

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | SATURDAY 7 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



Max: 30°C  
Min: 22°C  
Rainfall: 4 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Aippasi 22  
**Tithi:** Saphthami  
**Star:** Pusam  
**Rahukalam:** 9 am to 10.30 am  
**Yamagandam:** 1.30 pm to 3 pm  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.52 am  
**Zohar:** 11.58 am  
**Asar:** 3.12 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.41 pm  
**Isha:** 6.54 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 11.14 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 12.23 PM**

## Madras HC CJ Sahi tests positive for Covid

**Chennai:** Madras High Court Chief Justice A. P. Sahi tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital here, a senior health official said on Friday. His condition was stable, the official said. The CJ had gone to the hospital on Thursday with complaints of cough, drowsiness and discomfort and he tested positive on Friday. Justice Sahi underwent a CT scan and other tests. — PTI

## Nepal reports 2,909 new Covid-19 cases

**Kathmandu:** Nepal reported 2,909 Covid-19 cases on Friday, taking the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 188,883. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients rose to 152,908 after 4,500 people were discharged from hospitals and isolation centres after making a full recovery, the Ministry of Health and Population said. Of all cases, 81 per cent of the patients have recovered. The ministry also confirmed 18 virus-related deaths on Friday.

## COUNTER POINT



Who are the candidates?  
Biden and Trump?

## BJP prez not allowed to go on Vetrivel yatra

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

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

later in the day.

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

## Nitish's not retiring, clarifies his party

**NAYEAR AZAD | DC**  
PATNA, NOV. 6

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "last election" remark has become a topic of political debate ahead of the last phase of Assembly elections in Bihar. While the Opposition termed his statement an admission of "defeat", the JD(U) issued a clarification on Friday saying that he was talking about the last campaign for the ongoing elections.

Election will be held in 78 constituencies in the

third and final phase on Saturday.

"His comments cannot be seen as his announcement for retirement," JD(U) state president Basisth Narayan Singh said.

"He has been aggressively campaigning for the NDA candidates and during his public meeting he simply meant that it was his last campaign for the ongoing Assembly elections. A politician cannot suddenly announce his retirement. He will stay in politics as long as the public wants."

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**CM: Steps afoot to launch air ambulance in Nilgiris**



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**NZ's Ardern sworn in for second term**

## SPORT | 8

**Sunrisers beat RCB by six wickets**



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■ Gains thin lead in Pensylvania, Georgia ■ Senate control too looks likely

## Biden takes lead in key states

Washington, Nov. 6: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Friday took crucial leads over US President Donald Trump in the key battleground states of Georgia and Pennsylvania, bringing him on the cusp of a historic victory in the closely-fought election.

In Georgia, after the latest round of counting results, Mr Biden edged past Trump with a slender lead of 1096 votes, a remarkable development for the former vice-president who until Wednesday night was trailing his Republican rival by more than 50,000 votes.

However, secretary of state of Georgia said there will be a recount of votes. "With a margin that small, there will be a recount in Georgia," Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger told reporters in Atlanta. He said the presidential contest in the state "remains too close to call."

In Pennsylvania, Mr Biden took over Mr Trump with a narrow lead of 5,587 votes. "This is significant given that Mr Trump was



(Left) Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks on Thursday. (Right) President Donald Trump walks away after speaking at the White House, on Thursday.

leading in the swing state till Wednesday night with more than 700,00 votes.

Mr Biden continued to maintain his small lead in the other two battleground States of Arizona and Nevada. To be declared the winner, either of the two candidates needs 270 of the



— AP

358 electoral college votes. As per the latest projections, Mr Biden has 264 electoral college votes and Mr Trump trails behind with 214.

The failure of the Republican candidates to secure 50 per cent votes in the election to the Senate

from Georgia comes as a bonus for the Democrats. There will be a run off election to the seats which gives the Democrats a chance to raise their tally to 50 and gain control over the chamber with the casting vote of the Vice-President, who chairs it. — Agencies

## US TIES HAVE BIPARTISAN SUPPORT: MEA

New Delhi, Nov. 6: As the world awaits the result of the American presidential election, India on Friday said the global strategic partnership between the two countries have a very strong bipartisan support in the US, suggesting that the bilateral ties will not be impacted by the poll outcome.

"We are also awaiting the election results," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during an online media briefing while replying to questions on impact of US presidential outcome on the Indo-US ties. He asserted that "the comprehensive strategic (Indo-US) partnership has very strong bipartisan support in the US and successive presidents and administrations have raised the level of the relationship even higher." — PTI

## SC puts rider on coal block auction; bids to open Monday

New Delhi, Nov. 6: The Supreme Court on Friday categorically told the Centre that the November 9 e-auction of 34 coal blocks, including five in Jharkhand, shall be subject to its final order.

The apex court also asked the Centre to inform the bidders that benefits of any nature to them will be provisional.

A bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian was told by attorney-general K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, that no trees will be cut in the area.

The bench, in its order, said "the matter shall stand over till after vaca-



tion. In the meantime, any action in the matter that may be taken by the defendants (Centre) shall be subject to orders of this court".

It said, "The defendants (Centre) shall take care to inform the recipients of any benefit of any nature that the action is provisional in the sense that it will be subject to the orders passed by this court."

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on December 8.

On November 9, financial bids will be opened for five other coal blocks of Jharkhand which include-Gondalpara, Rajhara North, Urma Paharitola, Brahmadaha and Chakla.

In its note filed in the matter, Centre has given details of coal mines which are to be auctioned and their distance from nine eco-sensitive zones/protected area/wildlife sanctuary.

It has also referred to various cases laws and office memorandum of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with regard to procedure. — PTI



## Centre will ensure free and fair polls in WB, says Amit Shah

**Kolkata, Nov. 6:** Union home minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah Friday assured the party's West Bengal unit that the Centre will ensure free and fair assembly polls in the state, which is due in April-May 2021, party sources said.

Shah, who was addressing an internal meeting of BJP, asked the state unit to work hard so that the party can dislodge the Trinamool Congress and form the next government in the state. He also asked the party workers to strengthen the organisation and ensure that the pro-people policies of the Centre are made known to the general people.

"During the meeting Amit Shah Ji said some people are apprehensive about violence during the West Bengal assembly polls.

He assured that the Centre will ensure free, fair and violence free assembly polls. He asked us to work hard so that we can form the next government," a senior state BJP leader said after the closed door meeting.

The BJP has alleged that 120 party workers have been killed in violence in the state during the past few months. — PTI

## Will not die until rights of my people are restored, says Farooq Abdullah

Jammu, Nov. 6: In his first political rally here since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status last year, former chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Friday said he won't die until constitutional rights of the people of the erstwhile state are restored and dared the BJP to respond to his questions rather than "misleading the country" and making "false promises".

"I will not die until the rights of my people are given back... I am here to do something for the people and the day I will finish my work, I will leave this world," the National Conference (NC) president told his party workers who packed the Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here ahead of a scheduled meeting of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Saturday.

"We will fight for our rights and identity and will not be cowed down," he said and asked "what was our fault?"

Taking a dig at the JK unit of the BJP, he said those setting ablaze his effigies should remember that "it was Farooq Abdullah" who along with BJP stalwart A.B



National Conference president Farooq Abdullah addresses party workers at the party headquarters in Jammu on Friday.

— PTI

.Vajpayee represented India in Geneva and silenced the opponents.

"I am not afraid of BJP. I am not armed with lathi or stone, let them come to me and reply to my questions which they will not," he said, adding his party never took decisions on the basis of religion and region.

Continuing his attack, he said "Those who claim to be the champions of Hindu cause and challenging us, let them do a favour to this country by going to the borders and show their power to the enemy rather than to the citizens of the country. We have done it

when the NC stood against the tribal raid and saved Srinagar from being captured in 1947."

The National Conference workers, especially the party's youth leader Maqbool Sherwani, had misled the Pakistan Army disguised as tribal raiders in Baramulla to enable Indian Army land in the state. It was 84-year-old Abdullah's first political meeting in Jammu since the abrogation of Article 370, which accorded Jammu and Kashmir special status, and bifurcation of the state into union territories in August last year. — PTI

## Mehbooba accuses Centre of creating pressure cooker like situation in J&K

Jammu, Nov. 6: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday attacked the Centre over the abrogation of Article 370, saying the suppression of people's voices had created a pressure cooker like situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said that a time will come when the Centre will ask the people "with folded hands" what more do they want besides restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state.

"They (Centre) have suppressed people's voices and are not allowing them to talk. It is like a pressure cooker... they have created such an atmosphere. But when the pressure cooker explodes it burns down the whole house," Mufti said at her first public function in Jammu after her release from detention.

The PDP chief arrived here on Thursday to attend the People's Conference for Gupkar Declaration (PC-GD) scheduled to be held here on Saturday. — PTI

## Final phase of Bihar assembly elections today

Patna, Nov. 6: All eyes are now on the polling for third and final phase of assembly elections in Bihar scheduled Saturday in which stakes are quite high for the ruling NDA, trying to avert the anti-incumbency factor, and the opposition Grand Alliance led by an apparently resurgent RJD.

About 2.34 crore voters, spread across 78 assembly segments of the 243-strong Assembly, will decide the fates of 1204 candidates, including the Speaker and 12 members of the state cabinet.

Besides, polling will also take place for Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat where a by-election has been necessitated by the death of sitting JD(U) MP Baidyanath Mahato

The JD(U)'s bid to retain the Parliamentary seat by fielding his son Sunil Kumar is facing the primary challenge from Congress candidate Pravesh Kumar Mishra, a journalist-turned-politician.

Like Valmiki Nagar, all the 78 poll-bound assembly segments spread across 19 districts fall in north Bihar, as areas falling north of the Ganges in the state are called in common parlance. — PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## VIT faculty members among top 2% scientists from India

**Chennai:** A new Stanford University report has ranked 10 faculty members of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) among the top 2 per cent scientists in all fields from India. The database was created by experts at Stanford University led by Dr John Ioannidis, said a VIT press release. It has been created on the basis of standardised citation indicators, such as information on citations, h-index, co-authorship, and a composite indicator. Chancellor of VIT, Dr G. Viswanathan appreciated the faculty members for their remarkable contributions.

## Tour, travel professionals launch 60-day strategy

**Chennai:** SKAI International, an UN-affiliated global network of tourism and travel professionals, has come up with a 60-day strategic plan to recover from pandemic stress.

Carl Vaz, president, SKAI International, said the strategy was aimed at creating an outreach program targeting domestic and international outbound Indian travelers across India. Travel industry is hit hard by the pandemic and burden of dwindling budgets of the travellers. SKAI has 13,500 members worldwide including 1,150 in India.

## Vivo launches V20 SE in TN

**Chennai:** Vivo expanded its vivo V20-series line-up with the launch of V20 SE in Tamil Nadu priced at ₹20,990.

Tamil Nadu contributes over 7 per cent (by volume) to the overall smartphone market in India, according to press release.

Commenting on the launch, Nipun Marya, Director-Brand Strategy, Vivo India said, "With the upcoming festive season, the all-new V20 SE will offer our customers delightful technological experience to make this Diwali memorable."

Heavy traffic on a wet Friday morning at Tambaram.



— DC

## Chennai may get moderate rains

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 6

Chennai is expected to get moderate rains for the next two days while the western and southern districts of Tamil Nadu will witness heavy rainfall.

Though the Chennai sky was overcast on Friday, the city got only light rain in the morning hours.

According to the regional meteorological department, the sky condition in the city would be generally cloudy.

"Light to moderate rain is likely in some areas. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 33 degree Celsius and 25 degrees Celsius respectively."

Meanwhile, the met department predicted heavy rain in Thanjavur; Tiruvarur; Nagapattinam; Cuddalore, hill ranges of Theni and Nilgiris districts in the upcoming days as a result of the cyclonic circulation over the Gulf of Mannar and adjoining Sri Lanka now concentrated over the Comorin area.

## Woman health inspector killed in road accident

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 6

A woman health inspector of the Chennai corporation, riding pillion, was crushed to death in a road accident on Friday morning near Perungalathur.

According to police, the deceased has been identified as Monisha (29), a resident of Urupakkam. She works with the Greater Chennai Corporation, Alandur zone.

The accident happened when Monisha was riding pillion with a colleague, Manikandan, on the latter's two-wheeler. Police said when the duo were

The accident happened when Monisha was riding pillion with a colleague, Manikandan, on the latter's two-wheeler

crossing the Perungalathur signal, a lorry that tried to overtake the bike hit the vehicle from behind. Monisha fell on the road and was crushed to death.

The Chromepet traffic investigation police rushed to the spot and sent her body for post-mortem. A case has been registered. The lorry driver is under police radar.

## 15 arrested for gambling in lodge

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 6

Fifteen persons were arrested on charges of gambling at a lodge in West Tambaram on Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, the Tambaram police searched a private lodge on Tambaram- Mudichur road. Fifteen persons were found playing with cards, betting money. In all, Rs

2.6 lakh and a pack of cards were seized. The accused were arrested and further investigation is underway. Police are also interrogating the manager of the lodge.

The city police said that surprise checks would be conducted in lodges and owners/managers were warned not to allow gambling. Cards should not be played for money, police warned.

The police on Thursday busted another gambling ring, by arresting seven persons at a house in Nerkundram.

Police said a special team of Koyambedu police, raided a house based on a tip-off and seized a huge amount of cash and nabbed seven men on charges of gambling.

Police said the men were playing card games and

were placing bets. The house is located in Muniyappa Nagar, Nerkundram.

Recently, the city police arrested actor Shaam for allegedly hosting an illegal gambling party at his house in Nungambakkam. The actor and 12 others who were present at the party were later let off on bail. The police seized gambling tokens and cards from the premises.

## Marina fish market to be relocated

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 6

The fish market on the Marina Loop Road would soon be relocated to a presently vacant two acre plot in the same locality within three months, Chennai Corporation Commissioner G

Prakash said on Friday.

After inspecting the present market, which functions on the side of the Loop Road, along with Chennai Police Commissioner Mahesh Kumar Agarwal, he said the new market would have facilities for housing 300 shops and space for parking

400 two-wheelers and 80 cars.

The fish market functioning from the present location was causing traffic jams on the road and hence it had to be relocated without affecting the livelihood of those depending on the market.

Prakash also said that the Corporation which now had 85 markets under its control all over the city was planning to add three to four markets.

He clarified that the Koyambedu market was under the control of the CMDA.

## TN ranks first in corona prevention: Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUVARUR, NOV. 6

Tamil Nadu stood first among other states in the country in implementing preventive measures against Covid-19 and also to bring down the number of cases, said Food Minister R Kamaraj.

Participating at a function at the collectorate here presided by Collector V Shantha on Friday, the minister distributed various welfare measures worth Rs 1.08 crore to 399 persons, and said, "Thanks to Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami's tireless efforts to check

Covid-19, the virus is now well under control, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself appreciated the chief minister." In addition to Covid-19 preventive measures, the chief minister also gave equal importance to other developmental activities, added the minister.

## Tank renovated at cost of ₹2.65cr

DC CORRESPONDENT KUMBAKONAM, NOV. 6

The Pachaiyappan Mudali tank on Pachaiyappan street here has been renovated at a cost of ₹2.65 crore by the City Union Bank Ltd., under its corporate social responsibility.

The renovated tank was thrown open for public by Collector M Govinda Rao on Thursday night. The tank now wears a new look with concrete walls, walkers path on its bunds, play area for children, separate area for physical exercise and yoga, and benches for people to sit and relax.

## Pondy CM accuses Bedi of rejecting govt proposals

**Puducherry, Nov 6:** Chief Minister of Puducherry V Narayanasamy on Friday asked Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi to accept proposals of the territorial government, saying repeated rejection of them only created a bad impression of her among the people.

Addressing a virtual press conference here, he said teachers and retired staff in government-aided private schools have not been paid salaries or given other benefits for the last 11 months as Bedi had not approved the proposals of the government, he said. Later in the day, the Chief Minister sanctioned an expenditure of ₹16.90 crore grant for teachers and sent a file related to it to Bedi again for her approval.

In an official release, Narayanasamy said the amount was meant for payment of salaries to teachers of 35 government-aided private schools in all regions of



Puducherry — Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam — for nine months from December 2019 to August this year. In the press meet, he said a proposal was sent to the Lt Governor for waiver of motor vehicle tax imposed on private taxi owners, vans, omni buses and other tourist vehicles for the last few months. The vehicle operators could not run the vehicles due to the pandemic situation, he said. Several states had waived the taxes and when the file in this regard was sent to the Lt

Governor, she returned it saying she wanted to know as to how much revenue would be lost by the waiver, the Chief Minister said.

The private vehicle owners and taxi operators were now up in arms against the government, the Chief Minister said. "The Lt Governor is causing law and order problems by her negative stand and by returning the files," he alleged. Narayanasamy said he had the impression that the Lt Governor was being misguided and given wrong information by some officials close to her in her office. Bedi should mend her ways and ensure promotion of the welfare of the people in the Union Territory without adopting a negative stand, he said. The Chief Minister has been at loggerheads with the former IPS officer on administrative and fiscal issues almost constantly since she assumed office in 2016.

— PTI



Corporation commissioner P. Kumaravel Pandian inspects road widening work at Edayarpalayam pirivu in Coimbatore.

— DC

## Micro-irrigation scheme for Pudukkottai district

R VALAYAPATHY | DC PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 6

The Prime Minister's micro-irrigation scheme is being implemented in 4,560 hectares of land in the district during the current year at an estimated cost of ₹18.68 crore, of which a sum of ₹7.75 crore has been spent so far, said Collector P Umamaheswari.

Accompanied by Joint Director, Agriculture, Pudukkottai, Sivakumar and others, the collector inspected agricultural development activities in Kundrandaarkovil and its surroundings near here on Thursday. She told newsmen that under the Tamil Nadu mission on sustainable dry land development scheme to increase agriculture production in 10,000 hectares of dry land, a sum of ₹4.25 crore earmarked during the current year.

In addition, a sum of ₹2.40 crore has been also earmarked to ensure regular income for the 400 farming families of dry land farmers, throughout the year.

To a question, she said 500 hectares of fallow lands would be convertible as cultivable lands at a cost of ₹48.50 lakh under the collective farming scheme to establish 56 farmer-producers groups across the district, for which a sum of ₹2.90 crore has been allocated.

Adequate seeds are stocked in the 33 agriculture extension centres across the district, and up to September this year, paddy crops covered 69,001 hectares, millets in 1,994 hectares, pulses in 1,829 hectares, oil seeds in 8,551 hectares, sugarcane in 1,238 hectares and coconut trees in 10,795 hectares, she added.

## 4,000 YEARS OLD STONE TABLETS FOUND



During a field study, Tamil professor, Sacred Heart College, Dr K Mohan Gandhi and Kaani Nilam M. Munisamy, found some stone tablets (Kar Thittai) dating back to 4,000 years ago, in the Javaadhu hills. Speaking about their findings, Dr Mohan Gandhi said that Javaadhu hills were part of the Eastern Ghats running through the districts of Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Tirupattur. About 30 stone tablets were unearthed from Vellore district by this team. Many sites here contain archaeological treasures, and the present field of study is 'Vaaliyar Medu', where about 30 ancient 'stone shelters' were found. These shelters resemble stone houses and measured three feet in width and five feet in height, and are now used to shelter and herd sheep. It is believed that our ancestors used these shelters, all facing eastward, as burial tombs for their dead. On three sides were standing stone tablets, all covered by a large flat stone tablet for a roof. The tablet facing the east has been chiseled to size. On the other side is a wide hole-like entrance, which researchers believe was used to place offerings for the dead. It is also believed that people who lived here were short-sized and were called 'Chitra Kullar'. Many also believe that the 'Pancha Pandavas' had lived here during their exile. Hence, it is also called 'Pancha Pandavar caves'.

— K. Senthil Nathan

ARULOLI M | DC TIRUNELVELI, NOV. 6

A police constable found to be the kingpin of a burglary gang in Thoothukudi district was arrested by Tirunelveli city crime branch police, and is on the lookout for four other of his aides.

The Palayamkottai crime branch police had a suspicion that the accused, Karkuvel (29), constable at Arumuganeri police station since a month ago, had a role in the series of thefts that occurred in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli city.

Hence, police checked his finger prints secretly, and that matched with one of the fingerprints found at a burgled house of a

**The Palayamkottai crime branch police had a suspicion that the accused, Karkuvel (29), constable at Arumuganeri police station since a month ago, had a role in the series of thefts that occurred in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli city**

hotel employee, Thangadurai of Perumalpuram, in Tirunelveli district, two weeks back.

"This has confirmed our suspicion on constable Karkuvel. With the help of Thoothukudi police, Karkuvel was picked up from the AR police quarters in Thoothukudi, on Thursday night," said Palayamkottai police inspector, Adam Ali. Police also recovered 15 sovereigns of jewels, three

mobile phones, a car and a bike from the accused constable's residence, at the police quarters in Thoothukudi.

Constable Karkuvel was remanded on Friday morning by the Palayamkottai crime branch police. He is also suspected to have been directly involved in 15 serial thefts in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts. Also involved in a chain snatching incident a

couple of months back in Tiruchendur, Karkuvel is said to have also robbed a mobile phone of one of his colleagues at Arumuganeri police station.

He is lodged at Palayamkottai central prison. The Palayamkottai crime branch police led by assistant commissioner of police, Seeniasamy, is now on the lookout for the arrested constable's close aides in burglaries — Mohan of Tiruchendur — and three others.

Constable Karkuvel is also said to have lost a huge sum of money kept by his family for house construction, in online gambling games, prompting him to take to thefts and burglaries for money.



## SHORT TAKES

**Gold worth ₹37.3 L seized by Chennai Customs**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

The customs officials at the Chennai airport seized gold worth ₹37.3 lakhs on Thursday and Friday.

According to the Airport sources, On Friday, two passengers Mohamed Mursin Ibrahim, 42 and Barakat Ali Sadurdeen, 45 both from Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu who arrived from Dubai by Emirates Flight EK-0542 were intercepted at the exit. On persistent questioning, they confessed to carrying gold paste in the rectum. On personal search two gold paste bundles weighing 166 grams on extraction yielded 146 grams of gold, two gold cut bits weighing 65 grams and one gold chain weighing 30 grams were recovered. Total 241 grams of gold valued at Rs. 12.8 was recovered.

On Thursday, two passengers Jabeer Khan, 28, of Ramanathapuram (TN) and Abubacker Siddique, 23 years, of Ramanathapuram (TN) who arrived from Dubai by Fly Dubai Flight No FZ-8517 were intercepted at the exit. On search 2 packets of gold paste weighing 574 grams were recovered from them. Total 472 grams of gold valued at 24.5 lakhs was recovered.

Total 713 grams gold of 24 K purity valued at Rs. 37.3 lakhs was recovered and seized under the Customs Act 1962. Further investigation is under progress.

**CM: Steps afoot to launch air ambulance in Nilgiris**B RAVICHANDRAN | DC  
OOTY, NOV. 6

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami said his government was making efforts to operate an air ambulance service to the Nilgiris to help residents and tourists reach neighbouring districts for higher treatment facilities during medical emergencies.

Speaking to mediapersons after reviewing corona prevention works and other development works at Tamizhagam guest house here on Friday, Palaniswami said that organizing fever camps across the Nilgiris and related measures helped bring down Covid-19 positive cases in the Nilgiris.

The government has already taken steps to establish a government medical college in Ooty at an estimated cost of ₹447 crore. This apart, a 50-bedded hospital is being constructed at Emerald village to cater to the needs of villagers in and around Emerald, he noted.

Highway roads to a stretch of 705 kms across the Nilgiris have been improved at a cost of Rs 600 crore. Steps will be taken to modernize the Industrial coop tea facto-



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami viewing elephant statues made out of 'Lantana Camara', at an expo put up by the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, at the government guest house, Nilgiris district, on Friday. Municipal administration minister SP Velumani, Collector J. Innocent Divya and other higher officials accompanied the Chief Minister.

— DC

ries in four places across the Nilgiris at a cost of Rs 17 crore, he added.

Stating that a tea testing lab will be established in the Nilgiris, the chief minister added that in order to control corona spread in the challenging terrain of the Nilgiris, the government is implementing regulated tourism in the hills.

Asked about fixing the floor price for green tea leaf, he said that at present, green tea leaf fetched about ₹30 per kg, and the government will take necessary steps as per the prevailing situations in future. Saying that 7.5 per cent horizontal quota in undergraduate courses in medical colleges is only for those students from

government schools, he said that the government will hold a consultation meeting with stakeholders on November 9, to decide on opening of schools.

On BJP's 'vel yatra', he said that law will take its own course. Earlier in the day, the chief minister interacted with farmers and women's self-help groups.

**Traffic diversion in Chennai owing to bridge construction**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

In view of the demolition and construction of a bridge by Greater Chennai Corporation at Stephenson Salai (linking Cooks Road and Dr Ambedkar College Road at P1 Pulianthope Traffic Police Station limit) both sides of the Stephenson Road will be closed and the following Traffic diversion will come into effect from Sunday.

The vehicles coming from Perambur High Road (South) towards Ambedkar College Road will be diverted towards Mettupalayam Junction to reach Jamalia (Perambur High Road).

roads.

1) The vehicles coming from Ambedkar College Road towards Stephenson Road - Jalamia, Cooks Road will be diverted towards, Barracks Gate Road - Strahans Road, Otteri Bridge, Cooks Road - Mettupalayam Junction to reach Jamalia (Perambur High Road).

2) i) The Heavy vehicles coming from Perambur High Road (South) towards Ambedkar College Road will be diverted towards Mettupalayam - Cooks Road, Strahans Road to

reach Dr. Ambedkar College Road.

ii) Light Motor vehicles coming from Perambur High Road may take New Ferrance Road to reach Ambedkar College Road. Heavy vehicles will not be allowed through this New Ferrance Road.

This traffic diversion will be effected until further order. The Greater Chennai traffic police has requested the public and vehicle users to give cooperation to traffic police until the completion of the bridge works.

**'This is serious security breach'**

From P1

The airport authorities ought to clarify how the aircraft started taking off while the passenger, whose luggage was loaded on the plane, failed to get onboard. "This is a serious security breach as well," they said.

Confirming the incident to DC, the airport authorities said that they had asked the airline operator for a report on the incident. "The taking off and landings are being handled by the staff of the respective airline. We are just providing them infrastructure. This is the lapse of airline staff. So we have asked them for a report," said L. Vishnu Das, manager (communication), Chennai International Airport.

Mr Das pointed out that each airline follows separate SOPs. "So we are waiting for the report. We can clarify about how the passenger failed to get onboard and why the flight was pushed back only after receiving the report," he said.

**'Reopen schools after Pongal'**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

The Tamil Chamber of Commerce has urged Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami to postpone the reopening of schools after Pongal holidays in view of the expected second wave of Covid-19 spread and a few other reasons like the rainy season aggravating the pandemic situation.

In the letter, the chamber president Chozha Naachiar Rajasekar said it was difficult for the managements of all schools to fully carry out the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and pointed out that the number of cases had surged after schools were reopened in the neighbouring States.

He urged the government to postpone the public examinations for Classes 10, 11 and 12 at least by one more month of the normal schedule to

enable students prepare for the examinations. Listing the problems relating to the immediate opening of the schools, Rajasekar said the availability of teaching faculty and staff of schools would not be sufficient to fulfil the conditions laid by the government for conducting the classes.

Besides, parents would be confused choosing between online classes and regular classes for their wards, he added.

**BJP member makes immolation bid for Vel yatra**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

A BJP member attempted self-immolation at the Kanchipuram Collectorate on Friday, protesting against the TN government's refusal to give permission to the party's Vetrivel Yatra. However, the police personnel deployed at the collectorate prevented the politician from setting him ablaze after he doused himself with a bottle of petrol.

**On way to offer worship, says Murgugan**

From P1

When the convoy reached Nazaratpet, police blocked the road and prevented Mr Murugan from proceeding further and told him the yatra has been banned. As

The Vetrivel Yatra was planned by the BJP in honour of Lord Murugan and to consolidate the Hindu votes across TN. The yatra was sch-

Mr Murugan told the police that he was on his way to offer worship at the Murugan temple at Tiruttani the police allowed the van and five other cars to proceed further.

eduled from November 6 to December 6, with BJP leaders and workers visiting six abodes of Lord Murugan. Meanwhile, On Thursday,

the Tamil Nadu government informed the Madras high court that the Vetrivel yatra is denied permission due to the risk of Coronavirus transmission. The government counsel said that since there is a chance for a second wave of infection it was not conducive to conduct the yatra. The BJP had a big plan for the yatra, that was set to begin from Tiruttani. However, the TN police allowed only a small group to go near the temple.

To protest against this, a few cadres of BJP, holding a 10-feet tall vel, marched towards the Kanchipuram Collectorate on Friday morning. At around 10: 30 am, a BJP cadre allegedly doused himself in petrol and attempted to lit the fire. Since the security was beefed up in the government office, police personnel deployed at the spot prevented him from setting him on fire. The police later arrested the BJP workers.

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## SHORT TAKES

## 5% LESS COVID CASES THAN A DAY BEFORE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maharashtra government said that the number of Covid-19 cases has been dropping steadily in the last few days and there has been a 63 per cent decrease in the number of active cases. Under a special campaign, the health agencies in the state have so far been able to identify 3,57,000 ILI and SARI patients.

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

## Shah: CAA will be implemented

Seeks white paper on political killings

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

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

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

"Since 2018 the West

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

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

Speaking on the face-off between Governor Jagdeep Thakkar and the state government, Shah said the governor is working within his constitutional limits.

"The words used against the governor are

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

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

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

## MODI TO ATTEND SCO VIRTUAL MEET; MAY SHARE SCREEN SPACE WITH XI

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting in Virtual format on November 10, New Delhi confirmed on Friday, adding that India would be hosting a meeting in virtual format on November 30 of the SCO Heads of Government at the prime ministerial level.

The meeting on November 10 will be chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin during which Mr Modi is expected to share screenspace with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the first time it will be so since Sino-Indian military tensions began in the Ladakh sector about six months ago.

Besides this, it also remains to be seen whether Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan represents his country at the other SCO meeting on November 30 to be hosted by India in virtual format and if that is so, Mr Modi is expected to then share screenspace with the Pakistan Prime Minister too at that meeting.

The SCO is an eight-member predominantly Central Asian Grouping that comprises China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan became SCO members in 2017.

It may be recalled that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had a few weeks ago met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the SCO nations in Moscow.

● It remains to be seen whether Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan represents his country at the other SCO meeting on November 30

## Move to cut defence officers' pension is betrayal: Congress

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

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

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

According to the government's new proposal, only those officers who have spent more than 35 years in the armed forces shall be entitled to a 'full pension', which will demor-

alise the armed forces, he said.

The Congress Chief Spokesperson claimed that the reality was that 90 per cent of the army officers retire before 35 years of service and in such a situation, the government is "hatching a conspiracy" to deny 90 per cent of army officers their full pension.

He alleged that the decision had hurt the morale of the armed forces and added that the Modi government habitually seeks votes on the sacrifice of brave soldiers and on "fake nationalism". It has become the first regime in the country's history to "steal the pension" and alternate career choice of those officers who protect our motherland.

"This Diwali, PM Modi

exhorted the nation to light a diya for our soldiers, but has ensured darkness in their lives by attempting to reduce their pension by half. If this is not BJP's 'fake nationalism', then what is it," he questioned.

"How can the government change the service condition and modify the terms of service of military officers with 'back date'," he asked.

Mr Surjewala also accused the government of not serving the interests of the armed forces, as it did not implement 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP), withdrew the much deserved 'Non Functional Utility' (NFU) benefits and did not provide full protective gear to armed forces on the borders.

## India protests Pak move on Kartarpur

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

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

Asking Islamabad to

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

The Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara—now located close to the Indo-Pak border in Pakistani Punjab—is the site where the first Guru of the Sikhs and founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak had spent the last years of his life in the 16th century AD.

Both countries had inaugurated the Kartarpur Sahib corridor on both sides of the border a year ago.

## LAW EXISTS TO CONTROL MEDIA, CENTRE TELLS HC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

The Union government on Friday submitted in the Bombay High Court that there was no void in the existing legal framework on regulating the content broadcast by the electronic media and adequate mechanism existed for the purpose.

The statement was made in the PILs that has sought restrictions on the media, especially electronic media from covering actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

Additional solicitor general Anil Singh told the court that "there existed adequate statutory as well as self-regulatory mechanism for the media, including TV news channels, to follow while printing or broadcasting any news items."

## COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



**Aries:** Manage your time, resources and work to balance professional and family commitments. You are likely to have the competitive edge.



**Taurus:** Share responsibility, delegate and focus on the big picture at work. Go through all information carefully before taking action. Finances are good.



**Gemini:** Minor differences with family are likely. Study all options and clarify doubts before taking up job offers. You may get to pace work projects.



**Cancer:** Build alliances with like-minded colleagues to express your views more strongly. Consider long-term possibilities if you're looking for a job change.



**Leo:** You will be focussed on work-related activities. You may hurt your family's sentiments. Be careful when accepting job offers, weigh options carefully.



**Virgo:** Check your expenses and guard against impulse purchases. Focus on immediate tasks to get things done and keep worries at bay. You may start an independent business or a challenging area of work.

## You share your b'day with

Kamal Haasan, an Indian actor, film director, screenwriter, producer and politician who works primarily in Tamil cinema. He has also so worked in Malayalam, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada and Bengali films.



**Libra:** Weigh pros and cons before taking up a new project or job. Don't yield to emotional pressure in financial decisions. Business expansion plans will succeed if you attend to details and avoid risks.



**Scorpio:** Your over-sensitivity may make you irritable with loved ones. You will find ways to tackle challenges at work. Your optimism will encourage others.



**Sagittarius:** Be open to an objective analysis and accept suggestions from associates. You are in the spotlight and will get others to follow your lead.



**Capricorn:** Be careful while making financial decisions. Use your communication skills to convince people. Family and career obligations may clash.

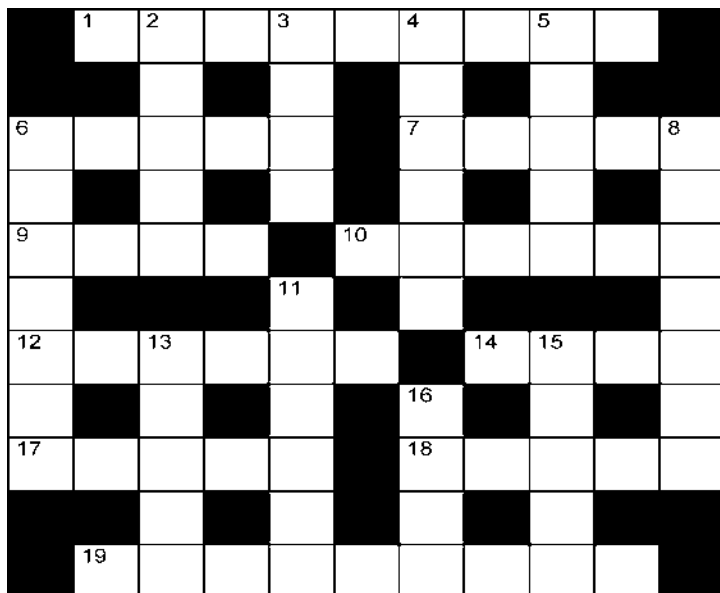


**Aquarius:** Set aside time to rest. Chance encounters could lead to interesting information. Health will be good but you need to focus on lifestyle changes.



**Pisces:** Effective communication will aid in sorting out work related issues and reviewing decisions if needed. If you feel like you are running on reserve, buck up, the last desperate push will see you through. Singles need to be careful.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

1. Off (9)  
6. Black and white animal (5)  
7. Roman love god (5)  
9. Light beams (4)  
10. Whipped raw (6)  
12. Door-blasting bomb (6)  
14. Loyal (4)  
17. Bole (5)  
18. Flatland (5)  
19. Clicking beat-counter (9)

## Down

2. Pester (5)  
3. Blacken with heat (4)  
4. Site (6)  
5. Drain (5)  
6. Low balcony wall (7)  
8. Nude god (anag) (7)  
11. Agent (6)  
13. Ceasefire (5)  
15. Domain (5)  
16. Ready for business (4)

## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

- Across: 1. Compress, 7. Loose, 8. Suave, 9. Castle, 12. Seam, 12. Urge, 14. Lethal, 17. Tamed, 18. Tango, 19. Stretchy.  
Down: 1. Cross, 2. Muesli, 3. Russo, 4. Stale, 5. Fluctuate, 6. Vermilion, 11. Septic, 13. Gamut, 15. Handy, 16. Edge.

## Word Mine

K  
R  
T  
I  
T  
E  
S  
R  
C

TODAY'S RATINGS: 14 AVERAGE; 16 GOOD; 18 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used only once.

Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

Dealer: West  
Vulnerable: East West  
North: 2NT  
South: 3NT  
West: Pass  
North: Pass  
East: Pass  
South: Pass  
Declarer drew trumps ending in hand

## jumble

ONGIG  
GOYFG  
BRUYGB  
UUTFER

Print your answer here:

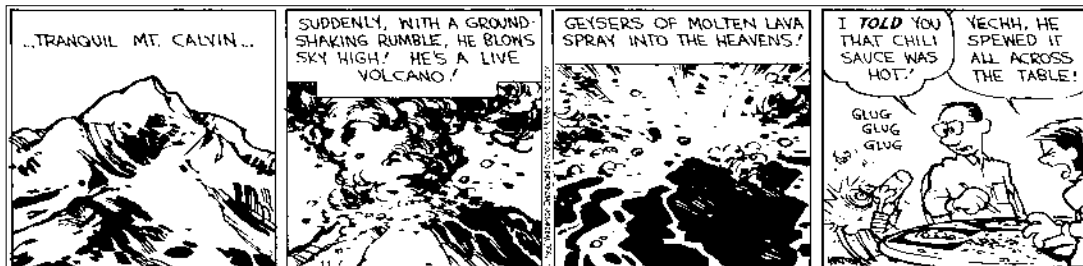
Saturday's Jumble Answer: Don't claim to be able to invent telegraphs because of its ability to — "VISUAL-EYES"



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

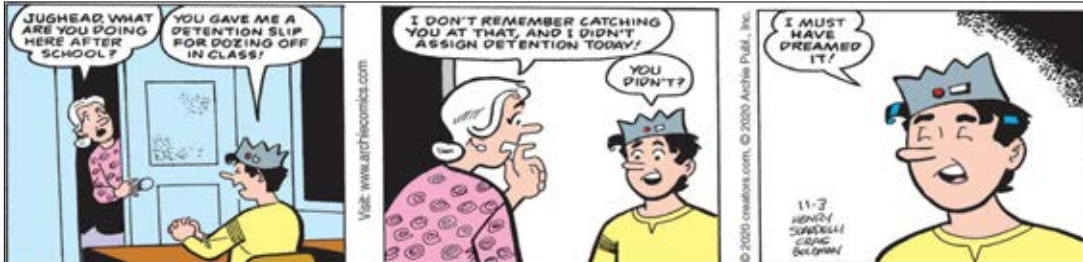
## CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



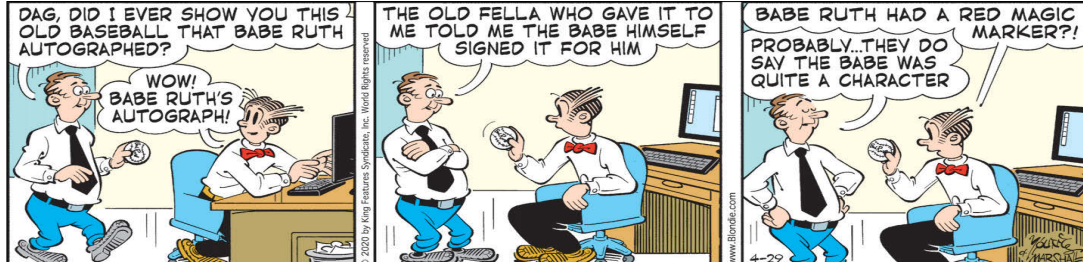
## THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



## ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli &amp; Craig Boldman



## BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



## ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



## TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



bridge  
PHILLIP  
ALDER

## IN A DUPLICATE THE OVERTRICKS MATTER

Over the last seven or eight months, thousands of people have played online, many in duplicates at Bridge Base Online. It has been a low-pressure way for newcomers to meet duplicate.

Say you are North-South. Your score on each board is compared with the scores of all the other North-Souths. For each pair you beat, whether by 10 points or 1,000, you receive one point. For every tie,

you get half a point.

As you can tell, overtricks are important. In today's deal, most Souths played in two hearts. What should have happened after West led the heart jack?

South's two-heart intervention conventionally showed both majors.

West, with an unenviable lead, decided that a trump was less likely to cost a trick than anything else.

Declarer drew trumps ending in hand

and played a low spade. After West won with his king, what did he do next?

Just exiting with a spade did not feel right, though it would have been safe here. Instead, West hoped his partner had a minor-suit king, and he wondered which one.

Well, East told him at trick one by playing his heart 10, the higher heart showing a useful holding in the higher-ranking of the two minors. So, West

led his diamond five. After taking the trick, what did East do next?

He realized that it was time to shift to clubs, and, hoping for three tricks there, he correctly led the jack.

Minus 110 was a near-top for East-West.

Employ useless trumps to send suit-preference signals — if your partner is watching!

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## SHORT TAKES

BELGIUM SEIZES  
11.5 TONNES OF  
COCAINE IN SCRAP

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

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

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

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

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

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

NZ'S ARDERN  
SWORN IN FOR  
SECOND TERM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VEGANISM NOT  
REQUIRED TO FIX  
CLIMATE CHANGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

President was making unfounded accusations on polls being stolen from him

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

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

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

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

STORM ETA  
KILLS OVER 50  
IN GUATEMALA

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

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

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

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



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

GRETA RECYCLES  
TRUMP JIBE, ASKS  
HIM TO 'CHILL'

London/Washington, Nov. 6: Swedish teen environmental activist Greta Thunberg on Friday mocked Donald Trump in his own words, and urged him to "chill" after the US president, increasingly alone in his fight against what he says is widespread election "fraud", his oldest sons declared their filial loyalty.

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election. The inflammatory tweet was framed by some, including the New York Post, as a clear sign of growing panic in the Trump camp over Joe Biden's chances of winning the White House.

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

Trump sons stand by their  
father's election claims

Donald Trump Jr.

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

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

He did not provide any evidence of the cheating he alleged was going on. "It's time to clean up this mess & stop looking like a

FACEBOOK SHUTS  
DOWN 'STOP THE  
STEAL' GROUP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paris, Nov. 6: Easy-to-remove barcodes and QR codes used to tag everything from T-shirts to car engines may soon be replaced by a tagging system based on DNA and invisible to the naked eye, scientists said Thursday.

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

In an article published in Nature Communications, researchers at the University of Washington and Microsoft said that the molecular tagging system, called Porcupine, is — unlike most alternatives — cost-effective.

"Using DNA for tagging objects has been out of reach in the past because it is expensive and time consuming to write and read, and requires expensive lab equipment," lead author and a Washington University doctoral student, Katie Doroschak said.

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

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

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

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

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

lead author said.

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

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

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

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

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

US registers new  
Covid record with  
1.2 lakh +ve cases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BORIS APPEALS  
FOR UNITY AS  
ENGLAND LOCKS

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

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

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

CHINA BANS  
ARRIVALS FROM  
FRANCE

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

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

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

Taiwan invited to  
key WHO meet

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

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

But while the World Health Assembly (WHA) is expected to focus heavily on international coordi-

nation of the pandemic response, one international actor will not be present.

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

But critics say this does not make sense.

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

8 held for Vienna  
hit had prior cases

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

and killed four people in a popular nightlife area of central Vienna on Monday night, police arrested a total of 16 men.

Four of them had been convicted for terrorism-related offences, two for violent crime offences, and two for an attempted "honour killing", Interior Minister Karl Nehammer told a press conference Thursday. — AFP

## COLLECTOR'S | DELIGHT Auctioneer finds memorabilia pristine in sealed packaging

## Couple find Star Wars toys worth \$5.25 L



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

packaging.

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

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

"We had a huge amount

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

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

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

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

for £1,400.

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

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

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

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

**Government of Tamil Nadu**  
**Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department**

**TENDER NOTICE No. A7/2347/2020 Dated: 05.11.2020**

**FORM OF CONTRACT : ITEM RATE (Two Cover System)**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Additional Collector (D) / Project Director, DRDA, Cuddalore District invites e-bids (Two Cover System) for **Strengthening of Roads under TNRRIS - 2020 - 21 (80% CGF Grant) Scheme** as detailed below:

S.No	Name of Work	Approximate Value	Period of Contract
1.	<b>Strengthening of Roads under TNRRIS - 2020 - 21 (80% CGF Grant) Scheme</b>	<b>Rs. 29.00 Lakhs to Rs.67.49 Lakhs</b>	<b>6 Months</b>

1. For details, visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

2. The e-bid document can also be downloaded free of cost from **06.11.2020**

3. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the estimated value.

4. Important dates:

1. Last Date and Time for downloading of e-Bid document **21.11.2020 upto 3.00 p.m.**

2. Last Date and time for online submission of the Bid document **21.11.2020 upto 3.00 pm**

3. Date and Time of online opening of the Bid Document **21.11.2020 at 4.00 pm**

5. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

DIPRI/4169/TENDER/2020

Addl. Collector (D) / Project Director,  
DRDA, Cuddalore.



# DECCAN Chronicle

7 NOVEMBER 2020

## Don't stretch CBI, put onus on police instead

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

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

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

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

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

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

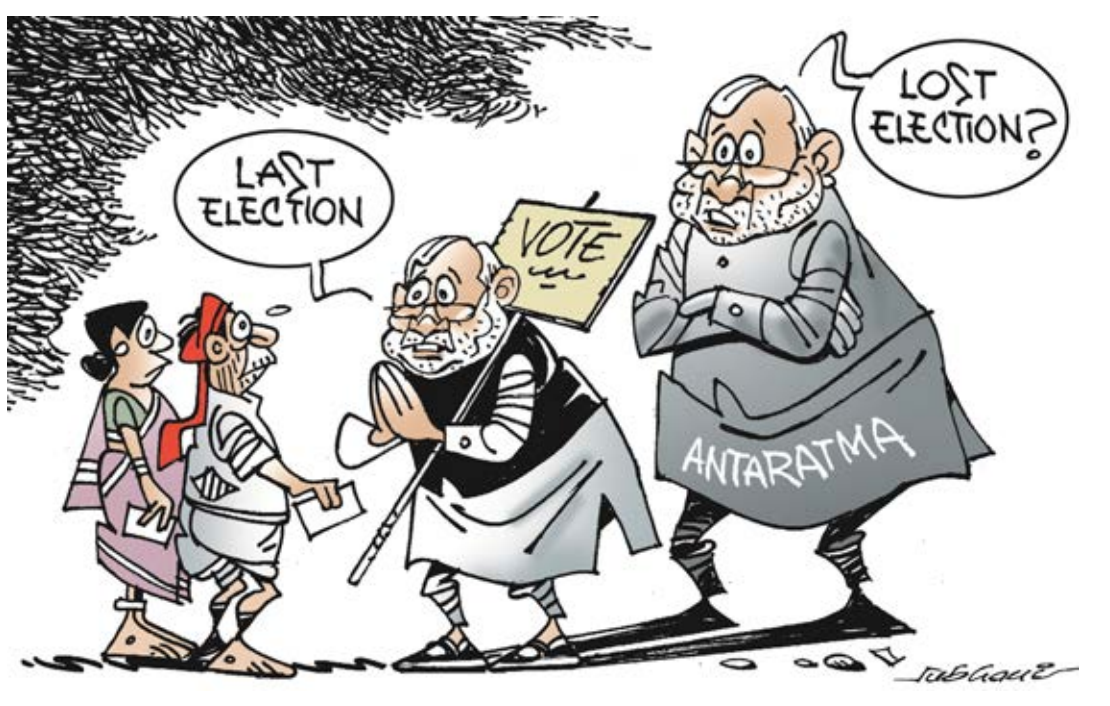
## Scientific shout-out

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

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

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

Subhani



## A divided America is battling for its 'soul'



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

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

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

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

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

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

in any electoral challenge. The states of America each have their detailed procedures for electoral challenges and these will have to be pursued in the courts of that particular state.

Donald Trump's tantrumic determination to throw the toys out of the democratic pram has made him tweet several demands to even stop the counting of ballots. He has been authoritatively informed that that won't happen. Every last vote, personal or postal, will be counted and if legal, it will be honoured.

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

The present election may hang in a similar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gentle reader, democracy requires you to choose your side!

## LETTERS

### RIGHT MOVE

The proposal of the Centre to bring a lifetime ban on persons convicted for crimes from seeking public office through elections is a right step in cleansing society and the political climate of the country. Law abiding people with limited means fear and hesitate to contest against persons with muscle and money power and criminal background. If honesty and straightforwardness were to be restored in public life it is very essential that persons with dubious reputation are barred from entering public life permanently. In order to prevent their rule through proxies, close relatives of convicted persons should also be banned from entering public/ political offices through elections.

V. Rakesh Kaushik, Chennai

### DISGRACE TO THE US

PROBABLY THIS is the first time in the history of the United States of America, the oldest democracy of the world, an incumbent President has gone to the extent of calling his country's election process a fraud and initiating legal proceedings in the Supreme Court to stay put in the White House. Though Joe Biden with the lead appears to win the race, it looks as if Trump is confident of winning the case in his favour with the present conservative majority in the tallest court of the country. With his temperamental, quixotic and selfish behaviour, Trump has brought disgrace to a country that has only witnessed its former Presidents relinquishing their office and handing over charge to the next President-elect gracefully without a murmur, thereby upholding the cherished traditions of their nation.

Tharcus S. Fernando, Chennai

### BAN CRACKERS

RAJASTHAN, WEST Bengal, Orissa and Maharashtra have banned fire crackers which reveals the public concern of the governments. On the other hand, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has written to the chief ministers of Orissa and Rajasthan to revoke the ban stating that the ban would affect the livelihood of around eight lakh workers. The corona infection rate has been reduced by the government and it involved spending several crores of rupees of tax-payers' money. The CM's decision is immature as medical experts have said that smoke emanating from crackers would weaken the respiratory system. It would be in the interest of the country if a blanket ban is imposed throughout India.

M.C. Vijay Shankar, Chennai

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

Edward Lucas



## Did Russia try to undermine confidence in US democracy?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By arrangement with the Spectator



## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	41,893.06 1.34
Nifty 50	12,263.55 1.18
S&P 500*	3,511.17 0.02
Dollar (₹)	74.19 0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.54 -0.71
Euro (₹)	87.86 0.00
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,717▲791 1.52
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.52 -1.41
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.871 0.013
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.827 0.049

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Forex reserves up \$183 mn to record \$560.71 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose \$183 million to touch a record high of \$560.715 billion in the week ended October 30, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended Oct. 23, the reserves had jumped \$5.412 billion to \$560.532 billion. Foreign currency assets rose by \$815 million to \$518.339 billion. Gold reserves declined \$601 million in the reporting week to \$36.259 billion.

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



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

## Thomas Cook, SOTC to hold holiday roadshows

Travel services firm Thomas Cook India and its group firm SOTC Travel announced the first physical holiday roadshows since the lockdown. The series of customer-centric roadshows in association with Accor and Marriott hotels will be held on Sunday across key source markets—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Pune, Kochi, Jaipur and Baroda, the travel firm said.

## SEs will have to resolve investors' complaints in 15 days

Markets regulator Sebi said stock exchanges will have to ensure that investor grievances are resolved within 15 working days after receiving such complaints. The move is aimed at strengthening the investor grievance redressal mechanism, the Sebi said in a circular. The Sebi said that Investor Grievance Redressal Committee would not dispose the complaint citing lack of information or complexity of case.



# RBI deputy governor Rao calls for tighter oversight Big NBFCs need to scale down or become banks

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

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

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

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



## BANK CREDIT RISES 5.06%: RBI DATA

Mumbai, Nov. 6: Bank credit grew by 5.06 per cent to Rs 103.39 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 10.12 per cent to Rs 142.92 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 23, according to the RBI data. In the fortnight ended October 25, 2019, bank credit had stood at Rs 98.40 lakh crore, and the deposit was Rs 129.78 lakh crore. In the previous fortnight ended October 9, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.66 per cent and deposits by 10.55 per cent.

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

the same month previous year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over the years, the NBFC segment has grown

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

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

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

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

# LIC comfortable with unified regulator for financial sector

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

M R Kumar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Sensex, Nifty near all-time highs

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

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

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

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

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

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

BSE's market capitalisation was back to pre-covid

days touching over Rs 163.60 lakh crore.

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

# Mid-sized banks report higher Q2 profit as asset quality improves

FC BANKING BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

A host of public sector banks that declared their second quarter results on Friday reported higher profits on improved asset quality and operational metrics. Fresh slippages were lower in the absence of lumpy corporate non-performing assets. Even while the bad loan formation was lower, all the banks shored up their provisioning buffers before the asset-quality onslaught begins in the December quarter.

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported a net profit of Rs 148 crore for the September quarter as bad loans and provisions declined compared to a net loss of Rs 2,254 crore in July-September 2019.

Bank of India (BoI) reported over two-fold jump in September quarter consolidated net profit at Rs 543.47 crore, against Rs 257.31 crore in the year-ago quarter, as bad assets came down.

Union Bank of India reported 55.3 per cent

jump in its net profit at Rs 517 crore in the second quarter compared to a net profit of Rs 333 crore a year ago.

Similarly, Central Bank of India reported over 20 per cent rise in its net profit at Rs 161 crore for the second quarter compared to a net profit of Rs 134 crore a year ago.

There was a substantial improvement in IOB's asset quality as the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) plunged to 13.04 per cent of the gross advances as of September 30, 2020 from 20 per cent at the end of September 2019. In value terms, gross NPAs or bad loans fell to Rs 17,659.63 crore as against Rs 28,673.95 crore a year ago. Total fresh slippages (other debits to existing NPA accounts) for September quarter were contained at Rs 292 crore, the lender said. Provisions for bad loans and contingencies fell to Rs 1,192.55 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 2,996.04 crore set aside in the year-ago quarter.

BOI's gross non-perform-

ing assets fell to 13.79 per cent of gross advances as on September 30, 2020 from 16.31 per cent by the year-ago period. In value terms, gross NPAs, or bad loans, stood at Rs 56,231.76 crore against Rs 61,475.60 crore earlier. However, provisions for bad loans increased to Rs 2,133.87 crore during the quarter from Rs 1,452.09 crore parked aside for the year-ago same quarter.

Central Bank of India's also improved on its bad assets ratio with the gross NPAs falling to 17.36 per cent of gross advances by the end of September 2020, from 19.89 per cent by the end of September 2019. Provisions for bad loans and contingencies, however, rose to Rs 1,104.92 crore from Rs 791.33 crore. The provision coverage ratio also improved to 82.24 per cent from 76.68 per cent.

UBI's gross NPAs ratio improved to 14.71 per cent of the gross advances in the September quarter from 15.75 per cent a year ago. The provision coverage ratio improved to 83.16 from 74.26 per cent.

# Pandemic blow to Adani's \$4 bn Mundra chemical complex plan

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Global economic uncertainties unleashed by the pandemic have forced Adani Group, German chemical company BASF and two other partners, to put on hold setting up of an ambitious \$4 billion chemical complex near Adani Group's Mundra port facility with access to renewable energy sources, BASF said.

"The global economic uncertainties caused by the pandemic have led the partners to review the timing for undertaking this investment. Despite all attempts to optimise the scope and the configuration, the project has been put on hold," BASF said in a statement.

"The partners remain convinced about the strong fundamentals represented by the Indian market and agreed to periodically explore market conditions and discuss any opportunity that may arise over time," BASF added.

The stalled project was conceived in early 2019 during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit and was aimed at

reducing India's dependence on imported petrochemicals.

The other two partners are Borealis, a European company specialising in base chemicals, fertilisers and the mechanical recycling of plastics and the United Arab Emirates' Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), a diversified energy and petrochemicals groups.

A four-party memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on October 4, 2019 among Adani Group, BASF, Adnoc and Borealis AG and they had recently completed a joint feasibility study for a chemical complex in Mundra.

"BASF has large exposure in Germany and China, they wanted to move to India from China but due to the pandemic it

is put on hold. Also, they had shut down a plant in Germany which has been restarted now, so they have delayed the India project, but they will come back," said Kishore P. Ostwal, chairman, CNI Research.

BASF had earlier in May end 2020 kicked off the piling work of \$10 billion investment project in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, China, to produce engineering plastics and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) to serve the increasing needs of various growth industries in the southern China market and throughout Asia.

Adani Enterprises shares closed 0.26 per cent down at Rs 351.75 on the BSE on Friday while Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone gained 0.64 per cent. BASF India shares closed 0.48 per cent up at Rs 1491.75.

VIDEO | NATION

Only growing market among top 3 globally; Xiaomi numero uno

# India leaps ahead in smartphone market

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

Despite all the Covid blues, smartphone sales grew 17 per cent in the September quarter, making India the only growing market among the top 3. Xiaomi remained the top seller in the Indian market, though other phone-makers reported double-digit growth during the quarter.

As a record 54.3 million units were shipped during the quarter, the smartphone market grew 16.50 per cent against 46.6 million units in the same quarter last year. India was the only smartphone market in the top 3 to report a growth, as both Chinese and the US sales

declined in the quarter, according to IDC.

The reopening of the country with fewer restrictions, pent-up demand in July-August and channel stocking in September to meet the upcoming Diwali quarter demand helped smartphone sales.

Online sales share reached an all-time high of 48 per cent, growing by a healthy 24 per cent. In contrast, offline channels registered a moderate 11 per cent growth. IDC expects growth to continue for the online channel, driven by affordability initiatives and pricing aggression during the festive months, even as supply starts to normalise for the offline channels.



The average selling price declined 2 per cent during the quarter, with 84 per cent of shipments falling in the sub-\$200 range. Most sales in this category were driven by e-learning requirements. Though the mid-range segment of phones valued between \$200 and \$500 declined, the premium segment witnessed a strong growth of 91 per cent.

"IDC expects the low-end

and mid-range segment to continue being the volume driver. As consumer sentiment improves in the next few quarters, upgrades and affordable 5G offerings in the \$200-\$500 segment is expected to drive growth," said Upasana Joshi, associate research manager, client devices, IDC India.

Xiaomi continued to lead for over three years, shipping 13.5 million units in the September quarter. Xiaomi witnessed a growth of 7 per cent and ended the quarter with a market share of 27.1 per cent. Xiaomi's Redmi 8A Dual, Redmi 8, and Redmi Note 9 were the top three selling models.

Clocking a growth of 38 per cent to 12.1 million

units, Samsung held 18.8 per cent market share. Vivo stood at the third position, with a market share of 15.2 per cent and shipments of 9 million units, growing by 27 per cent. Realme and Oppo too witnessed 19 per cent and 11 per cent growth, respectively.

Feature phone sales dipped 30 per cent to 25 million units. This brought down overall mobile phone shipment by 4 per cent.

According to IDC, the healthy growth in shipments is expected to continue through October and early November during the festive months. However, with a weak first half, IDC expects 2020 to see a low single-digit decline in sales.

## PERFORMANCE STREET

### BHEL REPORTS ₹552 CR CONSOLIDATED LOSS

BHEL reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 552.38 crore in the September quarter, due to lower revenues, against a consolidated net profit of Rs 120.95 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell to Rs 3,793.13 crore from Rs 6,359.68 crore.

### VEDANTA Q2 PROFIT SLUMPS 62% TO ₹824 CR

Vedanta reported 61.8 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 824 crore for the September quarter against Rs 2,158 crore in the year-ago period. Income declined to Rs 21,744 crore from Rs 22,814 crore.

### MRF REPORTS 79% RISE IN PROFIT AT ₹411 CR

MRF Ltd reported a 79 per cent jump in consolidated profit from continuing operations at Rs 410.92 crore for Q2FY21 against Rs 228.96 crore in Q2FY20. Consolidated revenue stood at Rs 4,244.43 crore against Rs 4,007.63 crore.

### VOLTAS Q2 PROFIT FALLS 26% AT ₹80 CRORE

Voltas reported a 25.74 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 79.66 crore for September quarter against Rs 107.28 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income at Rs 1,650.80 crore was up 10.45 per cent versus Rs 1,494.56 crore.

### ADITYA BIRLA FASHION LOSS WIDENS TO ₹188 CR

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail's consolidated net loss widened to Rs 188.25 crore in the second quarter compared to a net loss of Rs 2.35 crore in July-September 2019. Total income declined 49.60 per cent to Rs 1,171.32 crore from Rs 2,324.35 crore.



## SHORT TAKES

## Covid at home, Gambhir isolated

**New Delhi:** Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has gone into self-isolation, awaiting a Covid-19 test result, after revealing that someone at his home has contracted the virus. The World Cup-winning former batsman is currently a Lok Sabha MP from East Delhi. "Due to a case at home, I have been in isolation awaiting my Covid test result. Urge everyone to follow all guidelines & not take this lightly. Stay safe," Gambhir tweeted.

The 39-year-old represented India in 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20 Internationals. He made his foray into politics ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 by joining the Bhartiya Janata Party. Delhi recorded over 6,700 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, pushing the infection tally in the city to over 4.16 lakh with 66 more fatalities, the highest in around four months. — PTI

## Ailing Maradona still in hospital

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

## Ningombam is Hockey India prez

**New Delhi:** Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was on Friday elected unopposed as the Hockey India (HI) president, taking over from Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad who was asked to demit office by the sports ministry for violating the National Sports Code's tenure guidelines. Ahmad, however, remains in the federation after being elected unopposed for the senior vice-president's post at HI's Congress and Elections here. Access to the meeting through video conferencing facility was made available for member units. — PTI

## Nadal make Paris Masters quarters

**Paris:** Rafael Nadal battled past Australian Jordan Thompson in straight sets to reach the Paris Masters quarterfinals on Thursday, as Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of securing an ATP Tour Finals debut. Top seed Nadal got the better of Thompson 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) to set up a last-eight clash with fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta. World number 61 Thompson missed a set point to force a decider in his first meeting with the 20-time Grand Slam champion. — AFP

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

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

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

## TENNIS

**ATP Paris Masters:** Semifinal from 6.30 pm on Sony Six

## FOOTBALL

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

**Italian League:** Cagliari vs Sampdoria from 7.30 pm; Benevento vs Spezia from 10.30 pm; Parma vs Fiorentina from 11.5 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

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## Williamstuns RCB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

— BCCI

## SCORECARD

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

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

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

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

## Bumrah prefers Trophy to wickets

**Dubai, Nov. 6:** Mumbai Indians pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah says he is reaping the reward for not worrying about results and just focusing on executing the role assigned to him by the team.

Bumrah was adjudged the 'Player of the Match' for returning with figures of 4-1-14-4 as four-time champions MI reached yet another IPL final with a 57-run win over Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier here on Thursday.

"I am okay with not getting wickets and winning the tournament, I have been given a role so I just want to execute that role," Bumrah, who regained the purple cap with a tally of 27 wickets, said in the post-match presentation.

"I am always ready when the captain wants me to bowl. I don't focus on the



Jasprit Bumrah

end result. When I have done that it's always gone downhill," he said.

Bumrah had delivered a perfect yorker to get rid of in-form Shikhar Dhawan (0) for his first wicket.

"Opening yorker was really important. I decided I will do that early in the game and when it comes off it's always nice," Bumrah added.

## Rohit all praise for team

**Dubai, Nov. 6:** A jubilant Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said his team produced an "absolutely perfect" performance to make the IPL finals with a 57-run decimation of Delhi Capitals in the first Qualifier here.

Mumbai posted a massive 200/5 on the board, courtesy half-centuries by Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and some late hitting by Hardik Pandya. They then restricted Delhi to 143/8 with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (4/14) wreaking havoc along with Trent Boult (2/9).

"You have got to give credit to our guys, the way they turned up at the game, putting runs on the board, and getting those early breakthroughs was so much important," Rohit said, lauding his teammates after they beat Delhi Capitals.

"Our bowling has been

## RAINING SIXES

## ISHAN KISHAN SLAMS 700TH SIX OF IPL-13:

● Mumbai Indians' Ishan Kishan smashed the 700th six in the 13th edition of Indian Premier League. The third six off pacer Anrich Nortje during his unbeaten 55-run knock against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier at Dubai on Thursday night (November 5) was the 700th in 113th innings of 57th match in this tournament

● Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler smashed the 700th six in the 11th edition of Indian Premier League, against Kolkata Knight Riders at Kolkata on May 15. This was also the fastest 700 sixes in the history of IPL.

● As far as teams are concerned Mumbai Indians have hit the most of total sixes that the tournament has seen thus far, eight players from the Mumbai Indians franchise have contributed 130 sixes of the 706 sixes in IPL 2020.

● Forty four Indian batsmen hit 379 sixes while 34 overseas batsmen smashed 327 sixes in a total of 706.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

terrific through the tournament; they have put pressure on the opposition right from the beginning. It was good to see the overall performance of the team, the way we played today was absolutely perfect," the skipper added.

He praised Yadav, saying whenever Mumbai have lost an early wicket, he has taken the pressure away from the team.

"Surya has been in terrific form and is a very crucial player for us at number three," Rohit further added.



Arsenal's Eddie Nketiah (second from right) and Nicolas Pepe (right) watch as the ball goes into the net after Molde's Sherif Sinyan (second from left) scored an own goal during their UEFA Europa League Group 'B' match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday. Arsenal won 4-1.

— AFP

## Supernovas in a must-win game

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

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

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

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

the good work against a strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur.

The southpaw will be aiming to showcase her skills and expect her batting unit to step up in a crunch encounter.

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

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

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

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

— PTI

## S. AFRICAN PACER MORKEL IN BIG BASH AS AN AUSSIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

— AFP

## Playing too long in bubble tough

**Dubai, Nov. 6:** India skipper Virat Kohli feels the "repetitive" nature of being in a bio-bubble can be mentally tough on cricketers and length of tours will have to be considered accordingly if playing in a protected environment becomes a norm in a world scarred by Covid-19.

The Indian team departs on a long tour of Australia right after the IPL which is currently on in the United Arab Emirates, moving into one bio-bubble from another.

"It's repetitive, it's not as tough when the group of guys is amazing, which we have. But it does get difficult at times because it is repetitive," Kohli said.

Most squad members are part of the IPL and have been in the UAE since August. The Australia tour will stretch to the new year, leaving the players on the road for more than four months, that too with little connection to the outside world.

Cricket is only being organised in bio-bubbles amid the pandemic and the situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

**These things will have to be considered. Like what length of the tournament or series one is going to play and what impact it will have on players mentally to stay in a similar environment for 80 days and not do anything different.**

— VIRAT KOHLI on playing regularly in bio-bubble

Kohli said the scheduling has to factor in mental fatigue a bio-bubble can cause to the players.

"These things will have to be considered. Like what length of the tournament or series one is going to play and what impact it will have on players mentally to stay in a similar environment for 80 days and not do anything different.

"Or have space to just go and see family or small things like that. These things have to be thought about seriously. At the end of the day, you want the players to be in the best state mentally," Kohli added.

— PTI

## Kane shines for Tottenham; Arsenal are all guns blazing

**Paris, Nov. 6:** Harry Kane scored his 200th goal for Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday as he helped fire Spurs to a 3-1 Europa League win at Ludogorets, while 10-man Benfica came back from two goals down to snatch a last-gasp 3-3 draw with Rangers.

England captain Kane opened the scoring for Jose Mourinho's side with just 12 minutes on the clock when he headed home Lucas Moura's corner to bring up his double century of Tottenham goals in his 300th match for the club. Kane then turned provider for Moura in the 32nd minute when he flashed a perfect low cross for the Brazilian to tap home before being substituted at half-time.

Claudiu Keseru pulled one back for the Bulgarians five minutes after the break but Giovanni Lo Celso made sure of

the win to draw Spurs level on six points with Group 'J' leaders Royal Antwerp ahead of their match with LASK later on Thursday.

Lille's Yusuf Yazici brought AC Milan and Zlatan Ibrahimovic down to earth with a bump on Thursday with all three goals in a 3-0 Europa League win over the seven-time European champions.

Yazici's goals put Lille, who are unbeaten in all competitions this season, one point ahead of Milan who lost for the first time since football returned from the first coronavirus lockdown.

Arsenal also maintained their 100 per cent record with a 4-1 win over Molde of Norway. Nicolas Pepe and Joe Willock found the back of the net for Arsenal after Haugen and Sherif scored own goals that dug the grave for Molde and

gave the Gunners an early lead with much tolling.

Rangers were poised to make it three wins from three in Group 'D' thanks to an Diogo Goncalves own goal and further strikes from Glen Kamara and Alfredo Morelos which put Steven Gerrard's side 3-1 ahead.

But despite losing Nicolas Otamendi to a straight red card with less than 20 minutes gone, two-time European champions Benfica fought back and in added time levelled when Darwin Nunez raced through and slotted home past Allan McGregor.

Meanwhile, Roma took control of Group A with a thumping 5-0 win over Cluj that put them three points clear of the Romanians ahead of the later match between Young Boys and CSKA Sofia.

— AFP