# nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

**ANANTAPUR | MONDAY | 9 NOVEMBER 2020** 



Min: 20°C **RH:** 53% Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 33/20 °C



(+409)(+43,854)85,41,173 1,26,525 covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+5)(+1,440)TS: 2,50,331 1,377 (+2,237)(+12)AP: 8,42,967 6,791

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



216

worldometers.info/

#### coronavirus ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Ashtami till 6.49 am; Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Navami till 5.27 am (Tuesday) Star: Ashlesha till 8.39 am Varjyam: 8.16 pm to 9.49 pm **Durmuhurtam:** 12.22 pm to 1.07 pm; 2.37 pm to 3.23 pm **Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am

HLIRI CALENDAR Rabbi-ul Awwal 22, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** 

> Fajar: 5.31 am **Zohar:** 12.26 pm **Asar:** 4.28 pm Maghrib: 6.05 pm Isha: 7.21 pm

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.17 AM SUNSET TODAY 5.49 PM** 

MOONSET 1.14 PM MOONRISE 7.38 AM



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

#### **India ready to** work with Biden

New Delhi: Getting ready to work with the Democrat-led administration in Washington that will assume office in January next year, India on Sunday congratulated President-elect Joe Biden who defeated President Donald Trump in the US Presidential polls. New Delhi also congratulated Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, President Ram Nath **Kovind and Prime Minister** Narendra Modi posted congratulatory messages on Twitter to Biden and Harris shortly after midnight on Sunday after the Democrats

> were declared winners. Full report on Page 4

#### **India, China talk** on friction points

New Delhi: The Indian Army said on Sunday that there had been a "candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views" at the eighth round of military talks held at Chusul on Friday, but no signs of a concrete breakthrough on the disengagement of troops. Both sides agreed to ensure their troops would exercise restraint and avoid misunderstandings and miscalculation, a joint statement issued on Sunday said. A news agency reported, however, that India and China are likely to disengage from some friction points in

the next few days ■ Full report on Page 4

NATION 4 **Another TMC MLA** to shift to BJP



WORLD 5

Dr Murthy to head **Biden's Covid task force**  SPORTS 8

**Messi turns the** game for Barca



Vol. 22 No. 61 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

#### India's longest cable suspension bridge

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle



A view of the Dobra-Chanthi bridge after it was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on the occasion of state foundation day in Tehri on Sunday. The 440-metre long bridge is India's longest motorable single lane suspension bridge and it reduces travel distance for three lakh people in Tehri Garhwal district to reach their district headquarters New Tehri by 100 km.

#### **ZAMBIA'S WOMAN COP THANKS DGP** FOR INSPIRATION

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

Doreen Mazuba Malambo, a woman police offifrom Zambia. thanked DGP Gautam Sawang for being an inspiration to her and helped her become a commendable police officer. Doreen has been awarded the the United Nations Woman Police Officer honour for 2020.

Doreen had worked under Sawang, when he was working the police commissioner UN Mission in Liberia way back in 2009. Currently, Malambo is serving as Gender Advisor in Gender Advisor Mission in Sudan. During an interview, Doreen thanked the DGP for being her inspiration.

## MGNREGA turns a boon for people in Covid time

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

Even as Covid-19 has subject people to financial difficulties, ray of hope has come in the form of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which is helping to cope

up with the crisis. Migrant workers, who returned to their native places, initially faced hardships and later MGNRE-GA works helped them during the Corona crisis.

According to reports from April to September, as many as 3.30 lakh new job cards were issued for 5.53 lakh beneficiaries providing work and income in all the 13 districts.

According to reports, as on October 20, about 13.62 crore households in the country received the job cards with a guarantee of employment to 26.03 crore individuals. Of them, only 13.19 crore workers from 8.57 crore households are regularly seeking work under the programme.

In Andhra Pradesh, 1.22 crore individuals from 67 lakh households received job cards, which included 24.37 percent SCs and 8.92

LibTech India, a collective team of engineers, social workers, and social scientists, Chakradhar Buddha, Ranadheer Malla, and Venkata Krishna Kagga prepared the report MGNREGA in AP-Implementation Status.

■ Page 2: Rise in demand for MGNREGA cards

## 2nd time Covid kills doctor

**NAGESWARA RAO** BALLEDA I DO KADAPA, NOV. 8

A children's specialist working at the Badvel Government Hospital became the first government doctor succumbing to Covid-19 in Kadapa district.

Dr Nandakumar was an alumnus of Kadapa RIMS

Hospital belonging to 2007- Saturday, his family mem-13 batch. He had been working as a paediatrician at Badvel Government Hospital for the past three years. He had contracted Coronavirus a couple of months ago but recovered. Last week, he was again diagnosed with Covid-19. When his condition turned critical on

bers shifted him to a hos pital in Chennai, where he died on Sunday morning. Scores of doctors had been diagnosed with the disease after the Coronavirus epidemic spread in Kadapa district.

> Page 3: Kadapa RIMS staff most affected

## **DeMo helped to** cut stash: Modi

#### Tax compliance, transparency increased: BJP

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi on Sunday said demonetisation helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and gave a boost to transparency, on the fourth anniversary of withdrawal of high-value currency notes.

On November 8, 2016, Modi had announced on national television his government's decision to ban currency notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination from midnight on the same day. Certain restrictions were placed on withdrawals.

Taking to Twitter, the Prime Minister on Sunday listed the beneficial outcomes of demonetisation. "Demonetisation has helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and given a boost to trans-



Narendra Modi

outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national pro-gress," Modi said using the hashtag

De M

olishingCorruption'.
The PM also shared a graphic on how demonetisation had ensured better tax compliance, improved the tax to GDP ratio, made India a less cash-based economy and gave a boost to national security. BJP national spoke-sper-

at at the party headquar-ters here: "Demon-etisa-tion dealt a body blow to the systemic financial corruption and black money economy. Since then, it has simultaneously invigorated formal economy and brought unprecedent-ed financial benefits to all

sections of society." He said: "If there is anybody who shouldn't talk about loot, mismanagement of the economy it should be people from the Congress. During the lost decade of the Congress-led UPA government, there was rampant black money and corruption in the country's economy.'

Chandrasekhar demonetisation had three significant and tangible impacts — cleaning up of the economy, formalisa-tion of the informal sector as it helped reach the poor and revenue aggregation.

# 2 cops held for abetting suicide

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI and MD ILYAS | DC KURNOOL/VIJAYAWADA,

In a swift move, Nandyal Town-1 circle inspector Somasekhar Reddy and head constable Gangadhar have been arrested for allegedly abetting the suicide of four persons of a family on November 3 at Kouluru near Panyam.

The cops had been allegedly targeting the family of Abdus Salam fol-

lowing a theft. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was personally monitoring the progress of the probe. Muslim organisations thanked the Chief Minister for intervening in the case and asking the DGP to deploy top IPS officers

would instil confidence in the minority community,

they said.

DGP Gautam Sawang said, "If anyone is found to be guilty of any offence, he/she will be acted against irrespective of who the person is.' Announcing the arrests

on Sunday, Kurnool range DIG Venkatarami Reddy said Abdus Salam and his three family members had died by suicide on Tuesday. Before the suicide. the deceased Abdul Salam (42), resident of Nandyal, his wife Noor (36), daughter Salma (14), and son Kalandar (10) announced their intent through a video, which went viral.

Page 2: Probe will be completed in 3 days: DIG

#### 4 ARMY MEN, 3 **MILITANTS KILLED IN LOC GUN FIRE**

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC

Four Indian troops, including an officer and three militants, have been killed in a fire fight raging in Machil sector close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir's Kupwara district since

Saturday night.
The officials here said on Sunday that the slain militants were part of a large group of infiltrators engaged in the gunfight by alert Indian Army and BSF troops the moment they sneaked into the Indian side of the de facto border.

They said that one militant was killed in initial exchange of fire and two more were 'neutralised' later during the day on

## Naval man drowns, 1 more untraceable

K.M.P. PATNAIK I DC VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 8

A naval employee died of drowning and another was missing at sea off the Yarada beach here on Sunday. The victim was identified as Petty Officer Whengbam Jagajit Singh of Manipur while Subham of Uttar Pradesh is said to be missing.

The New Port police said the company of *INS Sumitra* of Indian Navy comprising 54 persons came to Yarada beach between 7.30 am and 7.45 am and played sports from 8 am to 9 am. At

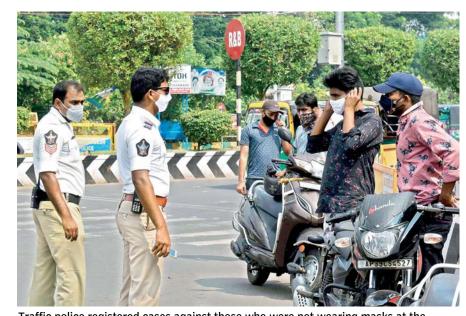
Singh, Shub-ham, Sunil and Vinit Kumar ventured into the sea before proceeding for breakfast. In the meantime, a big wave swept away all the

four persons. However,

Jagajit Singh, Sunil and

Vinit were brought to the shore. Noticing that Jagajit Singh was unconscious, he was shifted to *INHS Kalyani*, where he died at

11 am. Meanwhile, Shubham remains missing. Efforts are continuing to trace the missing person, police



Traffic police registered cases against those who were not wearing masks at the – C. NARAYANA RAO Control Room area in Vijayawada on Sunday.

#### DEMAND REVIVAL

### Unclogging transport increases sweet orange prices to ₹40,000

## Sweet oranges bring back cheer for farmers

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC KADAPA, NOV. 8

After a gap of 10 months, farmers of sweet orange have something to cheer about, as prices of their product have finally started moving up.

Their rates have currently touched ₹40,000 per tonne, though during Dasara last year, they had sold for ₹70,000 per tonne. Subsequently, in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic, their prices fell to ₹15,000

per tonne. This was mainly due to transportation issues following the lockdown. Exports came to a nought. Traders did not come forward to buy a tonne of fruit for even ₹10,000 per tonne. Farmers suffered severely as a result.

For the first time since lockdown has been lifted, traders from Bidinancherla and Gurizala villages under Pulivendula constituency are offering to buy the product for over

LA NINA is a climate pattern that cools waters the Pacific Ocean, while El Nino is characterised by unusually warm ocean temperatures south low pressure system which brings in Siberian air to the Indian subcontinent.

Sweet orange is cultivated over 14,000 hectares across Kadapa district. Their plantations are spread over 10,692 hectares

in Pulivendula constituen-

cy alone; 4,037 hectares in Simhadripuram mandal, followed by 2,764 in Lingala, 1,432 in Tondoor, 815 in Pulivendula, 787 in Vemula, 378 in Vempalle, and 368 hectares Chakrayapeta mandal.

The fruit comes to harvest within 8-9 months. After that it starts changing colour and falls off the

Farmers were hoping they would get a better price during Dasara. When that did not happen, some farmers left the fruit on the

did not go above ₹25,000 per tonne. Crop was also considerably damaged following incessant rains.

Since past one week, however, the prices have started rising gradually. They now range between ₹40,000 and ₹45,000. Horticulture department

Doddipalli Madhusudan Reddy told Deccan Chronicle that they are advising farmers to harvest sweet orange at the right time. Otherwise, they would stand to lose.

## La Nina set to make winter harsher in AP

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 8

A harsher winter is likely this year due to La Nina conditions. An indication of this is below normal temperatures recorded at several places in the state.

On Sunday, the lowest minimum temperature recorded was 18.6° Celsius Kalinga-patnam in Srikakulam district of north coastal AP. This is lower by 3.3° C than the normal at this time of the year. Rayalaseema is also witnessing fall in minimum temperatures. Night temperatures are very likely to drop further. December and January

are the winter months in Andhra Pradesh. Since the state has quite a long coastline, winters are comparatively mild. However, in agency areas of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam, temperatures

do fall to single digits. India Meteorological Department (IMD) pre-dicted last month that winter this year will likely be colder due to La

Ňina conditions. El Nino and La Nina factors play a dominant role in temperatures that pre-

pattern that cools waters in the Pacific Ocean, while El Nino is characterised by unusually warm ocean temperatures.

IT ALSO produces a more north-south low pressure system which brings in Siberian air to the Indian subcontinent.

While La Nina brings in

cold waves, El Nino is unfavourable in creation of such conditions. Increase in impact of La Nina during November and December will thus bring down night temperatures, IMD said.

La Nina is a climate pattern that cools waters in the Pacific Ocean, while El Nino is characterised by unusually warm ocean temperatures.

La Nina also produces a more north-south low pressure system which brings in Siberian air to the Indian subcontinent. The cold air arriving from Siberia could create a cold wave that can extend much further south of the country, affecting states Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana

and Andhra Pradesh.

SHORT TAKES

#### **JAGAN, NAIDU GREET BIDÉN AND** KAMALA

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and leader of opposi-tion N. Chandrababu Naidu wished winners of the US elec-tions. Mr Reddy congratulated Kamala Harris for her winning the US Elections 2020 to become the first woman Vice-President in the history of

United States.

Taking to Twitter Mr Jagan said, "Democrats or Republicans, politics apart, we are happy and proud to have Kamala Harris, someone of Indian origin as the Vice-President of America. Congratulations and best wishes. May God bless you and guide you," he tweeted.

Telugu Desam National president and leader of Opposition
Chandrababu Naidu on
Sunday extended his greetings
to US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris on their victory in the elections.

#### **RAILWAYS ISSUES ADVISORY TO FESTIVAL**

DC CORRESPONDENT SAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 8

The Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has sent an advisory to the passengers travelling by trains during this festive season. The Division is operating special trains during the festival season and also running Covid-19 special trains for the convenience of the public. With the increase of train services, safety measures also enhanced at all the railway stations over the Division, a release said on

The Division took several measures to combat the pandemic which include controlled entry and exit to stations, thermal screening, strict observation of the use of masks and social distancing, advising all the passengers to report to the station in advance and allowing only confirmed ticket holders into the station to board trains.

It is also advised to all the passengers boarding at Visakhapatnam railway station with confirmed tickets to board train at platform No. 8 side (Gnanapuram) and exit from platform No. 1 side for easy crowd management and observation of Covid-19 proto-

#### **400-KG STALE MEAT DESTROYED** IN VIJAYAWADA

DC CORRESPONDENT IJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

Vijayawada Municipal Commission destroyed 400 kg stale meat seized from two mutton shops at Vijayawada on Sunday. The VMC and veterinary officials team made surprise checks on few mutton shops at Gollapalem Gattu near Sai Baba temple and found that stale meat weighing about 400 kgs was stored in two different shops owned by one Sai and Sambasiva Rao.

The meat was stored in unhygienic condition and worms were seen in the rotten meat as the freezer was not working properly.

#### **'INCULCATE JOGGING HABIT** IN CHILDREN'

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

The parents told to inculcate the habit of running and jogging early morning to their children to make them physically fit and healthy. The 5k run, 10k run and 21k run conducted by Vijayawada Runners evoked good response from the youth and children in Vijavawada on Sundav. Krishna district collector A. Md. Imtiaz flagged off the run

at the camp office. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Imtiaz said marathon run is a very good for the health and pointed out that physical exercise and running help people stay fit and active. He said the parents have to inculcate the habit of running and jogging early morning to their children to make them physically fit and healthy.

Vijayawada runners founder Mani Deepak said the organisation is conducting a running event in Vijavawada the last four days. He said the running helps reduce blood pressure levels and will increase the immunity levels.

## **Ignoring Covid rule, people** crowd at AP beach resorts

Beach road from Coast Battery to Bhimili saw vehicular movement

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 8

Ignoring the Covid-19 safety protocols, thousands of people thronged various beaches in Visakhapatnam city and the Sunday markets. The crowds were more aton picturescue. more atop picturesque Kailasagiri hill resort and its foothill Tenneti Park where people had a glimpse of the Bangladesh vessel that ran aground the sea.

However, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Kambalakonda tourism park, INS Kursura Museum and TU 142 were not yet opened for the public. Otherwise, the crowds would have been more, VMRDA officials

There were people, including tourists from outside, were seen at the Rushikonda beach, where water sports resumed, RK Beach, Bhimili, Yarada and Borra Caves. However, there were no significant visitors to Araku Valley this Sunday.

The entire 30km beach road from Coast Battery to Bhimili saw constant vehicular movement. Many were seen at Erramatti Dibbalu and



Youngsters take a selfie with the Lord Shiva Parvathi statues during their visit to Kailasagiri Hill Park in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Most of the tourist spots seen packed with the public as they enjoy their weekend.

Thotlakonda on the way. Tourist officials said due to sudden fall in the tem-

beginning of Kartika Masam, the following day

being celebrated next Saturday. There was a congregation of people at

of their homes. The of Diwali festival which is Fishing Harbour market, crowds will swell with the being celebrated next Rythu Bazaar and meat Rythu Bazaar and meat and fish vending shops

## Medical staff crunch hampers Anantapur GGH

NAGABHUSHANAM HOSKOTE | DC

Lack of adequate staff, including the absence of heads, has badly hampered services in the Government General Hospital and the recently established super specialty hospital ty hospital.

The general hospital has been without a regular superintendent even during the Covid-19 crisis. In a belated move, the medical and health department from Kurnool medical col-

lege as superintendent three days back. However, in a bizarre twist, the official received transfer orders to Kadapa medical college even before he took

with the local doctors expressing unwillingness to act as in-charge superintendent, the general hospital faces staff crunch at various levels. The general hospital gets more than 2,000 patients at OP ward every day while patients from the district and surrounding Karnataka depend on it for emer-

authorities had sent proposals seeking filing up of 179 professors and assistant professors posts apart from 280 nursing and non-technical staff.

Anantapur general hospital is flooded with patients

It may be noted that Anantapur general hospital is flooded with patients and unable to provide quality medical aid forcing the critical patients to rush to Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the super specialty hospital was sanctioned at Guntur as part of post-bifurcation projects to Andhra Pradesh. It was to cater to those in the coastal areas while the Anantapur hospital was to meet the medical needs of Rayalaseema

region. of the Medical up Upgrading Government College was taken up under 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)' under phase-III. The super specialty hospital designed to accommodate

eight special wings- cardiology, neurology, nephrology, medical gastroenterology and surgical gastroenterology.

Sources said the general hospital authorities had sent proposals seeking fil-ing up of 179 professors and assistant professors posts apart from 280 nursing and non-technical

CPI State secretary K. Ramakrishna demanded the government to concentrate on filling all vacancies to ensure quality med-

## AG refuses to relook at Jagan contempt case

New Delhi: Attorney General K.K. Venugopal has refused to reconsider his November 2 decision declining consent to BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay to ini-Asimin Opadityay to ini-tiate contempt proceed-ings against the Andhra Pradesh chief minister and his principal adviser for making allegations against judges.

The topmost law officer, in his reply to Upadhyay's letter seeking reconsideration of the decision, reiterated his stand saying that the issue of contempt was between Chief Justice of India (CJI) S.A. Bobde and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his principal adviser Ajeya Kallam.

Mr Venugopal on Saturday also said in the response that the lawyer was not precluded from raising this issue on his own before apex court judges or during the hearing of a PIL filed by him only seeking the lifetime ban on convicted lawmak-

ers. Mr Mr Upadhyay, on November 5, had urged Mr Venugopal to have a relook on the decision and said, "I humbly request you to peruse these points (particularly the fact that the question of contempt is not pending anywhere else) and kindly reconsider the granting of consent to my

request.
"This is an issue of great importance at a time when our judiciary continues to be besieged by attacks, and a strong stand needs to be taken by those of us who are a part of the institution," he

In the November 7 reply, Mr Venugopal referred to his earlier response and said, "The very crux of the alleged contempt lies in the contents of the letter written by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Chief Justice of India, and thus open to the the Supreme Court to take up the matContempt of Courts Act, and the rules made there-

"Given that the CJI is seized of the matter, it would not be appropriate for me to grant consent and preclude the determination of the Chief Justice of India on the matter. As you are no doubt aware, contempt is a matter between court and contemnor, and no person as of right can insist upon the initiation of contempt proceedings," he said.

Mr Venugopal said his decision does not precluded Upadhyay from bringing these facts to the notice of the judges of the Supreme Court with a prayer for initiation of suo motu action.

You may exercise this right by way of information placed on the administrative side or by bringing it to the attention of the court during the hearing of ...where you are already a petitioner in person," Mr Venugopal said in his letter.

Taking the consent of the law officer is a condition precedent for initiating criminal contempt against a person.

In an unprecedented move, the chief minister, on October 6, had written to the CJI alleging that the Andhra Pradesh High Court was being used to "destabilise and topple my democratically elected government".

Mr Upadhyay then sought consent of the Attorney General for initiating the contempt against the CM and his advisor.

Venugopal, November 2, termed as "prima facie contuma-cious" the conduct of Mr Reddy and Mr Kallam for making allegations against the judiciary, but had declined consent to Mr Upadhyay to initiate contempt against them on the grounds that CJI Bobde was seized of the

The plea for relook has ter of contempt suo motu as provided by the also been declined. —PTI

### Covid positive cases falling down in AP

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 8

Even as teachers and students, along with other suspected and contacted cases, are being tested for Covid-19, several cases were reportedly falling in Rayalaseema region as against outbreak of epidemic at the initial stage. A big number of cases reported in all parts of Rayalaseema region during the initial stage.

On Saturday, about 61 new positive cases were reported in Anantapur district with 1,034 active cases. About 8,259 samples were collected from different parts of the dis-

revealed a total of 65,469 with Covid-19 and 63,862 nationts recovered after being treated at hospitals. quarantine centres and

FROM PAGE 1

According to the data

ment was able to provide

20.73 crore person-days

between April and September, which is a 35

per cent increase when

compared to the 15.35

crore person days last

year for the same period.

Due to the increase in per-

son days, more than 3

lakh households complete

their 100 days of guaran-

teed work while all house-

holds received an average

44 days of work in the

pandemic period and

received wages that over-all aggregated to ₹4,861

Interestingly, 3.30 lakh

new job cards had been

issued during the pan-

latest October 20, the govern-

for MGNREGA

A total of 473 Covid-19 patients died, and two patients died on Saturday in the district. Experts observed tests were being conducted at all parts of the district along with priority for all teachers and students of 9th, 10th and other higher studies after schools and colleges opened. The quarantine Krishnadevaraya Univer-

sity and other educationinstitutions closed in the view of less number of positive from all parts of the district. Kurnool district has

been reported with very less number of cases for the past few days though Kurnool had witnessed horrific conditions during the initial stage of the Covid-19 outbreak. Only 37 positive cases were reported in Kurnool district on Saturday along

demic, which shows an

increase in demand for

Beneficiaries G. Ramu

and K. Nageswar Rao said

that they were doing vari-

ous works in Hyderabad

and earning well till coro-

na struck a terrible blow.

They recalled that they

faced a lot of difficulties

during the first and sec-

ond phase of lockdown

and returned home. They

said that they remained

without work and later

they got NREGA job

cards, which helped them

earn livelihood in their

native place. The officials

informed that when com-

pared to last year for the

same period (April-Sept.),

580 of the 661 participat-

ing mandals provided

more employment due to

increase in demand.

NREGA job cards.

## Probe will be completed in three days, says DIG

FROM PAGE 1

In the video, the family said they had nothing to do with alleged theft of ₹70,000 from an autorickshaw and missing jew-ellery from a gold shop. DIG Venkatarami Reddy said investigations in this regard will be completed within the next three days.

Jagan Mohan Reddy had ordered a thorough probe into the matter. Following the suicide, there had been widespread resentment within the minority community in Nandyal. Representations had been made to home minister Sucharita and DGP Gowtham Sawang on the issue.

Following this, the home minister constituted a three-member committee with IG Sankara Brata Bagchi, Guntur additional Arif Hafiz and Allagadda DSP Pothuraju to inquire into the inciDeputy Chief Minister

Amzath Basha is expected to visit Nandyal on Monday. TD MLA N. MD. Farooq has demanded a thorough probe into the incident and action against the "real culprits".
Salam Nyaya Porata Committee, formed after the suicide of Abdus Salam and his family,

alleged that crime branch constable Gangadhar was behind the suicide and his services must be terminated. Demanding a judicial probe, the committee said it will be holding a dharna on Monday protesting against the highhandedness of police.

AP Muslim Personal Law Board president Altaf Raza, said, "People belonging to the minority community are thanking the CM for intervening in the way he did and sending top IPS officers to probe the

matter in a manner that was never seen before. He has instilled confidence in the minority community by being there for us, just like his father was there for us."

Syed Sami Hussainy, president, Hindustan president. United Muslims, thanked the CM in an open letter the organisation released earlier on Sunday. He said, "We thank the CM for not intervening and deploying top officers but also ensuring that the accused are arrested and not limiting the action to a mere suspension. I'd like to tell our minority brothers that the CM is with you and there's nothing that one needs to fear in this state." The police personnel were booked under IPC 323 (causing hurt), 324 (using dangerous weapons or means) & 306 (abetment to suicide) read with

## NHRC orders action in 8 weeks

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

The National Human Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary and DGP to take necessary actions in eight weeks in the Amaravati handcuffing incident.

It may be noted that on November 24, the police handcuffed seven farmers while shifting them to the district jail in Guntur from Narasaraopet sub-

Civil Liberties Association state president Muppalla Subba Rao lodged a complaint with NHRC objecting to the handcuffing and NHRC issued orders in its response.

Subba Rao said that the arrested farmers were demanding that Amaravati be the solo capital of the state but the

It may be noted that on November 24, the police handcuffed seven farmers while shifting them to the district jail in Guntur from Narasaraopet sub-jail.

Police had violated laws by handcuffing

police arrested them and further registered cases under SC, ST Atrocity (Prevention) Act.

He said that the police had violated laws by handcuffing as this was a severe violation of human rights. He said that APCLA filed a petition in NHRC about the humiliation meted out to farmers.

Subba Rao said that NHRC issued directions to chief secretary and APDGP to take action in the handcuffing incident within eight weeks.

#### Rise in demand DAILY | RITUAL TTD told to adopt Dubai airport model for providing darshan to elders

#### DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, NOV. 8

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams executive officer (EO) K. S. Jawahar Reddy has made it clear that revival of arjitha sevas for devotees and other privileged dar-Lord shans at Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala will entirely depend on guidelines to be

of home affairs. Answering calls from pilgrims during his maiden "Dial-Your-EO" gramme at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Sunday, Jawahar Reddy said

issued by Union ministry

"Unlock 6.0 guidelines are still awaited from the Union government. As a result, no decision has yet

been taken as of now to revive arjitha sevas and provide darshan to senior citizens, physically challenged, infants and children.

A few callers told the EO that kalyana mandapams located on Tirumala need proper maintenance. Jawahar Reddy immediately instructed officials concerned to sort out the Another caller

Ramachandra Rao from Hyderabad suggested to EO that TTD adopt the Dubai Airport Model for providing darshan to senior citizens without making them wait for hours together for darshan. Jawahar Reddy said officers will examine the possibility of implementing

the same in Tirumala.

Visakhapatnam said earlier, the timings of blood donation at Aswini Hospital in Tirumala used to be from 6 am to 6 pm. Now, the timings have been reduced to between 9

am and 12 pm. The EO said this could be due to existing Covid However, assured that the matter will be discussed and a decision taken on the issue.

Dora Babu Vedurukuppam requested EO to reopen the TTD-run Shravanam School, which is meant for deaf and dumb children.

It has remained closed since the past five months and the differently-abled children are facing serious problems.



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

have already commenced online classes for students

Jawahar Reddy said, "We of other institutes. Since this is a special school, we will take a decision soon.



#### OTHER STORIES **YOUTH THRASHED FOR RAPE BID ON MINOR GIRL**

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, NOV. 8

An unknown person was severely thrashed by locals at Tirumala Nagar under Alipiri police station limits here on Sunday after he allegedly tried to rape a minor girl, police

According to the Police, the parents had gone out leaving their 8-year-old daughter alone in the house on Sunday afternoon. Finding the front door open, an unknown person, who is aged about 30 years, barged into the house and took the girl into the bathroom, where he tried to molest the

Hearing the girl scream, her neighbours caught hold of the man and dragged him out of the house. Further, they severely thrashed him after tying him to an electric pole. On being informed, police rushed to the spot and took the

man into custody.
Alipiri CI B. Devendra
Kumar said, based on the complaint lodged by the victim's parents, Alipiri police have registered a case against the unknown person under POCSO Act and the girl, who sustained injuries during the incident, was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Though police are yet to confirm the identity of the accused, he was seen claiming his name as Muneer Basha, an auto-driver and a native of Tirupati, in the video that was shot when the girl's neigh-bours thrashing the youngster.

#### **WOMAN COP KILLED IN FRONT OF HER CHILDREN**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 8

The woman constable Ch. Durga Bhavani working at the Nakkapalle police station was strangled to death by her hus-band Simhadri in front of their two children on Friday night. Simhadri surrendered to the village revenue officer on Sunday and was later brought to the police station for questioning. Circle inspec-tor K. Vijay Kumar said that Simhadri confessed to his crime, stating he suspected

her fidelity.

Durga Bhavani, working as a receptionist at the police station, came home at about 9 pm. Simhadri entered into an argument and wanted to check her mobile phone for social media and call logs. When she refused to part with her mobile phone, Simahdri became furious and strangled her with a nylon rope which he had already hidden in his pocket. Later, he tied the nylon rope to the ceiling fan to create a suicide scene. He warned his 12-year-old daughter and eightyear-old son, who saw his father strangling their mother, not to reveal the incident to the police or the family members. Around 1.30 am, he went to ASI Santosh Kumar, his immediate neighbour in the police quarters and informed him that his wife hanged her-

#### **ILLICIT LIQUOR FOUND IN MANGROVES**

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 8

The Special Enforcement Bureau officials and Forest Department officials conducted raids on Coringa Mangrove Forests and Bhyravapalem and found 17 Bhattis with iron drums at a single location and 73 full drums containing 14,600 liters of wash and 40 empty drums and total worth of. The officials said that it is a record in finding such a huge quantity of illicit liquor material. The SEB Circle Inspector D.S.S.V. Prasad said that the joggery juice was destroyed.

#### 19-YEAR-OLD **DIES AS TANKER HIT HIS BIKE**

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 8

A 19-year-old P. Ravindra of Gopavaram village in Uppalaguptam Mandal died in a road accident on Sunday afternoon. According to Uppalaguptam police, while Ravindra was going on a bike, a speeding oil tanker which was overtaking his bike, hit him. The youth fell under the front wheel of the oil tanker. When he was rushed to a private hospital at Amalapuram, the doctors declared him brought dead.

## **Central team to assess** extent of crop damage

Groundnut was cultivated in more than 7 lakh hectares in Seema

HOSKOTE NAGABHUSHANAM | DC ANANTAPUR, NOV. 8

Untimely and incessant rains have led to massive failure of groundnut crop, causing heavy loss to farmers of Rayalaseema region, particularly those in Anantapur district. This is the second consecutive year that farmers have suffered a massive loss. Kurnool, Chittoor and Kadapa districts have also suffered, though not as much as Anantapur.

An inter-ministerial central team will inspect damaged crops in various parts of Anantapur district on Monday. The team is scheduled to visit Ragulapadu, Vajrakarur in Vajrakaruru mandal and Gulipalyam, Nakkaladoddi and Patha Kothacheruvu in Guntakal mandal.

The team will also interact with farmers and review the situation with district

Groundnut was cultivated over than seven lakh hectares in Rayalaseema region. But continuous rains when the crop was in its peak growth



Sweet oranges being loaded into a truck in Kadapa on Sunday. After a long wait the prices of oranges have increased making the farmers happy.

have caused a massive damage. Agriculture department has assessed that 2.10 lakh metric tonnes of crop has been lost, corresponding with a monetary loss of ₹1,107 crore.

Official reports reveal that 33 per cent of groundnut crop over 5 lakh hectares has been damaged due to rains between July and September:

Manjunath Gowda from Amidalagondi mandal crop. Madakasira

lamented that the crop has been badly damaged with the nut being of poor quality. "We are unable to use the groundnut seed even for own cooking purposes," he

Seasoned farmers say climate-based insurance of crops is not suitable for Anantapur district. Normally, crop insurance is applicable only when monsoon fails, but not if excessive rainfall damages the

"Had the groundnut crop survived, farmers could have performed the marriages of their daughters. Now, they will have to wait for another season", farmassociation leader Dhanapuram Venkatrami Reddy observed.

Former minister Kalava Srinivasulu demanded that the government help farmers overcome their suffering, as they have lost their crop for the second successive season.

#### **CHEJERLA FOR PROBE INTO MISUSE OF NREGS FUNDS**

DC CORRESPONDENT

Alleging large scale mis-use of the funds of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), TD general secretary Ch. Venkateswara Reddy demanded a probe into the works related to the development of layouts under the scheme to allot house sites to the poor.

Speaking to the media in Kovur on Sunday, he said that the Centre had released ₹269 crore to the state under MGN-REGS to develop 2,091 layouts in 3,574 acres for the distribution of

house sites to the poor. He alleged that the ruling party leaders are taking the government for a ride by jacking up the price of the lands identified for allocation of nouse sites to the poor. Mr Reddy alleged demanding a comprehensive inquiry into the misuse of funds

### Vishnuvardhan lambasts Left parties

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 8

DC CORRESPONDENT

Arrangements are in full swing to set foundation stone to commence the

works of the most sought

after Somasila High-Level

Lift Canal Phase II at

Krishnapuram in Marripadu mandal on

Chief Minister would

lay the foundation stone

for the ₹648 crore estimat-

ed scheme in virtual mode

and industries and IT Mekapati Goutham Reddy

and water resources min-

ister Dr Anilkumar Yadav

will be present at the proj-

The first phase of the project commenced in

November 2014 at an esti-

mated cost of ₹840.92

crore to complete the

works by the end of 2017.

However, the progress was at a snail's pace because of issues of the

acquisition of land belonging to forests and

After coming to power, Mr Goutham Reddy paid

special attention to speed up the land acquisition,

dotted lands.

Monday.

BJP state general secretary S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy has condemned the statements of CPM and CPI leaders against BJP party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi while alleging that the Left parties are talking in favour of TD chief Chandrababu

Speaking to the media at the residence of MLC Vakati Narayana Reddy at Nellore on Sunday, he said the leaders of the Communist parties became old and the outfits became regional par-ties by following the orders of either Jagan or Chandrababu Naidu.

"Both Narayana of CPI and Rahavulu of CPM have grown old and they don't know what they are talking," Mr Vishnuv-ardhan Reddy alleged.

Stressing that the Left are forging alliances with other parties even for panchayat polls, he questioned the rationale behind their statements against national parties such as BJP. He alleged that the state

government has attempt-

Peddireddy leads yatra in Sadum

THE BJP LEADER said the leaders of the Communist

CM to launch Phase II works

• THE FIRST phase of the project com-

November 2014 at an

estimated cost of

complete the works

by the end of 2017.

and completion of the

first phase works apart

from launching the sec-

ond phase. According to Mr Goutham Reddy, Somasila

High-Level Lift Canal

Sanjeeva Reddy was

devised to address irriga-tion needs for 90,000 acres

in the upland areas

besides quenching the

thrust of people in 58 rev-

enue villages, majority of them affected by fluoride, in Atmakur and

Udayagiri constituencies.

under the phase I of the

construction of pump houses, electromechani-

The works executed

after

named

₹840.92 crore to

of Somasila project today

menced in

parties became old and the outfits became regional parties by following the orders of either Jagan or Chandrababu Naidu.

ed to secure loans by pledging the properties of TTD but backtracked after BJP opposed the

"Jagan Mohan Reddy appears to be ready to dispose of Andhra Pradesh if anyone is ready to buy," Mr Vishnuvardhan Reddy observed while rebuking the government for its inability to attract investments to the state during the last 17 months.

He said the incomes of MLA's and Ministers of the ruling party increased although there was a dip in the revenue of the state. He demanded the state election commis sioner to cancel the old notification and issue a fresh notification to hold the panchavat elections.

hydro-mechanical, canals, balancing reservoirs and sumps.

The first phase was designed to create IP (Irrigation Potential) to 43,200 acres under four balancing reservoirs in An antasagaram, Marripadu, Duttalur and Atmakur mandals in

SPSR Nellore district. The works in the first phase of the project are completed to the extent of 70 per cent and the second phase is being launched now to speed up the completion.

Mr Goutham Reddy said, 'construction of two balancing reservoirs, Gravity canal, one Pumping station including the construction of the pump house, electromechanical hydro-mechanical and pressure mains are proposed under Phase II.

It was proposed to create irrigation potential for 46,453 acres ayacut in Duttalur, Vinjamuru, Udayagiri and Marripadu scheme include the Lift Canal from Somasila Reservoir up to balancing reservoir No IV besides Mandals in SPSR Nellore District under the second phase, Mr Reddy added.

#### **PAPPURI** RAMACHARYULU REMEMBERED

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 8

Rayalaseema Samsk-ruthika Vedika demanded the noted freedom fighter Pappuri Ramacharyulu who was a writer, social reformer and editor initiated for Sri Bhag Pact to get jus-tice for Rayalaseema region.

Vedika celebrated the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Pappuri Ramacharyulu on Sunday. Ramacharyulu was born on November 8, 1896, and worked as an editor for Pinakini and Sadhana magazines and also served imprison-ment during the freedom movement. He had also worked as municipal chairman of Anantapur between 1947-195 and district library chairman in 1952-55 and also MLA from Dharmavaram in 1955. He was also a member of district official Gazetteer.

The Vedika offered flo-ral tributes at the Pappuri statue released posters demanshould implement Sri

### **PRESIDENT PASSES AWAY**

Kummaripalem in Vijavawada on Sundav.

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV 8.

The YSRC Kakinada president Venkata Ragireddy Jayaram Kumar, popularly known as Frooty Kumar, in Kakinada market circles, breathed his last in a private hospital in Visakhapatnam, in the early hours of Sunday. He is survived by his wife R. Chandrakala Deepthi and two sons. Kumar was suffering from respiratory problems and was getting treatment in the hospital. Though it was said that he recovered, but recently, his condition worsened. He started his political career with TD and was elected as the Kakinada Municipal corporator.

## YSRC KAKINADA CITU calls to make strike on Nov. 26 hit

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA I DC KADAPA, NOV. 8

A potter throws clay on his potter's wheel to make divas ahead of Diwali at

CITU state general secretary M.A. Gafoor has called for a successful strike on November 26. He spoke to reporters on Sunday at the CITU office in Kadapa. He said it was time to unite the 50 unorganised, public, and private labour federations in the country. He said 40 crore workers and employees were going on the road in protest of the government's policies. He said that workers' rights had been eroded by the revocation of 29 workers' rights in four labour courts.

Mr Gafoor said the removal of executive power from the old laws weakened every-

Central government for allocating ₹20 lakh crore to industrialists under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package. He said 150 trains were tied to private companies. He also said that a similar power distribution could be made, which would lead to Discoms going bankrupt. Covid-19 prevention measures have been criticised as not being propoor. He criticised countries like the United States and China for handing out millions of dollars and Yuan respectively to their citizens, compared to five kg of rice and one kg of redgram in our country. He said there was no response to the proposal to give ₹7500 per family

thing. He criticised the

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, NOV. 8

Panchayat raj minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy on Sunday led the padayatra in Sadum mandal of Chittoor district to mark the third anniversary of the Praja Sankalpa Yatra taken out by CM Jagan Mohan Reddy before the general elections in 2019.

Before commencing the rally, the minister paid floral tributes to former CM late Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy's statue at the Sadum bus stand amid thousands of his followers.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Peddireddy said that the padayatra of YSR Congress chief Jagan is a historical epic, where lakhs of people joined the leader in his 3,648 km of Praja Sankalpa Yatra.

"Mr Jagan embarked his Praja Sankalpa Yatra from the YSR Ghat at Idupulapaya three years ago on 6 November 2017. During his 14-month padayatra, the Chief Minister witnessed the struggles of the public and drew inspiration from it and developed the manifesto with welfare schemes, which he believed like the Bible,

Quran and Bhagavad downtrodden," he added. Gita," he asserted. Reiterating that many He said, the state government had fulfilled 90 per

cent of its poll promises despite going through a critical financial crisis and Covid-19 pandemic and this achievement will remain forever in the history of AP, where lakhs of people are celebrating it in a big way across the state today.

"In just 17 months after assuming power, almost 90 per cent of the promises made in the manifesto were fulfilled. This proves Jagan's determination towards the welfare of the

states in the country are now looking at the devel-opment of AP, he claimed that some states have been following the volunteer system - one of the brainchild programmes of CM.

Meanwhile, the third-day padayatra started Ğongivaripalle from under Sadum mandal concluded in Kalluru. YSRC leaders distributed face masks and sanitisers during the vatra to the public. Ekiri Corporation chairman T. Murali, former ZP chairman P. Sudheer Reddy and others were

PANDEMIC I STATUS No district reported more than 400 new infections, 5 districts reported less 100 new cases

## Corona recovery rate increases to 96.66 per cent

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 8

dropping Coronavirus positive cases continued with the registration of 227 new positive cases on Sunday in AP against an earlier average

of 10,000 cases per day.

No district reported more than 400 new infections and five districts reported less than 100

infections. The total positive cases reached 8,42,967 on Sunday in which 8,14,773 were total recoveries, 21,403 were total active cases and 6,791 were total Corona deaths. The recovery rate continues to increase with more new recoveries. It

total of 8,14,773 patients recovered in the state. The overall positivity rate of the 86.56 lakh samples tested so far slightly came down to 9.74 per cent and that of the 76,663 sam-

ples tested in the past day was 2.92 per cent. The West Godavari district was on top in single day highest Corona cases of 379 on Sunday and registration of a huge number of Corona cases continuing in the duo Godavari districts. Further 2,256 patients were discharged after the gure in the part 24 hours.

cure in the past 24 hours.
A total of 12 Corona deaths registered on Sunday. The highest number of 3 deaths registered was 96.66 per cent as a in Krishna district in the

two deaths each in Chittoor and Visakhapatnam districts, one each in East Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Srikakulam and West Godavari districts. East Godavari registered

a total of 1,18,589 cases and top among all districts and West Godavari in the second place with reaching 8,88,676 total positive cases. As many as 76,663 Corona tests conducted in the past 24-hours in which were diagnosed as Covid-19 positive. AP tested a total of 86,63,975 samples for Corona till date and is in top place in

The single day highest number of 379 Corona pos-

past 24 hours, followed by itive cases was registered two deaths each in in West Godavari district in the past 24-hours increasing the total to 88676 in which 2236 were active cases.

The second single day highest number of 364 Corona positive cases was registered in Guntur district in the past 24-hours increasing the total to 69596 in which 2803 were active cases.

The third single day highest number of Corona positive cases of 329 registered in Chittoor district in the past 24-hours increasing the total to 80766 in which 1995 were active cases.

The Krishna district is in fourth place with registering 277 new positive cases

in the past 24 hours increasing total positive cases to 41804 in which 3,370 were active cases.

188 new Corona positive cases registered in East Godavari district in the past 24 hours increasing total positive cases to 118589 in which 4415 were active cases.

117 new Corona positive cases registered in Srikakulam district in the past 24 hours increasing total positive cases to 44681 in which 853 were active

109 new Corona positive registered cases Anantapur district in the past 24 hours increasing total positive cases to 65578 in which 975 were active

#### **KADAPA RIMS STAFF MOST AFFECTED**

From Page 1

About 25 postgraduate medicos, 30 house surgeons, 25 nurses, 15 doctors, 30 supporting staff, and 20 sanitation staff on duty at Kadapa RIMS Hospitals had been affected by the virus.

However, they all recovered. About 10 private doctors

working at Fatima Institute of Medical Sciences have similarly recovered.

Hospital support staff, who succumbed to Coronavirus in Kadapa district, include Dadini Eshwarayya, 58, a health educator with the medical and health depart-

He died at Kurnool hospital while undergoing treatment. A few other non-medical staff also

succumbed.

was the first government doctor to die of Covid-19. District Covid Hospital in-charge Dr Sureswar Reddy, speaking to Deccan Chronicle, said he is pained at losing Dr Nandakumar, his erst-

But Dr Nandakumar

while student. He requested all doctors to take great care when providing medical assistance to Covid patients.





SHORT TAKES

#### **BOY STUCK INSIDE BOREWELL FOR 90 HOURS DIES**

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, NOV. 8

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

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

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

#### **NCB ARRESTS NADIADWALA'S WIFE OVER DRUGS**

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

#### **ARNAB SHIFTED TO TALOJA JAIL FOR USING PHONE**

SAURABH JOSHI I DC

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

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

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

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

#### **INDORE OFFICIALS RAZE 'COMPUTER BABA' ASHRAM**

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, NOV. 8

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

The Indore district administration said 46 acres allotted to the Jamburdi Hapsi panchayat in 2000 for development of a cow shelter was encroached by Computer Baba. Sources said a rifle and an air gun were recovered from the ashram during the demolition drive.

The ashram was built in a two-acre plot land in the 'encroached' patch. Namdeo along with six of his associates were taken into preventive custody by police.

Local sub-divisional magistrate Sashwat Sharma said the administration has issued a notice to remove the encroachment but had received no

response. The district administration announced plans to build a temple and a modern cow shel-

ter on the land.

#### Light in the darkness



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

## Modi looks forward to working closely with Biden, hails Harris

#### India might have to step up its focus on human rights, CAA issues

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI I DC

Getting ready to work with the Democrat-led ad-ministration in Washi-ngton that will assume office in January next year, India on Sunday congratulated President-elect Joe Biden who defeated President Donald Trump in the US Presidential polls. New Delhi also congratulated Vice President-

elect Kamala Harris.
President Ram Nath
Kovind and Prime
Minister Narendra Modi posted congratulatory messages on Twitter to Biden and Harris shortly after midnight on Sunday after the Democrat challengers were declared winners.

ward to strengthening Indo-US ties by "working closely together once again" with Biden who was US Vice-President in the Barack Obama administration when Modi had become Prime Minister in 2014 Modi also hailed the 2014. Modi also hailed the success of Kamala Harris who is partly of Indian origin — as "pathbreak-ing", and a matter of "immense pride for all Indian-Americans".

It may be recalled that India had on Friday said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between both nations has Strategic "very strong bipartisan support" in the US, thereby hinting that bilateral ties would continue to grow stronger. At his weekly media briefing two son Anurag Srivastava had also said that Indo-US bilateral ties "rest on strong foundations" and that this "encompasses cooperation in every possible sphere" ranging from strategic ties to the defence sector, trade and investment as well as peo-

ple to people ties.
India may well have to deal with an increased focus on human rights from Washington during the tenure of Biden and Harris on the Kashmir issue and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). However, bilateral ties are expected to remain strong especially in the defence and strategic sectors. Biden's stand on China in the Indo-Pacific region and on Pakistan in the context of both cross-border terrorism and the Afghan situation will also be watched closely by New Delhi as it will have major implications for India.

In a statement on Sunday morning, the Prime Minister's Office said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Joe Biden on winning the US Presidential election," adding also that the PM 'has congratulated US President-elect

Kamala Harris. Modi tweeted, "Congratulations Joe Biden on your spectacular victory! As the VP, your contribution to strengthening Indo-US relations was critical and invaluable. I look forward to working closely together once again to take India-US relations to

Modi also "Heartiest congratula-tions Kamala Harris! Your success is pathbreaking, and a matter of immense pride not just for your 'chittis' (aunts in Tamil), but also for all Indian-Americans. I am confident that the vibrant India-US ties will get even stronger with your support and leadership." Harris' moth-

er was from Tamil Nadu. President Kovind said in his Twitter message: "My sincere felicitations to Joseph R. Biden on his election as President of the United States of Aminisa and O'Complete Property and Complete Property and erica and @KamalaHarris , as Vice President. I wish @JoeBiden a successful tenure and look forward to working with him to further strengthen India-US

## Indian troops at LAC stock up to sustain for 1 year VIKRAM SHARMA I DC WITH SNOWFALL heing reported in the

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

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

Top sources told Deccan Chronicle that the Indian troops have been "all stocked up" to keep them going for a year, if not more. Once the winter gets harsher towards December, when Ladakh wit-

nesses heavy snowfall, all supply routes will be hit. On the hilltops and ridg-elines at more than 15,000 feet, the temperatures plummet to -25° Celsius and even lower while the windchill factor makes the situation worse, even leading to deaths. "The ration, medical

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

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

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

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

With unpredictable weather throwing a major challenge, large quantities of kerosene, canned food, repair equipment for uninterrupted com-munication, vehicles among other logistics have been supplied to the strategic locations. Supplies have been divided among all the Army posts, which, in the event

of getting cut off due to

the harsh weather, can

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

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

## India, China to exercise restraint along frontlines PAWAN BALLI DC the ridgelines of Fing

Commander-level talks on November 6, agreed to ensure that their frontline troops will exercise restraint and avoid misunderstandings and miscalculation, said a joint statement issued on Sunday. This even as a news agency report said that India and China were likely to disengage from some of the friction points in the next few days and they have been discussing the modalities for doing so in a phased manner.

The report said that the discussions between the two sides include pulling back tanks and armoured vehicles, and some development in this regard is likely to take place in the next few days. There was no clarity on the flash points from which Chinese and Indian troops will dis-

Earlier, first in June and then in July, India and China had agreed to mutually move back from Galwan Valley, Gogra Post, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. However, it was only in Galwan Valley that troops had moved back to some extent. In Pangong Tso the Chinese army had refused to move back from

the ridgelines of Finger 4 and whole of Finger 5 which it had illegally India and China during occupied in May. In Gogra the eighth round of Corps Post and Hot Springs there was no clarity on Chinese disengagement. Depsang Chinese troops have been preventing the Indian Army from patrolling.

China had been pushing India to vacate strategic heights which the Indian Army had occupied on the south bank of the Pangong Tso in a surprise action in August. The PLA had even made attempts to occupy these heights which were foiled by the Indian Army. India had maintained that it will discuss disengagement from friction points in Eastern Ladakh and not just the south bank of the Pangong Tso

The statement issued by India and China on Sunday said that during the meeting both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. Both sides also agreed to have another round of meeting soon.

The two sides had a candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas, said the joint statement.

## out Naga accord

MANOJ ANAND I DC

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

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

**SANJAY KAW I DC** 

NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Covid-19 vaccine.

the Indian market.

the

Coronavirus cases in the

country, Delhi-AIIMS

director Dr Randeep

Guleria, has said that common man will have

to wait till 2022 to get the

Dr Guleria, who is also

a member of the nation-

al task force on Covid-19

management, asserted

that it will take 'more

than a year' for an

authentic vaccine to hit

population is large; we

need time to see how the

vaccine can be bought

from the market like a

"In our country the

Amid

**COVID CURE MAY REACH COMMON** 

rising

MAN ONLY IN 2022: AIIMS DIRECTOR

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

on board.

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

Sources indicated that the state may be allowed to adopt its own flag through some executive deci-

That will actually be the ideal situation. So it could be by the end of

2021 or the beginning of

2022?, he said in an

interview to a news

Asked about the chal-

lenges India would have

after the vaccine is

available, the AIIMS

director said that the

prime focus would be on

its distribution so that it

reaches every part of

chain, having adequate

syringes, adequate nee-

dles and being able to

deliver it to the remotest

part of the country in a

seamless manner is the

biggest challenge," he

'Maintaining the cold

channel.

the country.

## Himanta to work Another TMC legislator revolts against Mamata

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC** 

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

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

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



Mihir Goswami

Didi to get destroyed like posted Frid home? Goswami Facebook on Friday.

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

Rattled by his attacks, the TMC dared him to

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

On Sunday, Goswami, whom BJP MP of Coochbehar Nisith Pramanik met recently, did not hide his desire to leave the Without naming the

BJP, he wrote on Facebook, "Requests from well-wishers to me to join another party is true. I will inform all about my visit to New Delhi if there is time and opportunity. I know the people will be divided with the news of my entry to another party in future. One section wants me to join the new camp soon, another feels sad. But all can not be made happy simultaneously. In that case, working for the people with honour will be my only condition (sic).

### **WILDLIFE | PROTECTION Move to save endangered species under consideration** Purple frog to be Kerala's state amphibian

species endemic to the Ŵestern Ghats, would soon be declared as Kerala's offi-

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

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

**Kochi, Nov. 8:** The purple Principal Chief Consefrog, one of the rarest frog rvator of Forests (Wildlife) Surendrakumar said.

The matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the state wildlife board. Official sources said the move to declare it as the state's amphibian as it was mostly endemic to Kerala region of Western Ghats.

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



Pignose frog

but is also one of the unique amphibians. Biju said the purple frog, which remains underground most of the year, is found mostly in the Kerala part of the Western Ghats. The frog was found in one

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

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

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

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

flu vaccine and take it.

#### IN BRIEF

#### **DOGS SET FOR WHITE HOUSE COMEBACK**

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

Not just one, but two German shepherds, one a rescue. One is Champ, who has been

with the Bidens since 2008. The other is Major, who the Bidens fostered and then adopted in 2018. Canines sniffing around the

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

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

Enter Trump, a famously finicky germophobe, and the first president in over a centu-

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

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

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

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

#### TRUMP FAIR **GAME FOR SM RULES**

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

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

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

The winner: Biden vows virus action on 'day one' Ethiopia vows to replace

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

#### **BUBBLY MOOD: RUSH FOR CHAMPAGNE**

Colorado, Boulder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

al," said a cashier.
"People are so today."And they were obviously not concerned with the price. Bottles of champagne typically sell for around \$40 dollars (33 euros) to start.



US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris deliver remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, on

## After poll win, Biden pledges to unite US

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

immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation" in the deeply-polarised nation, as he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris celebrated their historic triumph over Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought presidential election.

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

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

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify; who doesn't see red states and blue states, only sees the United States," Biden, 77, said in his victory speech before a drive-in audience in nis nometown, wiimington, Delaware on Saturday oadest and most diverse night, nearly ending the uncertainty over the out- tory." "I am humbled by

## Washington, Nov. 8: Pledging to be the president of all Americans, Joe Biden has sought an son's favourite hymn

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

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

come of Tuesday's election. Biden, who has succeeded in his third bid to the White House, thanked his supporters, saying he had earned votes from the "brcoalition in American his-

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

who had served as Dela-

ware's attorney general,

in 2015 to a brain tumour

at the age of 46.
Biden defeated Donald
Trump in a bitter and

closely-fought presiden-

tial election. He gave his

victory speech before a drive-in audience in his hometown, Wilmington,

Delaware on Saturday. On

Eagles' Wings "captures

the faith that sustains me

and which I believe sus-

tains America, and a

hope, and I hope it can

provide some comfort and

solace to the 230,000

Americans who have lost

a loved one due to this ter-

rible virus this year," said

cheers from the audience. "The people of this nation have spoken, they've

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

in America here and now.'

delivered us a clear victo-

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

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

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

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

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

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

commissioner. "The task force... could begin meeting within days," the daily

Health Secretary in the Biden administration.
In May, the Biden Camsaid. In his victory speech, Biden said that the plan will be built on a bedrock of science. "It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern. I will spare no effort or commitment — to this pandemic around," he said.

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

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

## 5 lakh Indians likely to receive US citizenship

Washington, Nov. 8: US President-elect Joe Biden will work towards providing a roadmap to American citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants, including over 500,000 from India, and will also establish a minimum admission number of 95,000 refugees annually.

As a largely immigrant community, but in some cases with American roots reaching back generations, Indian-Americans know firsthand the strength and resilience that immigrants bring to the United States of America, according to a policy document issued by the Biden campaign.

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

The Biden administration will support family-based immigration and PRESIDENT-ELECTJOE Biden will continue strengthening India-US relationship, think-tanks and prominent Indian-

American experts have said. "A Biden administration will be mostly positive for India," said Rick Rossow from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

preserve family unification as a core principle of the US' immigration system, which includes reducing the family visa backlog, it said.

"And, he will increase the number of refugees we welcome into this country by setting the annual global refugee admissions target to 125,000 and seek to raise it over time commensurate with our responsibility, our values, and the unprecedented global need. He will also work with Congress to establish a minimum admissions number of 95,000 refugees annually," the policy document said.

#### **BIDEN PLANS TO INCREASE H-1B VISA LIMIT**

Washington, Nov. 8: US President-elect Joe Biden plans to increase the number of high-skilled visas, including the H-1B, and eliminate the limit on employment-based visas by country, both of which are expected to benefit tens of thousands of Indian professionals impacted by some immigration policies of the outgoing

Trump administration.
With Kamala Harris as
his deputy, Biden is
expected to reverse the move of the outgoing Trump administration to revoke work permits to the spouses of H-1B visas, which had adversely impacted a large number of Indian families in the United States.

All these are part of a comprehensive immigration reform that the Biden administration plans to work on, either in one go or in separate pieces.

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

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

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

Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and African-American father from Jamaica, said that while she may be the first

### Ancestral village celebrates her win

G. SRINIVASAN | DC THANJAVUR, NOV 8

It was pujas and celebrations at Thulasendrapuram, ancestral village of Kamala Harris, Indian origin vice-president elect of the US, near Mannargudi on Sunday, as news about her victory and president elect, Joe Biden, reached out to the people of the world.

People started gathering at the Dharma Sastha temple in the village on Sunday morning itself. Contributions from Kamala Harris' family continue for the temple and her name is mentioned in an epigraph there. While people burst crackers and distributed sweets, food minister R. Kamaraj, Tiruvarur MLA and district secretary of DMK,

**AUNT: FEEL VERY HAPPY OVER KAMALA WIN** 

Chennai, Nov 8: Citybased maternal aunt of US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris Dr Sarala Gopalan, is elated over her niece's feat and now hopes to attend her swearing-in ceremony. "How do you think I should feel about her victory? I feel very happy," a proud Gopalan, a senior consultant at the Voluntary Health Services here, said.

Poondi Kalaivanan, performed pujas, offered worship at the temple and distributed sweets to people.

would not be the last. "We are so grateful to Joe and Jill for welcoming our

woman in this office, she family into theirs on this incredible journey," she --PTI



Women of Thulasendrapuram near Mannargudi draw rangolis congratulating Kamala

### POLL | RESULT | Son-in-law Kushner approached a defiant Prez about conceding the election to rival Biden

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

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

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

president to have served

two nonconsecutive terms,

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

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

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

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



**Donald Trump** 

required to win the race for the White House. Kushner has approached the President about conceding the election, CNN quoted two unidentified

sources as saying. Kush-

ner has told others that he

has urged the president to

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

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

their choice very clear,' Voice of America quoted Sanders as saying. But Trump appeared to be defiant, even after all major US media outlets projected Biden as the winner.

'I will not rest until the American People have the honest vote count they deserve and that Democ-racy demands," Trump said in the statement, which states that the campaign's legal battle will

begin on Monday.

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

#### **JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY OFFERS DON JOB**

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



## **Chronicle**

9 NOVEMBER 2020

## Biden offers US healing touch, world is relieved

he contrast couldn't have been starker. The statesmanlike address by Joseph R. Biden hours after his clear victory in America's presidential elections late Saturday night, soon after he won in Pennsylvania and got a majority in the Electoral College, signalled that the ugliness and friction of the Donald Trump years would soon be over, and the United States would once again try to be a "beacon for the globe" and "lead by the power of our example". Urging an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation in America", President-elect Biden said it was a "time to heal" and reached out to all, including those who voted for Mr Trump, and vowed that he would be their President too. Mr Biden will have to work particularly hard, as in the four years since Mr Trump came to power and encouraged the rise of divisiveness and hate-filled politics, opponents were perceived as enemies, not rivals. The conduct of the White House's occupant isn't helping: even 24 hours after defeat, he is refusing to concede, which some close advisers, even his son-in-law, have advised him to

Mr Biden will have to work particularly hard, as in the four years since Mr Trump came to power and encouraged the rise of divisiveness and hate-filled politics, opponents were perceived as enemies, not rivals

do, and is still talking of legal challenges in several states and trying to seek the Supreme Court's help in a desperate bid to cling on. More worryingly, he is inciting his supporters to hold protests, with reports of clashes between them and Mr Biden's supporters. Once wonders how long it will take him to accept reality.

The spontaneous celebrations across America since Saturday night, with scenes of jubilation in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, show a nation that has received deliverance from four years of darkness, with rising hope that better days lie ahead. Saying he wanted to "restore the soul of America", Mr Biden pledged to get down to work right away, in a bid to get the Covid-19 pandemic (where the US tops

the world, and Mr Trump had largely ignored) under control from Day 1. He said he will name a transition team with top scientists Monday to work out a strate-

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

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

### Health before festivity

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

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

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

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Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-

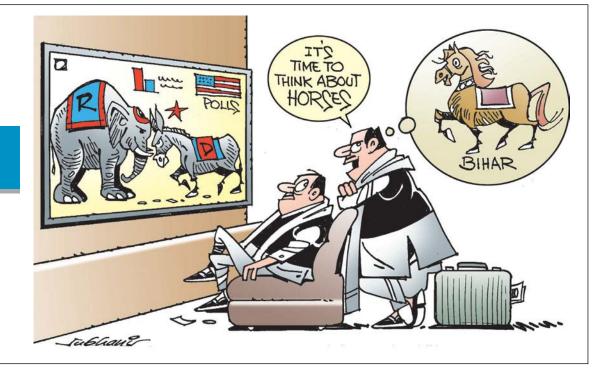
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Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580 Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51;

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## The new Cold War



Manish Tewari

**State of the Union** 

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

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

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

Harry S. Truman at the South Carolina House of Representatives. "Let us not be deceived;" Baruch said. "We are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad

and at home. Let us never forget this.' The term soon caught the fancy of the world after it was given a fresh lease of life by the legendary columnist Walter Lippmann in his *New York Herald Tribune* piece in September 1947. Soon thereafter, this proxy war was fought for 40 five years across distant theatres of the ranging from world Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Cuba, countries of South and Latin America, Africa and

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

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

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

history

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

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

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

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

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

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

> of time that China would translate its new-found economic alliances into pro-forma military pacts across different conti-nents subterfuged and packaged as arrangements for protecting Chinese investments overseas. In South and North Asia it already has two nuclear-armed allies, Pakistan and North Korea. Both have heavy Chinese invest-ments. In Pakistan it is in the form of the 70 billion USD China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite win-dow dressing in the wake of North Korea's nuclear tests, is virtualsustained and nourished by the Chinese.
> The Cold War with

ty law in the May of 2020.

It is now only a matter

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

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

#### **LETTERS**

#### **BIHAR EXIT POLLS**

The NDA, if the exit polls vindicate, suffers because of the anti-incumbency and poor handling of pandemic after 'guest workers' returned. If the Mahagathbandhan gains upper hand, it would mean that the people have voted for the good old Jungle raj. The Congress is a rotten organisation and a spent force that should not be allowed to associate with any political activity. A hung Assembly means horse trading and history repeating itself.

Govardhana Myneedu

#### Vijayawada

**LOVE JIHAD LAWS** With many states planning to bring a tough law against 'love jihad', many secular minded people are questioning the intention behind this. Many liberals believe it will deal a blow to a particular community and lead to a percep-tion based divide in society that is turning vicious as days pass on. I feel India's diversity and secularism are still strong on the ground. Ratnaraj Jain

**CANDID OBSERVATION** 

Aakar Patel's candid observations (Amid new dawn in the US, India may have to work differently, DC, Nov. 8), needs serious attention by the powers that be at the Centre. Needless to mention that all sane Indians could not appreciate Modi's intervention in US politics. K. Nehru Patnaik

Rajahmundry



NEW DELHI, Nov. 8 Former President Ayub Khan of Pakistan has for the first time come with a categorical statement that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States had planned his ouster. The former president made this

disclosure in a talk with two topmost leaders of the convention Muslim League (Ayub group). The two leaders, Malik Sher Bahadur and Ali Asghar Shah, are reported to have told the Urdu weekly *Chattan* that General Ayub claimed that CIA was most unhappy over his progressive policies.

Kishwar **London Diary** 



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

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

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

The second lockdown, in fact, has evoked greater anger among the public and much less support for the government, alas. There is a division even within Boris's own backbenchers. Travel is banned; pubs and restaurants are shut. We know the rules but we like them less and less. Even the Queen rushed back to Windsor from her Scottish home last Wednesday so she could spend the lockdown near London. Of course, her convoy of cars got stuck in a traffic jam but then help was at hand and her party escaped by driving on the wrong side of the road.

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

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

Strange isn't it that so many of these harvest festivals have lights and firecrackers associated with them? Though fewer are being cele-

brated with fire and fervour, and

soon these may become part of

wandering from door to door.

iwali is being celebrated at a distance as well. Now of course, PIOs (People of Indian Origin) are valuable voters. So the leaders of the major political parties were part of a digital Global Diwali Festival lasting from Friday to Sunday, organised by the energetic Manoj Ladwa. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, also made a speech

in which he managed to get Rama, Sita and Ravan into his message (without for once making any mistakes!) along with a mention of samosa and gulabjamun and then connected it all with a conquest over Covid. Now we are waiting for Kamala Harris to do the same.

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

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

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

complete contrast is provided by a new biography of Shapurji Saklatwala who was Labour MP for Battersea North during the 1920s and a Communist as well. *Comrade Sak* has been written by Mark Wadsworth, himself the child of a Jamaican father and a Finnish mother who has been in the Labour Left for a long while. Saklatwala was the third Parsi MP following Dadabhai Naoroji and Mancherji Bhownagari in the 1890s. Like them he was actively interested in fighting for Indian Independence.

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

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

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













## E FINANCIAL Chronicle

ANANTAPUR | MONDAY | 9 NOVEMBER 2020



INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,893.06	1.34
Nifty 50	12,263.55	1.18
S&P 500*	3,509.44	-0.03
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 Friday/Saturday		

#### FPIs invest over ₹6,500 in equities in five sessions

Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have put in a net Rs 8,381 crore into Indian markets in first five trading sessions of November. As per depositories data. FPIs invested a net Rs 6,564 crore into equities and Rs 1,817 in the debt segment, taking the total net inflow to Rs 8,381 crore during November 2-6. In October, overseas investors were net buyers with Rs 22,033 crore investment in Indian markets

#### **IOB** seeks about ₹1,000 cr capital support from govt



Indian Overseas Bank has sought a capital support of about Rs 1.000 crore from the Centre to create a buffer for any exigency. IOB, which has posted profit for the last three consecutive quarters, expects to continue the trend in the remaining part of the current fiscal year.
"We expect the trend to continue and book profit quarter after quarter aided by prospects of better recovery," managing director P. P. Sengupta said.

#### **IOC** director Singh to head **Petronet LNG**



pipelines Akshay Kumar Singh will be the new managing director and chief executive of the country's

Indian Oil Corp

biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd. Singh replaces Prabhat Singh who completed his five-year term on September 13.

### IMFL sales down 9% in Q2; H1 sales dip 29%

The liquor industry has reported a decline of 8.98 per cent in Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) sales at 78 million cases in Q2 against 85.7 million cases (9 litres each) in the year-ago quarter, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies. But sales increased from the June quarter, which had a de-growth of 48.9 per cent. For April-September, sales volume was down 29.06 per cent at 122 million cases.



#### ■ Risk-reward less attractive after recent rise in stocks

## **Economy holds key to** new Samvat fortunes

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, NOV. 8

The equity market has had a historical journey in Samvat 2076, as it marked a year of huge volatility, unpredictability, simism, divergence and optimism. All in all after a turbulent past year, investors can look forward to a relatively sedate but selectively rewarding year, said brokerages in their outlook for Samvat 2077 which is dawning on this Diwali on November 14, according to the Gujarati Vikram Samvat calendar followed by Dalal Street.

The Nifty-50 touched an all-time high of 12,431 in January 2020 and then hit a three-year low of 7,511 in March'20 as the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the whole world, threating the

global economy. However, the recovery has been quite sharp as Sensex and Nifty-50 are once again back to close to their all-time-high mark. The pandemic has accel-

erated the shift towards a digital economy. In Samvat 2076 the leadership shifted from banking to the tech-

nology sector. USA's Nasdaq Composite Index went up 33 per cent while the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index has remained flat. When other economies went for massive fiscal stimulus India went tight-fisted, which impacted India's GDP in the June quarter. Now, when most European nations are

going in for fresh lock-



**HDFC Securities** (Large-cap) Bharti Airtel, Cadila Healthcare, ICICI Bank, Infosys, United Spirits. (Mid-cap) Alembic Pharma, Credit Access Grameen. Guiarat Gas. Mphasis, Radico Khaitan

Kotak Securities Axis Bank, Bajaj Auto, Larsen & Toubro, Ambuja Cements, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life Insurance, Infosys, Hindustan Zinc. Bharti Airtel

Motilal Oswal Bharti Airtel, SBI, Hero Motocorp, Infosys, UltratechCement ICICI Bank, Crompton Consumer, Dabur India, PI Industries **Divis Laboratories** 

downs, the Indian economy is recovering fast and returning to normalcy. India has a chance to come out stronger and report growth healthy CY21/Samvat 2077, provided it doesn't see a big sec-

ond wave of Covid cases. 'We think markets could face some profit taking after the final results of the US Presidential elections sink in. This period also coincides with calendar year-end when tax selling by investors happen. This corrective period could last a few months... In the second half of 2021, we may witness some sustained rise in the indices," said

HDFC Securities. "The overall structure of the market remains positive. At 18 times FY22 earnings, Nifty-50 valuations is also not very expensive as it is trading closer to its long-period averages. With

economic activity recovering fast, more earnings upgrade cannot be ruled out," said Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Further strong global markets can keep the liquidity abundant in the system, thus providing support to the overall market. However, intermittent corrections cannot be ruled out as there is a risk of a second wave of Covid-19 and thus sustenance of economic recovery holds the key," Motilal Oswal the key," added.

"From a next 12-months perspective, we are positive on IT, healthcare, ruralagri, telecom, consumer along with select financials. We believe another round of fiscal stimulus could help elevate sentiment further," Motilal Oswal said.

"As we advance towards getting the vaccine (by

middle of next year) and the economy gets back to normalcy, we can expect the economy-driven sectors to outperform the defensives in Samvat 2077. Banks, NBFCs, automobiles, oil & gas, telecom, utilities, capital goods, cement and metals could come into focus in Samvat 2077," said Rusmik Oza, head of fundamental research, Kotak Securi-

"The potential upside in most of these sectors based on one-year price targets ranges between 20 and 39 per cent (vs single digit potential upside in Nifty-50). Since most of the economy-driven sectors are prone to market correction one should have an accumulation strategy in them rather than investing at one go," Oza said.

The risk-reward balance is less attractive after the recent recovery in stock prices. The earnings yield of Nifty-50 works to 4.5 per cent which is way below the 10-year government securities yield of 5.9 per cent. However, the very low global bond yields are supporting flows into risky assets like equities that are keeping valuations at elelevels, Securities said.

According to HDFC Securities, "Key worrying points remain– asset quality at lenders, stress in fiscal deficit, inflation, job creation etc. However, a bull market never requires all worrying points to be eliminat-

## Kerala too may accept GST compensation option

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 8

Kerala will have one more round of discussions with some of the states that have been opposing the Centre's stance in the GST compensation issue. before accepting the borrowing option. However, it will continue to question the legality of the Union government taking a decision outside the GST Council.

'States have no option other than taking the money. They do not have resources. We have to run the government. The states cannot indefinitely say no," Kerala finance minister Thomas Issac told Financial Chronicle.

However, he will consult like-minded state govern-ments like Punjab and Chhattisgarh and take a joint stance. "They have been busy with the Bihar elections. Now that it is

**States** have no option other than taking the money. They do not have resources... the government. The states cannot indefinitely say no —Thomas,

and take coordinated action," he said. Nevertheless, the state will continue to raise the issues pertaining to the GST compensation deci-

over, we will talk to them

sions taken by the Centre. It feels that the decision taken outside the GST Council is illegal. He said decisions have to be taken and ratified at the GST "Further, as there was a dispute, there should be a dispute redressal mechanism," he

In August, the Centre had given all states two options of borrowing either Rs 97,000 crore or Rs 2.35 lakh crore to meet the GST compensation shortfall. The borrowing limit of the first option was later increased to Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Last month, 21 states and two union territories had gone with the first option. As some of the opposition-ruled states have been protesting, the Centre has agreed to borrow the money and give it to the states, ending the impasse with the

states. A few days back, among opposing states, Rajasthan Puducherry too accepted the first option. The Centre has released a total of Rs 12,000 crore for the states and union territo-

ries which have accepted

### Bigbasket's customer data stolen?

PRASOON SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, NOV 8

Grocery e-commerce platform Bigbasket has faced a potential data breach which could have leaked details of its around 2 crore users, says cyber

intelligence firm Cyble. Bigbasket has filed a police complaint the with Cyber Crime Cell in Bengaluru and is verifying claims made by cyber

Cyble said a hacker has put data belonging to

experts.

Bigbasket on sale for around Rs 30 lakh.

"In the course of our routine dark web monitoring, the research team at Cvble found the database of Big Basket for sale in a cyber crime market, being sold for over \$40,000. The leak contains a database portion; with the table name 'member\_member'. size of the SQL file is about 15 GB, containing close to

20 million user data," Cyble said in its blog. It added the data put on sale includes names, email

IDs, password hashes, contact numbers, addresses, date of birth, location, and IP addresses of login among many others.

While Cyble has men-"passwords", tioned Bigbasket uses a one-time password sent via SMS

which keeps changing.
"The only customer data
that we maintain are email IDs, phone numbers, order details, and addresses so these are the details that could potentially have been accessed," Bigbasket said.
— PTI

## Divide between larger & smaller MFIs deepen in Covid times

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, NOV. 8

Covid-19 has deepened the divide between large micro-finance institutions MFIs) and smaller ones While large MFIs are likely to see growth in their assets in FY21, smaller ones might witness a contraction in their portfolios, finds Icra.

The funding constraints faced by small MFIs over the last one-and-a-half vears were accentuated by the Covid-19-led disruptions and the situation will continue near-term.

Based on data from 25 MFIs, Icra found that MFIs raised Rs 11,200 crore in H1 FY21, largely from Nabard, Sidbi and bank TLTRO funding. Fund flow to the sector, however, remained skewed towards large MFIs, which have higher asset under management (AUM) than Rs 1,500 crore. Most large entities have been able to raise a higher proportion of funds in relation to their AUMs than the small MFIs with AUMs lesser than Rs 1,500 crore.



Hence, large MFIs have been able to improve their liquidity profiles. Large MFIs were carrying relatively higher on-book liquidity aided by the better availability of funding and relatively higher collection efficiency.

On the other hand, with relatively lower balance sheet liquidity and thin operating profitability, given the already high operational expenditure, the ability of small MFIs to absorb the expected rise in credit costs is lower. Icra expects that the credit costs of MFIs will increase to 6-7 per cent till FY22 from 1.5 per cent in FY20 due to the moratorium.

This makes the smaller MFIs more vulnerable than the large ones, as the latter enjoy strong balance sheet liquidity, better operating profitability and healthy financial flexibility. So the small MFIs could witness a contraction in their AUMs and report losses in FY21. This could result in pres-

ings, especially the entities with high leverage and weak liquidity.
But large MFIs are expected to witness some

sure on their credit rat-

growth in their AUM in Overall, there has been

a significant decline in the quantum of equity raised in H1 FY21 by MFIs. They have raised just Rs 320 crore compared to Rs 3,600 crore in FY20. In H2 FY21 too, equity infusion in the industry is expected to remain limited and is likely to flow to large and well-established entities.

## MSMEs claim over 50% recovery; services drag

**SANGEETHA G** 

Driven by manufacturing enterprises, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have returned to more than 50 per cent of their pre-Covid level of operations. But the entrepreneurs are still unsure about the sustainability of demand beyond the festive season.

According to the Federation of Indian MSMEs (Fisme), the manufacturing sector has picked up quite well and operations are running close to 80 per cent of the pre-Covid level. "Some of the sectors like pharma have fully recovered," Anil Bharadwaj, secretary general of Fisme, said, adding that the rest of the sectors are mostly operating at 80 per cent of the pre-lockdown levels.

Rajive Chawla, chairman of IamSMEofIndia, "Manufacturing MSMEs have been witnessing a month-onmonth growth in the last four months. Initially, organising working capital was a major challenge. Now those issues have

Initially, organising working capital was a major challenge. Now those issues have eased and almost 80% of the manufacturing sector is doing better - Rajive Chawla,

eased and almost 80 per cent of the manufacturing sector is doing better as reflected in the GST num-

chairman, lamSMEofIndia

Even among manufacturing, enterprises in the construction sector or those producing luxury goods are still behind. Fisme finds that unorganized enterprises in the ised enterprises in the manufacturing sector are still finding hardships. Overall the festive season demand and relaxation of restrictions have supported the manufacturers.

According to Bharadwai pent-up orders from the previous months, festive and wedding season demand and the increased procurement by government agencies, like railways, defence and highways, has supported the recovery in the MSME sector.

However, the services sector is still at close to per cent of prior level. "In like tourism, hospitality and aviation, there are enterprises which have not started recovering yet. They would take more time to recover," said

Bharadwaj. However, the MSMEs are still doubtful about the sustainability of the recovery. "We will have to see whether the demand sustains after the festive season. Further, a second wave of the pandemic in Europe can once again pull down the export orders," he said.

The new administration in the US under Joe Biden also poses a threat to the sustainability of export demand. "He has been talking about increasing capital gains tax and corporate tax. Slump in demand will hurt Indian exporters, as the US is the biggest market for several sectors, Bharadwaj added.

#### **India Inc looks** forward to stronger Indo-US ties



New Delhi, Nov. 8: India Inc on Sunday hailed the victory of Joe Biden in the US Presidential election, while hoping for enhanced ties and cooperation between India and the United States.

Congratulating president-elect Biden and vice president-elect Kamala Harris, CII president Uday Kotak said, "with rising trade and investment ties between the two countries, the health of our economies are inextricably linked and we must work together dur-ing this critical time to reinvigorate the bilateral economic agenda-facilitating economic growth, enhancing job creation, supporting small business and enabling cooperation in investment-related movement of professionals.

Assocham secretary general Deepak Sood said, "under the Biden-Harris leadership, the Indo-US economic ties would go from strength to strength, getting deeper into areas of advanced scientific research and development, business to busicooperation in strategic areas.'

PHDCCI president Sanjay Aggarwal said, "We strongly believe that India-US partnership will be the defining relationship of the 21st century.

Nasscom welcomed Joe Biden's win and said the Indian IT industry looks forward to working with the new administration in pivoting technology, skills and digital transforma-

tion for the US. Nasscom said its member companies have an important history in the US. "... they work with over three-quarters of the Fortune 500 companies in the US, providing them vital technology services and helping them innovate, compete, and grow.

SHIFTING ROADS

### The share of SUVs in domestic market doubles to 30% in the last five years Tata Motors aims for widest portfolio of SUVs

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Tata Motors aims to have the widest portfolio of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) in the domestic market, a move aimed at helping the company muster greater market share in the passenger vehicle segment, according to a top company offi-

The auto major, which currently sells models like Nexon and Harrier in the SUV segment, is also looking to overhaul its entire sales, aftersales and service verticals to enhance the overall buying experience for cus-

"The move to shift to SUVs is very clear. There is a shift happening towards the SUV segment not only in India but glob ally also. In 2015 the share of SUVs in the domestic market used to be only 15 per cent but this year it is around 30 per cent," Tata Motors passenger

vehicles business unit president Shailesh Chandra told PTI.

It is therefore imperative that whosoever has greater share of SUVs in the portfolio will have a greater pie, share of the market, "So we have taken note of that

sometime back and accordingly targeted to have the widest SUV portfolio." Chandra said. Both Nexon and Harrier were doing great in the market in terms of sales numbers, he

"Harrier has seen a significant jump from what we were doing last year on the back of the new automatic version we have come out with. Nexon did its highest ever sales last month and I hope it continues to do well," Chandra

The company is now gearing up to roll out two new models in the portfolio.

#### Royal Enfield to roll out new bike every quarter "We have now got a product

New Delhi, Nov. 8: Mid-sized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield plans to launch at least 28 new models in the next seven years, with one new bike to be introduced every quarter, as it seeks to strengthen its position both in domestic and international markets, accord-

ing to a top company official. The company is also planning to set up an assembly unit in Thailand in the next 6-12 months followed by Brazil in

"Going forward two additional models are going to come-Gravitas and Hornbill (codenames). Gravitas will be a sevenseater SUV while Hornbill will

years. We are looking at launching a new model almost every quarter and I am not even talking variants and colour options kind of stuff...28 models at least (in the next seven years) that's the bare minimum," Royal Enfield CEO Vinod K. Dasari told PTI. He further said,"All these

plan for the next five to seven

(new models) will play in the mid segment — 250cc to 750 cc. That's our focus area." —PTI

be a sub compact SUV so we will have four SUVs in our portfolio which would be the widest portfolio," Chandra said. Hornbill with a very aggresGravitas at the other end, the company with four products would be well poised to tap the growing trend towards SUVs, he

The company plans to launch the Gravitas during the last quarter of this fiscal. It is yet to fix a date for the Hornbill introduction.

Chandra said the company is focusing a lot on improving the sales and aftersales experience for its customers.

"For us it is one of the key areas on our agenda to transform. A whole bit of work has started with focus on how we can enhance the whole experience. The employees are being imparted soft skills apart from technical training," he noted. The company is also focusing on the issues with its dealer part-

WOMEN'S T20 | CHALLENGE

**Sharjah, Nov. 8:** The momentum is with defend-

ing champions Supernovas

as they eye a third straight

Women's T20 Challenge

rivals in a last-over thriller.

The two-run win enabled

the Supernovas to enter the final, while knocking the Mithali-Raj led Velocity out of the compe-tition. For the defending

champions, opener Chamari Atapattu (111

runs) has been in brilliant form. The Sri Lankan veteran is the top scorer for

Supernovas this season.

Against the Trailblazers,

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

Skipper Harmanpreet,

who had scored two half-

centuries including in the

final last year, has been dis-

missed for 31 in both the

matches and the big-hit-

ting Indian T20 captain

on Monday.

on Saturday.

Harmanpreet & Co

target third crown

SHORT TAKES

#### **Holding new MCC Foundation patron**

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

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

reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time. Since retirement, he has worked as a commentator on Sky Sports' cricket coverage and, more recently, has earned praise as a powerful and eloquent advocate for racial equality "both in the game and fur-

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

#### **Pak thump Zim to**

clinch T20 series

Rawalpindi. Pakistan: Pakistan proved too strong for Zimbabwe as they won the second Twenty20 international by eight wickets in Rawalpindi on Sunday, taking an unassailable

2-0 lead in the three-match series. Riding on half centuries from skipper Babar Azam (51) and 20-year-old Haider Ali (66 not out), Pakistan made short work of a modest 135-run target, achieving victory with 29 balls to spare.

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

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

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

#### **Ex Pak skipper** Sarfaraz fined

Karachi: Former Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed has been penalised 35 per cent of his match fee for for using "inappropriate language" during a Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match. The 33-year-old stumper, who

is leading th Sindh First XI, admitted to the level 1 offence relating to use of inappropriate language during his side's match on Saturday.

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

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

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

#### **Ram settles for** runner-up finish

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

It is now the fifth time that Ramkumar has not won a final on the Challenger circuit. His previous runner-up finishes came at Tallahassee (April 2017), Winnetka (July 2017), Pune (November 2017) and

Taipei (April 2018). Nevertheless, it was

Ramkumar's best performance of the 2020 season for which he earned Euro 7200 as prize money and 60 points that will push him to 185 from 206 in the ATP singles ranking charts.



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

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

## DELHI ECLIPSE SUN

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

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 8:** Delhi Capitals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 17 runs in the second Qualifier to reach their maiden final in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday. Delhi Capitals will face

Mumbai Indians in the summit clash on Tuesday. In-form Shikhar Dhawan smashed 78 off 49 balls to lead Delhi Capitals to a challenging 189 for three. Marcus Stoinis (38) and Shimron Hetmyer (42 not out) were

Chasing, Williamson led the charge with 67 off 45 balls but could not see his team through as he lacked support from other end. Kagiso Rabada (4/29) and

other notable contribu-

tors for Delhi.

**SCORECARD** 

Delhi Capitals: M. Stoinis b Rashid 38, S. Dhawan Ibw Sharma 78, S. Iyer c Pandey b Holder 21, S. Hetmyer (not out) 42, R. Pant (not out) 2. Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-2) 8. Total (for 3 wkts, in 20 overs) 189. FoW: 1-86, 2-126, 3-178. Bowling: Sharma 4-0-30-1, Holder 4-0-50-

1, Nadeem 4-0-48-0, Khan 4-0-26-1, Natarajan 4-0-32-0. Sunrisers Hyderabad: P.K. Garg b Stoinis 17, D. Warner b Rabada 2, M. Pandey c Nortje b Stoinis 21, K. Williamson c Rabada b

Stoinis (3/26) shone with

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

(21) could not do much but wicket with Hetmyer

Stoinis 67, J. Holder c Dubey b Patel 11, Abdul Samad c sub (KMA Paul) b Rabada 33, Rashid Khan c Patel b Rabada 11, S. Goswami c Stoinis b Rabada O, S. Nadeem (not out) 2, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 2. Extras (lb-1, w-5) 6. Total (for 8 wkts, in 20

over) 172. FoW: 1-12, 2-43, 3-44, 4-90, 5-147, 6-167, 7-167, 8-168. Bowling: R. Ashwin 3-0-33-0, K. Rabada 4-

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

Dhawan, in his wellpaced innings, hit six stand. fours and two sixes. He Skipper Shreyas Iyer added 52 runs for the third

0-29-4, A. Nortje 4-0-36-0, M. Stoinis 3-0-26-3, A. Patel 4-0-33-1, P. Dubey 2-0-14-0.

before being dismissed by seamer Sandeep Sharma

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

did not cost them much. Yet again, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (4-0-26-1) was the most effective bowler though T Natarajan bowled well in slog overs.

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

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

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

title, with a determined Trailblazers standing in their way in the final here behind them, having beaten Smriti In the winners-take-all T20 final, the Harmanpreet Mandhana's Trailblazers in the Kaur-led side will have momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti last round-robin game on Saturday. Mandhana and company in the last round-robin game Supernovas, champions in 2018 and 2019, just about managed to ward off their

• In the winners-take-all T20 final,

**Harmanpreet Kaur-**

led Supernovas will

have the momentum

will look to get back to her destructive best in the

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

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

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

### Deepti worked on her game after lockdown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### **SAHA HAS HAMSTRING TEAR, ALL EYES ON BCCI**

Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. Capitals won by 17 runs.

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

ability for the upcoming tour of Australia. It will now depend on what call BCCI mandarins take considering that physio Nitin Patel's medical reports have of late come under scanner due to divergent

views of the IPL fran-Saha had stretched his groin while batting against Delhi Capitals in the second

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

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

However, the degree of the tear is still not

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

## Pollard credits his bond with Pandya brothers for success

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

Delhi Capitals players celebrate the wicket of Manish Pandey of Sunrisers Hyderabad during their IPL Qualifier 2 match at the Sheikh Zayed

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

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



**Kieron Pollard** 

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

ing himself are the similar qualities he shares with Hardik. Both are known for their six-hitting prowess. "They (Pandya brothers) are more open and loud, but they are not like that

just off the field, when they go on to the cricket field, the flair that they show, Hardik especially, that aspect of it, he goes out, backs himself, he is confident. So these are some of the things that we share in common," said Pollard.

Pollard praised Hardik, who has scored 278 runs and plundered 25 sixes this season, for his confidence. "The way that they are,

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

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

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

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

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

Riva, Italy's all-time top scorer with 35 goals

in 42 games and also Cagliari's with 164 goals in 315 league games, celebrated his 76th birthday on Saturday. 'I changed the system

to favour Joao," said Cagliari coach Eusebio Di Francesco. "I wanted to wish a happy birthday to the great Gigi Riva, a symbol

for Cagliari.' Sampdoria had to play over half the match a man down after Tommaso Augello was man sent off for bringing down Nahitan Nandez

five minutes before the break. Brazilian Pedro opened the scoring two minutes into the second half a penalty kick after colliding with Lorenzo Tonelli.

LEWANDOWSKI SCORES AS BAYERN LEAD TABLE Lewandowski Robert

scored as Bayern Munich went top of the table on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund.

After Marco Reus put Dortmund ahead, David Alaba blasted home a free-kick to make it 1-1 at half-time behind closed doors at Signal Iduna Park. Lewandowski gave Bayern the lead with a superb header early in the second half before Leroy Sane grabbed the visitors' third.

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when he won and scored

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#### Atleti go top, Messi rescues Barca Madrid, Nov. 8: Atletico off for a handball on the

Madrid jumped to the top of La Liga on Saturday with a 4-0 thrashing of Cadiz after Lionel Messi came on at half-time rescue Barcelona against Real

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

Llorente were also on target as Atletico made it five wins and two draws from their opening seven games and underlined their status as genuine title contenders. They have scored 17 goals and conceded just two in

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

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



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

Ousmane Dembele's openues to struggle in the shadow of Messi at Camp Nou. Messi had been rested by Ronald Koeman but was thrown on with the game in

balance

Within four minutes of his introduction, Messi gave Griezmann an open goal with a superb dummy Griezmann missed a penaland then scored twice himty, before Betis' Antonio self, the first a penalty that Sanabria cancelled out saw Betis' Aissa Mandi sent

**DI MARIA BRACE IN RENNES STROLL** 

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

Di Maria struck in each half, with Moise Kean scoring the other, to move PSG up to 24 points, five ahead of second-placed Lille.
Rennes stay third on 18

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

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