

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | SATURDAY | 7 NOVEMBER 2020



Greta recycles Trump jibe, asks him to 'chill'



Sunrisers eliminate RCB to make Qualifier-2

Abused childhoods, traumatised lives



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WEATHER

Max: 30.6°C
Min: 15.6°C
RH: 60%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 31/18 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+46,031)	(+524)
84,56,280	1,25,528
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,602)	(+4)
TS: 2,47,284	1,366
(+2,410)	(+11)
AP: 8,38,363	6,768

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,93,78,910
DEATHS
12,44,613
215
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Shashthi till 7.21 am
Star: Punarvasu till 8.02 pm
Variyam: 4.15 pm to 5.54 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6.20 am to 7.50 am
Rahukalam: 9 pm to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 20, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.15 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.07 pm
Maghrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.17 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.42 PM
MOONSET 11.48 AM
MOONRISE 11.13 PM

COUNTER POINT



Who are the candidates? Biden and Trump?

SHORT TAKES

Clear smog in Delhi, says SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to ensure there is no smog in Delhi as it was informed that the commission on air quality management has started functioning from Friday. The pollution has to be dealt with by the executive as it has the power and money this, a bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde observed. "The only thing is that you ensure that there is no smog in the city. We are not concerned with commission. There are many commissions and many brains are working but just ensure that there is no smog in the city," the bench said.

New info panel chief to take oath

New Delhi: Information commissioner Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha will be administered the oath as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) on Saturday, officials said on Friday. Sinha, a former diplomat, will be administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind, they said. Journalist Uday Mahurkar, former Labour Secretary Heera Lal Samariya and former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Saroj Punhani will be administered the oath as the Information Commissioners by Sinha, the government officials said.

On election duty



Security personnel, carrying EVMs and VVPAT machines, leave for polling booths from Hajipur on Friday, ahead of Saturday's third and final phase of Bihar Assembly. About 2.34 crore voters will chose from among 1,024 candidates in 78 constituencies. — PTI

CDS says China is paying for Ladakh misadventure

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Friday that the Chinese Army is facing "unanticipated consequences of its misadventure in Ladakh" and the possibility of border confrontations leading to a wider conflict cannot be ruled out.

"The situation along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh remains tense and the People's Liberation Army is facing unanticipated consequences of its misadventure in Ladakh because of the Indian defence forces firm and strong response," said Gen Rawat during a webinar. He said that India will not accept any shifting of the LAC. "In the overall security calculus, border confrontation, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted," said the CDS. Gen. Rawat's statement is the strongest direct attack on China by any high-ranking Indian official. Ministers have mostly avoided naming China directly while talking about Chinese aggression.

INDIA, CHINA HOLD EIGHTH ROUND OF CORPS COMMANDERS MEETING

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India and China on Friday held the eighth round of Corps Commander level talks on the six-month military stand-off in eastern Ladakh. It started at 9.30 am at Chushul and ended at around 7 pm.

This was the first meeting under Lt Gen. P.G.K. Menon, new commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, also known as the 'Fire & Fury Corps'. There was no official word yet on the outcome of the meeting. However, India has maintained that China disengage completely from all the flashpoints in eastern Ladakh. India had said it will only accept complete disengagement by the Chinese troops and restoration of the status quo ante of April 2020 at the LAC.

INDO-NEPAL PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE, SAYS NEPAL PM

Kathmandu, Nov. 6: Problems between Nepal and India would be resolved through dialogue, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli said on Friday during a meeting here with Indian Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane who paid a courtesy call on him. Gen. Naravane's three-day visit to Nepal was largely aimed at resetting bilateral ties that came under severe strain follo-

wing a bitter border row between the two countries. The meeting between Gen Naravane and Oli, who is also defence minister, took place at his official residence. Prime Minister Oli, according to his foreign affairs advisor Rajan Bhattarai, expressed hope that the problems between the two countries would be resolved through dialogue. — PTI

Karnataka to ban use of crackers on Diwali

Bengaluru, Nov. 6: Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Friday appealed to the people to celebrate Diwali in a simple way, using "green crackers" after indicating that the government would ban fireworks due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement, he said several suggestions have come from the people regarding the sale and use of firecrackers during the

- **KARNATAKA HEALTH** minister K. Sudhakar said smoke due to burning crackers will have a negative impact on people's health, especially on those who have recovered from Covid-19.
- **KARNATAKA IS** the first BJP-ruled state to do so. Other states, including Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi, have decided to ban firecrackers.

festival. The government has taken all measures for the control of Covid-19, and it was appropriate to celebrate Diwali in a simple and meaningful way

keeping in mind the health of citizens and children, Yediyurappa said. Earlier in the day, Yediyurappa said the government will issue an

order banning the use of firecrackers during the festival. Karnataka may become the first BJP-ruled state to do so. Other states, including Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi, have decided to ban firecrackers. "We have discussed it (cracker ban), we are taking a decision to ban the use of firecrackers during Deepavali... the government will soon be issuing an order to this effect," Yediyurappa told

reporters here. Health minister K. Sudhakar said the Chief Minister has taken a decision to ban firecrackers this year based on the recommendation of the technical advisory committee of the department. The smoke due to burning crackers will have a negative impact on people's health, especially on those who have recovered from Covid-19 infection, he said. — PTI

BATTLE | BENGAL

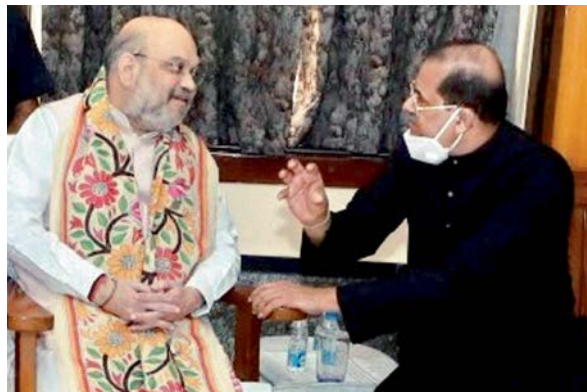
Minister's visit to vocalist's home comes after Ganguly refused to be BJP's face

Bengali vocalist not in tune with Shah's plans

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 6

A day after setting the target of winning more than 200 seats in the West Bengal elections next year, Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday met musical maestro Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty amid the BJP's hunt for a chief ministerial face with the clean image of a Bengali *Bhadrak* (gentleman), well-known in any field, to fight the Trinamul Congress. A reputed vocalist of the classical music tradition, Chakrabarty was con-

ferred the Padma Bhushan by the Narendra Modi government in January this year. Shah's move came after BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's polite refusal to bat for the BJP due to his preoccupation with cricket administration, according to party sources. Before Shah's visit, Chakrabarty told the media: "Amit ji is coming to me as a musician. I am grateful that a person of his stature has considered visiting Kolkata for the cause of music because I am a musician and I do not know anything other than



Union home minister Amit Shah in talk with Indian classical vocalist Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty in Kolkata on Friday.

- **AFTER THE MEET**, the vocalist said, "My answer to the question if I am joining the BJP is that my only party is the music party. I do not belong to the BJP, CPI(M), TMC or Congress."

music." Asked about the meeting, Chakrabarty said, "He will listen to music. What else can he do? I do not know anything more than that. Neither have I the guts to invite him nor have I invited him. So, as a famous person, he himself is com-

ing to me as a guest." Recalling his long association with many leaders, Chakrabarty later said, "My answer to the question if I am joining the BJP is that my only party is the music party. I do not belong to the BJP, CPI(M), TMC or Congress. A powerful person like the Union home minister's visit to a singer is a surprise." On the BJP's CM face, Shah said, "The list is not about a few, say two, names. There are many. Our party president and parliamentary board will decide the name."

IN BRIEF

Practice yoga to stay fit: Manuu V-C

Hyderabad: Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu), asked students to stay healthy and said the purpose of yoga was to keep a person physically and mentally fit. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the one-day webinar, 'Importance of physical fitness and yoga during the pandemic situation,' held by the university's directorate of physical education. "Yoga is an asset as it has a direct relation with health," he said.

4-YR-OLD KILLED IN MISHAP, KIN INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A four-year-old boy was killed and his family members injured when their bike dashed a lorry which was illegally parked on the road at Medchal.

The deceased, Hemanth, was travelling with his two siblings and parents.

The family was going to Shivampet in Medak from Bolaram when the accident occurred. Hemanth was sitting on the petrol tank of the bike.

CM TO HOLD MEET ON FINANCIAL CONDITION TODAY

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will hold a meeting with officials on Saturday to take stock of the financial situation of the government in view of the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on the state's revenues.

According to sources in the Chief Minister's Office, Rao will hold the review as a part of the mid-term review of state's annual budget for fiscal 2020-21.

Sources said that the Chief Minister will discuss in detail the steps being taken to cope with the reduction of revenue and also to revise the Budget estimates.

Based on the final outcome of the review meeting, the Chief Minister is likely to review the Budget estimates with ministers and officials of all the departments on Sunday.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, principal secretary (finance) Ramakrishna Rao, State Planning Board vice-chairman Vinod Kumar and senior officials from the finance department will participate in the review meeting.

After the meeting, the Chief Minister will review with officials the status of Yadadri temple construction works at 4 pm at Pragathi Bhavan.

TS REGISTERS 1,602 CASES, FOUR DEATHS

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The number of active Covid-19 patients — Coronavirus-infected persons either requiring treatment in hospital or at home, or in isolation at home or institutions — has been rising in the state since November 1.

Data provided in the daily Covid-19 bulletins issued by the state health department also shows that the number of people who have recovered from the disease, has been falling each day over this period. The number of active Covid-19 cases on November 1 was 17,630, which by November 5 rose to 19,272. The number of daily recovered cases fell from 1,456 on November 1 to 982 to November 5.

Meanwhile, the health department said the state recorded 1,602 new Covid-19 cases taking the total to 2,47,284 even as four more people died of the disease on Thursday. This takes to 1,366 the number of people who lost their lives to the disease in the state. So far, 2,26,646 people have recovered from the disease. According to the bulletin, the highest number of cases, 295, for Thursday were recorded in the GHMC area, followed by 137 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, and 118 Ranga Reddy districts.

● This takes to 1,366 the number of people who lost their lives to the disease in the state. So far, 2,26,646 people have recovered.

Floods bring deluge of cars into garages in Hyd

Dealers of vehicle parts are taking advantage of the crisis

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

It is now the turn of automobile garages to get flooded by cars that had been badly damaged during the widespread October floods. Vehicle owners, including those with insurance, are finding out that repairing their four-wheelers will not come cheap.

Mohd Salman, who works in a garage at Masab Tank, is putting in extra hours to repair the cars and deliver them to customers, before they can take repairs on the next vehicles on their list. The list is long. So is the case with Md. Abdul Raheem, who owns A.M. Auto Garage at Sainikpuri.

Balaraju, a retired employee, who lives at Surya Avenue Township, is in a quandary. He is unable to decide whether he should get his insured



Mechanics repair vehicles in a motor garage.

vehicle repaired. "The service centre says the estimated cost of repairs will be ₹8.82 lakh. My insurer tells me I would receive only ₹2.85 lakh. That's a lot of money. I am not quite sure whether I should get the car fixed or sell it for scrap," he says.

There are many like Balaraju. They are finding that the compensation that insurance companies are offering them is coming nowhere near to the estimate of repair costs.

Car repairers are mighty pleased but also vexed. "All my life, I have never seen so much work," said Md. Abdul Raheem. "Most of the vehicles we have got are from Malkajgiri, Kapra, ECIL and Moula Ali," he stated.

Dr Shakeel Moynuddin, a resident of Khairatabad, whose two cars got submerged in his apartment's cellar, said, "It has been two weeks since repairs on my car and MUV have been started. I have opted

for a local garage, which has quoted a reasonable amount of ₹3 lakh to get both my cars fixed."

At Marvel Motors in Masab Tank, repairs are pending for 50 cars. "Most of these have damaged electrical components, clutch plates and interiors," said Altaf Baig of the garage. He is attributing higher costs of repairs to the increased cost of spare parts, which have run into a shortage. Dealers of vehicle parts are taking advantage of the situation.

Shiva Kumar, a driver, said his car remained submerged in four-feet deep water near Raj Bhavan because of sudden flooding. "I was on my way to Somajiguda from Himayatnagar when the car got stuck in water. I left it right there and got it towed to the garage without attempting to start it. Had I done that, the damage would have been much more," Shiva said.

GRADUATES GET MORE TIME TO ENROL FOR POLL

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

In a response to a request of the TS High Court to consider the possibility of extending the time for voter enrolment for the Legislative Council graduates consistency election, the Election Commission of India on Friday submitted that eligible candidates will have an opportunity to enrol after the final voter list is published.

The EC said that from December 1 to 31, those who had not enrolled could apply for enrolment by filling the prescribed application forms.

The Election Commission said that it is not possible to extend the last date.

Social distance violation



Two policemen of Saroornagar police station seen violating social distancing norms by allowing huge public gathering during distribution of relief fund in Hyderabad on Friday. — P. SURENDRA

Cop assaults, abuses DC photographer on duty

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

A senior photojournalist from *Deccan Chronicle* was abused and threatened by a constable from the Saroornagar police station on Friday, who also attempted to grab his camera and acted in a manner that instigated the people.

The photographer, P. Surendra, was documenting how physical distancing norms were thrown to the winds as people scrambled to have their names registered as victims of the recent floods in Pochammabagh of Saroornagar police station limits.

Surendra was on location, on a street, a public space, documenting how they were trying to get their names on a list being prepared by officials for disbursement of the ₹10,000 aid promised by the government.

Constable P. Gopal who was on the spot with a colleague, objected to Surendra's presence and told the photographer to

● **CONSTABLE P. Gopal** who was on the spot with a colleague, objected to Surendra's presence and told the photographer to leave the place.

This, after he demanded that the DC photographer show an ID card to prove he is a news photographer.

Though Surendra handed over his Telangana state government-issued media accreditation card, the constable, who could not understand what the card stood for, accused the DC photographer of vitiating the atmosphere by taking pictures of the goings-on.

Gopal also objected to Surendra standing near a house saying he should leave and warned him that he would speak with *Deccan Chronicle* about what the photographer was doing, following which the photojournalist told the constable that he was welcome to do so.

"Just take two or three photos and leave from here," constable Gopal told the photographer but with Surendra responding that he was doing his job and will continue his work, the constable's tone and tenor changed into language that began to instigate people, who were at the spot, to begin asking the photographer to leave.

The constable also attempted to grab the photographer's camera as he tried to intimidate Surendra into submission.

After instigating the people against the photographer, the constable continued to insist that Surendra immediately leave the place.

The police appeared to take the line that the photographer's reaction to being told to leave the place was inappropriate and that he could have done better. When enquired, LB Nagar assistant commissioner of police K. Prudhvidhar Rao said the issue had come to his notice and he was inquiring into it.

LUS seeks removal of illegal constructions on government lands

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 6

The district unit president of 'Loksatta Udyama Samstha' (LUS), N. Srinivas in a statement released on Friday has alleged that the officials of the Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar (MCK) are not taking action against those encroaching the roads and government lands under the MCK limits.

He stated that it is unfortunate that even after bringing it to the notice of the MCK officials about the illegal constructions done by encroaching the road with evidence, they are not taking any action.

In Kothirampur area, the owner of building number 8-7-297/2/A constructed a shed encroaching the municipal road. One of the colony residents brought the issue to the notice of the district collector K. Shashanka and municipal commissioner V. Kranthi last month.

"On receiving the complaint, they asked the KMC officials to inquire about it. The officials who inspected the area confirmed that the road has encroached. No action is yet taken," he said.

The municipal officials are supportive of the land grabbers. They must take immediate action and remove the illegal constructions from several places under the MCK limits, he demanded.

An illegal construction done in Kothirampur area encroaching the municipal road in Karimnagar city. — DECCAN CHRONICLE



BJP activists burn an effigy of the state government in Khammam on Friday for misgovernance in Telangana.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Law and order has failed in TS: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM/ADILABAD, NOV. 6

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders came down heavily on the TRS government for 'misgovernance' and highlighted their failure in maintaining law and order in Telangana.

Led by party district president, Galla Satyanarayana, BJP activists burnt the effigy of the government for the death of Srinivas, who died by suicide protesting the arrest of BJP state

president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Activists raised slogans against the government and its policies. Police were posted at the BJP office and tried to check the movement of the activists.

"The dreams of the Telangana youth, who fought for Telangana, their livelihood, water and jobs, have not been fulfilled. Only one family in Telangana is receiving all the benefits. The BJP leaders are being jailed for questioning their misdeeds", Satyanarayana

said, adding that incidents like the death of Srinivas should not take place in Telangana.

BJP leaders paid tributes to the portrait of Srinivas. They called on the youth not to commit suicide and to fight against the undemocratic attitude of the TRS government.

The BJP district president said, "BJP leaders are being arrested whenever they come out of their houses. BJP will give a fitting reply soon on the attitude to the government."

In Adilabad, BJP leaders

and activists burnt an effigy of the state government on Friday, in front of the bus stand in Adilabad town, alleging police harassment and assault on BJP leaders and activists on the direction of state government.

Raising slogans against the state government, the BJP leaders threatened to intensify their agitation if the state government does not stop harassing them. BJP leaders Akula Pravin, Dinesh Matolia, Payal Sharanth, Jogu Ravi, and Bhumanna and others were present.

into irregularities in the distribution of flood relief in the city. TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy spoke to the Governor over the telephone and pointed out several instances of misappropriation of funds

meant for distribution among the people affected by the recent heavy rains and floods last month.

The TPCC chief pointed out that the state government on October 19 sanctioned ₹550 crore towards

distribution of flood relief. "During a national calamity or crop loss, the official machinery enumerates the losses and prepares a list of affected people. Later, cheques are distributed to all the affected

people. Even ₹100 is paid through cheque. However, of the ₹550 crore sanctioned, the state government withdrew ₹387 crore in cash and it was distributed through the TRS cadre," Uttam said.



OTHER STORIES

PALONCHA CHC GETS CENTRAL OXYGEN SYSTEM

DC CORRESPONDENT
PALONCHA (KOTHAGUDEM),
NOV. 6

The 50-bed Community Health Centre (CHC) in Paloncha received a Central Oxygen System (COS) on Friday. The health centre did not have an oxygen system needed while conducting surgeries. As a result, Tribals having to undergo surgeries had to go elsewhere for their operations.

TWO KHAMMAM STUDENTS EARN SEAT IN AIIMS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 6

Two students from Khammam got medical seats in medical colleges under the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Mallidi Rishit scored 705 marks and got the 33rd rank in the Neet exam and bagged a medical seat in AIIMS, New Delhi. Rishit's father is a lecturer in an engineering college and his mother a government teacher.

Manti Keerti stood 22,929 rank in the Neet exam. He got into AIIMS, Mangalagiri, under the SC category. Keerti's father works as an engineer in the irrigation branch in Julurpad.

WOMAN HANGS SELF ALONG WITH TODDLER

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 6

S. Lasya, a 25-year-old woman, allegedly killed her two-year-old daughter and took her life at Jawaharnagar Colony in Bhupalpally town on Friday. According to Bhupalpally police, the bodies of the victims were found in the house.

Lasya's husband Kumaraswamy, who works in Kakatiya Khani (KTK) Incline-1 at Bhupalpally, found the bodies when he returned from work and informed the police. Bhupalpally inspector S. Vasudev Rao said the bodies have been shifted to Parkal government hospital for the post-mortem examination.

"We are questioning the husband of the deceased about any disputes in the family. A case of suspicious death has been registered and further investigation is on," he said.

LASYA'S HUSBAND Kumaraswamy, who works in Kakatiya Khani (KTK) Incline-1 at Bhupalpally, found the bodies when he returned from work and informed the police.

FOUR MEMBERS OF A FAMILY MISSING IN NIZAMABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 6

Four members of a family, including a four-year-old girl, are missing from Gayatrinagar in Nizamabad.

The incident came to light on Friday as other family members noticed the house locked. The missing include Sandeep, 38, his wife Priyanka, 31, daughter Aadya, 4, and brother Srikanth 30.

According to police, Sandeep lived in a rented house in Gayatrinagar and ran a menswear shop near Phulong crossroads.

Four days ago, he called his parents and told them that he is going to a hospital in Hyderabad. Since then their cell phones are switched off.

Reportedly, Sandeep had borrowed money from friends, relatives and others.

The borrowers noticed that there were no valuables in the rented house. IV-Town SI Laxmaiah registered a missing case and investigation is on.

ACCORDING TO police, Sandeep lived in a rented house in Gayatrinagar and ran a menswear shop near Phulong crossroads.

FOUR DAYS ago, he called his parents and told them that he is going to a hospital in Hyderabad. Since then their cell phones are switched off.

No excess money to be paid at Mee Seva centres

Buyers, sellers can complain if additional payment sought

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 6

The state government is making efforts to make people aware of the fee structure while registering their lands on the Dharani portal.

The exercise by the government is to maintain transparency and that land registration and mutation is quick. It also aims to counter the middlemen involved in the selling and buying of land.

Buyers or sellers can complain if additional payments are sought either at the Mee-Seva centres or at the joint registrar's office.

Khammam collector R.V. Karnan said, "The government has fixed charges for all services extended in the Mee-Seva centres. The prices of lands are available on the Dharani portal. Registration fee for land should be paid as per the value of the land. There is no scope for middlemen in the new system".

Karnan visited the Penuballi mandal tehsildar cum joint registrar office on Friday and viewed the ongoing registrations.

Interacting with a seller Hussain, the collector



Collector R.V. Karnan gives the gift deed registration document to Jaharunnisa at the joint registrar office in Penuballi mandal in Khammam district on Friday.

COLLECTOR SAID, THE prices of lands are available on the Dharani portal. Registration fee should be paid as per the value of the land. No scope for middlemen in the new system.

enquired about the new system, asking him how much time it took for him to register a slot and its registration.

Hussain said, "The registration was done quickly, when compared to the earlier system." Hussain gifted his two-acre land in V M

Banjara village in the name of his daughter Shaik Jahirunnisa. Karnan presented the documents to Jahirunnisa.

The collector later, directed the revenue divisional officer of Kallur, and the Penuballi joint registrar, to inform the Mee-Seva

organisers about the new system.

In a meeting conducted at the Kallur revenue division office, he asked the joint registrars to present the pattadar passbooks immediately to the buyers.

He said, "The government introduced the system to check the corruption in land transactions. No person should have to pay any additional amount to the Mee-Seva centre organisers."

Cops nab 11 from different places for cricket betting 2 gangs busted in Warangal

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
SIRCILLA, NOV. 6

Task Force police conducted raids at several places on Thursday night in Rajanna Sircilla district at the same time. They apprehended 11 persons from different places for cricket betting on the match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, and seized 12 mobiles.

According to the Task Force Circle Inspector, Ravi Kumar, "On receiving orders, the Task Force police divided into teams and conducted raids in Sircilla, Vemulawada and Yellareddypet at a time."

Three persons involved in cricket betting were apprehended, from near a private school in Chekkapalli area, in the temple town of Vemulawada.

They were identified as Tekurala Shiva Kumar, Varala Vamshi and Savaram Jashwik while two others identified as Hemanth and Vinay are absconding. The police seized four mobiles from them, and are on the lookout for the absconding two.

The Task Force raided the bus stand area, in Yellareddypet mandal. They apprehended five persons, placing bets for the IPL match and carrying out financial transactions online. The five

Task Force police on Thursday night busted two cricket betting gangs in Hanamkonda while they were placing bets on the match between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals.

On information, they raided the house of one Neerella Pramod in Gudi Bandala Colony under Hanamkonda police station limits. They caught four people including Pramod, Polamena Prakash, Pittala Prashant and Konda Murali while betting through their

phones. "We seized ₹31,000 and four smartphones that they were using for placing the bets. All the four have been handed over to Hanamkonda police," said inspector Nandiram Naik.

In another incident on the same night, police took into custody two persons Gade Amar and Md. Munawar, who works as a home guard in the IB office, while they were betting near Ambedkar junction. Task force inspector G. Madhu said ₹15,000 in cash and two mobile phones have been seized from the duo.

accused are Imran, resident of Gollapally, Moin and Uday, residents of Yellareddypet and Azaam and Sameer of Banda Lingampally villages. The police seized five mobiles from their possession.

In another incident, three persons from Shabari mess in Sircilla town were apprehended. The three were identified as Chippa Pavan, resident of Sircilla town and Boddur Rakesh and Ram Prasad, residents of Tadur village. Police

seized three mobiles from their possession. The Task Force CI, Ravi Kumar said that using technical knowledge we kept a vigil on cricket betting in the district. We will continue conducting raids and will take stringent actions against persons indulging in cricket betting, he warned.

Task Force SI, Ram Reddy, head constable N. Sattaiah, constables K. Thirupathi and M. Ramesh participated in the raids.

REVIEW MEET ON DEVADULA PROJECT HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 6

A review meeting was held in Hanamkonda on Friday to chalk out strategies to provide irrigation water to the remaining 1.5 lakh acres in erstwhile Warangal district, through the J Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Minister for panchayat raj, Errabelli Dayakar Rao and minister for Tribal welfare, Satyavathi Rathod attended the meeting.

Dayakar Rao said that the goal of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is to rejuvenate erstwhile Warangal district through the Devadula project.

"Land acquisition, required to reach the intended target in this scheme should be completed. Plans need to be made to provide water up to the last acre and should be implemented immediately. If there are any problems in this regard, we will immediately bring it to the attention of the CM and try to resolve it," he said.

Satyavathi Rathod said that the Devadula Scheme aims to irrigate about 6 lakh acres in the state. Already 4.5 lakh acres are under irrigation. The remaining one-and-a-half lakh acres have to come under irrigation.

"The CM has directed that the remaining areas of joint Warangal district, should be irrigated through this scheme. Past governments abandoned the projects. But the CM redesigned the projects to make them usable and allocated maximum funds for the benefit of the people," she said.

Regarding Mulugu district, she said, though the Godavari River passes through its heartland, there is an opinion that water is not available.

"The interlinked water bodies under the Laknavaram Lake will provide water. Planning is needed to increase the ayacut in this district. Similar, planning is needed across erstwhile Warangal district," she opined.

Secretary to CM Smitha Sabarwal, Principal Secretary I&CD Rajat Kumar, district collectors and public representatives were present.

LAND ACQUISITION, required to reach the intended target in this scheme should be completed. Make plans to provide water up to the last acre the minister said.



Congress leaders protest at Kamalapur Mandal Center on Friday calling for the withdrawal of the anti-farmer Agriculture laws introduced by the Central Government.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

KCR, BJP playing with the lives of farmers: Congress

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 6

The Congress on Friday held a farmers' signature collection drive at Kamalapur Mandal Center calling for the withdrawal of the anti-farmer Agriculture laws introduced by the Central Government.

TPCC working president Ponnamp Prabhakar said that it was a good gesture to give ₹10,000 to those who were affected by the flood in Hyderabad. But, the TRS government did so only because of the upcoming GHMC elections. "What about the farmers who lost their crops due to the heavy rains?" he asked.

He said, "It was time for Telangana farmers to oust the Modi and K. Chandrasekhara Rao governments. Congress will stand firm in the fight for farmers Minimum Support Price."

"The agriculture laws introduced by the BJP government at the Centre completely undermines farmers and the agriculture sector. They are designed to hand over agriculture to corporate entities such as the Ambani's and the Adani's."

Warangal Urban and Rural district congress committee president Naini Rajender Reddy said that the Prime Minister and the CM are playing havoc with the lives of farmers. He alleged that Modi, who is already trying to sell companies like the LIC and the

BJP STAGES RASTA ROKO IN JANKAMPET FOR PADDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 6

The BJP leaders staged a rasta roko on Friday at Jankampet on the Nizamabad-Narsi interstate road demanding a remunerative price for paddy.

Party leaders from the Bodhan Assembly constituency sat on the road and raised slogans against the state government. Vehicular traffic on Nizamabad-Bodhan road and Nizamabad-Basar road came to a halt.

BJP district president B a s a p u r a m Laxminarsaiah and others took part in the agitation. Police took the agitators into custody and cleared the road. The BJP is asking the government to give ₹2,500 per quintal for paddy.

BSNL, has put farmers up for sale with the new agricultural laws.

"Under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, we are conducting movements across the country to protect agriculture. Signatures collected during this campaign will be handed over to the President," he said.

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SHORT TAKES

5% LESS COVID CASES THAN A DAY BEFORE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India's overall tally of coronavirus reached 84.12 lakh on Friday with 47,638 fresh cases - which is 5 per cent lower than previous day figures.

The toll has reached 1.25 lakh after 670 new fatalities were recorded. However, the number of active cases are close to 5.21 lakh while 77.66 lakh people have recovered so far.

According to the union health ministry, the active cases now comprise only 6.19 per cent of the total positive cases of the country.

In the last 24 hours, 54,157 persons were discharged from medical care taking India's recovery rate to 92.32 per cent. Kerala and Delhi are daily logging the highest number of cases in the country.

"The declining trend of the active cases is supported by a high number of recovered cases. The gap between recovered cases and active cases is nearing 72.5 lakh," union health ministry officials said adding 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 states/UTs.

Maharashtra has contributed the maximum with more than 11,000 single day recoveries.

Maharashtra government said that the number of Covid-19 cases has been dropping steadily in the last few days and there has been a 63 per cent decrease in the number of active cases.

Under a special campaign, the health agencies in the state have so far been able to identify 3,57,000 ILI and SARI patients.

"Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed that the third phase of 'My Family, My Responsibility' drive be implemented in December to aid in curbing the spread of coronavirus. As many as 12 crore citizens were surveyed and more than 50,000 cases detected during the two phases of the initiative," Maharashtra government said in a tweet.

INDIA SUMMONS PAK'S CDA

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India on Friday evening said it had summoned Pakistan's Charge D'Affaires (CdA) in New Delhi to register a strong protest over Islamabad's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) - a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh Community - to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body. The Pakistan CdA was summoned on Friday evening, a day after New Delhi had condemned Islamabad's move.

Asking Islamabad to reverse its "arbitrary" decision, New Delhi had on Thursday said Pakistan's move "runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large", adding that it exposes the "tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities".

NEW DINOSAUR SITE DISCOVERED IN MP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 6

A new dinosaur habitation has been discovered in Mandla, situated in Narmada river basin in Madhya Pradesh, with recovery of 7 fossilized eggs of the now-extinct species belonging to the Cretaceous period (65 million years ago).

The huge dinosaur eggs weighing around 2.6 kg each have been unearthed in Mohantola area, nearly 4 km from district headquarters of Mandla, Prof P K Kathal, Department of Applied Geology, Dr H S Gaur University, Sagar, in Madhya Pradesh, told this newspaper on Friday.

"The fossilized eggs have been authenticated as of dinosaurian affinity with use of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)," the professor of the Central University said.

Faith matters



Devotees pray as the head priest (unseen) displays the holy relic on Friday following Eid Milad-un-Nabi at Hazratbal shrine, in Srinagar on Friday.

- PTI

LOCALS REMAIN OUT OF REACH FOR COMMON MUMBAIKARS

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Mumbai's local trains, which are considered the lifeline of the city, will not be open for common people before Diwali.

A week after the Central Railway and Western Railway wrote letters to the Maharashtra government urging it to frame guidelines to avoid crowding in trains so that services can be opened for common people, the government is yet to hold a meeting for the discussion on it. As a result, lakhs of Mumbaiikars continue to face hardships.

Ministers of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government have accused the Centre of playing politics over the issue of local trains and not resuming the services for common people despite the state government's demand.

Rebutting the MVA government's claims, a senior official of Central Railway (CR) said that the state government did not call a meeting sought by the railways on how to go ahead with their proposal despite repeated verbal communication made by the senior officials of the Railways.

Officials in the Maharashtra government said that they do not want to rush with any decision in the wake of the second wave experienced by the European countries.

"Our priority is to avoid the transmission of the coronavirus. Even if the suburban train services are opened for common people, it will not be before Diwali," an official said. Currently, only government employees and people working in services defined as "essential services" can travel by local trains.

Modi to represent India at SCO meet of state heads

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of heads of state meeting in virtual format on November 10, New Delhi confirmed on Friday, adding that India would be hosting a meeting in virtual format on

November 30 of the SCO Heads of Government at the prime ministerial level.

The meeting on November 10 will be chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin during which Modi is expected to share screen-space with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the first time it will be so since Sino-Indian military

tensions began in the Ladakh sector about six months ago.

Besides this, it also remains to be seen whether Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan represents his country at the other SCO meeting.

The SCO is an eight-member predominantly Central Asian Grouping that includes China, Russia among others.

No interim relief for Arnab, HC to hear bail plea today

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Republic TV Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami will have to spend the third night in judicial custody as the Bombay High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on a petition filed by him for 12 pm on Saturday. While adjourning the matter, the Bombay High Court observed that it will not pass an order without hearing all parties.

The high court is hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Mr Goswami claiming that his arrest by Raigad police in the 2018 suicide case of Anvay Naik is illegal. He has also sought bail in the same petition and the HC had heard this petition for the first time on Thursday.

On the other hand, the Raigad police have also challenged the order of the Alibaug's magistrate court that remanded Goswami to judicial custody without sending him into police custody.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik heard arguments by Mr Goswami's lawyers Harish Salve and Aabad Ponda on Friday, but said the hearing will continue on Saturday for paucity of time.

"We will assemble for this matter tomorrow at noon. Since regular court

● THE HIGH court is hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Mr Goswami claiming that his arrest by Raigad police in the 2018 suicide case of Anvay Naik is illegal. He has also sought bail in the same petition and the HC had heard this petition for the first time on Thursday.

work will not be there tomorrow, we can hear this matter at length," the HC said.

The high court normally does not assemble on Saturdays.

The HC is also expected to hear the arguments from the state government and complainant Adnya Naik.

During the course of hearing on Friday, senior counsel Harish Salve on behalf of Goswami pointed out to HC that CJM Alibag had stated in his order that "it seems that the arrest of the accused (Goswami) is illegal."

It was further argued before the court that the conduct for abetment to suicide must be direct and proximate, which is missing in this case and hence case of abetment to suicide is not made out against Goswami. He also said there must be direct act which led the deceased to commit suicide.

The bench, during the hearing, noted that the normal practice when seeking bail is to first approach the concerned lower court magistrate or sessions court and move the high court if bail is refused. To this, Mr Salve said section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) gives the high court special powers to hear bail pleas. "His (Mr Goswami's) liberty is at stake," Mr Salve said.

Mr Goswami's lawyers also argued that the Maharashtra government was trying to harass him for questioning the government on his news channel.

"This is a clear case of abuse of powers. There are multiple FIRs lodged against him. In this abetment of suicide case of 2018, the police have arrested him knowing fully well that courts will soon break for Diwali vacation." The Maharashtra government just wants to teach him a lesson," Salve said.

Mr Goswami is presently kept at a local school which has been designated as a COVID-19 centre for the Alibaug prison.

The HC on Saturday will also hear similar petitions filed by the other two arrested persons - Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda.

Shah: CAA will be implemented

Seeks white paper on political killings

Kolkata, Nov. 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to come out with a white paper on the political killings in the state and wondered why the state government has not sent the statistics of crime to the National Crime Record Bureau.

Stating that the Citizenship Amendment Act will be implemented, Shah said the law is in place and it is the commitment of the union government.

"We aim to build a strong Bengal in a new era of development. Mamata Banerjee aims to make her nephew the next chief minister," Shah said while addressing a press meet here.

"Since 2018 the West

Bengal government has not sent the statistics of crime to NCRB. I want to ask Mamata Banerjee to come out with a white paper on political killings. Bengal tops the chart in political killings," he said.

Alleging that there has been politicisation and criminalisation of government officers in the state, the union home minister said, "In West Bengal there are three laws - one for the nephew, one for minority appeasement and one for common people".

Speaking on the faceoff between Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and the state government, Shah said the governor is working within his constitutional limits.

"The words used against the governor are unac-

ceptable. I would like to know where is the (Darjeeling) district magistrate who was removed after meeting the governor," he said.

The TMC leadership Shah over his "appeasement remark" and said communal politics has no place in Bengal.

Mocking Shah's scheduled visit to a Matua family for lunch, the party described his refugee community outreach as a "poll gimmick" to divert attention from atrocities committed on backward communities in states ruled by the saffron party. Shah had said the present "appeasement politics" in the state has hurt its age-old tradition of upholding the nation's spiritual consciousness. - PTI

JD(U) clarifies on Nitish's 'last election' remark

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 6

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "last election" remark has become a topic of political debate ahead of the last phase of assembly elections in Bihar.

While the opposition termed his statement as an indication of "defeat", JD(U) issued a clarification on Friday saying that he was talking about the last election campaign for the ongoing assembly elections.

"His comments cannot be seen as his announcement for retirement. He has been aggressively

campaigning for NDA candidates and during his public meeting, he simply meant that it was his last campaign for the ongoing assembly elections. A politician cannot suddenly announce his retirement. He will stay in politics as long as the public wants", JD(U) state president Basisth Narayan Singh said.

On the last day of the campaigning for the final phase of polling in Bihar, Nitish Kumar had made an emotional appeal to electors for votes with an announcement that it would be his last election.

"All's well that ends well.

Today is the last day of the campaigning. A day after there is a last phase of polls in Bihar and this is my last election now tell me will you vote for our candidate", he said on Thursday while addressing a public meeting in Dhamdaha, Purnea.

Political analysts, however, feel that there could be several political reasons behind his announcement.

A section feels that Nitish, facing massive anti-incumbency, gave the statement to emotionally attract voters especially backwards and Muslims who have been with him since 2005.

CONGRESS SAYS GOVT. BETRAYED DEFENCE FORCES

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Congress on Friday alleged that the Modi government has betrayed the defence forces by "snatching away" the pension of army officers. It said this reeked of "fake-nationalism".

"We demand that the Prime Minister Modi comes forward and clarifies his stand on the issue and takes back its anti-army decision of October 29," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

According to the government's new proposal, only those officers who have spent more than 35 years in the armed forces shall be entitled to a 'full pension', which will demoralise the armed forces, he said. Surjewala claimed that the reality was that 90 per cent of the army officers retire before 35 years of service and in such a situation, the government is "hatching a conspiracy" to deny 90 per cent of army officers their full pension.

He alleged that the decision had hurt the morale of the forces and added that the government habitually seeks votes on the sacrifice of brave soldiers and on "fake nationalism".

TN BJP chief, workers detained

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

BJP state president L Murugan was detained at Tiruttani, along with over 400 party leaders and cadre as they tried to take out their proposed statewide Vetrivel yatra on Friday, reportedly to expose the DMK's links with Karupar Kootam. They were all released later in the day.

Though the state government had not granted permission for the BJP to take out the one-month long yatra, Murugan, defying the ban, left from his house in Chennai at around 8.45 am on a custom-made van, carrying a vel (spear), followed by about 50 cars and raising slogans 'Vetri Vel, Veera Vel'.

Leaders and cadre had started gathering at the house in Koyambedu from around 8.30 am itself. When the convoy reached Nazzarpet, police blocked the road and prevented Murugan from proceeding further. He was told that the yatra has been banned. Murugan told the police that he was on his way to offer worship at the Murugan temple at Tiruttani and it was his basic right.

After a long argument, police allowed the van and five other cars to pro-

ceed further. So the vehicles moved away from there quickly. On reaching Tiruttani, Murugan, along with some top leaders of the party, including national secretary C. T. Ravi and Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, went inside the temple.

Later he came out and addressed the cadre and functionaries who had gathered there to go on the yatra. He said the aim of the yatra was to rip the veil off DMK, which was behind the Karupar Kootam that denigrated Murugan worship.

He said as Murugan devotees they respected other religions but it was not reciprocated to them. After the coming elections, only the alliance in which BJP was part would form the government, he said.

Yatra organizer Narendran said that though the government had prohibited the yatra they were breaking the ban. Subsequently all those gathered there were whisked away in waiting vans and taken to a community hall, from where they were let off in the evening.

After their release, Murugan said that they were disappointed over the government action and that the yatra would continue.

Centre will regret abrogation of Article 370, says Mufti

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 6

Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti on Friday came down heavily on the BJP government at the Centre over its stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status in August last year.

While Ms. Mufti said that the Centre will only regret the "blunder" committed by it, Mr. Abdullah pledged he would not "close my eyes" before ensuring this "misstep" is rectified.

Both the leaders who are

the president and vice president of the recently launched 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' - a pledge to seek restoration of J&K's special status and statehood-respectively are currently in Jammu to garner support from among local political parties and people for it.

However, they spent the day (Friday) by visiting their respective party offices in the winter capital and meeting their workers to share their thoughts with them, for the first time after their

release from post-August 5, 2019 prolonged detention. Ms. Mufti while addressing her People's Democratic Party (PDP) workers asserted, "The Government of India will regret scrapping special status of J&K and time will come when they will not only restore both Article 370 and Article 35A but also ask the people of J&K what else they want".

She reiterated that the government at the Centre "doesn't follow the Constitution of the country but the agenda of Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP). She alleged, "They (people in the government) are beating drums on abrogation of Article 370, but fail to address the problems faced by the people and eradicate poverty. "Beating drums on abrogation of Article 370 was the only thing the present regime is doing. However, it has failed to bring some respite to the people from poverty," she said.

She added, "Mark my words. I do not know about the situation that would emerge in J&K but they (BJP) will not remain in power forever. Whosoever

will be in power in Delhi, they will regret their acts in J&K and they will also admit that they had misused the Constitution."

National Conference president Mr. Abdullah while speaking at a similar rally at the party office said that if the people of J&K wanted to go to Pakistan they would have done it in 1947. "No one could have stopped it. But our nation is Mahatma Gandhi's India, not BJP's India," he said.

Terming the abrogation of J&K special status as a "misstep" by the BJP gov-

ernment, he said that it has alienated the people of the erstwhile state further.

"The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, splitting the state up and subsequent arbitrary steps taken by the government have pushed the people to corner. They feel that they are not safe even in their own land," he said.

He added, "They call it a major step towards integrating J&K with the rest of the country and I'm afraid it has only alienated the people of the state further." He asserted that removing Article 370 and

35A will not solve the problems of J&K and that he will not die before ensuring restoration of these provisions. "I'm not 85 now but let me assure you I will not close my eyes until I get the rights of the people back to them."

As the winter capital had witnessed a series of protests by BJP and like-minded political groups against both Mr. Abdullah and Ms. Mufti over the past couple of weeks, the authorities had made elaborate security arrangements around the offices of the NC and PDP.

SHORT TAKES

BELGIUM SEIZES
11.5 TONNES OF
COCAINE IN SCRAP

Brussels, Nov. 6: Belgian police seized 11.5 tonnes of pure cocaine hidden in a scrap metal container in the country's single biggest-ever haul, prosecutors said on Thursday.

The find was made October 27 in the port of Antwerp when five scrap metal containers from South America were given a thorough inspection, a statement said.

The haul had an estimated value of 450 million euros (\$525 million) in its pure form, it said. Once cut with other products and sold to consumers, the street value would have been double that.

Antwerp is Europe's second largest goods port after Rotterdam, but is the number one gateway for cocaine to the continent, thanks to its close trade links with South America.

Investigators said the containers initially landed in the Belgian port of Zeebrugge and were then transferred by barge to the port of Antwerp.

The cocaine was concealed in a big steel container that was itself fitted inside a larger freight container which had some scrap metal parts thrown in as an attempt to disguise the load.

NZ'S ARDERN
SWORN IN FOR
SECOND TERM

Wellington, Nov. 6: New Zealand and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was sworn in for a second term on Friday, as final election results showed her landslide victory was even bigger than previously thought.

The charismatic leader and her ministers made their oaths of office in English and Maori during a ceremony at Wellington's Government House.

"I would say simply that sitting at this table is Aotearoa New Zealand," Ardern said, gesturing to her gathered team, in which women and Maori are strongly represented.

"They collectively represent a range of different perspectives, huge talent, enormous experience and, as you would expect in any time of crisis, a huge commitment to serving this country." Ardern, 40, leveraged her success battling Covid-19 into an unprecedented majority at the October 17 election, leading her centre-left Labour Party to its biggest win since World War II.

Final results released Friday showed Ardern won 50.0 per cent of the vote, up from 49.0 on election night, giving her 65 seats in the 120-strong parliament, rather than 64.

The main opposition National Party saw its seats reduced from 35 to 33, prompting campaign director Gerry Brownlee to step down as deputy party leader.

Ardern said she had a clear mandate for reform, although her priorities were containing Covid-19 and rebuilding the virus-damaged economy.

VEGANISM NOT
REQUIRED TO FIX
CLIMATE CHANGE

New York, Nov. 6: The world likely can't keep global warming to a relatively safe minimum unless we change how we grow, eat and throw away our food, but we don't need to all go vegan, a new study says.

Researchers looked at five types of broad fixes to the food system and calculated how much they fight warming. They found that sampling a buffet of partial fixes for all five, instead of just diving into the salad bar, can get the job done, according to a study published in Thursday's journal Science.

If the world food system keeps on current trajectories, it will produce near 1.5 trillion tons of greenhouse gases over the next 80 years, the study found. That's coming from belching cows, fertiliser, mismanaged soil and food waste. That much emissions – even if the globe stops burning fossil fuels which produce twice as much carbon pollution as food – is enough to likely warm Earth by more than the goals set in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

"The whole world doesn't have to give up meat for us to meet our climate goals," said study co-author Jason Hill, a biosystems engineering professor at the University of Minnesota. "We can eat better, healthier foods. We can improve how we grow foods. And we can waste less food."

The researchers from the United States and the United Kingdom found: — A nearly complete switch to a plant-rich diet around the world could slash almost 720 billion tons of greenhouse gases.

US TV networks stop airing
live Trump speech over 'lies'

President was making unfounded accusations on polls being stolen from him

New York, Nov. 6: ABC, CBS and NBC all cut away from President Donald Trump as he spoke from the White House to make an unfounded accusation that the presidential election was being stolen from him. Trump on Thursday tried to commandeer the nation's airwaves at a time when the evening newscasts are shown on the East Coast, after a day when the slow drip of vote counting revealed his leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia dwindling. MSNBC's Brian Williams also interrupted the president.

Fox News Channel and CNN aired the president's full address, after which CNN's Anderson Cooper said Trump was "like an obese turtle on his back, flailing in the hot sun realising his time was over". Network personalities had sharply criticised Trump after his angry, middle-of-the-night speech following Election Day but aired that talk in full.

Trump was more subdued on Thursday, yet offered a litany of complaints about "suppression" polls, mail-in voting and fraud that he never specified. "We have to interrupt here, because the president has made a number of false statements, including the notion that there has been fraudulent voting," said NBC's Lester Holt. "There has been no evidence of that." CBS' Norah O'Donnell broke in to ask correspondent Nancy Cordes to fact-check Trump's assertion that if "legal votes" were counted, he would easily win the election.

Cordes said there is no indication of a substantive number of illegal votes cast, and said Trump's reference to votes arriving late was "another falsehood." MSNBC cut away from Trump to anchor Brian Williams. "Here we are again in the unusual position of not only interrupting the president of the United States but correcting the president of the United States," he said. — AP

STORM ETA
KILLS OVER 50
IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Nov. 6: Scores of people, including 50 in Guatemala, have died as the remnants of Hurricane Eta on Thursday unleashed floods and triggered landslides on its deadly march across Central America. Eta struck the Caribbean coast of northern Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on Tuesday, tearing through impoverished coastal areas and sweeping away whole villages.

Two days later it exited Honduras as a tropical depression, although weather forecasters warned it could again strengthen into a tropical storm as it heads towards Cuba.

The storm brought heavy rain that caused deadly flooding in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama.

More than 50 people in Guatemala were killed in landslides unleashed by Eta, President Alejandro Giammattei said Thursday. — AFP

8 held for Vienna
hit had prior cases

Vienna, Nov. 6: Eight of those detained following Monday night's terrorist attack in Vienna had previous convictions, including for terror offences, the Austrian interior minister said Thursday, as the investigation extended to Switzerland and a second, unnamed country.

In the wake of the attack in which an Austrian-born man shot and killed four people in a popular nightlife area of central Vienna on Monday night, police arrested a total of 16 men.

Four of them had been convicted for terrorism-related offences, two for



Donald Trump supporters protest the Nevada vote outside Clark County Election Department, in North Las Vegas.

— AFP

GRETA RECYCLES
TRUMP JIBE, ASKS
HIM TO 'CHILL'

London/Washington, Nov. 6: Swedish teen environmental activist Greta Thunberg on Friday mocked Donald Trump in his own words, and urged him to "chill" after the US president, trailing behind his Democratic rival Joe Biden in the election, demanded that the counting of votes must "stop".

When she was named as the Time magazine's Person of the Year in December 2019, Trump told Thunberg, a global icon of the youth climate movement, to work on her anger management problem and "go an old fashioned movie with a friend." "Chill Greta, chill!" Trump said in his tweet on December 12 in which he described her Time award as "so ridiculous".

Trump was raging on Twitter on Thursday and posted a number of tweets alleging unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud during the presidential election, the results of which are yet to be announced. — PTI

Trump sons stand by their
father's election claims

New York, Nov. 6: While Donald Trump's political allies remained silent or distanced themselves on Thursday from the US president, increasingly alone in his fight against what he says is widespread election "fraud", his oldest sons declared their filial loyalty.

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election.

The inflammatory tweet was framed by some, including the New York Post, as a clear sign of growing panic in the Trump camp over Joe Biden's chances of winning the White House.

"The best thing for America's future is for @realDonaldTrump to go to total war over this election to expose all of the fraud, cheating, dead/no longer in state voters, that has been going on for far



Donald Trump Jr.

● **DONALD TRUMP JR., the eldest son, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election.**

too long," Don Jr. wrote on his Twitter account, where he regularly retweets conspiracy theories.

He did not provide any evidence of the cheating he alleged was going on.

"It's time to clean up this mess & stop looking like a

FACEBOOK SHUTS
DOWN 'STOP THE
STEAL' GROUP

San Francisco, Nov. 6: Facebook on Thursday shut down a pro-Trump group organising protests against vote-counting, saying it was being used to delegitimise the election process and included "worrying" calls for violence.

The group, called "Stop the Steal," was just days old but had topped 3,00,000 members by the time it was removed for violating Facebook policies.

— AFP

banana republic!" he added, before deriding the "total lack of action" from Republicans, naming some — such as South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham, usually a staunch Trump ally. His younger brother Eric also targeted the party that his father theoretically heads. "Where are Republicans! Have some backbone. Fight against this fraud. Our voters will never forget you if your sheep!" he wrote.

Few, however, appeared to answer his grammatically incorrect call.

Trump's eldest daughter and one of his senior advisers, Ivanka, tweeted Thursday that her father "will always go to the mat fighting for the hardworking men & women of this great Country!" But she has not tweeted or retweeted any of the fraud allegations championed by her brothers since Election Day. — AFP

DNA might replace barcodes to
tag art, voter ballots: Study

● **THE DNA-BASED system could help anti-forgery efforts, according to researchers who said thieves struggle to find or tamper with a transparent splash of DNA on valuable or vulnerable items, such as election ballots, works of art, or secret documents.**

● **UNLIKE EXISTING systems to tag objects, DNA tags are undetectable by sight or touch, senior author Jeff Nivala said in a press release from Washington University.**

sive lab equipment," lead author and a Washington University doctoral student Katie Doroschak said.

Porcupine gets around this by prefabricating fragments of DNA that users can mix together arbitrarily to create new tags, the researchers said.

"Instead of radio waves

or printed lines, the Porcupine tagging scheme relies on a set of distinct DNA strands called molecular bits, or 'molbits' for short," the University of Washington said in a statement.

"To encode an ID, we pair each digital bit with a molbit," explained Doroschak. "If the digital bit is 1, we add its molbit to the tag, and if it's 0 we leave it out. Then we can dry it until it's ready to be decoded later," said Doroschak.

Once the item has been tagged, it can then be shipped or stored. When someone wants to read the tag, water is added to rehydrate the molecular tag, which is read by a nanopore sequencer — a DNA-reading device smaller than an iPhone.

The name Porcupine comes from a play on words (PORE-cupine, as in nanopore) and the idea that porcupines can 'tag' objects, and critters that dare to get too close," the

lead author said.

Unlike existing systems to tag objects, DNA tags are undetectable by sight or touch, senior author Jeff Nivala said in a press release from Washington University.

"Practically speaking, this means they are difficult to tamper with.

"You could envision molecular tagging being used to track voters' ballots and prevent tampering in future elections," said Nivala.

The DNA-based technology might also be able to tag items that would be difficult to fix a barcode to. "It is not possible to tag cotton or other fibres with conventional methods like RFID tags and QR codes, but a liquid DNA-based tag could be used as a mist," said Doroschak.

"This could be helpful for supply chains where origin tracing is important to retain the value of the product," she added. — AFP

US registers new
Covid record with
1.2 lakh +ve cases

Washington, Nov. 6: More than 1,20,000 Coronavirus cases were reported in the US in the past 24 hours, smashing a daily record set the day before, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The country reported 1,23,085 new infections between 8:30 pm Wednesday and 8:30 pm Thursday (0130 GMT), and 1,226 more deaths, the tally by the Baltimore-based school showed.

On Wednesday, 99,660 new cases of the virus were reported. Thursday's tally shatters that record by 23,425 cases. While deaths remain lower than their worst levels in the spring, Thursday was also the third day in a row that fatalities were above 1,000. The last time people were dying at that rate of Covid-19 in the US was early September.

More than 9.6 million people have been infected and 2,34,000 have died in the United States so far during the pandemic, by far the highest tolls in absolute terms globally.

The new record comes as US President Donald Trump, who survived a bout with Covid-19 in October and insists the virus will "disappear," was fighting for his political life on Thursday with vote-counting from Tuesday's presidential election still ongoing.

His Democratic election rival Joe Biden has sought to turn the vote into a referendum on Trump's handling of the crisis, and vowed to listen to scientific recommendations on handling the pandemic should he take the White House.

With Coronavirus cases surging across the country since mid-October, more than 100 million voters cast their ballot by mail or in person before Election Day — the highest number of early voters ever — as many Americans sought to avoid crowded polling booths. — AFP

BORIS APPEALS
FOR UNITY AS
ENGLAND LOCKS

London, Nov. 6: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday called for a united effort to tackle spiking coronavirus infection rates, as 56 million people in England went into a second lockdown but with the public weary of restrictions and fearing for their jobs and livelihoods.

Renewed stay-at-home restrictions and closures are set to last for four weeks yet have been met with scepticism that they can halt the worst death toll from the virus in Europe.

"While it pains me to have to ask once again for so many to give up so much, I know that, together, we can get through this," Johnson, whose government sets health policy in England. — AFP

CHINA BANS
ARRIVALS FROM
FRANCE

Beijing, Nov. 6: Beijing on Thursday banned foreign arrivals from France and a host of other countries, the latest in a growing number of entry bans as China closes itself off from a world still battling the Coronavirus pandemic.

Covid-19 first emerged in central China late last year, but Beijing has largely brought its outbreak under control through tight travel restrictions and stringent health measures for anyone entering the country.

In March, as the virus ripped across the world, China shut its borders to all foreign nationals, although it had gradually eased the restrictions in recent months. — AFP

Pressure on WHO to
invite Taiwan to meet

Geneva, Nov. 6: The World Health Organisation is facing renewed pleas to allow Taiwan to participate in a key international meeting amid fears its exclusion could jeopardise efforts to rein in the coronavirus pandemic.

As many parts of the world are reeling from surging numbers of Covid-19 infections and deaths, the WHO is due on Monday to resume its main annual meeting, which was cut short in May.

But while the World Health Assembly (WHA) is expected to focus heavily on international coordination of the pandemic response, one international actor will not be present.

Taiwan has been excluded from the WHO and a number of other international organisations in the face of pressure from China, which regards the self-ruled democratic island of 23 million people as its own territory.

But critics say this does not make sense.

They point to the territory's remarkable success in combatting the Coronavirus, with only seven deaths and fewer than 600 infections since the start of the pandemic.

The World Medical Association (WMA), a confederation of national medical associations that jointly represent more than 10 million physicians, called Thursday for that to change.

"The Covid-19 pandemic is proof that cooperation for and with all health care systems in the world is necessary," WMA chairman Frank Montgomery said in an open letter to WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"We believe it is both cynical and counterproductive to continue excluding the health representatives from Taiwan from participating in the World Health Assembly — AFP

COLLECTOR'S DELIGHT Auctioneer finds memorabilia pristine in sealed packaging

Couple find Star Wars toys worth \$5.25 L

London, Nov. 6: A British couple have thanked their lucky stars after a garage full of bin bags they inherited from a dead neighbour yielded a trove of Star Wars toys worth £400,000 (\$525,000).

The couple, from Stourbridge in central England, were initially unsure what to make of the jumble of dolls and spacecraft their neighbour had spent decades collecting. *The Times* newspaper reported Thursday.

Their son called in an auctioneer, who found a treasure trove of Star Wars memorabilia including action figures still pristine in their sealed



A British couple have thanked their lucky stars after a garage full of bin bags left to them by a neighbour yielded a trove of Star Wars toys worth £400,000.

— AFP

packaging. "A lot of them were a bit damp because of how they've been stored but generally it's the best Star

Wars collection I've ever seen," Chris Aston of Aston's Auctioneers, told *The Times*.

"We had a huge amount

of interest from all over the world and were always expecting the sale to do very well," Aston said of the auction.

Going under the hammer was a Star Destroyer Commander, one of only two known examples still to be in its original packaging, which sold for £32,500 (\$42,000) including fees, the Times said.

A Palitoy Jawa still in its packaging — and believed to be one of only 10 in existence — fetched £27,280 with fees.

A set of eight figures from "Return of the Jedi" that cost only £1.59 each when they were bought new in the 1980s, went

for £1,400.

From Storm Trooper helmets to R2D2's eye, memorabilia from one of the world's biggest movie franchises can fetch eye-watering sums at auctions.

In 2015, a Luke Skywalker doll, which hit the market in 1978 as a children's toy, sold for \$25,000 at an auction organised by Sotheby's and eBay.

Aston said the Stourbridge couple would be "thrilled" with the unexpected windfall.

"I don't know if they have any specific plans but it must feel like they've won the lottery," he said. — AFP

DECCAN
Chronicle
7 NOVEMBER 2020

Don't stretch CBI, put
onus on police instead

Jharkhand has joined the list of states that have withdrawn their general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases within their territory. The Kerala cabinet had taken a similar decision a day before. At present there are eight states that have chosen to restrict the CBI; West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tripura and Mizoram being the others. Andhra Pradesh had, however, reversed its decision to ban it with the change of government.

The withdrawal of general consent by the states will necessitate the CBI to seek the permission of the state government every time it investigates a case in that state. The agency can get into the job with the backing of an order passed either by the high court or the Supreme Court. The state government can also recommend to the Union government to hand over a particular case to the agency.

The CBI came into existence as an arm of the Delhi Police and is bound by the Delhi Special Police Act, 1944. Its primary mandate was to investigate cases of corruption among Central government officials but the area of operation later got expanded. At present, the agency has wings to probe economic offences as well as special crimes such as murder. It also investigates cases of corruption against public servants.

The state agencies also often face the same charge the CBI is facing now, that they are tools in the hands of the party in power. This is not an ideal situation.

The states are perfectly within their right to shut their gates on the Central agency since law and order is a state subject and every state has a police and vigilance and anti-corruption bureau that can perform the job. And all the states have cited similar reasons for their action, that the premier investigation agency has become a tool in the hands of the Union government to harass leaders who are in camps ideologically opposed to the National Democratic Alliance.

But it's not the Opposition parties alone that have pointed fingers at the coloured operations of the agency; the Supreme Court has more than once criticised it and in one instance, it went to the extent of calling it a "caged parrot" when the United Progressive Alliance was in power. The court also tried to insulate it from the interference of the government by putting in place a better and more inclusive mechanism to select the head of the agency with a fixed tenure so that it can go about its work uninterrupted. That nothing has worked to win the confidence of so many state governments reflects both on the Central government and the people who man it.

The state agencies also often face the same charge the CBI is facing now, that they are tools in the hands of the party in power. This is not an ideal situation. We need determined efforts to professionalise the investigating agencies, whether at the Centre or in the states. There are global models for the conduct of the agencies and their proper superintendence with minimal external interference. Police reforms are an often an orphan and this is the best time when the Centre and states can opt to adopt them.

Scientific shout-out

Close on the heels of a record number of women — Andrea Ghez (in physics), and Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier (in chemistry) — winning the 2020 Nobel Prize in the pure sciences — comes another significant accomplishment closer home — this year, women form exactly one-third of the IIT Delhi's PhD graduates. Seen in the light of the dystopic "social facts" of a skewed sex ratio, low literacy numbers among women (at 65 per cent compared to men's 82 per cent) and a high dropout rate, this is an important stride and cause for cheer, especially for egalitarians and votaries of women's contribution.

A share of the credit for this achievement goes to generations of modern Indian parents. Post-Independence and since the advent of smaller, nuclear families which put the focus on children, they held back no opportunity from their daughters, encouraged them to be independent, and did not negatively discriminate between them and their brothers while raising them. The unpopularity of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) among women has been pervasive in the West where the custom of differential education for girls and boys was first formalised by Charlemagne. In India, education was denied to girls altogether since the Middle Ages. But post the 1970s, brighter children in Indian middle-income homes, irrespective of sex, were encouraged to study science especially once careers for women became the norm, because in a developing economy it meant jobs and financial security. This is the milieu these women scientists have come from, and while they continue to be vastly outnumbered in labs, classes and workplaces, their success puts the spotlight on their stories.

It is pertinent to reflect that the infamous "women are right brained, men are left brained" theory — which builds on findings that the left brain favours numerical skills and the right verbal ability — has long been disproved and linked not to sex but to (left- and right-) handedness. It was once used in popular Western culture, and mindlessly bought into and promoted by the India media, to bolster the patriarchal mindset that discouraged women from studying science. Not any longer.

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Subhani



A divided America is
battling for its 'soul'



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

*"So raise a glass to the losers —
In life that's all of us!
Those who think they
are winners
Will inherit Destiny's
cuss.
Time, they say, doesn't
hang about
The years and
millennia pass
O Bachchoo if all the
world's stage
We're all acting out a
farce."*

— From *The Son-in-Law Also Rises*, by
Bachchoo

The world awaits the results of the presidential election in the United States of America. I resort to the television, radio, or the news app on my phone to check if any more states have declared a result and whether —Ahura Mazda be praised — Joe Biden has finally crossed the 270 collegiate-votes finishing line.

As I write this, and perhaps even by the time it's in print, the likelihood of a decisive result is remote. The clown prince, President Donald Trump, has already threatened, even as the election and the count is in progress, to question, dishonour and even disobey the result if it goes against him. His gang of lawyers are waiting to challenge the results announced in the "battleground" states in the courts.

The idiot Trump, unfamiliar with the Constitution's provisions or the procedures and rules of American elections, says he'll go to the Supreme Court. His lawyers and Democratic spokespersons will have told him, I hope, that that's not the first step

in any electoral challenge. The states of America each have their detailed procedures for electoral challenges and these will have to be pursued in the courts of that particular state. Donald Trump's tantrumic determination to throw the toys out of the democratic pram has made him tweet several demands to even stop the counting of ballots. He has been authoritatively informed that that won't happen. Every last vote, personal or postal, will be counted and if legal, it will be honoured.

In the 2000 presidential contest, Al Gore lost to George W. Bush by a margin of a few hundred votes. I remember that election night and the news bulletins of the following days. The decision, finally made by a Republican-manipulated Supreme Court after several lesser courts had ordered recounts in the last-to-decisively-declare state of Florida, hung on an examination of the machine-printed ballots. The TV bulletins showed the vote counters looking at pieces of paper through large magnifying glasses, presumably to determine where and against whose name the equivalent of the handwritten cross was marked. These pieces of paper were labelled the "hanging chads". I haven't heard that noun used subsequently. The ones which were unclear were declared spoilt ballots and they gave the victory to George W. (or "Dubya" — as he called himself, to distinguish himself from his father, former President George H.W. Bush.

The present election may hang in a similar

balance with similar challenges but, gentle reader, this election is certainly different from the one back in 2000. The Gore-Bush election demonstrated a nation with a divided vote. The Trump-Biden election is the drama of a nation with a divided soul. In preparation for it, barbed wire fences and fortifications have already been built around the White House. One can be sure that President Trump may have ordered a Mexican-border-style wall to be built around it but was vetoed by his restless staff. The shops and streets of the big cities, including the American capital have been severely boarded up, against the possibility of riots, arson and mayhem. There is talk of rival pseudo militia clashing.

The surveys on TV tell us that the three main issues dividing the nation with the shadow of violence threatening like a dark cloud, are the economy — meaning employment and a wage to earn, racial equality and then the exploding Covid-19 numbers. Donald Trump boasts that he has raised employment and put food on the table of households, but after the Covid-19 pandemic swept the planet, that boast is questionable. Joe Biden's economic plans, as he is the candidate whose party is taking the coronavirus and

its effect on the economy seriously and scientifically, may do even more for putting food on the table and supporting economic activity with subsidies which the arch free enterprisers of the Republican Party won't do.

On racial equality, it is clear that Mr Trump has supported the far-right groups and attacked and insulted the Latino population. Despite which, there are groups called Mexicans for Trump and Blacks for Trump and, of course, the famous group Turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The United States is not alone in its battle for its soul, by which I mean what sort of country, with progressive modern freedoms for all its citizens, do populations want to live in? If the Democrats in the United States have a majority in the Senate (though that seems unlikely at this juncture), they will not do the sort of trade deal with Brexit Britain which Donald Trump seemed to promise but never made any plans to deliver.

Post-Brexit Britain will then fall back, says the free-marketsteering UK chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak on the free port, providing in Britain the tax-dodgers of the world, money-launderers and drug dealers a safe haven. Then he probably will propose a bill in the House of Commons to change the nation's name to Bringapore. It won't do much for food on the table or the employable dignity of very many Brits who voted for Brexit. But Rishi's hedge-fund pals will no doubt use their expanded loot to buy properties in Europe.

The United States is not the only country which is battling for its soul. Ironically, it is democratic processes which expose this battle in so many nations.

Gentle reader, democracy requires you to choose your side!

LETTERS

LOST CAUSE

In elections and movies, the reason for a hit or flop remains a mystery. Late John Nash's game theory says a person chooses a certain thing or person or love based on earlier experiences and their suitability. It is important to set up a viable system that is accessible to even the poorest of the poor. Let every nation give the losing leader a key post to enable participation by one and all in governance.

Madhu P.V.
Secunderabad

SCHOOL WATCH

The Director of School Education has taken commendable action against 11 popular schools which violated GO No. 46 prohibiting schools not to charge anything other than tuition fees (*11 schools to be penalised, DC, Nov. 6*). Special teams should be formed by the education department to protect poor parents from being fleeced.

Shahbaz Husain
Hyderabad

OVER REACTION

Arnab Goswami must be treated as an individual in this case and not a journalist. It is unfortunate that the Union home minister came on record to express his disappointment over his arrest. Is he opposing Constitutional action of the Maharashtra police? Why wasn't there such supportive action when senior journalists were arrested purely on journalistic activities?

G. Thirupathiah
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN
Chronicle

'Netaji went
underground'

TRICHUR, Nov. 6. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose went underground and was not killed in a plane crash as concluded in the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee, according to Mr. A. Muhammed, who was closely associated with the Indian National Army in Malaya.

Mr Muhammed said that he based this claim on the basis of what Netaji told a select gathering in a school at Sentul a suburb of Kuala Lumpur, just before the surrender of the Japanese in the Second World War.

By arrangement with the *Spectator*

Edward
Lucas



Did Russia try
to undermine
confidence in
US democracy?

Russia is using a "drumbeat of disinformation" to attack the American political system. That was the stark conclusion FBI director Christopher Wray offered in his testimony to the House of Representatives homeland security committee in September. One aim, he said, was to undermine Joe Biden's campaign. But the main thrust of the attack, as we will see in the coming days and weeks, is to undermine public confidence in US democracy itself.

To be fair, Russia didn't create the problem. It wasn't President Vladimir Putin who wrote the laws governing US elections, with their decentralised responsibilities, threadbare budgets and barnacled and opaque provisions. (Do you understand what the electoral college is and how it operates? Neither do most Americans.) Nor did he write the US Constitution, which is meant to be the system's backstop, but is ambiguous on vital questions about contested elections (the vice-president's role, for example). The use of antique, hackable voting machines is not the result of a Kremlin plot.

Nor, most of all, is Russia really to blame for the crippling polarisation of American politics — a landscape in which both sides treat litigation as an extension of the campaign, and where

supporters are so certain of the rightness of their cause that they regard civil unrest as the logical response to a defeat. That is the result of sustained economic, political and social failure, for which we can hold both parties responsible.

And it was Donald Trump, not Vladimir Putin, who systematically undermined the credibility of the election system. Long before this week, his party has promoted the myth of widespread electoral fraud and created legal obstacles that discourage black and poor voters or open their ballots to legal challenges. On the eve of polling day the President decreed potential "fraud" and "misuse" in two swing states, Pennsylvania and Nevada, and said: "I think it's a terrible thing when ballots can be collected after an election." As soon as the election is over, he warned: "We are going in with our lawyers". So it was hardly surprising, then, that on Wednesday morning he stoked the flames of anger by claiming on Twitter, in a fundraising email to his supporters and at a press conference at the White House, that the Democrats were trying to "steal" the election. Vladimir Putin will be cheering. For what kind of democracy operates with such frenzied mistrust?

Certainly, American woes can seem bizarre. The mechanics of Britain's electoral system have barely changed in more than a century. You make a cross on a ballot paper with a pencil. The votes are counted by tellers in public, under the watchful eyes of outside observers. Abuses are rare, litigation is even rarer.

But that's no reason for smugness. Even the UK's robust, primitive system can be attacked. The best example of election interference does not concern the question of where some Brexit donors made their fortunes. As the Intelligence and Security Committee report on Russia noted, it is from the Scottish independence referendum in 2014. Internet trolls with a record of pro-Russian activity spread the false notion that the count was rigged. A YouTube video showed what seemed to be bundles of pro-independence "Yes" votes being furtively moved to a "No" pile. Other images appeared to show a ballot box being stuffed. One video, posted by "Elite NWO agenda", was viewed more than 800,000 times. (NWO stands for "New World Order", a phrase beloved by conspiracy theorists.)

This was, of course, nonsense. The ballot papers were moved — but for an entirely innocent reason. The bal-

lot box was indeed stuffed — but the footage came from a quite different election — one in Russia.

So, from a Russian point of view, the answer is a toxic mix of nihilism and lies. One option is to stir up apathy: democracy is a farce; all politicians are liars. The other is to play on people's fears: you are being robbed and cheated.

As we saw this week, the US electoral system offers plenty of opportunity for both kinds of attack. Politics in Washington, with its gift and deadlock, can easily seem like a pointless farce: a choice between Coke and Pepsi that benefits only the insiders. But right now, it is easier to play on emotions. The election, and the country, are being stolen from under your noses. Sparks are already flying in the American tinderbox. The heavily armed, lightly informed militias who fervently back Donald Trump (and their opponents such as the black-clad implacables of Antifa) are easy prey for such tactics. Rumours and scare stories can fan their smouldering resentments into an inferno.

The intricacies of the legal system and of the electoral process offer abundant opportunities for what the US state department calls the "ecosystem" of Russian disinformation: "offi-

cial, proxy, and unattributed communication channels". In a report released quietly this summer (President Trump is notoriously allergic to any discussion of Russian interference), the state department explains how the system works. Because the messaging comes across so many different channels, there is no need for consistency. Official news outlets, for example, can decry the treatment of black voters, while clandestine ones can whip up the fears of white nationalists. The Kremlin enjoys plausible deniability.

One of the starkest examples of Kremlin political interference came in 2016 with duelling demonstrations outside an Islamic centre in Houston. Staging that, by placing pro- and anti-Islam ads on Facebook, cost the Russian puppet-masters a princely \$200. Insults were thrown, but no punches. It will be all too easy to muster groups of hotheads outside municipal buildings and courthouses in febrile swing states such as Michigan for dangerous, even bloody confrontations. American democracy, and the West's security, will be caught helplessly in the crossfire.

quick
BITES

INDICATORS

		%
Sensex	41,893.06	1.34
Nifty 50	12,263.55	1.18
S&P 500*	3,511.17	0.02
Dollar (₹)	74.19	0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.54	-0.71
Euro (₹)	87.86	0.00
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,717.791	1.52
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.52	-1.41
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.871	0.013
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.827	0.049

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Gold bond scheme
price fixed at
₹5,177 per gram

The issue price for the Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at Rs 5,177 per gram of gold, the RBI said. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series VIII will be opened for subscription from Nov. 9 to 13. The RBI said the government will offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram to investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

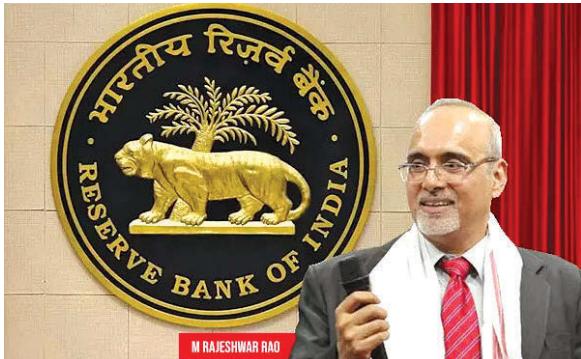
■ RBI deputy governor Rao calls for tighter oversight
Big NBFCs need to scale
down or become banksFALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) must be subjected to a higher degree of regulation and should be incentivised to either convert into commercial banks or scale down their operations to help make the financial sector sound and resilient, said Rajeshwar Rao, deputy governor in charge of banking regulation and risk monitoring at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Speaking at the Assoccham NBFC Summit, Rao batted for the principle of proportionality and recommended a graded regulatory framework for NBFCs calibrated in relation to their contribution to systemic significance.

"There is a view that any regulatory framework would ideally be designed according to the principle of proportionality. By extension, the spill-over of risks from a systematically important NBFC capable of transmitting perceptible impact on financial stability, must be dealt with in a proportionate manner. So, NBFCs with significant externalities and which contribute substantially to systemic risks must be identified and subjected to a higher degree of regulation," he said.

"One can also argue that the design of prudential regulatory framework for such NBFCs can be comparable with banks so that



BANK CREDIT RISES 5.06%: RBI DATA

Mumbai, Nov. 6: Bank credit grew by 5.06 per cent to Rs 103.39 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 10.12 per cent to Rs 142.92 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 23, according to the RBI data. In the fortnight ended October 25, 2019, bank credit had stood at Rs 98.40 lakh crore, and the deposit was Rs 129.78 lakh crore.

In the previous fortnight ended October 9, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.66 per cent and deposits by 10.55 per cent.

Non-food bank credit growth decelerated to 5.8 per cent in September 2020 from 8.1 per cent in

the same month previous year.

Credit to industry recorded 'nil' growth in September 2020 compared to 2.7 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

Credit to agriculture and allied activities rose by 5.9 per cent during the reporting month as against a growth of 7 per cent a year ago.

Loan growth in the services sector rose to 9.1 per cent in September 2020 from 7.3 per cent a year ago.

Personal loans registered a growth of 9.2 per cent compared to 16.6 per cent a year ago. —PTI

beyond a point of criticality to systemic risks, such NBFC should have incentives either to convert into a commercial bank or scale down their network externalities within the financial system. This

would make the financial sector sound and resilient while allowing a majority of NBFCs to continue under the regulation-light structure," added Rao.

Over the years, the NBFC segment has grown

rapidly, with a few of the large NBFCs becoming comparable in size to some of the private sector banks. Between March 31, 2009 and March 31, 2019, the total assets of NBFCs grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18.6 per cent, while the balance sheets of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) grew at a CAGR of 10.7 per cent.

Consequently, the aggregate balance sheet size of NBFCs increased from 9.3 per cent to 18.6 per cent of the aggregate balance sheet size of SCBs during the corresponding period.

In absolute terms, the asset size of NBFC sector (including HFCs), as on March 31, 2020, is Rs 51.47 lakh crore. As at end-March 2020, NBFCs have been the largest net borrowers of funds from the financial system, of which, more than half of the funds were from SCBs, followed by Asset Management Companies-Mutual Funds (AMC-MFs) and insurance companies.

In the aftermath of liquidity stress post IL&FS and DHFL events, the market funding conditions turned difficult for NBFCs. However the central bank acted in a swift and proactive manner to improve access to funding and liquidity by its monetary policy and liquidity measures and resultantly, the cost of funds for NBFCs and HFCs has reduced substantially for all rating categories said Rao.

LIC comfortable with unified
regulator for financial sectorMADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has supported the need for a unified regulator over and above all the existing financial regulators. However, integrating the different supervisory functions in all financial services sectors into a single agency is not an easy task. The insurer feels that the regulatory process in all these sectors need to be simplified before embarking on the long road to a unified command.

At present, different financial sectors like banking, capital markets, pension fund and insurance in India are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority



M R Kumar

(PFRDA) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), respectively.

In April this year, the Centre has announced a unified regulator to regulate all financial services at the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT)-City in Gandhinagar. In line with this International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), there is also a clarification call for setting up a unified regulator to regulate and integrate the different supervisory functions into a single agency.

On the concept of having a unified regulator, LIC chairman M.R. Kumar has favoured the move. "In future, we may need that, as each financial sector regulator should have a better sense of the markets. We have a long road to go before we can think of having such a regulator," he said at a virtual conference.

According to Kumar, India has been evolving over the years and regulations are important to ensure that market participants act properly. "Still, the regulatory processes need to be simplified."

Many financial experts believe the concept of a unified regulator is a necessary change crucial for making India the next big hub in the ever dynamic global financial landscape. It has been observed that many countries are now moving towards having unified regulatory authorities.

Sensex, Nifty near all-time highs

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

With over 5 per cent gains during the week, the market is near to its all-time high, with five straight session of gains, buoyed by good second quarter earnings, positive domestic economic data and Joe Biden taking decisive lead over rival Donald Trump.

The Sensex closed at a nine-month high at 41,893.06, up 552.90 after touching intra-day high of 41,954.93.

The Sensex's all-time high stands at 42,273.87, touched on January 20, 2020.

The Nifty-50 closed at 12,263, up 1.18 per cent or 143.25 points.

Big-time buying by foreign portfolio investors continued for the second session, with Rs 4,869.87 crore net buying on Friday, putting total buying in last two sessions to Rs 10,238 crore, with Rs 5368.31 crore invested on Thursday.

BSE's market capitalisation was back to pre-covid

days touching over Rs 163.60 lakh crore.

"Right from diesel consumption to PMI, from labour-intensive construction activities to GST collections all these major ground-level macro indicators are displaying strong recovery to pre-Covid levels. However, certain facets of the economy are still reeling under the pressure of economic contraction," Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities, said.

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Covid at home,
Gambhir isolated

New Delhi: Former India opener and Member of Parliament Gautam Gambhir has gone into self-isolation, awaiting a Covid-19 test result, after revealing that someone at his home has contracted the virus.

The World Cup-winning former batsman is currently a Lok Sabha MP from East Delhi.

"Due to a case at home, I have been in isolation awaiting my Covid test result. Urge everyone to follow all guidelines & not take this lightly. Stay safe!" Gambhir tweeted. — PTI

Ailing Maradona
still in hospital

Olivos, Argentina: Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona is to remain in hospital for several more days to undergo treatment following surgery to remove a blood clot on the brain, his doctor said Thursday. "We saw that in the postoperative phase Diego had episodes of confusion," Leopoldo Luque told reporters, adding that therapists had linked the behaviour to "abstinence" and that the necessary treatment would last "a few days". Luque did not provide details, but Maradona has a history of drug and alcohol addition. Although he has stated he has not used cocaine in years, according to friends and media reports, he remains addicted to alcohol. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

Women's Big Bash League: Sydney Sixers vs Hobart Hurricanes from 10 am; Melbourne Stars vs Perth Scorchers from 1.35 pm; Melbourne Renegades vs Adelaide Strikers from 4.50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Semifinal from 6.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Everton vs Manchester United from 6 pm; Crystal Palace vs Leeds United from 8.30 pm; Chelsea vs Sheffield United from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Parma vs Fiorentina from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

Williamstuns RCB

Kane crafts match-winning knock, SRH make Qualifier-2

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 6: Former captain Kane Williamson led from the front as Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets in the IPL Eliminator here on Friday.

Chasing RCB's lowly total of 131 for 7, the team from Hyderabad were in trouble at 67 for 4 in the 12th over when Williamson and Jason Holder got together to put on an unbroken stand of 65 runs to see the side home.

Williamson was unbeaten on 50 that came off 44 balls and comprised two fours and two sixes while Holder remained 24 not out off 20 balls. He hit three boundaries, including two in the last over to finish the game.

Earlier, SRH produced a brilliant bowling effort to restrict a batting-heavy RCB. Holder led SRH's attack with impressive figures of 3 for 25 and was ably supported by T. Natarajan (2/33) as Virat Kohli's side found the going difficult from the beginning.

AB de Villiers (56 off 43) scored a timely half-century to somewhat rescue RCB from a horrible start and take the team past the 120-run mark.

RCB witnessed a horrendous start to their innings as they lost two wickets for 15 runs inside four overs after being sent into bat. Skipper Kohli (6), who opened the innings along side Devdutt Padikkal (1), was the first to depart, nicking one on the leg side to injured Wriddhiman Saha's replacement Sreevats Goswami off Holder. An over later, Holder picked up his second victim when Padikkal pulled one to Priyam Garg inside the circle as RCB slumped to 15 for 2.

Aaron Finch (32 off 30), who replaced Josh Philippe, and de Villiers then tried to stabilise the innings with a 41-run third wicket stand. But twin blows in the 11th over put paid to RCB's effort. First, Finch depart-



Kane Williamson of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore during the IPL Eliminator match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

ed, caught by Abdul Samad off Shahbaz Nadeem (1/30) and then a ball later, Moeen Ali was caught short off the crease by a direct hit from Rashid Khan.

Shivam Dube (8) didn't help his side's cause, so was Washington Sundar (5). In between, de Villiers brought up his 50 off 39 balls with a boundary off Holder, but he was soon sent packing by a gem of an yorker from Natarajan as RCB lost their last hope.

— PTI

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli c Shreevats Goswami b Jason Holder 6, D. Padikkal c Garg b Jason Holder 1, Aaron Finch c Samad b Shahbaz Nadeem 32, AB de Villiers b Natarajan 56, Moeen Ali run out 0, S Dube c Warner b Holder 8, Washington Sundar c Samad b Natarajan 5, N Saini not out 9, M Siraj not out 10. Extras (NB-1, W-3) 4. Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 131.

FoW: 1-7, 2-15, 3-56, 4-62, 5-99, 6-111, 7-113. **Bowling:** Sandeep Sharma 4-0-21-0, Jason Holder 4-0-25-3, Natarajan 4-0-33-2, S. Nadeem 4-0-30-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-22-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c AB de Villiers b Mohammed Siraj 17, Shreevats Goswami c AB de Villiers b Mohammed Siraj 0, Manish Pandey c AB de Villiers b Adam Zampa 24, Kane Williamson not out 50, Priyam Garg c Zampa b Chahal 7, Holder not out 24. Extras (LB-5, NB-1, W-4) 10. Total (for 4 wickets in 19.4 overs) 132.

FoW: 1-2, 2-43, 3-55, 4-67. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-28-2, Navdeep Saini 3.4-0-31-0, Washington Sundar 2-0-21-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-12-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-24-1, Moeen Ali 1-0-4-0, Shivam Dube 1-0-7-0.

Supernovas in a
must-win game

Sharjah, Nov. 6: Defending champions Supernovas will have to get past an upbeat Trailblazers here on Saturday to stay alive in the Women's T20 Challenge.

Brimming with confidence after a crushing win over Velocity on Thursday, the Smriti Mandhana-led Trailblazers will aim for another win to finish with two victories and enter the final on November 9 with momentum behind them.

They will be up against Supernovas, a team smarting from defeat in the tournament opener against Velocity. Another loss would knock Supernovas out of the tournament.

Trailblazers came up with a stellar bowling performance to bundle out Velocity for 47 with England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, the world No.1 T20 bowler, returning impressive figures of 4 for 9 in 3.1 overs.

Mandhana will be hoping that the bowlers continue

the good work against a strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur. The southpaw will be aiming to showcase her skills and expect her batting unit to step up in a crunch encounter.

Supernovas need a win and that will bring the net run-rate into play and possibly eliminate Velocity who have a negative NRR (-1.869).

Velocity, on their part, will hope Supernovas lose allowing them to advance to the summit clash.

Kaur will look to build on her performance in the tournament opener and hope Sri Lankan Chamari Atapattu continues her good form.

Supernovas appeared to have the match under control before Sushma Verma and Sune Luus took it away from them as the bowlers crumbled under pressure. On the Sharjah pitch that has gotten slower progressively, the spinners will have a big role to play.

— PTI

S. AFRICAN PACER MORKEL
IN BIG BASH AS AN AUSSIE

Sydney, Nov. 6: South African fast bowling great Morne Morkel Friday signed on for the Big Bash League, but as a local hire rather than international after becoming an Australian permanent resident.

The 36-year-old, who played 86 Tests and 117 ODIs for the Proteas, moved to Australia in 2018, where he lives with his sports broadcaster wife and children.

He gained residency this year and put pen to paper with the Brisbane Heat for the Twenty20 tournament starting on December 10.

"I am still enjoying my cricket enormously and the chance to be part of the Heat squad is something I am keen to experience," he said.

"I admit it will be a bit unusual to call myself a local, but we are enjoying living and working here and this is another aspect of our lives that I am looking forward to being a part of," he added.

BBL rules allow three internationals in the same XI with Afghan spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman and English pair Tom Banton and Lewis Gregory already signed for the Heat.

Vastly experienced, Morkel's T20 record includes 77 wickets in 70 matches in the IPL with Rajasthan Royals, KKR and Delhi Daredevils.

— AFP

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