from Vellore were participating in the yatra at Chennai. Hence, police made vehicle checks in Pillayar Kupam on the Vellore border. Those participating in the yatra would also be arrested, announced the police. But it was later known that none of the BJP cadre had participated in any yatra.

— K. Senthil Ntahan

## BJP prez, party workers try to undertake Vel yatra, detained

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 8:

The Chennai police on Sunday detained BJP's state president L Murugan along with hundreds of party members, at Thiruvottiyur, from where they were about to commence the Vetrivel yatra.

L. Murugan, vice-president Annamalai, Karu Nagarajan and K.P. Radhakrishnan were among others who have been detained by the police, for attempting to commence Vetrivel yatra, despite permission not being granted by the state government.

According to the police, around 500 BJP cadres had arrived at the location during the second day of the Vel Yatra on Sunday. It began from Thiruvottriyur Vadivuda-

L. Murugan, vice-president Annamalai, Karu Nagarajan and K.P. Radhakrishnan were among others who have been detained by the police, for attempting to commence Vetrivel yatra, despite permission not being granted by the state government

iamman temple and all of them have been detained and lodged at a wedding hall in the neighbourhood.

Visuals from the spot show an ambulance stuck in traffic on Poonamallee high road for about half-hour, irking the motorists.

Tamil Nadu government had earlier denied permission to the BJP to conduct the vel yatra stating that there was a possibility of a second wave of coronavirus. Allowing vel yatra, the state government believed, would risk further transmission.

However, the TN BJP, defying the state government's order, on November 6 began the vel yatra in Tiruttani. However, the police stopped them from proceeding further and detained them. They were released later in the day.

The Vetrivel Yatra was planned by the BJP in honour of Lord Murugan and to consolidate the Hindu votes across TN. The yatra was scheduled from November 6 to December 6, with BJP leaders and workers visiting six abodes of Lord Muruga.

## Former IAS officer to join Cong today

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR |  
DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

Former civil servant Sashikanth Senthil will formally join the Congress party on Monday at the TNCC headquarters, Sathyamurthi Bhavan, in the presence of the party's Tamil Nadu in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Senthil, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service in September 2019 protesting against government policies, announced his decision to take the plunge into politics through Twitter.

He said he had been an activist trying to be the voice of the less privileged all through his life and that he would continue to do so by being with the Congress.

"Congress party is aware of the challenges that the 21st century poses for India and the world and is ready to find solutions alongside the people of the country. In the coming days I look forward to building the organization by travelling to corners of the country to spread the message of our Constitution and understanding our people and pondering on ways to make their lives better," he said.

The coming days would

Senthil, who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service in September 2019 protesting against government policies, announced his decision to take the plunge into politics through Twitter

present extremely difficult challenges to the basic fabric of the nation, he said, adding that fundamental building blocks of our diverse democracy were being compromised in an unprecedented manner. India was under attack from an anti-democratic, anti-pluralistic system in power and Tamil Nadu was the final frontier for those divisive forces, he said. "I have a responsibility to maintain this Sparta as a symbol of no conquest within the country," Senthil said.

Senthil, who hails from Tamil Nadu, was a Karnataka cadre officer belonging to the 2009 cadre. Now, will his joining the Congress be a counter to former IPS officer K. Annamalai, also of the Karnataka cadre, who is now the vice president of state BJP?



A couple with a child take a selfie near vintage cars displayed at a rally on OMR, Chennai, on Sunday.

— DC

## Feel very happy over Kamala's victory: Aunt

Chennai, Nov. 8: City-based maternal aunt of US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris Dr Sarala Gopalan, is elated over her niece's feat and now hopes to attend her swearing-in ceremony.

The jubilant veteran doctor said on Sunday that she couldn't speak to Kamala Harris on Saturday as she spent the entire day waiting for the announcement on her victory.

"How do you think I should feel about her victory? I feel very happy," a proud Gopalan, a senior consultant at the Voluntary Health Services here, said.

"I was waiting for the announcement till late in the night...I felt tired and had to retire for the night," she added. "Hopefully,"

was her response when asked if she would attend the swearing-in ceremony of her niece in the US. Asked if she visited the Varasiddhi Vinayagar Temple at Besant Nagar here and offered prayers for Harris' victory, she said "normally whenever I visit Varasiddhi Vinayagar temple I break coconuts."

"But this time I couldn't visit the temple due to Covid-19," Dr Sarala Gopalan said, but indicated her prayers were always with Kamala.

A few years ago, after Kamala called her up with a request, Dr Sarala broke 108 coconuts at the Varasiddhi Vinayagar temple in keeping with the traditional practice.

— PTI



Thulasendrapuram people hold Kamala Harris' portraits to celebrate her victory in US election.

## Overloaded car capsizes, 4 die, 11 injured

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC  
ERODE, NOV. 8

Four persons died and 11 others were seriously injured when their car overturned on the Bargur hill road, in the district on Sunday morning.

Tamburetti hill village is located on the Bargur hills near Anthiyur. Fifteen persons from the village were on their way to Vattakadu near Anthiyur by car for work in a plantation.

As the car was coming

Tamburetti hill village is located on the Bargur hills near Anthiyur. Fifteen persons from the village were on their way to Vattakadu near Anthiyur by car for work in a plantation.

As the car was coming down the hill road, it suddenly went out of control at Maniyachchipallam and overturned

down the hill road, it suddenly went out of control at Maniyachchipallam and overturned. A few motorists coming

behind the car immediately informed the police about the accident. Police rushed to the spot and rescued those trapped in the

toppled car. Four of the occupants died on the spot, and the 11 injured were rushed to the Erode government hospital for treatment.

Police have registered a case and are investigating.

The deceased were identified as Devaraj (45), Sikkanan (45), Thottappi (45) and Johan (35) of Thamburetti village. Sources said the accident happened because the car was carrying occupants more than its stipulated capacity.

## CM urged to intervene in Gudalur bus stand work

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
OOTY, NOV. 8

Frustrated over the crawling pace at which works related to the extension and improvement of the bus stand in Gudalur town is going on, MLA of Gudalur constituency M Thiravidamani (DMK), had urged the Chief Minister to intervene and take immediate steps to resume the work which has been pending for many years.

Thiravidamani said that immediately after being elected MLA in Gudalur in 2011, he took up the bus stand extension and improvement issue, since Gudalur town is an important place located at the tri-junction of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Though he allotted Rs 50



lakhs from his constituency development fund in 2012, and funds to the tune of ₹75 lakhs were allotted by the hill area development programme in 2013, the concerned department could make only little progress in the work, all these years.

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami

during his visit in 2017 to the Nilgiris assured that the Gudalur bus stand improvement works will be expedited, but nothing tangible happened. Hence, it is high time that the chief minister intervened in the issue and got the work completed at the earliest.

Gudalur is a busy town witnessing good tourist movement. This apart, there is a good population of locals in the town limits dominated by plantation workers. Hence, there is a need to improve the Gudalur bus stand, added Thiravidamani.

He also urged the government to announce a 20 percent bonus for employees of the state-owned 'Tantea corporation', as the corporation has claimed that it is running on good profit now.

## Purple frog to be Kerala's official amphibian

Kochi, Nov. 8: The purple frog, one of the rarest frog species endemic to the Western Ghats, would soon be declared as Kerala's official amphibian.

A senior forest officer said a proposal for declaring the purple frog, also known as pignose frog, as state's amphibian, is in the active consideration of the state government.

"The proposal is in the active consideration of the government and soon it will be declared as the state's amphibian," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Surendrakumar told PTI.

The matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the state wildlife board.

— PTI

## ₹2.4 crore allotted for integrated farming

DC CORRESPONDENT  
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 8

The government has allotted a sum of ₹2.4 crore for implementing the integrated farming system (IFS) for rain-fed area development programme in 400 hectares of dry land which will benefit 400 farmers during the current year across the district, said Joint director, Agriculture, Pudukkottai, RM Sivakumar, here on Saturday, after distributing inputs like blackgram seeds, Trichoderma viride for seed treatment, pulses micronutrient mixture, and bio-fertilizers, at Viralmalai near here.

The IFS is being implemented in two categories namely National Agriculture development programme (NADP) and rainfed area development programme

## Skill development scheme

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NAGAPATTINAM, NOV. 8

The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Ltd (THADCO) is going to provide free skill development programme for Adi Dravidars in the district for 3 to 6 months through four private training centres. Interested Adi Dravidar candidates can utilise this opportunity and develop their skills, said Collector Praveen P Nair.

A release here from the collector on Sunday said the

(RAD). Under NADP, the scheme covers 100 hectares and 100 farmers at a cost of ₹60 lakh, and the RAD sche-

programme include assistant electrician, field technician, air conditioner and refrigerator technician, domestic data entry operator, web developer, media developer, hand embroidery, sewing machine operator, automotive service technicians for two and three wheelers and winding operators.

Nair said that selected candidates would be given traveling allowance and other permissible allowances. The district administration would arrange for subsidised bank loan facilities for successful candidates, he added.

me covers 200 hectares and 200 beneficiaries at a cost of ₹120 lakh. This apart, another 100 hectare with 100 farm-

ers will be covered under the IFS scheme from the unspent sanctioned amount for the year 2019 – 2020 of ₹ 60 lakh, he added.

He said, 100 beneficiaries each owning not less than one hectare of rainfed land, have been selected from Soriyur, Perambur, Neerpalani, Pakkudi, Paiyur and Kuthal villages in Viralmalai block, and ₹60 lakh financial assistance sanctioned from the unspent amount, for the year 2019-20.

Each beneficiary is entitled to Rs 60,000 as back-ended subsidy towards laying out of black gram based cropping system, raising fodder sorghum, non-timber Agathi trees, permanent vermin-compost structure, purchase of milch cow, goat or sheep, desi birds, fruit seedlings and beehives, he added.



## SHORT TAKES

## BOY STUCK INSIDE BOREWELL FOR 90 HOURS DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL, NOV. 8

A five-year-old boy, who fell into a 200-feet deep borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Niwari district four days back, could not be saved even after a 90-hour-long rescue operation, officials said on Sunday.

Prallhad Kushwaha who fell into the borewell while playing in his family's farmland in Saitpura village of Niwari district on Wednesday was retrieved around 3 am on Sunday, he was rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a tweet expressed sadness over the boy's death and announced a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for his family.

## NCB ARRESTS NADIADWALA'S WIFE OVER DRUGS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday arrested the wife of movie producer Firoz Nadiadwala after they allegedly found 10 gram cannabis from their Juhu residence following searches there. The officials said this arrest was made after four peddlers, nabbed earlier, revealed the sale of narcotics substance to her.

Shabana Saeed, wife of Nadiadwala, was arrested following a search carried out by the Mumbai NCB officials at their residence at Gulmohar Crossroad in the JVPD Scheme.

"The cannabis was procured by her from earlier arrested accused Wahid Abdul Kadir Sheikh alias Sultan. Shabana Saeed was issued notice and after recording her statement she was placed under arrest," said an NCB officer.

## ARNAB SHIFTED TO TALOJA JAIL FOR USING PHONE

SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

The Raigad police shifted Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief of *Republic TV*, to Talaja prison on Sunday, after his arrest on November 4 in connection with suicide of architect Anvay Naik and his mother Kumu in 2018 over alleged unpaid dues of ₹83 lakh.

The police said that Goswami was put up at a Covid-19 centre, a school, where he was found to be using a mobile phone. The police said that the transfer was made after Goswami was found to be active on social media via a phone that did not belong to him.

The officials also confirmed that Goswami's phone was seized when he was arrested and hence they did not suspect him to possess one.

The Alibaug police are trying secure custody of Goswami to question him in the case; the journalist has been remanded to judicial custody. "The probe in the case against Goswami, Feroz Shaikh and Nitish Sarda is underway," said a police officer.

## DEMONETISATION DESTROYED ECONOMY: RAHUL

From Page 1

"Four years ago Prime Minister Narendra Modi began an assault on the Indian economy. He hurt farmers, labourers and small shopkeepers. Manmohan Singh ji said the economy will lose two per cent and that is what we saw," the former Congress chief said in a video released as part of the party's online 'SpeakUpAgainstDeMoDisaster' campaign.

The Prime Minister had stated that it is a fight against black money, but it was not so, Mr Gandhi said. "This was a lie. The attack was on you, Modi wanted to take your money and give it to his 2-3 crony capitalist friends. You stood in lines, not his crony capitalist friends. You put your money in banks and PM Modi gave that money to his friends and gave them a loan waiver of Rs 3,50,000 crore," Mr Gandhi alleged.

Then Modi implemented a "faulty GST" and small, middle-sized businesses were destroyed as "he cleared the way for his 3-4 crony capitalist friends", he said, and alleged that now farmers were being targeted with the three new agricultural laws.

## Light in the darkness



Visually impaired workers make candles for Diwali in New Delhi on Sunday. The festival which falls on November 14 this year, will see more demand for lights as many states have banned firecrackers.

— PTI

## Most Indians will have to wait till 2022 for Covid-19 vaccine

## AIIMS director lists challenges: cold chain, delivery, syringes, needles

SANJAY KAW | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Amid rising coronavirus cases in the country, Delhi-AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, has said that common Indians will have to wait till 2022 to get Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr Guleria, who is also a member of the national task force on Covid-19 management, asserted that it will take 'more than a year' for an authentic vaccine against the coronavirus to hit the Indian market.

"In our country the population is large; we need time to see how the vaccine can be bought from the market like a flu vaccine and take it. That will actually be the ideal situation. So it could be the end

of 2021 to the beginning of 2022," Dr Guleria said in an interview to a TV news channel.

Asked about the challenges India would have after a coronavirus vaccine is available, the AIIMS director said the prime focus would be its

distribution so that it reaches every part of the country. "Maintaining the cold chain, having adequate syringes, adequate needles and being able to deliver it to the remotest part of the country in a seamless manner is the biggest challenge," he

said.

The second challenge, Dr Guleria said, would be to figure out the positioning of another vaccine that comes out later and is seen as more effective than the first one. "So if we have a vaccine that comes out later and is seen to be

more effective than the first one, how do we position it? How do we do a course correction? How to then decide who needs vaccine A and who needs vaccine B? A lot of decisions need to be taken as we go along."

On the sudden spike in the number of Covid-19 cases in Delhi, Dr Guleria said that there are several factors responsible for this. "One is the weather. We know that respiratory viruses spike in the winter months; we have seen a drop in temperature in Delhi. There are higher chances of the virus surviving in outdoor air and people tend to crowd indoors during winters. The third factor is air pollution which is also contributing to the spike."

## BIHAR TURNOUT HIGHER DESPITE COVID

Patna, Nov. 8: Bihar recorded 57.05 per cent turnout in the assembly elections this time, marginally higher than that of 2015 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, as per data.

The voter turnout in the elections held in 2015 was 56.66 per cent, the Election

Commission data showed. Female voter turnout was 59.69 per cent, higher than that of the male voters - 54.68 per cent.

This year's turnout was pushed up by relatively aggressive polling in the third phase in which 78 seats in the 15 districts of

Kosi-Seemanchal, Mithilanchal and Tirhut voted.

The turnout in the third phase of the elections, held on November 7, is almost 60 per cent compared to 55.68 per cent in the first phase and 55.70 per cent in the second.

PTI

## Himanta to work out Naga accord

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, NOV. 8

With ongoing Naga peace talks in an advanced stage, the Union home ministry has tasked senior BJP leader and Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with working out a consensus formula on the demand of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) for a separate flag and constitution for Nagaland. The Centre has rejected the demand.

Security sources pointed out that NSCN (IM) general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah had backed out from his position of October 31, 2019, the day formal negotiations between the NSCN (IM) and R.N. Ravi, interlocutor for Naga talks, had concluded; he was now insisting that the Nagas will never be part of the Indian Union nor will they accept India's

Constitution. The sources told this newspaper that Sarma has been asked to make a last attempt to bring all stakeholders including the NSCN (IM) on board.

Informing that Sarma was in Kohima on Sunday to hold talks with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Leader of Opposition T.R. Zeliang, who is leading the political affairs mission (PAM) to expedite the peace process, security sources indicated that the Union home ministry had not diluted its stand on the NSCN (IM) demand. The home ministry affairs was set to take a call on deciding the date for signing of the peace accord soon after the electoral process is over in Bihar; the sources said.

Sources indicated that the state may be allowed to adopt its own flag through some executive decision at the state level.

## CORRUPTION INCREASED AFTER DEMONETISATION: AKHILESH

Lucknow, Nov. 8: Taking a dig on four years of demonetisation, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said fake currency notes are still in circulation and corruption has increased.

In a Hindi tweet, Akhilesh Yadav said, "After four years of demonetisation, fake currency notes are still there. Corruption has increased. There is no 'hisaab' of black money. People have not got Rs 15 lakh in their accounts."

The tweet by the SP chief came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the note ban by the Centre in 2016 helped reduce black

money, increased tax compliance and ensured transparency.

On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Modi announced the decision to ban currency notes of higher denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000.

Taking to Twitter on Sunday, Prime Minister Modi listed the beneficial outcomes of demonetisation.

Along with his tweet, the prime minister also shared a graphic on how demonetisation has ensured better tax compliance, improved tax and GDP ratio, made India a lesser cash-based economy and gave a boost to national security.

PTI

## Another TMC legislator revolts against Mamata

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, NOV. 8

After state transport minister Shubendu Adhikari, Mihir Goswami, another key Trinamul Congress MLA, has revolted against party supreme and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in what appeared to be growing dissent over her style of leadership ahead of the Assembly elections in West Bengal next year.

The two-time legislator of Coochbehar South in North Bengal also called election strategist Prashant Kishor's firm Indian Political Action Committee a "contractor" and accused it of "destroying" the TMC amid the Chief Minister's "silence."

"Today when I see a contractor think-tank company destroying the home after entering Didi's party while insulted public representatives are protesting but Didi remains in dark and silent, is it not natural for long-standing faith for



Mihir Goswami

Didi to get destroyed like that home? (sic)," Goswami posted on Facebook on Friday.

On Saturday he alleged neglect of development in North Bengal by the Mamata Banerjee government as was done by the previous administrations. "Did we ever imagine a Deputy CM from North Bengal," asked the TMC MLA before warning his party of "suffering the outcome in future for creating a division and distance between the north and south."

Rattled by his attacks, the TMC dared him to quit his Assembly seat and the party. "Criticism of Ms Banerjee while

staying in her party is not suitable. We also have not got anything. But we do not have the guts to criticise her. Goswami should quit the MLA post and the party," said TMC Coochbehar district general secretary Abdul Jalil Ahmed.

On Sunday, Goswami, whom BJP MP of Coochbehar Nisith Pramanik met recently, did not hide his desire to leave the TMC.

Without naming the BJP, he wrote on Facebook, "Requests from well-wishers to me to join another party is true. I will inform all about my visit to New Delhi if there is time and opportunity. I know the people will be divided with the news of my entry to another party in future. One section wants me to join the new camp soon, another feels sad. But all can not be made happy simultaneously. In that case, working for the people with honour will be my only condition (sic)."

## Indian troops at LAC stock up to sustain for 1 year

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

With the beginning of the harsh winter, Indian troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh are stocked up to sustain for a year. From provisions, arms and ammunition, warm clothing to medical supplies, among other essentials, they have double what is required.

With snowfall being reported in the upper reaches over the last few days, soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China are mostly huddled in and there is hardly any activity visible on their side.

Top sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the Indian troops have been "all stocked up" to keep them going for a year, if not more. Once the winter gets harsher towards December, when Ladakh witnesses heavy snowfall, all supply routes will be hit.

On the hilltops and ridges at more than 15,000 feet, the temperatures plummet to -25° Celsius and even lower while the windchill factor makes the situation worse, even leading to deaths.

"The ration, medical supplies, arms and ammunition and winter clothing have been provided two-three times more than what has been requested for. So much so that we have exhausted the space to stock up. It is only after a year that we may require anything, if at all," sources said.

Besides purchasing about 11,000 sets of extreme cold weather clothing from the US, lakhs of sets have been

procured from multiple suppliers to ensure each soldier has more than one set. The use of special clothing began with the arrival of the snow. In winters, frostbites, chilblains, blood clots, lung infection and even memory loss is a regular affair and keeping this in mind medical supplies too have been doubled.

With unpredictable weather throwing a major challenge, large quantities of kerosene, canned food, repair equipment for uninterrupted communication, vehicles among other logistics have been supplied to the strategic locations. Supplies have been divided among all the Army posts, which, in the event of getting cut off due to the harsh weather, can sustain themselves.

High altitude warfare is nothing new for the Indian Army who have battled the elements at Siachen glacier, Ladakh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and several points along the Line of Control with Pakistan. Across the Pangong Tso and Chushul, most of the hilltops and ridges are located at an altitude of over 15,000 feet.

Unlike China, officers in the Indian Army are compulsorily posted at high altitudes for five to six years which gives them all the exposure they need to work in harsh weather.

## Indore officials raze 'Computer Baba' ashram

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, NOV. 8:

The local administration in Indore on Sunday demolished the ashram of Namdeo Das alias Computer Baba, the self-styled religious leader who enjoyed patronage from both BJP and Congress in Madhya Pradesh at various points of time, while freeing a large patch of land of 'encroachment'.

The Indore district administration said 46 acres allotted to the Jamburdi Hapsi panchayat in 2000 for development of cow shelter was encroached by Computer Baba. The ashram was built in a 2-acre land in the 'encroached' patch.

Namdeo along with 6 of his associates were taken into preventive custody by police.

No response was given to the notice issued by the administration to remove encroachment leading us to launch the anti-encroachment drive, local sub-divisional magistrate Sashwat Sharma said.

The Indore district administration announced plans to build a temple and a modern cow shelter in the land.

Incidentally, the drive comes days after Namdeo launched the 'save democracy' campaign targeting

BJP in the just-concluded by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies in the state.

Sources said a rifle and an air gun were recovered from the ashram during the demolition drive.

Computer Baba had shot into the news when he performed 'yagna' here in 2019 to ensure victory of Congress leader and former chief minister Digvijay Singh in the last Lok Sabha elections.

Mr Singh however lost to BJP candidate Pragya Singh Thakur by a margin of over 3.60 lakh votes.

Mr Singh slammed the state government for demolishing the ashram without giving notice to him. He described the action by the state government as 'political vendetta'.

State BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma however justified the demolition saying that the ashram was built on encroached land.

Computer Baba had campaigned for Congress in the 2018 assembly elections and was later rewarded with the post of chairman of river conservation authority by the Kamal Nath government.

Namdeo was also accorded minister of state status along with 4 other religious leaders during the last tenure of chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

## WILDLIFE | PROTECTION | Move to save endangered species under consideration

## Purple frog to be Kerala's state amphibian

Kochi, Nov. 8: The purple frog, one of the rarest frog species endemic to the Western Ghats, would soon be declared as Kerala's official amphibian.

A senior forest officer said a proposal for declaring the purple frog, also known as pignose frog, as state's amphibian, is in the active consideration of the state government.

"The proposal is in the active consideration of the government and soon it will be declared as the state's amphibian,"

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Surendrakumar said.

The matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the state wildlife board.

Official sources said the move to declare it as the state's amphibian as it was mostly endemic to Kerala region of Western Ghats.

According to Delhi University professor S.D. Biju, who discovered the frog a few years ago in the Idukki district, said it is not only a rare frog species



Pignose frog

but is also one of the unique amphibians.

Biju said the purple frog, which remains underground most of the year, is found mostly in the Kerala part of the Western Ghats.

The frog was found in one forest area of Tamil Nadu

also, Biju said. The purple frog, scientifically called 'Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis' is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as its "Extent of Occurrence is less than 5,000 km, all individuals are in fewer than five locations, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat in the Cardamom Hills."

According to WWF, the leading organisation in wildlife conservation and endangered species, purple

frog has been acknowledged by bio-geographers all over the world as one of the rarest kinds and a "once in a century find."

It said the purple frog has a bloated body with short stout limbs and is dark purple to greyish in colour. "Reaching to about 7 centimetres, it has a small head in comparison to the body length, and an unusually pointed snout. Its short and muscular forelimbs with hard palms help it to burrow underground."

— PTI



## IN BRIEF

## DOGS SET FOR WHITE HOUSE COMEBACK

Washington, Nov. 8: Joe Biden promises to bring many things back to America now that he's in and President Donald Trump's out. Unity, accountability, compassion -- and a dog in the White House.

Not just one, but two German shepherds, one a rescue.

One is Champ, who has been with the Bidens since 2008. The other is Major, who the Bidens fostered and then adopted in 2018.

Canines sniffing around the lawns of the presidential mansion are a long-standing staple in America.

Barack Obama muzzled playfully with one Bo, a black Portuguese water dog. George W. Bush had a Scottish terrier, Barney. Bill Clinton? A chocolate Labrador retriever called Buddy.

Enter Trump, a famously finicky germophobe, and the first president in over a century to not have a dog.

"How would I look walking a dog on the White House lawn," Trump asked, with a grimace, in a video included in a Biden campaign ad.

Now, make way for team Biden's canine crew.

Biden officials say Major will become the first rescue dog to live in the White House.

"Choose your humans wisely," says the Biden ad about presidential pooches.

## TRUMP FAIR GAME FOR SM RULES

San Francisco, Nov. 8: When US President Donald Trump departs the White House, he also leaves behind any immunity he might have from social media rules. Efforts by Twitter and Facebook to balance letting political leaders speak to the people unfettered with enforcing rules about hateful and misleading posts have afforded Trump leeway not given to regular users.

But any special treatment that Trump has enjoyed ends with his presidency.

"Twitter's approach to world leaders, candidates and public officials is based on the principle that people should be able to choose to see what their leaders are saying with clear context," a spokesman for Trump's go-to messaging platform said.

The winner: Biden vows virus action on 'day one'.

Ethiopia vows to replace Tigray government

"This policy framework applies to current world leaders and candidates for office, and not private citizens when they no longer hold these positions." So, Trump posts masked by warnings or amended with labels could qualify to be deleted instead. "I assume that the argument around not completely removing content from world leaders is because what they say is important for us to know," said Casey Fiesler, a professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

## BUBBLY MOOD: RUSH FOR CHAMPAGNE

Washington, Nov. 8: Joe Biden's election as US president on Saturday sparked a scramble for champagne in the capital Washington and some stores were already close to running out of stock in the Democratic stronghold. It seemed many were ready to toast an end to a tumultuous four years under President Donald Trump.

Calvert and Woodley, known for its selection of wines from around the world, sold up to 75 percent more bottles than a usual Saturday.

Store salesman Mark, who did not provide his last name, said hundreds of bottles had been sold. "People want to celebrate," he said.

His colleague Janis said "I bought 20 for myself." Dressed in a Biden-Harris t-shirt and with a Biden-Harris sign in her hand, Juanita was one of the many customers in search of the bubbly.

"I'm so happy. It's an amazing day for democracy," she said while choosing a bottle.

At Magruder's, a wine shop in the residential district of Chevy Chase in business since 1845, the shelves were emptied quickly and employees had to fetch reserve cases of champagne. "People buy two or three bottles. It's very unusual," said a cashier.

"People are so happy today." And they were obviously not concerned with the price. Bottles of champagne typically sell for around \$40 dollars (\$3 euros) to start.



US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris deliver remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday, after being declared the winners of the presidential election. — AFP

## After poll win, Biden pledges to unite US

Prez-elect seeks an end to the 'grim era of demonisation'

Washington, Nov. 8: Pledging to be the president of all Americans, Joe Biden has sought an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation" in the deeply-polarised nation, as he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris celebrated their historic triumph over Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought presidential election.

Biden has also said that America is a "beacon for the globe" and that efforts must be made to "restore the soul" of the country.

"Tonight the whole world is watching America, and I believe that at our best, America is a beacon for the globe. We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example," Biden said while addressing the nation for the first time as president-elect.

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify; who doesn't see red states and blue states, only sees the United States," Biden, 77, said in his victory speech before a drive-in audience in his hometown, Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday night, nearly ending the uncertainty over the out-

## Joe recites deceased son's favourite hymn

Washington, Nov. 8: US President-elect Joe Biden concluded his victory speech by reciting his deceased son Beau's favourite popular Catholic hymn "On Eagles' Wings", hoping that the carol will give comfort to many Americans grieving the loss of their loved ones due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Biden, 77, who is a practising Catholic, said the hymn has inspired him through the final days of his election campaign. He would be the second Catholic to hold the office of the President after John F Kennedy in 1960. The Democrat leader lost Beau, an Iraq war veteran

come of Tuesday's election. Biden, who has succeeded in his third bid to the White House, thanked his supporters, saying he had earned votes from the "broadest and most diverse coalition in American history." "I am humbled by

who had served as Delaware's attorney general, in 2015 to a brain tumour at the age of 46.

Biden defeated Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought presidential election. He gave his victory speech before a drive-in audience in his hometown, Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday. On Eagles' Wings "captures the faith that sustains me and which I believe sustains America, and a hope, and I hope it can provide some comfort and solace to the 230,000 Americans who have lost a loved one due to this terrible virus this year," said Biden. — PTI

the trust and confidence you've placed in me," who will be the oldest US president when he would be sworn-in on January 20, 2021, said amid applause and cheers from the audience.

"The people of this nation have spoken, they've

delivered us a clear victory, a convincing victory, a victory for 'We the People'," he said, referring to more than 74 million voters who backed him. Biden ran twice unsuccessfully for president - in 1988 and 2008. Noting that he ran as a proud Democrat, Biden said that he will now be an American president. "I will work as hard for those who didn't vote for me - as those who did. Biden criticised Trump without naming him in his nearly 15-minute address, saying that he wanted to end "this grim era of demonisation in America here and now."

"Let this grim era of demonisation in America begin to end - here and now. The refusal of Democrats and Republicans to cooperate with one another is not due to some mysterious force beyond our control," he said. Trump has so far refused to concede the election that attracted a record number of Americans to cast their votes amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. He has announced filing multiple lawsuits against the election results in key battleground states like Pennsylvania. — PTI

## Indo-American Murthy expected to co-chair Biden's Covid task force

Washington, Nov. 8: Indian-American physician Dr Vivek Murthy is expected to co-chair the coronavirus task force which President-elect Joe Biden is going to announce on Monday. Murthy, 43, who originally hails from Karnataka, was appointed America's 19th Surgeon General by then president Barack Obama in 2014.

Born in the UK, he was the youngest ever to hold the office at the age of 37. He was later asked to step down by the Trump administration. Biden, in his victory speech in Wilmin-

gton, Delaware on Saturday night, said: "On Monday, I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as Transition Advisors to help take the Biden-Harris Covid plan and convert it into an action blueprint that starts on January 20th, 2021."

The President-elect, however, did not announce who would lead that task force. The Washington Post said that the task force would be co-chaired by Dr Murthy, the former Surgeon General, and David Kessler, a former Food and Drug Administration

commissioner. "The task force... could begin meeting within days," the daily said. In his victory speech, Biden said that the plan will be built on a bedrock of science. "It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern. I will spare no effort — or commitment — to turn this pandemic around," he said.

During the campaign period, Murthy emerged as one of the top advisors of Biden on public health and Coronavirus issues. Many believe that he might end up being the

Health Secretary in the Biden administration.

In May, the Biden Campaign appointed congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and Murthy as co-chairs to the Healthcare Task Force. At a fund raiser organised by Indian-Americans in September which was addressed by Biden, Murthy had said that Biden is the kind of guy he would like to invite home for dinner. "Joe Biden is the kind of guy I would love to bring home to have dinner with my mom and dad," Murthy had said in his opening remarks. — PTI

## 5 lakh Indians likely to receive US citizenship

FROM PG 1

"seek to raise it over time commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need. He will also work with Congress to establish a minimum admissions number of 95,000 refugees annually," the policy document said. It will also establish a minimum admission number of 95,000 refugees annually.

The Biden administration will support family-based immigration and preserve family unification as a core principle of the US' immigration system, which includes reducing the family visa backlog, it said.

Both Mr Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted congratulatory messages for the successful duo on Sunday shortly after midnight. Mr Modi said he looked forward to strengthen Indo-US ties by "working closely together once again" with Mr. Biden who was the US Vice-President in the Barack Obama Administration when Mr Modi had become Prime

● **PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE Biden will continue strengthening India-US relationship, think-tanks and prominent Indian-American experts have said. "A Biden administration will be mostly positive for India," said Rick Rossow from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank.**

Minister in 2014. Mr Modi also hailed the success of Ms. Harris—who is partly of Indian origin—as "pathbreaking, and a matter of "immense pride for all Indian-Americans".

It may be recalled that India had on Friday said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between both nations has "very strong bi-partisan support" in the US, thereby hinting that bilateral ties would continue to grow stronger. At his weekly media briefing two days ago, MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava had also said that Indo-US bilateral ties "rest on strong foundations."

## You assured new day for US: Harris to Americans

Washington, Nov. 8: US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has told Americans that they have assured a new day for America by electing Joe Biden as their President, as she delivered a historic speech after they won the closely-fought presidential election. Now that the people of the country have given their mandate for the next four years, the real work begins, Indian-origin Harris, 56, said in her victory speech in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday night. Harris remembered her mother Shyamala Gopalan, who she said prepared her for this day.

"No matter who you voted for, I will strive to be the Vice President that Joe was to (former) president (Barack) Obama — loyal, honest and prepared, waking up every day thinking of you and your families. Because now is when the real work begins. You assured a new day for America," Harris said in a powerful, but emotional speech.

Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and African-American father from Jamaica, said that while she may be the first woman in this office, she would not be the last. "We are so grate-

ful to Joe and Jill for welcoming our family into theirs on this incredible journey," she said.

"And to the woman most responsible for my presence here today — my mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who is always in our hearts. When she came here from India at the age of 19, maybe she didn't quite imagine this moment. But she believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible. "So, I'm thinking about her and about the generations of women — Black Women," Harris, the first-ever woman vice president-elect of the United States, said.

She will also be the first-ever Indian-origin vice president, first-ever black and first-ever African-American vice president of the US. In her speech, she thanked Asian, White, Latina and Native American women throughout America's history who paved the way for this moment. "Women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality, liberty and justice for all, including the Black women, who are too often overlooked, but so often prove that they are the backbone of our democracy."

"All the Women who worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century, 100 years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now, in 2020, with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continued the fight for their fundamental right to vote and be heard," she said. Reflecting on their struggle, determination and the strength of their vision — to see what can be unburdened by what has been, Harris said that she stands by them.

"And what a testament it is to Joe's character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country and select a woman as his Vice President. "Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they've never seen it before, and we will applaud you every step of the way," she said. — PTI



Fireworks are launched as illuminated drones spell BIDEN in the sky in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday. — AFP

## POLL | RESULT

**Son-in-law Kushner approached a defiant Prez about conceding the election to rival Biden**

## Don becomes 11th sitting US president to lose re-election

Washington, Nov. 8: President Donald Trump's reelection defeat has made him the 11th sitting president in US history to lose the White House in a general election campaign.

Ten of those were outright reelection bids. Gerald Ford, who ascended to the presidency following Richard Nixon's resignation, also lost his campaign to remain president in 1976. The last president to lose a reelection bid was George H.W. Bush in 1992. Grover Cleveland lost his reelection campaign in 1888 but won back the White House four years later by defeating sitting President Benjamin Harrison. He is the only president to have served

two nonconsecutive terms, CNN reported.

This list does not include sitting presidents who did not receive their party's nomination for the next general election, it said. Democratic Party's nominee Joe Biden defeated Trump, a Republican in the November 3 presidential election after the former US vice president secured 279 electoral college votes, three more than the required 270 votes.

Jared Kushner, Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, has approached a defiant President about conceding the closely-fought election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to media reports on Sunday.

The move comes following Trump's assertion in a statement from his campaign — after major US media outlets projected that President-elect Biden will become the 46th president of the United States — that Biden is "rushing to falsely pose as the winner" and that the race is "far from over."

Joe Biden-Kamala Harris deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said that there has been no communication between Biden and Trump, or between any representatives from either campaign, since the race was called on Saturday after the 77-year-old former US vice president crossed the 270 electoral college votes



Donald Trump

required to win the race for the White House.

Kushner has approached the President about conceding the election, CNN quoted two unidentified sources as saying. Kushner has told others that he has urged the president to

accept the outcome of the race — even if Trump won't come to terms with how it was reached, the Associated Press also reported on Sunday. Two sources told Fox News that Trump would concede and execute a peaceful transfer of power if his campaign's legal challenges fall short of changing the projected outcome. A lack of concession by Trump would not prevent Biden from assuming the presidency on January 20, 2021.

"Donald Trump does not get to decide the winner of elections," Symone Sanders, a Biden campaign senior adviser, told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday. "The people decide, voters in the coun-

try decide, as we have long said, and voters have made their choice very clear," Voice of America quoted Sanders as saying. But Trump appeared to be defiant, even after all major US media outlets projected Biden as the winner.

"I will not rest until the American People have the honest vote count they deserve and that Democracy demands," Trump said in the statement, which states that the campaign's legal battle will begin on Monday.

The Trump campaign has filed suits in several battleground states where Biden led by a razor-thin margin, including Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. — PTI

## JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY OFFERS DON JOB

Jerusalem, Nov. 8: With Donald Trump on his way out of the White House, Jerusalem Municipality has urged him "not to worry" as it may have a number of open positions that he could be eligible to apply for. "For the attention of the follower Donald J. Trump - you don't need to worry! Our new Jerusalem job board is updated with worthwhile offerings every day, and will make Jeruz great again," it's Facebook page said. — PTI



# DECCAN Chronicle

9 NOVEMBER 2020

## Biden offers US healing touch, world is relieved

The contrast couldn't have been starker. The statesmanlike address by Joseph R. Biden hours after his clear victory in America's presidential elections late Saturday night, soon after he won in Pennsylvania and got a majority in the Electoral College, signalled that the ugliness and friction of the Donald Trump years would soon be over, and the United States would once again try to be a "beacon for the globe" and "lead by the power of our example". Urging an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation in America", President-elect Biden said it was a "time to heal" and reached out to all, including those who voted for Mr Trump, and vowed that he would be their President too.

Mr Biden will have to work particularly hard, as in the four years since Mr Trump came to power and encouraged the rise of divisiveness and hate-filled politics, opponents were perceived as enemies, not rivals. The conduct of the White House's occupant isn't helping: even 24 hours after defeat, he is refusing to concede, which some close advisers, even his son-in-law, have advised him to do, and is still talking of legal challenges in several states and trying to seek the Supreme Court's help in a desperate bid to cling on. More worryingly, he is inciting his supporters to hold protests, with reports of clashes between them and Mr Biden's supporters. Once wonders how long it will take him to accept reality.

The spontaneous celebrations across America since Saturday night, with scenes of jubilation in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, show a nation that has received deliverance from four years of darkness, with rising hope that better days lie ahead. Saying he wanted to "restore the soul of America", Mr Biden pledged to get down to work right away, in a bid to get the Covid-19 pandemic (where the US tops the world, and Mr Trump had largely ignored) under control from Day 1. He said he will name a transition team with top scientists Monday to work out a strategy in this regard.

History has been made with the election of Kamala Devi Harris, the first woman, the first black and the first person of Indian origin to reach the second-highest office in America. "While I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last," she said, saluting generations of women who fought for equality and paying tribute to her mother Shyamala Gopalan, who came to the US as a 19-year-old to study; and hailed Mr Biden as a "healer, a uniter and a tested and steady hand". The outpouring of joy in her maternal grandfather's ancestral Tamil Nadu village knew no bounds and indicated her continuing links with her Indian roots.

Mr Biden said he wants to make America "respected around the world", and the sigh of relief in major capitals was palpable. In his message of congratulations to the President-elect, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted how he had been a strong supporter of close India-US ties, and hoped to build on that, and in a separate message to Ms Harris hailed her pathbreaking success. Mr Biden had, in fact, pushed stronger India-US ties even before becoming vice-president in 2009, having played a key role as Senate majority leader in clearing the India-US civil nuclear deal a year earlier. New Delhi will now have to build on that.

## Health before festivity

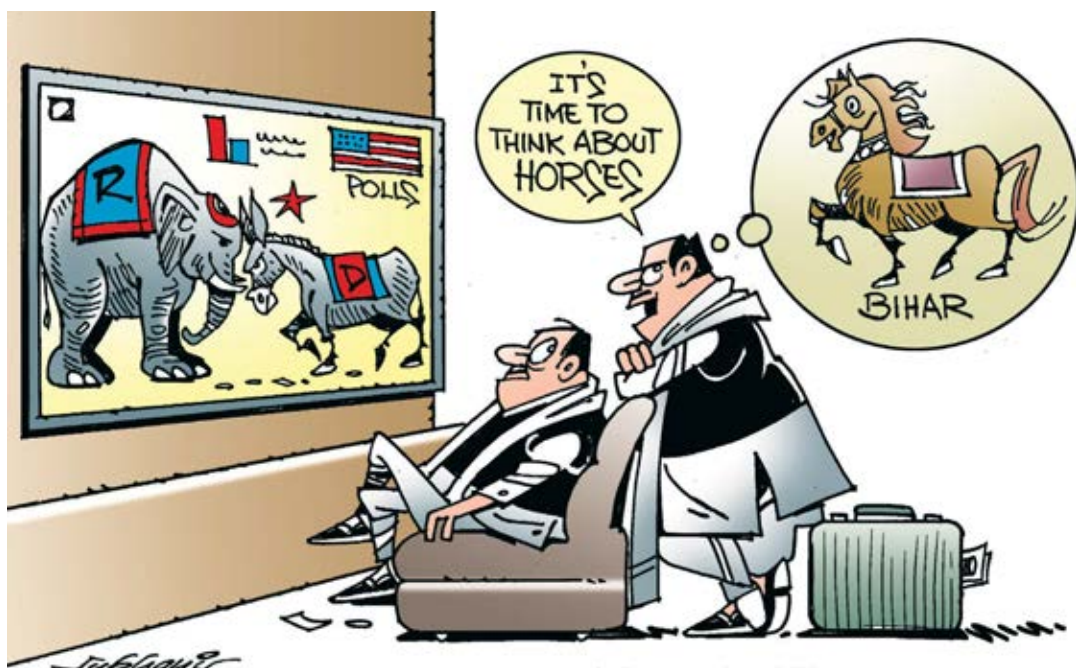
The daily Covid-19 caseload is inching up after reporting a steady decline weeks ago, and now hovers around 45,000, with Delhi taking the stop slot, followed by Maharashtra and Kerala. Maharashtra has been reporting big numbers from the beginning but the cases of Delhi and Kerala, states that have both successfully reined in the pandemic in the past, call for careful study. One common factor was the failure of the people and the governments in ensuring that the Covid protocols were strictly followed during festivals.

It is a fact that governments and experts had warned of a spike in the numbers during and after the festival seasons, but there was little follow-up. People in most states are now getting ready for another major festival, Diwali. Bursting crackers is a community celebration in many parts of the country on Diwali. Anticipating their potential to become super-spreader events, and considering the impact the air pollution it causes can have on the Covid-19 patients with impaired lungs as well as others, some state governments, including Delhi, Odisha and Rajasthan, have banned the sale of crackers for this season. The Karnataka government has changed tack and now requested people to go in for "green crackers".

Many state governments, however, have not even given the idea a thought. The governments at the Centre and the states must realise that it is their duty to take pre-emptive measures to protect public health. Two Constitution-backed fundamental rights, the freedom of speech and expression and the right to practise and profess religion, come with reasonable restrictions and public health is one among them. In other words, it is incumbent upon governments to put public health ahead of these two rights. The Union government, which in the beginning micro-managed the Covid fight, must take the lead and advise the state governments to restrict festivities and save lives. Health concerns brook no excuses.

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Subhani



## The new Cold War



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

In the dying days of the Second World War as the Allied Expeditionary Force under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower closed in on Germany from the West, the Soviet Red Army under the leadership of marshals Georgy Zhukov and Ivan Konev did so from the East and they set the stage for the next conflict — namely who would dominate Europe post the end of that war. The ideological contest that ensued between democratic liberalism and Soviet communism would consume Europe for the next four-and-a-half decades till the Berlin Wall finally fell on the 9th of November, 1989.

In those momentous days following the end of the bloodiest conflict of the 20th century, Winston Churchill, the wartime Prime Minister of Great Britain, prophesied at Fulton falls in the United States on March the 5th, 1946, "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of central and eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow..." This was perhaps the first detailed quantification of the Cold War.

The term "cold war" however, was first used only 13 months later on April 16, 1947, by Bernard Baruch, a multimillionaire financier and adviser to US Presidents from Woodrow Wilson to

Harry S. Truman at the South Carolina House of Representatives. "Let us not be deceived," Baruch said. "We are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this."

The term soon caught the fancy of the world after it was given a fresh lease of life by the legendary columnist Walter Lippmann in his *New York Herald Tribune* piece in September 1947. Soon thereafter, this proxy war was fought for 40 five years across distant theatres of the world ranging from Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Cuba, countries of South and Latin America, Africa and finally Afghanistan.

The Western Allies nevertheless secured the pre-eminent battlefield of Europe by creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on April 4, 1949. At its core lay Article 5 that stated: "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all..." The Soviets followed it up with their own collective security architecture called the Warsaw Pact on May 14, 1955. These opposing compacts kept the "peace cold" underpinned by the nuclear doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

The Warsaw Pact was formally dissolved on July 1, 1991, and the

**The Cold War with China will encompass all dimensions — economic, military, cyber, space, cultural and civilisational. It would be the defining conflict of the next three decades.**

**A still-born quad — consisting of the US, Japan, Australia and India — has been resurrected in Asia. However, it is still amorphous even in its latest avatar.**

Soviet Union disappeared into the sands of time on December 26, 1991, taking with it the erstwhile communist states of East Europe. Just as the Allies were celebrating the end of history as characterized by Francis Fukuyama earlier in the February of 1989 a new power was emerging on the horizon — China. For, nature abhors a vacuum.

In 1979, China started transforming its governing model from Mao Tse Tung's communism to Deng Xiaoping's totalitarian capitalism and in a span of three decades emerged as a player on the global stage with great power aspirations. However, it was only after Xi Jinping ascended to office in November 2012 that China started baring its fangs. At the centre of the strategy for global dominance lay the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) formally kicked off by President Xi on September 7, 2013, at Astana the capital of Kazakhstan. In its earlier avatar it was called the One Belt One Road (OBOR) enterprise.

However it was only seven years later after financing 2,951 projects valued at \$3.87 trillion involving 2,630 companies across 138 countries encompassing the wider silk road region that China unveiled its mailed fist in April 2020 taking full advantage of the virus warfare it has unleashed through the inaccurately labeled Covid-19 pandemic. It deserved to be called the China Virus.

It created three inflection points, first on the April 18 in the South China Sea by announcing two administrative districts — the Xisha district, covering the Paracel Islands and Macclesfield Bank, and

the Nansha district, covering the Sparty Islands, both of which are also claimed by Vietnam. It simultaneously transgressed at various places across the Line of Actual Control that separates India from China, especially in Eastern Ladakh around the same time, and moved on the political sovereignty of Hong Kong with a new security law in the May of 2020.

It is now only a matter of time that China would translate its new-found economic alliances into pro-forma military pacts across different continents subterfuged and packaged as arrangements for protecting Chinese investments overseas. In South and North Asia it already has two nuclear-armed allies, Pakistan and North Korea. Both have heavy Chinese investments. In Pakistan it is in the form of the 70 billion USD China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite window dressing in the wake of North Korea's nuclear tests, is virtually sustained and nourished by the Chinese.

The Cold War with China will encompass all dimensions — economic, military, cyber, space, cultural and civilisational. It would be the defining conflict of the next three decades of the 21st century as China attempts to resurrect the grandeur of the Middle Kingdom by 2047 to avenge its century of humiliation. The global response so far has been feeble. A still-born quad — consisting of the US, Japan, Australia and India — has been resurrected in Asia. However, it is still amorphous even in its latest avatar. Nations that believe that democracy, liberalism and a rules-based global order is the way people and nations should continue to live must wake up and smell the coffee. The dragon is upon us.

*The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcast minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.*

LETTERS

UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACT

The unconstitutional arrest of the Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami is condemnable. After hearing for a few days, the Bombay high court has asked the victim to seek relief for bail from the lower court. It will pain anyone who has respect for the law. The Mumbai police mistreated Arnab by manhandling him. They took the senior journalist to the Talaja jail where generally hard-core criminals are housed. It's time the media fraternity joined hands to fight for their rights and not let go of this crucial moment to save the life of their brother Arnab Goswami.

A.P. Thiruvadi, Chennai

BIDEN'S INDIA TIES

Democratic candidate Joe Biden's victory in the U.S. elections means a lot to India. First of all, the hearts of many Indians follow Biden because he chose Kamala Harris, an Indian-origin American woman, to be the Vice President of his government. Also, Biden has said that his administration will reform the H-1B visa system by eliminating the restrictions on employment-based green cards for Indians. Biden, therefore, is expected to reverse Trump's policy that blocked Indian immigration to the US. Meanwhile, one of the major reasons for Trump's defeat is his failure to contain the coronavirus. He could not seize the opportunity the pandemic presented because he was incompetent and narcissistic. With more than two lakhs Americans dead from the virus, which is still claiming thousands of lives a day, virus-weary voters ultimately turned against a president who showed little willingness to confront the deadly crisis.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

Kishwar Desai  
London Diary



Locked down yet again, UK knows the rules but likes them less and less

The only advantage of having Donald Trump in situ across the pond was that he made Boris Johnson look like a genius. But now that Trump has gone, Boris remains the only blonde leader who is raising temperatures, even at the outset of winter. Not sure if that is something the British want, while many struggle with yet another lockdown, waiting for the vaccine to miraculously arrive on Santa's sleigh.

For some of us (such as writers like me) who have working from home for years now, the lockdown has actually been a boon — and my latest book on Devika Rani, completed during this period, will soon be in bookshops and virtual stores. But for those whom going to office was an essential part of the job, this has been an extremely difficult year. So one hopes that we will not end it on a note of despair.

The second lockdown, in fact, has evoked greater anger among the public and much less support for the government, alas. There is a division even within Boris's own backbenchers. Travel is banned;

pubs and restaurants are shut. We know the rules but we like them less and less. Even the Queen rushed back to Windsor from her Scottish home last Wednesday so she could spend the lockdown near London. Of course, her convoy of cars got stuck in a traffic jam but then help was at hand and her party escaped by driving on the wrong side of the road.

Halloween, the American festival with pumpkins and children in scary makeup going from door to door asking for "trick or treat" comes on the same day as Guy Fawkes Night in England. In the past, the "Guy" effigy was usually burnt in a large bonfire. Many local municipalities organised large public bonfires in open parks where families could gather to watch the effigies go up in smoke. But then, in politically correct England the burning has been banned. And of course, all gatherings are off the calendar.

And so, one thought, at least Halloween would provide a bit of fun for the kids. "Lockdown" Halloween turned out to be a muted affair: there were a few crackers but no children

wandering from door to door.

Strange isn't it that so many of these harvest festivals have lights and firecrackers associated with them? Though fewer are being celebrated with fire and fervour, and soon these may become part of history.

Diwali is being celebrated at a distance as well. Now of course, PIOs (People of Indian Origin) are valuable voters. So the leaders of the major political parties were part of a digital Global Diwali Festival lasting from Friday to Sunday, organised by the energetic Manoj Ladwa. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, also made a speech in which he managed to get Rama, Sita and Ravana into his message (without for once making any mistakes) along with a mention of *samosa* and *gulabjamun* and then connected it all with a conquest over Covid. Now we are waiting for Kamala Harris to do the same.

It was bound to happen. Rishi Sunak became the Chancellor of the Exchequer just days before we became aware of the

coronavirus epidemic. He presented a budget in mid-March and soon he was presenting one supplementary giveaway after another. His popularity led to his being talked about as substitute for Boris. And why not? He is young, intelligent and capable!

Now for the first time there is a somewhat negative biography written by a Conservative grandee, Lord Ashcroft, titled *Going for Broke: The Rise of Rishi Sunak*. It is ironic that Lord Ashcroft, no stranger to controversy himself criticises Rishi for being successful in making money! There are also a few unpalatable remarks in it about the Infosys chairperson, and Rishi's father in law, Narayan Murthy. Strange, isn't it, success has its critics, all over the world?

A complete contrast is provided by a new biography of Shapurji Saklatwala who was Labour MP for Battersea North during the 1920s and a Communist as well. *Comrade Sak* has been written by Mark Wadsworth, himself the child of a

Jamaican father and a Finnish mother who has been in the Labour Left for a long while. Saklatwala was the third Parsi MP following Dadabhai Naoroji and Mancherji Bhownagari in the 1890s. Like them he was actively interested in fighting for Indian Independence.

It is a sign of how far we have come that two books on Saklatwala and Rishi Sunak can be out at the same time.

And I am happy to say that Marina Wheeler's book on her family will also be out soon. And because it contains information on the Partition, she had been in touch with us for material on Sargodha from the Partition Museum. Marina is, of course, the Prime Minister's former wife, and is also related to the late author Khushwant Singh. She has kindly invited me for the virtual launch. Looking forward to it!

*Kishwar Desai is an award winning author. Her book 'The Longest Kiss: The Life and Times of Devika Rani' will be published next month.*







## SHORT TAKES

## Holding new MCC Foundation patron

**London:** West Indies pace legend Michael Holding has been appointed patron of the MCC Foundation.

The MCC Foundation is the charitable arm of the Marylebone Cricket Club, custodians of the game's laws, and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket. The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community. Throughout a professional career that spanned 15 years, Holding carved out a reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time.

Since retirement, he has worked as a commentator on Sky Sports' cricket coverage and, more recently, has earned praise as a powerful and eloquent advocate for racial equality "both in the game and further afield".

Holding said he was "thrilled" by the opportunity to join the MCC Foundation. "I am thrilled to support the MCC Foundation and its work to make cricket a game that champions respect and equality for all." — *PTI*

## Pak thump Zim to clinch T20 series

**Rawalpindi, Pakistan:** Pakistan proved too strong for Zimbabwe as they won the second Twenty20 international by eight wickets in Rawalpindi on Sunday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Riding on half centuries from skipper Babar Azam (51) and 20-year-old Haider Ali (66 not out), Pakistan made short work of a modest 135-run target, achieving victory with 29 balls to spare.

Zimbabwe, who were sent in to bat, never recovered from early strikes by paceman Haris Rauf (3-31) and spinner Usman Qadir (3-23) as they were restricted to 134-7 in 20 overs.

Haider, playing only his third international match, cracked three sixes and six boundaries in a 43-ball knock and was declared man of the match. — *AFP*

**Brief scores:** Zimbabwe 134/7 (Rauf 32 not out, Qadir 3/23, Rauf 3/31) lost to Pakistan 137/2 (Haider Ali 66 not out, Babar Azam 51.)

## Ex Pak skipper Sarfaraz fined

**Karachi:** Former Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed has been penalised 35 per cent of his match fee for using "inappropriate language" during a Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match. The 33-year-old stumper, who is leading the Sindh First XI, admitted to the level 1 offence relating to use of inappropriate language during his side's match on Saturday.

"Sarfaraz repeatedly made inappropriate comments against an umpiring decision during the day's play," the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a media release.

"He was reported by on-field umpires Faisal Afridi and Saqib Khan for the violation of article 2.21 of the PCB Code of Conduct for Players and Player support Personnel."

In a separate incident, Central Punjab batsman Usman Salahuddin was also fined 20 per cent of his match fee for a level 1 offence. — *PTI*

## Ram settles for runner-up finish

**Eckental, Germany:** Indian tennis player Ramkumar Ramanathan yet again settled for a runner-up finish on the Challenger circuit, losing the final of the Eckental event to American Sebastian Korda on Sunday. Celebrating his 26th birthday, Ram lost the summit clash 4-6, 4-6 to his seventh seed rival, ranked 135, in one hour and 23 minutes. — *PTI*

## Live on TV

CRICKET

**IPL Women's T20 Challenge Final:** Trailblazers vs Supernovas from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

WWE

**Raw:** Bout from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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## DELHI STROLL IN SUN

## All-round Capitals beat Hyderabad to book maiden final spot

## SCORECARD

**Delhi Capitals:** M. Stoinis b Rashid 38, S. Dhawan lbw Sharma 78, S. Iyer c Pandey b Holder 21, S. Hetmyer (not out) 42, R. Pant (not out) 2. Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-2) 8. **Total (for 3 wkts, in 20 overs) 189.** **FoW:** 1-86, 2-126, 3-178. **Bowling:** Sharma 4-0-30-1, Holder 4-0-50-1, Nadeem 4-0-48-0, Khan 4-0-26-1, Natarajan 4-0-32-0. **Sunrisers Hyderabad:** P.K. Garg b Stoinis 17, D. Warner b Rabada 2, M. Pandey c Nortje b Stoinis 21, K. Williamson c Rabada b

Stoinis 67, J. Holder c Dubey b Patel 11, Abdul Samad c sub (KMA Paul) b Rabada 33, Rashid Khan c Patel b Rabada 11, S. Goswami c Stoinis b Rabada 0, S. Nadeem (not out) 2, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 2. Extras (lb-1, w-5) 6. **Total (for 8 wkts, in 20 over) 172.** **FoW:** 1-12, 2-43, 3-44, 4-90, 5-147, 6-167, 7-167, 8-168. **Bowling:** R. Ashwin 3-0-33-0, K. Rabada 4-0-29-4, A. Nortje 4-0-36-0, M. Stoinis 3-0-26-3, A. Patel 4-0-33-1, P. Dubey 2-0-14-0.

Stoinis (3/26) shone with the ball for the winners.

It turned out to be a good decision to bat first as Dhawan and Stoinis (38) got the team off to a flying start with their 86-run stand.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (21) could not do much but

Shimron Hetmyer, who was brought in for Sunday's match, chipped in with an unbeaten 42-run knock.

Dhawan, in his well-paced innings, hit six fours and two sixes. He added 52 runs for the third wicket with Hetmyer

before being dismissed by seamer Sandeep Sharma (1/30).

SRH's sloppy fielding also helped Delhi Capitals as they dropped Stoinis early in the innings and gave them a few free runs. SRH also dropped Dhawan towards the end, though it

did not cost them much.

Yet again, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (4-0-26-1) was the most effective bowler though T Natarajan bowled well in slog overs.

Stoinis was asked to open the innings by the Delhi Capitals. After being dropped by Jason Holder off Sandeep at short mid-on, the Australian punished the SRH bowlers with a flurry of boundaries.

Stoinis, on three at that time, was nicely set up by Sandeep but the opportunity was not taken.

It was Holder, who was then taken to task by Stoinis, who creamed off 18 runs from the West Indian's over with three fours and a six. — *PTI*



Delhi Capitals players celebrate the wicket of Manish Pandey of Sunrisers Hyderabad during their IPL Qualifier 2 match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. Capitals won by 17 runs. — *BCCI*

## SAHA HAS HAMSTRING TEAR, ALL EYES ON BCCI

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 8:** Senior wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha's saga of picking up injuries continued as he has been diagnosed with a hamstring tear which is sure to raise questions about his availability for the upcoming tour of Australia.

It will now depend on what call BCCI mandarins take considering that physio Nitin Patel's medical reports have of late come under scanner due to divergent views of the IPL franchises.

Saha had stretched his groin while batting against Delhi Capitals in the second

leg of the IPL but then played against Mumbai Indians in the 14th and final round game where he must have picked up a tear while fighting the earlier niggle.

"Wriddhiman Saha has a hamstring tear," SRH skipper David Warner confirmed the nature of injury.

However, the degree of the tear is still not clear.

It is understood that if Saha has a grade 1 tear, which normally takes four weeks of rest and rehabilitation, then he would be boarding the flight to Australia with the first Test starting on December 17. — *PTI*

## Pollard credits his bond with Pandya brothers for success

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 8:** West Indian swashbuckler Kieron Pollard says his relationship with the Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal — transcends the cultural boundaries, and explosive batting is just one of the many similarities they share.

Defending champions MI have made it to their sixth IPL final and the trio played a significant role in their campaign.

"As I always say there is Hardik Pandya and then there is the smarter Pandya (Krunal). For us the relationship that we have off the field, transcends onto the cricket field," Pollard, who has played over 150 games for MI, said in a video shared on their



Kieron Pollard

Twitter handle.

"We share some of the same sort of sentiments, the kind of people that we are in terms of just wanting to help, and just enjoying the moment and being thankful and grateful for whatever opportunities that is presented to us."

According to Pollard, being confident and back-

ing himself are the similar qualities he shares with Hardik. Both are known for their six-hitting prowess.

"(They (Pandya brothers) are more open and loud, but they are not like that just off the field, when they go on to the cricket field, the flair that they show, Hardik especially, that aspect of it, he goes out, backs himself, he is confident. So these are some of the things that we share in common," said Pollard.

Pollard praised Hardik, who has scored 278 runs and plundered 25 sixes this season, for his confidence.

"The way that they are, they are like good people. And you will find it very difficult not to like these individuals." — *PTI*

## WOMEN'S T20 | CHALLENGE

## Harmanpreet &amp; Co target third crown

**Sharjah, Nov. 8:** The momentum is with defending champions Supernovas as they eye a third straight Women's T20 Challenge title, with a determined Trailblazers standing in their way in the final here on Monday.

In the winners-take-all T20 final, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will have momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti Mandhana and company in the last round-robin game on Saturday.

Supernovas, champions in 2018 and 2019, just about managed to ward off their rivals in a last-over thriller.

The two-run win enabled the Supernovas to enter the final, while knocking the Mithali-Raj led Velocity out of the competition. For the defending champions, opener Chamari Atapattu (111 runs) has been in brilliant form. The Sri Lankan veteran is the top scorer for Supernovas this season.

Against the Trailblazers, she played an aggressive innings (67 off 48-balls) to notch up the first fifty of the tournament.

Skipper Harmanpreet, who had scored two half-centuries including in the final last year, has been dismissed for 31 in both the matches and the big-hitting Indian T20 captain

● **In the winners-take-all T20 final, Harmanpreet Kaur-led Supernovas will have the momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti Mandhana's Trailblazers in the last round-robin game on Saturday.**

will look to get back to her destructive best in the final.

They will be up against Trailblazers, who started their campaign on a sensational note. Their bowlers, led by England's Sophie Ecclestone and veteran Jhulan Goswami, bundled out the Velocity for a paltry 47. However, they were unable to dish out a similar display on Saturday.

Skipper Mandhana, who has scored 39 runs in two games, has had an underwhelming tournament and will be keen on coming good with the bat.

Opener Deandra Dottin has also been among runs but will be keen to notch up a big one. Deepti Sharma (43 not out) and Harleen Deol (27 off 15 balls) almost led the Trailblazers to victory and the two will look to build on their performance. — *PTI*

## Deepti worked on her game after lockdown

**Sharjah, Nov. 8:** Indian women's team all-rounder Deepti Sharma has said she has worked on her game after the coronavirus-forced lockdown and is executing her plans in the ongoing Women's T20 Challenge here.

Representing Trailblazers, Sharma scored an unbeaten 43 in their match against Supernovas on Saturday, but could not help her team to victory.

"After the lockdown I worked a lot on lofted shots and inside-out shots and I was able to apply it here," she said at the post-match press conference.

"Obviously, the wicket is a bit different to Indian wickets. They are slow and

low but I don't think it should matter much. You just have to watch the ball and hit the ball," she added.

Sharma said the Trailblazers would work hard and rectify the mistakes when the two sides meet in Monday's final.

"Small mistakes... In fielding, bowling. We will work in our practice session and will look to rectify the mistakes we made today, in the next game. Overall we did well. Winning or losing is part of the game," she said.

She said 146 was a good score to chase as the ball was coming on to the bat even though some of them kept low. — *PTI*



Deepti Sharma of Trailblazers plays a shot en route to her unbeaten 43 against Supernovas during their Women's T20 Challenge match in Sharjah on Saturday. — *BCCI*

## Pedro matches Italy legend Riva's 52-yr Cagliari record

**Milan, Nov. 8:** Cagliari's Joao Pedro scored for the fifth consecutive Serie A match to equal a 52-year-old club record set by Italy legend Gigi Riva in a 2-0 victory over 10-man Sampdoria on Saturday, as French forward M'Bala Nzola's brace gave Spezia breathing space at the bottom of the table.

Former European champion and World Cup runner-up Riva, who led Cagliari to their only Italian title in 1970, was the last player in the club to score five in the first seven league matches back in 1968.

Riva, Italy's all-time top scorer with 35 goals in 42 games and also Cagliari's with 164 goals in 315 league games, celebrated his 76th birthday on Saturday.

"I changed the system to favour Joao," said Cagliari coach Eusebio

● **Former European champion and World Cup runner-up Riva, who led Cagliari to their only Italian title in 1970, was the last player in the club to score five in the first seven league matches back in 1968.**

Di Francesco. "I wanted to wish a happy birthday to the great Gigi Riva, a symbol for Cagliari."

Sampdoria had to play over half the match a man down after Tommaso Augello was sent off for bringing down Nahitan Nandez five minutes before the break.

Brazilian Pedro opened the scoring two minutes into the second half

when he won and scored a penalty kick after colliding with Lorenzo Tonelli.

## LEWANDOWSKI SCORES AS BAYERN LEAD TABLE

Robert Lewandowski scored his 11th goal in just his sixth Bundesliga game this season as Bayern Munich went top of the table on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund.

After Marco Reus put Dortmund ahead, David Alaba blasted home a free-kick to make it 1-1 at half-time behind closed doors at Signal Iduna Park.

Lewandowski gave Bayern the lead with a superb header early in the second half before Leroy Sane grabbed the visitors' third.

Erling Braut Haaland gave Dortmund hope with a late goal. — *AFP*

## Atleti go top, Messi rescues Barca

**Madrid, Nov. 8:** Atletico Madrid jumped to the top of La Liga on Saturday with a 4-0 thrashing of Cadiz after Lionel Messi came on at half-time to rescue Barcelona against Real Betis.

Atletico claimed first place, ahead of Real Sociedad on goal difference, with the excellent Joao Felix scoring twice in another impressive victory for Diego Simeone's side.

Luis Suarez and Marcos Llorente were also on target as Atletico made it five wins and two draws from their opening seven games and underlined their status as genuine title contenders.

They have scored 17 goals and conceded just two in that time.

After the international break, Atleti play at home to Barcelona, when Suarez and Antoine Griezmann will be up against their former clubs.

But while Suarez has enjoyed a superb start for Atletico, scoring five goals already, Griezmann contin-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (second from right) is challenged by Real Betis players during their La Liga match at Camp Nou in Barcelona on Saturday. — *AP*

ues to struggle in the shadow of Messi at Camp Nou.

Messi had been rested by Ronald Koeman but was thrown on with the game in the balance after Griezmann missed a penalty, before Betis' Antonio Sanabria cancelled out

Ousmane Dembele's opener.

Within four minutes of his introduction, Messi gave Griezmann an open goal with a superb dummy and then scored twice himself, the first a penalty that saw Betis' Aissa Mandi sent

off for a handball on the line.

## DI MARIA BRACE IN RENNES STROLL

Angel Di Maria scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain made short work of Rennes despite a raft of absences in a 3-0 win that enables the champions to hold onto their lead at the top of Ligue 1.

Di Maria struck in each half, with Moise Kean scoring the other, to move PSG up to 24 points, five ahead of second-placed Lille.

Rennes stay third on 18 points — but can be overtaken by Nice should they beat Monaco on Sunday — while Montpellier are a further point back in sixth after their 2-0 win at Bordeaux.

PSG's win was their eighth in a row in the French top flight and came as under-fire coach Thomas Tuchel battles with an injury crisis that has left him without the likes of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Marco Verratti. — *AFP*