

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | THURSDAY 12 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 4 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 27
Tithi: Dwadashi
Star: Hastham
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam: 6 am to 7.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.52 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.41 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+33,990)	(+330)
86,69,744	1,27,945

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,184)
TN: 7,50,409 11,415

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,21,49,585

DEATHS

12,85,014

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

217

worldometers.info

TNCC working president detained at Chennai airport

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Congress Committee working president Mayura S.Jayakumar was detained at the Chennai airport for carrying 17 live bullets in his hand baggage on Wednesday, airport sources said. Jayakumar had arrived at the Chennai airport on Wednesday morning, to board an Indigo flight in Coimbatore. During the security check, CISF personnel found that he had 17, 7.5 mm live bullets inside his hand baggage and barred him from taking the flight. Jayakumar was later handed over to the Chennai airport police. Police sources said the Congress leader produced licence for the gun and bullets. Investigation is still on.

Arbab out of jail, hours after SC grants interim bail

Mumbai/New Delhi: A week after he was sent to jail, high-profile TV journalist Arnab Goswami, an accused in a 2018 abetment to suicide case, was released on Wednesday night, hours after the Supreme Court granted interim bail observing it will be a “travesty of justice” if personal liberty is curtailed

COUNTER POINT



He lost, but he got 420 more votes this time!

Celestial excitement in store for sky gazers

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 11

Celestial events, like sighting the Leonids and Taurids meteor showers and most planets of the solar system, are on the cards this month.

First, the planets can be seen using a pair of binoculars or telescopes. The relatively rare alignment of all the planets is happening this week and offers amateur sky gazers a chance to view these planetary wonders of the solar system. “The planets will be visi-

●**The relatively rare alignment of all the planets this week offers amateur sky gazers a chance to view planetary wonders**

ble, albeit at different times. However, given clear skies, these planets would be visible to the naked eye but only till Saturn. For the rings, some paraphernalia is required,” Dr. B G Sidharth, director, GP Birla and Observatory

Astronomical Center, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Jupiter and Saturn will be shining bright in the southwestern hemisphere and Venus will shine right before dawn. Mercury, however, would be dimmer than Venus and the latter will be visible to the naked eye.

When searching in the sky, the key is to hold out a fist at arm’s length, which covers roughly 10 degrees, a single finger at arm’s length is approximately two degrees from side to side.

That’s not all in store this

month. One can also enjoy two meteor showers, the Leonids and Taurids. The Taurids are known to have the longest duration of general visibility, as compared to other meteors. Meteors from the Taurid stream began to be sighted in the night sky starting around October 21. They will be seen till about November 27. The best time to catch a glimpse of these meteors is till Thursday. Similarly, one can enjoy watching the Leonids meteor shower on November 16 and 17 nights.



CITY | 2

TN Carnatic number with Arabic flavour tops global chart



STATE | 3

TN Covid tally touches 7.50 lakh

SPORT | 6

Make Rohit T20 captain: Gambhir



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Development plank won us elections, says Modi

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Hailing Bihar Assembly poll results as a “*saaf, suthra* (neat and tidy)” mandate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the secret behind NDA’s victory is “*Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas* (Marching together for development of all, with the trust of all).”

Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in Delhi, Mr Modi also gave rest to speculation about whether or not incumbent Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar will continue to hold the top post in the state due to his party’s dismal performance.

Mr Modi insisted that the ruling NDA will fulfil its promises made under Mr Kumar’s leadership.

Facing major anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar-led government and the chief minister himself, the BJP heavily depended on its “star campaigner” Mr Modi’s charisma and Central government schemes to woo voters.

Mr Kumar also thanked the Prime Minister for his support. While the NDA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to party workers, a day after National Democratic Alliance (NDA) garnered majority in the Bihar Assembly polls, in New Delhi, Wednesday. Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J.P. Nadda are also seen. — PTI

retained power with the BJP outnumbering ally JD(U), the latter registered its worst performance in two decades.

Praising Bihar’s voters as “*paarkhi* (good at judging)” and “*jaagrook* (aware),” Mr Modi, who was showered with flower petals and chants of “*Bharat Mata ki Jai*” upon his arrival, said Bihar is “most special” and its voters have once again proved why the state is called the land of

democracy. Mr Modi said the BJP’s governance model is the reason behind its success and that the development plank won the polls.

“The secret of winning the election is *sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas*. *This victory is of the youth, women, poor, farmers, aspiration and pride...* Bihar has once again proved why it is called the land of democracy,” said the Prime Minister.

■**Turn to P4**

Murugappa Group chairman steps down from two group cos

Chennai, Nov. 11: Noted industrialist and chairman of diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group M. M. Murugappan has stepped down from two of the group entities’ to pursue philanthropy and other interests, the two companies said on Wednesday. Tube Investments of India, the group firm of the Murugappa Group, informed the BSE that Murugappan has stepped down as chairman and resigned as director of the company with effect from close of business hours today upon reaching 65 years of age and wishes to pursue philanthropy and other interests”. — PTI

Sputnik-V doses in Hyderabad for trial

KANIZA GARARI | DC
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
HYDERABAD, NOV. 11

Sputnik V vaccine doses have arrived in the factory of Dr Reddy’s Laboratories in Hyderabad and a video of the cold storage has gone viral on social media. The unloading of the cold chain from Russia in the factory had a lot of people excited as they have taken videos and circulated it around.

The phase 2 and 3 trials are to be conducted in India to understand the safety

and efficacy of the virus. Dr Reddy’s Laboratories refused to comment on the video.

Data on its safety after trials in India will determine whether the vaccine can be given to the Indian population. The trial results are important for India as that will decide its use in the Indian population. So far, the journal *Lancet* has stated that the Sputnik V vaccine is effective despite the low number of people on whom it was tried in Russia. ■**P4**

I’m a farmer, what does Stalin do, retorts EPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 11

DMK president M.K. Stalin’s taunt of ‘fake farmer’ against Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami evoked sharp reaction from the latter, who questioned the right of the leader of opposition to do so. “What does Mr Stalin know about the life of a farmer or about farming?” the Chief Minister asked.

“I have been into farming since my childhood and farming is my primary occupation apart from politics,” said the Chief Minister in Thoothukudi. “What is the primary occupation of the DMK president for his sustenance?”

“Tamil Nadu stands first

●**Diff-abled woman gets ‘instant’ job order from CM: ■ P3**

in the country in water management because a farmer is the Chief Minister of the state,” said Mr Palaniswami, and added that the implementation of the Kudimaramathu scheme has resuscitated agriculture in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister also held Mr Stalin responsible for the Sterlite issue that resulted in a riot two years ago. “It was the then industries minister M.K. Stalin, who gave the permission for the Sterlite expansion plan,” he said.

Met Department predicts heavy rain in city

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

The Met Department has forecast heavy rain in the city on Thursday ahead of Deepavali. There was scanty rain in various places of Chennai Wednesday. The weather bulletin said that heavy to very heavy rain with thunderstorms could occur in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu on Thursday. ■**P2**

Centre brings new rules to regulate OTT, online news

New Delhi, Nov 11: The government has brought over-the-top (OTT) platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+Hotstar besides online news and current affairs content under the ambit of the ministry of information and broadcasting, giving it powers to regulate policies and rules for the digital space.

So far, there was no law or autonomous body governing digital content in India.

According to a notification issued by the cabinet secretariat on Tuesday and signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, the decision has been taken in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution, by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and it will come into effect immediately.

With this, the information and broadcasting ministry has the power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents and films available on online platforms.

The decision came in less than a month after the Supreme Court sought the Centre’s response on a PIL for regulating the OTT platforms by an autonomous body. ■**P4**



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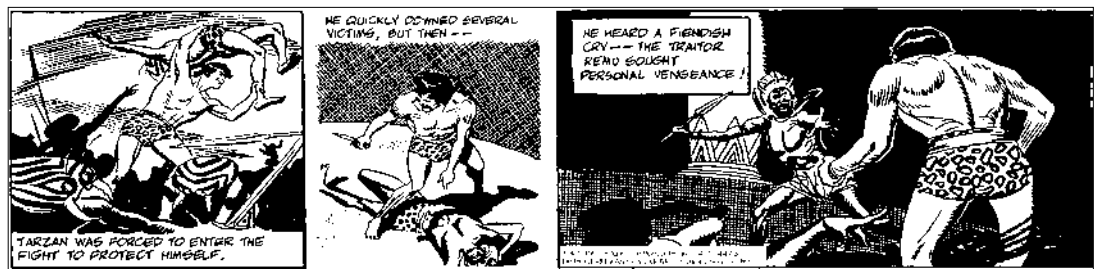
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DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

"To deal with the complaints and grievances of any political party or a candidate or any other person in this regard to the decision to grant or refuse certification of an advertisement taken by the district level committee or the joint chief electoral officer level committee, a state level (appellate) committee is constituted," it said.



OTHER STORIES

Three-day-old girl found abandoned in cemetery

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

A newborn girl was abandoned in a cemetery in Senkundharpettai, near Madurantakam on the city outskirts.

The guard of the cemetery heard the infant's cries and subsequently spotted her on the premises. The Madurantakam police arrived at the scene after receiving information and took the infant to the Madurantakam government hospital. She was examined and her condition is said to be stable, the police said. A case has been registered.

Vermicomposting unit, new ladies hostel blocks at VIT opened, online

Vellore: Virtually inaugurating the newly constructed ladies hostel blocks (Marie Curie Block and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Block) and Vermicomposting Unit at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore on Wednesday Telangana governor T. N. Chandrababu Naidu said that students should have confidence and courage in life so that they can achieve a lot. Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Dr. G. Viswanathan in his presidential address said that the government should provide free higher education to all if not possible they should provide free higher education to girls. In her felicitation address, Assistant Vice President of VIT, Ms. Kadhambari S. Viswanathan said that Madam Marie Curie and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy have achieved a lot in life so girl students should get inspired by women like them. Mr. Sankar Viswanathan, Vice President, Dr. Rambabu Kodali, Vice Chancellor, Dr. S. Narayanan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. Sathyanarayanan, Registrar, VIT were also present during the virtual inauguration.



Madurai city police have installed 50 digital cameras at important places in the city to identify and penalise the people who are not wearing masks in public places. — DC

BHEL staff distribute food to poor

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHI, NOV. 11

The employees of BHEL Tiruchirappalli on Wednesday donated food, sweets and biscuits to the poor people in and around Tiruchirappalli as a goodwill gesture ahead of Deepavali.

Members of Community Centre Management Committee and Community Centre Ladies Club of BHEL Tiruchirappalli visited Tiruchi Rural and Urban Welfare Development Educational Society's old age home at Thirunelkulam, Unique Guru Trust's Saranalayam old age home at Asoor, Anbagam student hostel at Thirunelkulam, Rehabilitation Centre for Blind Women at Mannarapuram and St Antony's old age home at Kattur, and distributed food items to the inmates on behalf of BHEL Tiruchirappalli employees.

TN Covid tally touches 7.50 lakh with 2,184 new infections

Chennai, Nov. 11: Tamil Nadu on Wednesday recorded 2,184 new Covid-19 infections and 28 deaths, pushing the infection tally to 7,50,409 and the toll to 11,415, the health department said.

Recoveries continued to eclipse new cases with 2,210 people getting cured on Wednesday as the cumulative number of those discharged touched 7,20,339, a bulletin said.

Active cases stood at 18,655.

A total of 77,309 samples were tested, taking the overall specimens examined so far to 1,07,86,565.

Of the 7.50 lakh cases, Chennai accounted for 2,06,588 with 571 new infections. Coimbatore

district recorded 189 cases, Thiruvallur 148, Chengalpattu 142 new cases. Ramanathapuram recorded the least with just two new infections.

Four of the 28 people who succumbed did not have any comorbidity or chronic illness.

The youngest victim with co-morbidity was a 30-year-old woman from Thiruvallur while the oldest was a 92-year-old man from Krishnagiri. Meanwhile, Pudukcherry registered one more death due to coronavirus on Wednesday taking the toll to 605.

The Union Territory also added 115 fresh infections pushing the overall tally to 36,114. — PTI

Deepavali safety awareness



Priya Ravichandran, Deputy Director, Tamil Nadu fire and rescue services, distributes pamphlets to the public on Ranganathan street at T Nagar on Wednesday as part of 'Safe Deepavali' awareness campaign. — DC

Pudukkottai museum reopens

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 11

The Pudukkottai government museum which was closed for the last seven months due to the Covid-19 lockdown is now reopened, said curator in-

charge T. Pakkiri-

samy. In a release, he said the museum will be open except Fridays and second Saturdays and other national holidays between 9:30 am and 5 pm.

CM urged to lift ban on mineral mining firms

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 11

The employees of mines and mineral industries in Thoothukudi district have requested Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy to lift the blanket ban imposed on the entire beach mineral mining, processing and export companies since 2013.

Meeting the chief minister in this regard here on Wednesday, the members of the workers' welfare association of southern region mines and minerals, in a petition to him questioned the rationale



behind closing down the entire industry for the violations reportedly committed by just four companies and demanded measures to reopen the companies that have no direct allegations against them.

C. Sakthi Ganapathy, secretary of the workers' welfare association, said the Sathyapraha Sahoo commission report found fault only with four mineral mining companies and it was not fair to close down the entire industry involving around 22 companies leaving around 50,000 workers jobless in the coastal districts of K a n y a k u m a r i , Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi.

Mr Ganapathy said the chief minister listened to the grievances of workers patiently and assured to look into the issue.

2 sisters drown in a well in Chengalpattu

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

In a tragic incident, two sisters drowned in an agricultural well at Amaipakkam village near Kalpakkam in Chengalpattu district on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Priyanka, 16 and Senbakavalli, 12, daughters of Arikrishnan and Seetha. Arikrishnan worked as coolie worker while Seetha was a domestic maid.

Police sources said Priyanka was a class 10 student of a government

school in Natham and the younger one was in class 6. According to police, at around 9 pm on Tuesday, when Seetha returned home from work, she found the girls missing. She informed her husband about the incident, and the duo began a search for their minor daughters. Unable to find them till morning, Arikrishnan lodged a complaint with the Sathurangapattinam police.

Unable to find them till morning, Arikrishnan lodged a complaint with the Sathurangapattinam police.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday morning, locals found the bodies of the girls floating in an agricultural well located a kilometre away from their house.

Congress seeks public opinion

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

A brainstorming session was organized by the TNCC with a view to eliciting the opinion of 'democratic and secular intellectuals' on the future course of action to be taken by the party with regard to its sustained fight against communal forces.

Led by the AICC leader in charge of Tamil Nadu, Dinesh Gundu Rao, the discussions were held through video conference with a group of academics, former bureaucrats, public intellectuals, activists, journalists and artists joining in to express their views.

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The meeting provided an opportunity for top TNCC leaders like president K. S. Alagiri, media cell chief A. Gopanna and also the newly inducted leader Sashikanth Senthil, who had resigned from the IAS last year, to know the perceptions of the partici-

pants from various areas of specialization.

After educationalist M. G. Dawood Miakhan, general secretary of Quaide Milleth Education and Social Trust, welcomed the participants, former Vice-chancellor and social activist Vasanthi Devi kick started the session by calling for a proactive approach to keep communal forces at bay and stressed on the need to highlight the BJP's anti-farmer and anti-poor policies.

Among the varied views and ideas expressed by the participants were that the people need to be told that the BJP was not a champion of the Hindus and that

they cater to the upper castes alone, a need to organize more secular seminars and formation of a think tank and promoting communal harmony as a concept rather than dwelling on secularism.

Well known Carnatic musician T. M. Krishna stressed on the need to tap on culture and on old traditions to promote the idea of secularism. He pointed out that Right wing forces had cleverly used culture to push its agenda and regretted that the texture of people have changed over the years.

Communist leader Prof Arunan wanted the Congress to project Mahatma Gandhi as an

icon and also add on others like Periyar and Ambedkar. He wanted the Congress to save the public sector, which was created by the party itself.

Shah Jahan pointed out how the minds of the youth were poisoned now, former IAS officer Mooza Raza wanted the Congress to set up committees in every village to address the problems of the people through direct interaction and Abdur Raquib exploded the myth that the Muslims were being appeased. Among the many others who expressed their views were Prof Palanidurai of Gandhigram Rural University, and Khaleel.

Speed trial of Thanjai, Mayiladuthurai train held

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, NOV. 11

Commissioner for Railway Safety (CRS), southern circle, A.K. Rai on Wednesday inspected the electrified section between Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai and conducted the speed trial of a train with eight compartments hauled by an electric locomotive.

The 73-km stretch has been electrified at a cost of ₹ 320 crore. The trial train which operated from Mayiladuthurai at 100-km speed reached Thanjavur in 42 minutes. The CRS expressed satisfaction over the work and said he would submit his report to the Railway Board. Passenger trains with electric locomotives will be operated after the Railway Board gives permission after considering the CRS report.

Greetings to Bihar winners from TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Leaders from Tamil Nadu conveyed their greetings to the winners of the Bihar Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but some of them said the results had given the hope that communal parties like the BJP could be defeated through coordinated efforts by the secular parties.

While Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam congratulated the NDA for their victory, leaders like DMK President M K Stalin and TNCC president K. S. Alagiri the performance of the opposition 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) was more noteworthy.

'Good governance leads to progressive State. People of Bihar have reaf-

"Good governance leads to progressive State. People of Bihar have reaffirmed their solidarity for NDA alliance. My hearty congratulations for NDA alliance in the State. Best wishes for the people of Bihar"

firmed their solidarity for NDA alliance. My hearty congratulations for NDA alliance in the State. Best wishes for the people of Bihar,' tweeted

Palaniswami. Congratulating Modi and Nitish Kumar, Panneerselvam, in his tweet, said: 'It gives me immense pleasure that BJP-led NDA has won the majority in Bihar Assembly polls obtaining 125 constituencies.'

Stalin conveyed his congratulations to Nitish Kumar on behalf of the DMK and said the emergence of the RJD, led by young Tejashwi Yadav, as the single largest party was encouraging and

pointed to the vibrant democracy in Bihar.

Raising concerns over the complaints of irregularities in the elections raised by Mahagathbandhan leaders, Stalin said the common man expected elections to be held without any external interference. 'Only if that is achieved, democracy will be strengthened in future,' he said in his statement.

Alagiri said that the RJD becoming the single largest party in the Assembly has confirmed the strength of the secular parties and the confidence that if the secular parties faced the future elections with more coordination communal parties like the BJP could be defeated.

He said that doubts had risen over a secret understanding between the BJP and the MIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi and called for caution in future over dealing with such parties.

Diff-abled woman gets 'instant' job order from Chief Minister

Thoothukudi, Nov. 11: It was a long wait interspersed with high expectation that did not go in vain for Mareeswari, a differently abled woman who desperately needed a job to support her family.

Succour came to her in the form of Chief Minister K. Palaniswami as she got a job as a ward manager at a hospital here with a monthly salary of Rs 15,000 within an hour of submitting a petition to him during his visit to this southern coastal district on Wednesday.

Palaniswami noticed Mareeswari waiting with a bunch of papers in her

CM stopped his convoy, called her and enquired when the woman explained she was from Muthiahapuram and her husband Chinnathurai is a labourer

hand while he was leaving after inaugurating a linear accelerator for cancer treatment and a central research laboratory, officials said.

The Chief Minister stopped his convoy, called her and enquired when the woman explained she

was from Muthiahapuram and her husband Chinnathurai is a labourer.

She said they had a five-year-old daughter and that she wanted a job because her husband's wage was meagre to support her family.

Moved by her plight, Palaniswami asked the woman to pay a visit to the district collector's office.

Mareeswari was pleasantly surprised when the chief minister offered her an appointment letter for the post of a ward manager in Thoothukudi Government Medical College Hospital here, on a

salary of Rs 15,000 per month. He advised her to take good care of her family.

The woman's joy knew no bounds as the appointment order was issued within an hour of petitioning the Chief Minister and she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to him for his gesture, officials said.

Also, Palaniswami handed over a cheque for Rs 50 lakh to Bhuvaneshwari, the wife of 28-year old police constable Subramanian, who was killed in a country bomb attack by a historysheeter on August 18. PTI

Low-key Deepavali ahead in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, NOV. 11

Restrictions for tourism due to Corona crisis and crippled revenue flow have dampened Deepavali celebrations in Nilgiris even as the forest department has planned a sound-free Deepavali in villages in and around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

While the town limits in Nilgiris are dependent on tourism-based economy, the

While the town limits in Nilgiris are dependent on tourism-based economy, the stringent restrictions for tourism in Nilgiris over the past seven months has indeed curtailed the travel and tourism industry

The poor state of tourism-based revenue flow is reflected by the low turnout at the textile shops for Deepavali shopping

stringent restrictions for tourism in Nilgiris over the past seven months has indeed curtailed the travel

and tourism industry. Many second line tourism stakeholders like tourist guides, cab operators are

almost penniless for the past seven months. Though the government relaxed e-pass norms for tourists from October end, it failed to bring sufficient revenue flow to tourism stakeholders and plan for Deepavali.

The poor state of tourism-based revenue flow is reflected by the low turnout at the textile shops for Deepavali shopping.

Even for the traders involved in grocery trade

and related trades, the Deepavali-based business has come down in Nilgiris.

Meanwhile, the MTR administration has imposed a ban on bursting crackers in the jungle villages in and around the MTR.

They appealed to the villagers to co-operate with the foresters to celebrate a decibel-free Deepavali to ensure that the wild animals were not disturbed by the noise of crackers.



SHORT TAKES

SUPREME COURT GRANTS BAIL TO ARNAB GOSWAMI

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to the Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami observing that denying bail to a person in such a matter is a travesty of justice.

Holding that the High Court was in error in rejecting the plea for interim bail, the court directed that Arnab Goswami, Feroz Mohammad Shaikh and Neetish Sarma shall be released on interim bail. They will furnish a personal bond of ₹50,000 each and will co-operate with the investigation and not interfere with witnesses.

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

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud heading a bench also comprising Justice Indira Banerjee said, "Assuming that we must take FIR and the case as gospel truth, the point is that in a matter like this can a person be sent to custodial interrogation. It will be a travesty of justice to deny bail to a person in such a matter."

Venting its strong view on the denial of bail to Goswami both by the lower court and the High Court, Justice Chandrachud in a daylong hearing said, "If we don't interfere in this case today, we will walk on a path of destruction of liberty."

Apparently saying that the political or ideological differences can't come in the way of liberty, Justice Chandrachud said that "You may like his ideology or don't like his ideology, forget the way he speaks, but constitutional courts will have to protect such freedoms, otherwise we will be walking on the path of destruction of liberty". "Our democracy is extraordinarily resilient and strong", he said, telling that the state government must ignore such barbs against it.

NCB GRILLS ARJUN RAMPAL'S GIRLFRIEND

SAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Two days after conducting raids at the residence of former actor Arjun Rampal, in connection with the probe of drug consumption in Bollywood, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) grilled his girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades on Wednesday.

The officials said that Rampal will also be questioned and that he is likely to appear on Thursday. The live-in duo was summoned after the NCB arrested Gabriella's brother Agisilaos Demetriades over his alleged links with the international drug ring.

The NCB officials said that she reached the south Mumbai office for questioning at around noon. Gabriella was grilled over her brother's drug links and on her possible connection with his illegal activities.

The officials had on Monday conducted searches at Rampal's residence based on the revelations in the case by Agisilaos.

SPUTNIK V IS 92 P.C. EFFICIENT, DOSES REACH HYD

From Page 1

The vaccine is being given in phases to Russians and they are being monitored. So far, the outcomes have been good.

According to interim trial results announced by Russia's health ministry on Wednesday, Sputnik V vaccine has shown 92 per cent efficacy in preventing Covid-19 disease.

The interim research data of Sputnik V has not been published or peer-reviewed yet.

"The calculation is based on the 20 confirmed Covid-19 cases split between vaccinated individuals and those who received the placebo," said Russian Direct Investment Fund.

The efficacy of the vaccine, developed by the Gamalaya Centre, was demonstrated on the basis of a first interim analysis obtained 21 days after the first injection.

There were no unexpected adverse events during the trials. Monitoring of the participants is ongoing, the ministry said.

The announcement follows results unveiled earlier this week by vaccine developers Pfizer and BioNTech, who said their vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective at preventing Covid-19.

India, China firm up steps to restore April status quo

The PLA may dismantle all its structures between Finger 4 and Finger 8

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

India and China are moving towards an agreement on a disengagement plan which if implemented successfully could see restoration of the status quo of April 2020 at some of the flashpoints, including the most contentious one of Pangong Tso, in eastern Ladakh.

It appears that China has agreed to move back from the Finger 4 area and take its troops beyond Finger 8 on the northern bank of Pangong Tso. Under this plan, the PLA will dismantle all the structures it has built, including the bunkers between Finger 4 and Finger 8 after illegally occupying the area in May 2020. The Chinese Army's occupation of the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 on the north bank of Pangong Tso was one of the stickiest points in resolving the six-month military standoff between India and China.

Another meeting of the two corps commanders is likely to be held soon to thrash out the disengagement plan, and if all goes smoothly, the entire disengagement process in Pangong Tso can even be completed by the end of November, sources said, but then added: "These proposals are under consideration... but there is no agreement yet."

Going by the plan under discussion, the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 will be designated as a "no-go zone" and troops from neither India or China will patrol it. This plan was discussed during the eighth round of the corps commanders' meeting on November 6 in Chushul, on India's side of the LAC. Under the proposal, the Indian and Chinese armies will remove their heavy artillery and tanks from the forward positions and move them back to their depth areas. There are many places where Indian and Chinese tanks are in close proximity. As per the third proposal, which will be discussed soon, India will withdraw its troops from the strategically important heights on the southern bank of Pangong Tso, which they occupied in a pre-emptive action in August.

However, India will move extremely cautiously in implementing these steps and will verify each move before taking the next one.

Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane had said Tuesday he was hopeful that the Indian and Chinese militaries will be able to reach an agreement on disengagement and de-escalation of tensions in eastern Ladakh.



Army chief General M.M. Naravane on a two-day visit to Army formations in Uttarakhand to review the security situation and operational preparedness along LAC with China.

gagement and de-escalation of tensions in eastern Ladakh. He had said senior military commanders of India and China were holding talks to iron out the modalities for de-escalation of tensions in eastern Ladakh. "We are hopeful of reaching an agreement which is mutually acceptable and is beneficial in keeping with the overarching policy guidelines," Naravane said.

It is important to note that earlier too, first in June and then in July, India and China had agreed to mutually move back from the Galwan Valley, Gogra Post, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso.

But it was only in the Galwan Valley that troops from both sides had moved back to some extent. In Pangong Tso, the Chinese Army had refused to move back from the ridgelines of Finger 4. In Gogra Post and Hot Springs, there was no clarity on the disengagement. Besides, in Depsang plains, the Chinese troops have been preventing the Indian Army from conducting patrols. The Depsang issue will be separately discussed with the PLA.

It remains to be seen if this time the Chinese Army will fulfil its promise and restore the status quo at the LAC, which it violated in May 2020.

Additional reinforcements rushed to Indo-Pak border

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Additional seniority reinforcements have been rushed to the Indo-Pak border to further tighten any infiltration attempts by militants from across the border.

The decision comes following a high level security review in wake of the Machil encounter two days ago in which four security men and three militants were killed while trying to infiltrate.

The incident took place while the militants were trying to infiltrate into India from one of the launch pads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. These militants were backed by the Border Action Team (BAT) of the Pakistan Army which was assisting in their infiltration bid.

This resulted in a fierce encounter in which four brave Indian security personnel were killed.

Following this incident and amid specific Intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants were waiting at the launchpads,

● **THE DECISION** comes following a high level security review in wake of the Machil encounter two days ago in which four security men and three militants were killed while trying to infiltrate.

● **FOLLOWING** This incident and amid specific Intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants were waiting at the launchpads, a major review of security along the Indo-Pak border was done and additional reinforcements were rushed to certain strategic locations.

a major review of security along the Indo-Pak border was done following which sources said additional reinforcements were rushed to certain strategic locations.

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are already hopeful that the overall security scenario in the Valley would improve considerably during the winter season as they have been able to successfully thwart major infiltration attempts from terror outfits in PoK.

This, sources claim, would have a direct impact on the security situation as militant groups were facing a severe crunch of both men and material.

Sources have confirmed

that in the past two months despite more than 20 infiltration attempts not a single one has been successful.

Senior security officials claimed successfully checking infiltration will have a direct impact on the Kashmir security situation as militants here were facing severe shortage of both men and material.

"The total number of active militants in the Kashmir Valley is now less than 200. We are confident now that no reinforcements are coming from across the border we will launch a fresh operation to eliminate the remaining active militants in the region," the official added.

Many won with razor-thin victory margins in Bihar

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The battle for Bihar which saw the NDA pip the Opposition grand alliance by just 15 seats was also unique in the unusually low winning margins of individual candidates pointing to the tough fight on the ground between the ruling and Opposition sides.

The razor thin margins, some as low as of 12 votes, saw many heartburns among the losing side with Opposition parties like RJD, Congress and CPI-ML (Liberation) even approaching the Election Commission claiming last minute malpractice by district authorities.

In the Hilsa Assembly segment, JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan defeated his rival RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav by a mere 12 votes, the thinnest victory margin in these polls.

There were 10 constituencies apart from Hilsa, which saw a close contest with the victory margin remaining below the 1,000 mark. Of this, the NDA won five — JD(U) in four and BJP one — while the RJD won three while the CPI, LJP and an independent bagged one each.

In three constituencies

each, the RJD and the JD(U) were the runner-up while the BJP came second in two. CPI, Congress, CPI(ML)L and BSP were the nearest rival to the winner in one each seat.

A further break-up of the 11 seats showed that the victory margin in six were below 500 votes, including Hilsa. RJD and JD(U) had two such seats while BJP and LJP had one each.

Among the highest margin, there were four seats which saw victory margin over 50,000 with CPI(ML)L, AIMIM, RJD and JD(U) winning one each. The highest margin was in Balrampur where CPI(ML)L's Mahboob Alam won by 53,597 votes against Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP).

The second highest victory margin went to AIMIM in Amour where its candidate won by 52,515 votes against JD(U). It was a sitting Congress seat, which it won by 51,997 votes in 2015 polls but sitting MLA Abdul Jalil Mastan could bag only 31,863 votes while the winner Aktharul Imran got 94,459 votes and the runner-up Zaba Zafar won 41,944 votes.

The victory margin in 76 seats were in the range of 10,000-20,000 votes.

India's Covid caseload is below 5 lakh

New Delhi, Nov. 11:

Crossing another milestone in the fight against the pandemic, the Covid-19 active caseload in India has fallen below the 5 lakh mark for the first time after 106 days and comprises merely 5.73 per cent of the total cases, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

Seventy per cent of the 44,281 new coronavirus infections reported in a span of 24 hours are from ten states and UTs with Delhi continuing to report the highest daily new cases at 7,830. It is followed by Kerala with 6,010 cases.

There are 4,94,657 active cases of coronavirus infections as on date. "This also indicates a sustained trend of declining active cases in the country," the ministry said.

VARIOUS TRACK MAINTENANCE WORKS & GARDENING ETC

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg./22 of 2020; dated: 05-11-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work:** At Kathiar. (For one year) **Tender Value:** ₹37.63,434.30. **Earnest Money:** ₹75,300.00. **Tender No.2. Brief Description of Work:** Track maintenance work including casual renewal of rail, sleepers, O.V.H of LCs and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of ADE/N/Purnea for the period of 24 months. **Tender Value:** ₹1,49,41,093.30. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,24,200.00. **Tender No.3. Brief Description of Work:** Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of DEN/II/Kathiar. **Tender Value:** ₹40,39,450.08. **Earnest Money:** ₹80,800.00. **Tender No.4. Brief Description of Work:** Supply of Stone Boulder & Quarry dust for monsoon reserve under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/Kathiar. **Tender Value:** ₹33,19,016.00. **Earnest Money:** ₹56,400.00. **Tender No.5. Brief Description of Work:** (A) Track maintenance work including casual renewal of rail and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/Siliguri. (B) Track maintenance work including casual renewal of rail and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/Thakurganj. **Tender Value:** ₹80,24,368.28. **Earnest Money:** ₹1,60,500.00. **Tender No.6. Brief Description of Work:** Maintenance of Kathiar - Manihari section including assistance to working for removal of defective weed and rail and other ancillary work for assistance to track machine viz UNIMATE, CMS, MPT, TEX, DES, BCM etc. under the jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/S/Kathiar. **Tender Value:** ₹54,21,001.25. **Earnest Money:** ₹1,09,400.00. **Tender No.7. Brief Description of Work:** At Kathiar. Maintenance of Koshi greens Eco-Park (109 acre) with horticulture, landscaping, water supply and other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/West/Kathiar. (For one year) **Tender Value:** ₹37,63,434.30. **Earnest Money:** ₹75,300.00. **Tender No.8. Brief Description of Work:** Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under DEN/II/Kathiar. **Tender Value:** ₹61,900.00. **Tender No.9. Brief Description of Work:** At Kathiar - Maintenance of gardening, jungle cutting and planting of seasonal flower under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/West/Kathiar. **Tender Value:** ₹19,13,374.50. **Earnest Money:** ₹38,300.00. **At Khowa. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 07-12-2020 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 07-12-2020.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 07-12-2020 in website www.irps.gov.in DRM (Works), Kathiar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Development plank won us elections: Modi

From Page 1

He said 21st century voters are making it clear that they will vote for only those who are committed to development and have been choosing those who work for the country and are interested in it. He said the poll results have also endorsed the way the government has tackled the Covid-19 pandemic.

While thanking the people of Bihar and the BJP-NDA cadres for the poll victory, Mr Modi, without naming anyone, took on the Opposition, in particular the Congress, saying, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, many political parties are becoming a "threat to the democracy" as they are limiting themselves to dynasty politics or just one family.

He said unfortunately one national party has been gripped by a family and it becomes all the more important for the BJP to strengthen internal democracy and make it an example for others.

At the same time, Mr Modi also sent a message to the Mamata Banerjee-led ruling TMC in West

Bengal where Assembly polls are lined up early next year, that it should "read the writing on the wall" as killing BJP supporters will not help in winning a mandate. The BJP has been accusing the TMC of political killing of its workers and supporters in the state.

Mr Modi also thanked BJP president J.P. Nadda for steering the party's campaign in the just concluded polls. He also thanked people for the BJP's performance in the bypolls in several states.

Calling "naari shakti (women's power)" as the "silent voter" of the BJP, Mr Modi said this silent voter has been continuously supporting the party — in both rural and urban areas — while the youth have faith in democracy. He also said that no re-polling and peaceful voting were the distinctive features of polls in Bihar where booth capturing used to be the headlines earlier.

With the festive season just around the corner, Mr Modi asked people to celebrate Diwali with full fervour while taking care of their family and remaining cautious.

From Page 1

Now, the OTT platforms, which were hitherto unregulated, are expected to come under rules and regulations.

In January 2019, eight video streaming services had signed a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for content on these platforms.

The code adopted by the OTTs prohibited five types of content, including those deliberately and maliciously disrespects the national emblem or national flag, any visual or story line that promotes child pornography, any content that maliciously intends to outrage religious sentiments, content that deliberately and maliciously promotes or encourages terrorism etc.

However, the government had refused to support this code.

In their plea in the Supreme Court, advocates Shashank Shekhar Jha and Apurva Arhatia sought a proper board/institution /association for the monitoring and management of content on different OTT and Streaming and digital media platforms.

Lack of legislation governing OTT and Streaming Platforms is becoming evident with each passing day and every new case that is filed on these grounds.

"The government is facing heat to fill this lacuna with regulations from the public and the judiciary; still the relevant government departments have not done anything significant to regularise these OTT and streaming plat-

forms," the plea said.

None of the OTT and streaming platforms have signed the self-regulation provided by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry since February, it added.

The ministry had earlier told the top court in a separate case that there is a need to regulate digital media and that the court may first appoint a committee of persons as amicus before laying down guide-

lines with respect to the regulation of hate speech in media.

At present, the Press Council of India regulates the print media, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the news channels, the Advertising Standards Council of India regulates advertising, while the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) monitors films.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work : "Development works with Paver Blocks in different locations of Port area". EMD cost : ₹ 2,98,883/-. Last date and time of submission of Bid : 27.11.2020 upto 17:15 Hrs. For details please refer our website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Executive Engineer, Harbour Works Division No.1
PPT/PR/293/20-21 Dt.11.11.2020

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TCN No. EM/IOHP-40/2020
Name of the Work: "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200 TPH capacity Shiploader at IOB". Estimated cost : ₹ 27,45,28,646/-. Last date & time of submission of bid: Dt. 23.11.2020 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M) Iron Ore Handling Plant
PPT/PR/291/20-21 Dt. 10.11.2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, VILLUPURAM
TENDER NOTICE
T.N.No.31/2020-21/HDO/Dated:10.11.2020
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 02.12.2020. 13.30 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Villupuram Circle for Road Safety 2019-20 Works, pertaining to Villupuram (H) C&M Division.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 13.11.2020 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H) C&M CIRCLE, VILLUPURAM
DIPRA/4235/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
VILLUPURAM (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE,
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NOTICE NO.30 /2020-21 / HDO. DATED:09.11.2020
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 02.12.2020 - 13.30 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for Road Safety 2019-20 Works, pertaining to Villupuram & Cuddalore (H) (C&M) Division.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 13.11.2020 onwards in the Government website <https://ntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Villupuram
DIPRA/4234/TENDER/2020

IN BRIEF FIRE BURNS TENTS IN GREEK CAMP

Athens, Nov. 11: A fire has burnt through tents and some structures in a refugee camp on the eastern Greek island of Samos. There were no immediate reports of any injuries.

The fire department said the blaze, which broke out Wednesday morning, was limited in size and was tackled by 18 firefighters using nine vehicles. There was no immediate information on how many tents were destroyed. Many of the tents are packed closely together in the overcrowded camp, and camping gas canisters the residents use for cooking caused small explosions. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire.

More than 3,800 people live in and around the Samos camp, a facility originally built to house just under 650. In September, fires destroyed Greece's largest refugee camp, Moria, on the island of Lesbos, leaving more than 10,000 people in need of emergency shelter. Authorities said those blazes had been set by a group of the camp's residents protesting isolation and lockdown orders after Covid outbreak.

POPE FRANCIS VOWS TO END SEXUAL ABUSE

Rome, Nov. 11: Pope Francis pledged Wednesday to rid the Catholic Church of sexual abuse and offered prayers to victims of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a day after the Vatican released a detailed report into the decades-long church cover-up of his sexual misconduct.

Francis concluded his weekly general audience Wednesday by recalling that the report into the "painful case" of the former high-ranking American cardinal had been released the previous day. "I renew my closeness to victims of any abuse and commitment of the church to eradicate this evil," Francis said. He then paused silently for nearly a minute, apparently in prayer.

Biden embarrassed Trump didn't concede poll defeat

Says it will not help President's legacy, transition plans remain unaffected

Pompeo: Smooth transition to 2nd Trump administration

Washington, Nov. 11: Donald Trump not conceding defeat in the US election is "an embarrassment" and that "will not help the President's legacy," President-elect Joe Biden has said, asserting that his transition plans have remained unaffected and he has started talking to world leaders.

Trump has declined to concede the closely-fought November 3 presidential race to Democrat Biden and is mounting legal fights in several states, but there has been no evidence of voter irregularities or widespread fraud in the election — billed as one of the most divisive and bitter in recent American history.

The president-elect was asked by a reporter on Tuesday what he thought of President Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat. "I just think it's an embarrassment, quite frankly," Biden said while speaking in his hometown in Wilmington, Delaware.

"The only thing that, how can I say this tactfully, I think it will not help the president's legacy," 77-year-old Biden said.

The Trump administration's refusal to initiate the transition process

Washington, Nov. 11: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday asserted that there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump Administration, indicating that he believes Donald Trump has won the November 3 presidential elections.

"There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration. We are ready. The world is watching what's taking place here. We're going to count all the votes..." Pompeo said. He was responding to questions from reporters at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department if his department is preparing to engage with the Biden transition team and if not at what point does it delay or hamper a smooth transition or pose a risk to national security.

"does not change the dynamic at all in what we're able to do," Biden said. "We don't see anything that's slowing us down,

● **POMPEO WAS** responding to questions from reporters at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department if his department is preparing to engage with the Biden transition team and if not at what point does it delay or hamper a smooth transition or pose a risk to national security.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has been declared the winner of the elections by major media networks, as is the tradition in the United States. President-elect Biden has quickly moved on to the transition phase. Pompeo said that the

quite frankly," he said. "At the end of the day, you know, it's all going to come to fruition on January 20," he added, refer-

ring to inauguration day. "Between now and then my hope and expectation is that the American people do know and do under-

stand that there has been a transition. Even among Republicans...who voted for the president, I understand the sense of loss. I get that," he said. —PTI

Washington, Nov. 11: Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller, the Pentagon has announced. The new appointment from the Pentagon comes a day after Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated the National Counter Terrorism Center Director, Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary of Defence.

Miller took over the functions and responsibilities of the new role on Monday, the Pentagon said on Tuesday. "Kash Patel, currently on the National Security Council staff, has been named by Acting Secretary Miller as his Chief of Staff," the Pentagon announced on Tuesday. —PTI

KASH PATEL IS CHIEF OF STAFF TO DEF SECY

Washington, Nov. 11: Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller, the Pentagon has announced. The new appointment from the Pentagon comes a day after Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated the National Counter Terrorism Center Director, Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary of Defence.

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Explosions mar WW-I ceremony at Saudi cemetery

Paris, Nov. 11: Multiple people were wounded on Wednesday when an explosive device hit an international ceremony commemorating the end of World War I at a cemetery in the Saudi Arabian city of Jiddah, according to French government officials. Several countries had representatives at the ceremony, held at a cemetery for non-Muslim dead, the officials from the French Foreign Ministry said.

The identities of the victims were unclear. Wednesday's attack follows on the heels of a stabbing on October 29 that slightly wounded a guard at the French Consulate in the city of Jiddah. The stabbing was carried out by a Saudi man, who was arrested. His motives remain unclear. Wednesday marks the 102nd anniversary of the armistice ending World War I and is commemorated in several European countries.

The French officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, condemned the attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion. Saudi officials and state-run media in the ki-

ngdom have not commented on the attack.

Jiddah, the Red Sea port city, saw its Ottoman troops surrender to the local troops backed by the British in 1916 amid the war. That sparked the start of the Kingdom of Hejaz, which later became part of Saudi Arabia in 1932. Jiddah's Non-Muslim Cemetery sits nears this port city's docks, hidden behind trees alongside a major thoroughfare in the city.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows just one soldier buried at the cemetery, Pvt John Arthur Hogan, who died in June 1944. Across France, which was particularly devastated by years of trench warfare in World War I, ceremonies were held Wednesday to mark the anniversary of the armistice but also to honor all those who have died for France, including during the Second World War and in current military operations abroad and at home, where troops are deployed to protect against terrorist attacks.

France has suffered two deadly Islamic extremist attacks in the past month. Three people were killed in a church in the south-

Pak US embassy goofs up on PM

Islamabad, Nov. 11: The United States embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday issued an apology for sharing a Twitter post which indirectly called Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan a "demagogue and dictator." On Tuesday night, the US embassy retweeted a post by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

leader Ahsan Iqbal, where he shows a screenshot of an article by *The Washington Post* titled 'Trump's defeat is a blow for the world's demagogues and dictators'.

Along with the screen grab, Iqbal wrote: "We have one in Pakistan too. He will be shown the way out soon." Iqbal's lines

were a clear reference to Prime Minister Khan. The embassy's post went viral within minutes and it faced severe backlash from the supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

On Wednesday, the embassy on its Twitter account said, "The US embassy Islamabad Twit-

ter account was accessed last night without authorisation. The US embassy does not endorse the posting or re-tweeting of political messages. We apologise for any confusion that may have resulted from the unauthorised post." Since then the embassy has deleted the post. On Tuesday,

SCIENTISTS FIND PROOF OF TWO-WAY VIRUS TRANSMISSION IN MINK FARMS

London, Nov. 11: An analysis of outbreaks of the novel Coronavirus on 16 mink farms in the Netherlands has revealed that the Covid-19 virus is capable of transmission between humans to minks, as well as from these mammals to people.

While the virus was ini-

tially introduced from humans to the minks, the researchers, including Bas B. Oude Munnink from the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, said it has since evolved. "More research in minks and other mustelid species is important to understand

if these species are at risk of becoming a reservoir of SARS-CoV-2," they wrote in the study, published in the journal *Science*. According to the scientists, the virus was first diagnosed on two mink farms in late April of 2020 in the Netherlands. —PTI

FINANCIAL Chronicle

THURSDAY | 12 NOVEMBER 2020 | CHENNAI

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,593.67 0.73
Nifty 50	12,749.15 0.93
S&P 500*	3,570.69 0.71
Dollar (₹)	74.37 -0.24
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.63 -0.37
Euro (₹)	87.69 -0.13
Gold (10gm) (₹)	50,114₹ 0.005
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.43 0.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.903 -0.014
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.960 0.00

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Murugappan steps down as chairman of Tube, Chola

Noted industrialist and chairman of diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group M. M. Murugappan has stepped down from two of the group entities' to pursue philanthropy and other interests, the two companies said. Group firm Tube Investments said Murugappan has stepped-down as chairman and resigned as director from Wednesday on reaching 65. The board appointed M. A. M. Arunachalam as additional director.

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■ Incentives to help India emerge as a mfg hub Industry lauds PLI

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Industry finds that with the Rs 1.45 lakh crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, the government has rightly identified the high potential sectors to make the country a manufacturing hub.

"The PLI announcement of Rs 1.45,000 crore across 10 key sectors till 2025 is a strategic policy intervention. Coming at the back of Covid-19 and the general slowdown, this is expected to boost production, lead to job creation and ultimately be a major kicker for GDP and taxes," said Sangita Reddy, president, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industries (Ficci). "The government has carefully chosen the sectors for the PLI scheme. There could be more sectors that would receive the PLI benefits in the future," she added.

"The new PLI policy is transformational and timely and will facilitate India becoming a global manufacturing hub. The policy is strategically targeted and will go a long way to boost production, make Indian goods competitive and expand exports as part of global value chains," said Uday Kotak, president, Confederation of India Industry (CII).

As for textiles, the PLI scheme for man-made fibre will support the much-needed shift in Indian textile exports that will help it cater to the global market skewed towards man-made fibre products. In the case of technical textiles, the National Technical Textile

The government has carefully chosen the sectors for the PLI scheme. There could be more sectors that would receive the PLI benefits in the future



Sangita Reddy, president, Ficci

The industry was eagerly awaiting for this scheme to increase its competitiveness and take the growth of the sector to the next level



Kenichi Ayukawa, president, Siam

This will pave the way for the pharma industry to move into newer areas. The industry had set a target to achieve \$130 billion exports by 2030 from the current \$42 billion. Now we can aspire for it



Dinesh Dua, chairman, Pharmexcil

Mission aims at more than tripling production to \$50 billion in four years and achieving export revenues of Rs 20,000 crore in two years and the PLI scheme will help the industry achieve the target. The government has announced a Rs 10,683 crore PLI scheme for the textile sector for the next five years.

"The future of Indian textile exports is MMF as the share of MMF-based textiles and clothing products would account for 80 per cent of the global export market by 2030. The government has rightly identified the segments within textiles," said the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi).

George Paul, CEO, Manufacturers' Association of Information Technology (Mait) says that with the PLI, the government has boldly declared that the next 10 years will be the decade for manufacturing. It recognises disabilities in the system and

looks at Indian companies in a fresh light. Manufacturers of semiconductor fabrication, display fab, laptop/ notebooks, servers, IoT devices and specified computer hardware will receive Rs 5,000 crore PLI.

For pharmaceuticals, the government had earlier announced a PLI scheme for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and bulk drugs. The new PLI scheme has covered a large spectrum of pharma products. "This will pave the way for the pharma industry to move into newer areas. The industry had set a target to achieve \$130 billion exports by 2030 from the current \$42 billion. Now we can aspire for it," said Dinesh Dua, chairman, Pharmaceuti-cals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil).

The government has provided PLI of Rs 12,195 crore for telecom and networking products, including core transmission equipment, 4G/5G, next

generation radio access network and wireless equipment, access and customer premises equipment (CPE), internet of things (IoT), access devices and other wireless equipment and enterprise equipment: switches and routers.

"We are yet to receive details of the scheme from the DoT, however, we appreciate the proposed outlay of Rs 12,000 crore for telecom and networking equipment and are confident that the government would have designed the scheme in such a manner to ensure that the demand for telecom equipment is enhanced and remains robust as well as exports from India are suitably supported," said Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar, director general, Cellular Operators Association of India.

The largest chunk of the incentive of Rs 57,042 crore will be provided for automobiles and auto components. "The industry was eagerly awaiting for this scheme to increase its competitiveness and take the growth of the sector to the next level," said Kenichi Ayukawa, president, Siam.

"We are hopeful that the outlay announced will encourage the industry to become net-exporter and help reduce import dependence," said Deepak Jain, president, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (Acma). "Whilst the auto component industry exports over 25 per cent of its production, our ambition is to capture a significant proportion of global trade," added Jain.

12 firms to be part of MSCI India Index

New Delhi, Nov. 11: As many as 12 companies, including Trent and Kotak Mahindra Bank, have been added to the MSCI India Index, while Bosch and LIC Housing Finance will move out, according to the latest MSCI Global Standard Index rejig announcement.

The stocks which made their way to the MSCI India Index are ACC, Adani Green Energy, Apollo Hospitals, Balkrishna Industries, Ipeca Laboratories, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro Infotech, MRF, Muthoot Finance, PI Industries, Trent Limited and Yes Bank.

The changes in constituents for the MSCI global standard indices will take place at the close of November 30.

Bosch and LIC Housing Finance will move out from the list on that day.

Shares of Trent jumped 11.66 per cent, Apollo Hospitals 6.19 per cent, Adani Green Energy 5 per cent, Balkrishna Industries 4.99 per cent, Yes Bank gained 4.95 per cent, Ipeca Laboratories 3.86 per cent and PI Industries 3 per cent on Wednesday.

Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 2.97 per cent, L&T Infotech 2.61 per cent, Muthoot Finance 2.41 per cent, MRF 1.58 per cent and ACC 1.22 per cent on the BSE.

—PTI

Bank staff to get 15-20% pay hike



FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

As a Diwali gift to 8.5 lakh bank employees, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on Wednesday announced the conclusion of the 11th bipartite wage negotiations with nine bank unions and officers' associations. The wage revision agreement will be effective from November 1, 2017 and provides for a 15-20 per cent increase in pay slip.

In a first, the banks will also put in place a performance-linked incentive scheme

C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary of the banking sector's largest union, All-India Bank Employees' Association (Aibe), told *Financial Chronicle*, "The arrears will result in Rs 7,900 crore additional outgo for banks per year, covering 8.5 lakh employees and officers' associations. The wage revision agreement will be effective from November 1, 2017 and provides for a 15-20 per cent increase in pay slip. In a first, the banks will also put in place a performance-linked incentive scheme

"In addition, employees will get leave benefit,

leave travel concession benefit and other service conditions are also being improved upon and family pension will also nearly double. A new feature is the performance-linked incentive, scheme which is being introduced under this settlement. Hence this settlement is highly satisfactory."

Giving the breakup of the yearly outgo, Venkatachalam said, "Rs 3,385 crore are the arrears for workmen employees, clerks and peons while Rs 4,515 crore is for officers."

"To inculcate a sense of competition and also to reward the performance, the concept of Performance Linked Pay has been introduced for the first time. A detailed bipartite settlement/joint note has been signed with the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), representing four workmen unions and four officers' associations and also Bank Karamchari Sena Mahasangh (BKSM), who were parties to agreement," Sunil Mehta, chief executive of the Indian Banks Association said.

However, the demand of public sector employees to implement five-day banking was not among the changes announced.

ALLROUND SHOW

Hunger and working on nitty gritty did it for MI

Dubai, Nov. 11: An insatiable hunger to succeed, the willingness to put in the extra yards and extensive work on the nitty-gritties culminated in an unprecedented fifth IPL title for Mumbai Indians, the players responsible for the triumph said after a clinical demolition of Delhi Capitals in the final here.

Opener Quinton de Kock said after the final, "Mumbai have a great set up, so we've been able to move with the gym work and training and stuff. We're reaping the rewards today for it. It's a great feeling."

"It's a great feeling. I've been here 11 years, fifth trophy. No one sees the planning and training, it's pressure playing for a franchise like this," MI veteran Kieron Pollard.

The West Indian swash-buckler added: "The amount of trophies, the amount of work, the amount of players who go on to play for their countries, I think we'll have to say so (that this is the best T20 franchise)."

Elder of the Pandya brothers, Krunal pinned it on the hunger of the players.

"It's the hunger. The way we went about the games, there was always 100 per cent. A lot of credit goes to how we prepared. One month before we came, everyone knew their roles," he added.

Another MI star,



Captain Rohit Sharma celebrates after Mumbai Indians won their fifth Indian Premier League title.

Suryakumar Yadav attributed the success to preparation and following the process.

"Preparations, processes and routine is important. The team just said one thing — we'll take care of this. You go and express yourself," the MI rising batsman Suryakumar concluded.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah said the title is more special because of the tough circumstances the

tournament was played in given the challenges posed by the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

Captain all praise for bowlers

His fluent half century made the chase look effortless in the IPL final but Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said it was his bowlers who set up the crushing win over Delhi Capitals, which fetched an

unprecedented fifth title for the side.

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult snared the dangerous Marcus Stoinis and Ajinkya Rahane while off-spinner Jayant Yadav dismissed the in-form Shikhar Dhawan to leave Delhi Capitals reeling at 22 for three, early setbacks from which the team couldn't quite recover.

"We got a wicket on the first ball and we got a couple more after that. We just

wanted to keep the pressure, the execution was perfect from all the bowlers," Rohit said at the post-match press conference.

"We knew Stoinis and Dhawan are Delhi's key batters, so we wanted to bowl our key bowlers at them, getting early wickets was the key, we wanted to take early wickets, when you have the best new ball bowler in your squad, why not go with that?" he said.

Rohit applauded each and every bowler for his contribution in the team's success throughout the tournament. Boult (25) and Jasprit Bumrah (27) were at their lethal best the entire season.

"Boult has been fantastic for us this season and so has Bumrah. They are the ones who kept us in the game throughout. (James) Pattinson, (Nathan) Coulter-Nile, (Rahul) Chahar, and Krunal Pandya also did their job," he added.

Also, Rohit Sharma believes that his style of leadership is not a dictatorial one, which is precisely the reason behind Mumbai Indians' stupendous success in the Indian Premier League.

"I'm not someone who'll run with a stick behind someone. The only way you can do it is by giving them confidence. So you have to strike that right balance," Rohit said.

— PTI

Make Rohit T20 captain: Gambhir

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir and England's Michael Vaughan have called for Rohit Sharma's elevation to India's T20 captaincy with the former national team opener going to the extent of saying that it would be a "shame" if the star batsman

does not get the role.

Rohit led Mumbai Indians to a fifth IPL title on Tuesday, impressing not just with a graceful half century but also shrewd captaincy. "If Rohit Sharma doesn't become India's captain, it's their loss, not Rohit's," Gambhir told

ESPNewsinfo's T20 Time

Out programme.

"Yes, a captain is only as good as his team and I completely agree with that, but what are the parameters to judge a captain on who is good and who isn't? The parameters and benchmark should be the same. Rohit has led his team (MI) to five IPL titles," he added.

"We keep saying MS Dhoni is India's most successful captain. Why? Because he has won two World Cups and three IPLs," Gambhir said.

"Rohit has won five IPL titles, he is the most successful captain in the history of the tournament," Gambhir added.

— PTI

BOWLERS LOST IT IN POWERPLAY: DELHI SKIPPER SHREYAS

Dubai, Nov. 11: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer says his otherwise outstanding bowlers "lost it in powerplay" after a disastrous start prevented them from posting a challenging total in the IPL final against Mumbai Indians.

"It's just the fatigue that crept in may be, bowlers just lost it in the Powerplay," Iyer said.

DC captain, however, said he does not regret his decision to bat first.

— PTI

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