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Mail-in votes propel Biden closer to win

Washington, Nov. 6: Democrat Joe Biden was on the brink of winning the White House on Friday after taking the lead in the potentially decisive state of Pennsylvania but President Donald Trump showed no signs of being ready to concede.

Pennsylvania, and its 20 electoral college votes, would be enough to vault Biden, 77, past the magic number of 270 votes in the 538-seat electoral college, which determines the presidency.

With tens of thousands of mail-in votes remaining to be counted in Pennsylvania, many from Democratic areas, Biden opened up a 9,000-vote lead over Trump, according to real-time state election results.

Biden has at least 253 electoral votes and is leading in three other states — Arizona (10 Electoral College votes), Georgia (16) and Nevada (six) — where ballots from Tuesday's bitterly contested election continue to be counted.

His margin in Georgia thinned to 1,096, and the US state said it will recount the votes. "With a margin that small, there will be a recount in Georgia," Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger told reporters in Atlanta. However, a recount will have little bearing if Pennsylvania goes to Biden but could prolong the counting process.

Raffensperger, the top elected official overseeing elections, said that the presidential contest in the state "remains too close to call." The final tally in Georgia at this point "has huge implications for the entire country," Raffensperger said.

"The stakes are high and emotions are high on all sides. We will not let those debates distract us from our work." He said that Georgia was letting observers from both campaigns watch the counting after Trump, with no evidence, alleged widespread fraud nationwide.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, welcomed what she called the "strong mandate" given to "President-elect Biden."

With a Biden victory looking increasingly likely, the US Secret Service increased its protective bubble around the former vice president, sending an extra squad of agents to his campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, *The Washington Post* reported on Friday.

At the White House on Thursday, Trump spent 17 minutes making incendiary statements about the country's democratic process of a sort never before heard from a US President. According to him, Democrats were using "illegal votes" to "steal the election." "If you count the legal votes, I easily win. They're trying to rig an election."

— Agencies

TS may get 400 more LLB seats

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC

HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

There is likely to be an increase of 360 to 400 seats in law colleges for the LLB courses and about 60 seats for LLM for the upcoming academic session.

Prof. G.B. Reddy, TS Lawcet and PGLCET convener, told *Deccan*

Chronicle: "Two colleges are likely to come up in Hyderabad. They have applied for the five-year course, with 120 seats each."

He said the state government will have to seek permission for these seats from the Bar Council.

He added that Vishwa Bharati College of Law is

likely to add 180 seats in two separate streams of the three-year degree course. In one of the colleges under Satavahana University, there are likely to be 60 seats added to the law degree courses.

These will be in addition to the 3,909 seats in the three-year course in 21 law colleges and 1,340

seats in the five-year law course in 13 colleges that were available last year, said Prof. Reddy.

Earlier, the Lawcet and PGLCET results were announced on Friday by the TS Council for Higher Education where 76.87 per cent or 16,572 candidates qualified, out of the 21,559 who had appeared for the

tests. The first rank for the Lawcet three-year course was secured by Chundi Sneha Sree of Hyderabad, while Samudrala Srinivasa Krishna Panchajanya of Karimnagar secured the first rank in the five-year course.

Tadigopula Pravalika of Rajanna-Sircilla bagged the first rank in PGLCET.

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IN BRIEF

Practice yoga to stay fit: Manuu V-C

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

CM TO HOLD MEET ON FINANCIAL CONDITION TODAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shortage of spares drives up repair cost

Dealers of vehicle parts are taking advantage of the crisis

From Page 1

Dr Shakeel Moinuddin, a resident of Khairatabad, whose two cars got submerged in his apartment's cellar, said, "It has been two weeks since repairs on my car and MUV have been started. I have opted for a local garage, which has quoted a reasonable amount of ₹3 lakh to get both my cars fixed."

At Marvel Motors in Masab Tank, repairs are pending for 50 cars. "Most of these have damaged electrical components, clutch plates and interiors," said Altaf Baig of the garage. He is attributing higher costs of repairs



Mechanics repair vehicles in a motor garage.

to the increased cost of spare parts, which have run into a shortage. Dealers of vehicle parts are taking advantage of the situation.

Shiva Kumar, a driver, said his car remained submerged in four-feet deep water near Raj Bhavan because of sudden flooding.

It has been two weeks since repairs on my car and MUV have been started. I have opted for a local garage, which has quoted a reasonable amount of ₹3 lakh to get both my cars fixed."

— DR SHAKEEL MOINUDDIN
Khairatabad resident

"I was on my way to Somajiguda from Himayatnagar when the car got stuck in water. I left it right there and got it towed to the garage without attempting to start it. Had I done that, the damage would have been much more," Shiva said.

Allow non-Covid cases in Gandhi, docs demand

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Junior doctors in Gandhi Hospital, who have been demanding that the authorities immediately restart all medical services and allow non-Covid-19 patients to arrive for treatment at the institution, on Friday held a demonstration outside the hospital building reiterating their demand.

The Junior Doctors Association (JUDA) of the hospital said even as its members want to save their academics and gain irreplaceable experience by treating patients with different health issues, the continuing focus on treating only Covid-19 cases at the hospital was hurting them academically.

It may be recalled that

● **THE ASSOCIATION** had threatened to strike work from November 1 in support of its demands but put off the stir for 10 days following an assurance from health minister Etala Rajendar that all non-Covid-19 services would be started soon.

● **DR SHASHIDHAR** Reddy, JUDA president for Gandhi Hospital, said junior doctors desperately need to get the experience of treating non-Covid-19 patients.

The association had threatened to strike work from November 1 in support of its demands but put off the stir for 10 days following an assurance from Telangana health minister Etala Rajendar that all

non-Covid-19 services would be started soon.

Dr Shashidhar Reddy, JUDA president for Gandhi Hospital, said that junior doctors desperately need to get the experience of treating non-Covid-19 patients.

"Even if surgical rooms need that have been shut for the past seven months need cleaning up and some repairs, restarting the out-patient department for non-Covid-19 patients requires only cleaning up and fumigation of those facilities. We were hoping that at least these services would begin from November 15 but that appears unlikely," JUDA president said.

The demonstration was held by doctors who were not on duty and no services were impacted, JUDA president said.

GRADUATES GET MORE TIME TO ENROL FOR POLL

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

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

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

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

Social distance violation



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

— P. SURENDRA

Cop assaults, abuses DC photographer on duty

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The constable also attempted to grab the photographer's camera as he tried to intimidate Surendra into submission. After instigating the people against the photographer, the constable continued to insist that Surendra immediately leave the place.

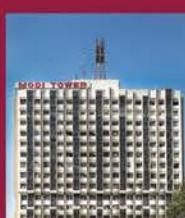
The police appeared to take the line that the photographer's reaction to being told to leave the place was inappropriate and that he could have done better. When enquired, LB Nagar assistant commissioner of police K. Prudhvidhar Rao said the issue had come to his notice and he was inquiring into it.



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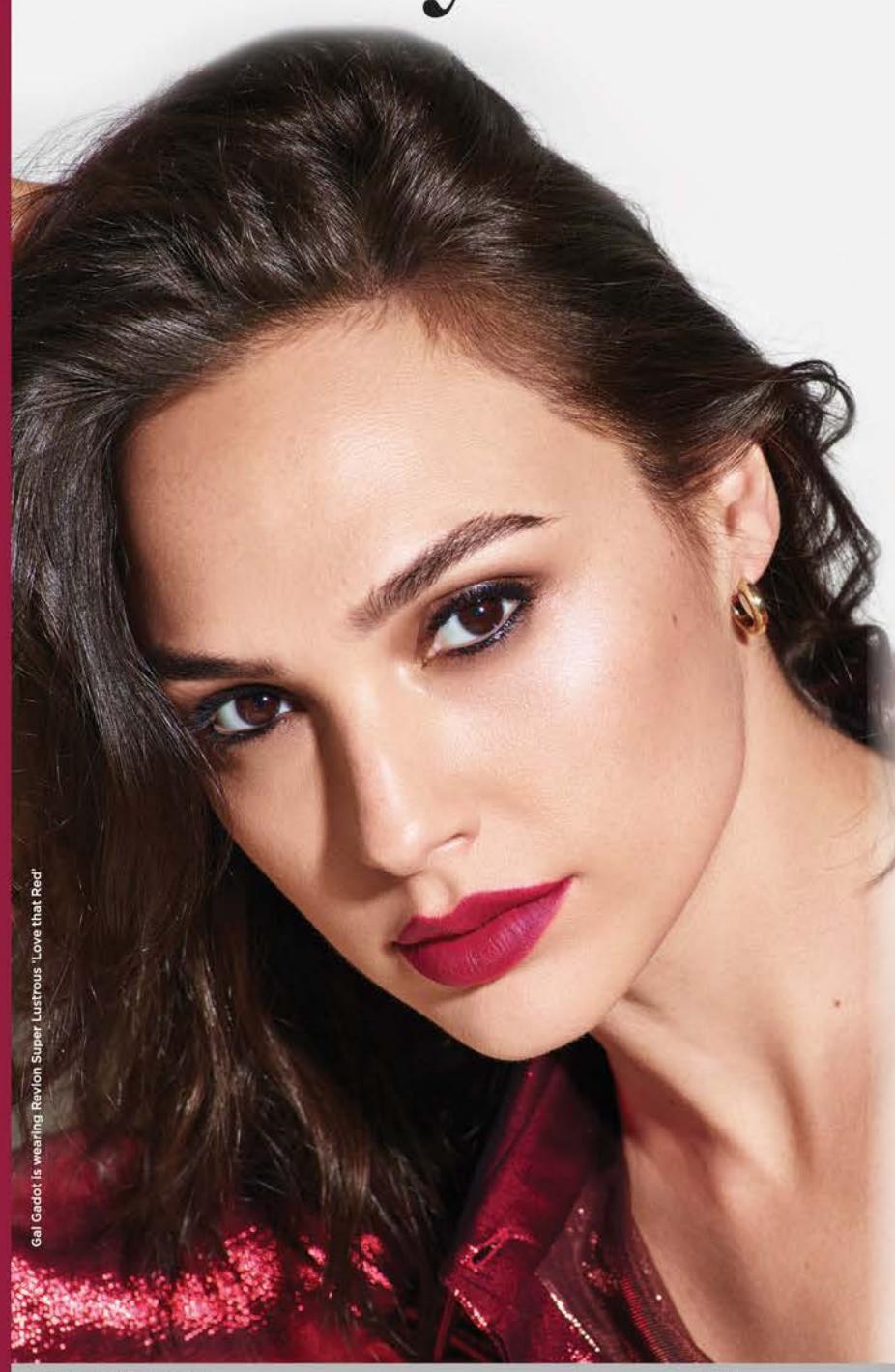
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6 pose as auto co-passengers, rob commuters
NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD NOV. 6

4-YR-OLD KILLED IN MISHAP, KIN INJURED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

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

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

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

Commuters opting for autorickshaws and share autos should be cautious of fraudsters who, acting under the instructions of the driver pose as passengers and steal valuables.

The North Zone Task Force of the Hyderabad police on Friday arrested a gang of six for committing such offences in the city. The accused were identified as Mohd Younus, the brain behind the scam who has a rowdy sheet, Abdullah Moi-nuddin, Mohd Amer, Syed Salman, Syed Mohammed Ali and Abdul Sohail.

Officials seized 22 stolen mobile phones worth ₹5 lakh from them. Police said Younus, having a criminal record since 2007 and arrested in 11 cases, formed a gang with local drivers.

Explaining how the gang worked, police said that Moinuddin picks up passengers from bus stations and railway stations. "Younus and his associates pose as passengers, convince the victim that they can share the fare and make him sit in the middle. They divert his attention and steal his valuables. Once the loot is done, they drop him off midway," a Task Force officer said. The driver does not collect the fare from the victim, and apologises for the 'inconvenience' of having to share the vehicle.

Younus sells the stolen phones to one Abdul Sohail at Jagadish Market. Following a complaint, the Task Force verified CCTV footage and identified the accused. They were handed over to the Begumpet police for further investigation.

"Such gangs were operating during the late nights once upon a time but have shifted to the early mornings. The public is requested to stay alert of their belongings and valuables while boarding a public transport. The offenders operate in very different ways and with varied methods to con the public" the police said.



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IN BRIEF

Grey wolf adopted at Nehru zoo park

Hyderabad: A grey wolf at the Nehru Zoological Park was adopted by V. Raghava Teja of the city for a period of one year on Friday. Teja along with family members visited the zoo and presented a cheque of ₹4,000 as adoption charges to N. Kshiti, curator of the zoo.

The curator thanked Raghava and his family for the gesture and appealed to other citizens to come forward to adopt animals and help in conserving wildlife.

Officials rescue 8-feet-long python

Warangal: District forest officials rescued an eight-feet-long python from a cotton field at Gopalarao Nagar in Mogilicherla village of Geesugonda mandal on Friday. Villagers who spotted the python informed the forest staff. A rescue team from the Kakatiya Zoo Park captured it and released it in a hilly area near Oorugonda village. Deputy range officer K. Balakrishna, forest section officer N. Khalil and rescue team members Nageshwar Rao and Swamy oversaw the python's capture and release into wilderness.

15 sarpanches suspended

Mahbubnagar: Fifteen sarpanches in Nagarkurnool district have been placed under suspension for not showing interest in building Rythu Vedikas in their respective villages. Collector L. Sarman also placed two special officers under suspension for their inaction in the issue. A show cause notice was issued asking the sarpanches why action could not be taken against them for not getting the Rythu Vedikas built, the collector said.

RANGANNA KUNTA LAKE RESTORED, TO BE INAUGURATED

T.S. SIDDHARTH I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

The Ranganna Kunta, which has been cleaned of wild shrubs and plastic waste, would be inaugurated on Saturday. The lake, near Kondapur, was rejuvenated by United Way of Hyderabad (UWH) as part of its 'Wake the Lake' campaign.

"The recent floods have sent the alarm bells ringing in the city. There are over 60 lakes in Serilingampally and we are encouraging private companies to come forward and provide these lakes with a new lease of life," said A. Gandhi, MLA, Serilingampally.

During the rejuvenation of Ranganna Kunta, 10 tonnes of dry plastic and other floating material were removed from the lake apart from 20 tonnes of stone. Stone pitching was done to prevent the soil from eroding. A walking track was also created around the water body.

"There is a need to spread the message regarding lake restoration. We are glad that our year-long relentless and collective effort in restoring one of these lakes is coming to fruition," said Rekha Srinivasan, CEO, UWH.

PSLV TO LAUNCH SATELLITE TO OBSERVE EARTH

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR I DC NELLORE, NOV. 6

The Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C49) at 3.02 pm on Saturday. The rocket will be carrying the earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine of international customers.

The 26-hour countdown started at 1.02 pm on Friday and is going on smoothly, sources said. The operation to fuel up the rocket is in progress. The launch will take place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota range, in Nellore district. This is the first launch this year for ISRO and the flight is the 51st for PSLV, the workhorse rocket. It will be the 76th launch from Shar and 38th from the first pad.

The EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. The customer satellites — one from Lithuania, four each from Luxembourg and the USA — are being launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), department of space.

Crowding slowly returns

More people take the Metro Rail during office hours on Friday in the city. Though they are wearing masks, commuters are not maintaining physical distancing, essential feature of Covid-19 guidelines. — R. PAVAN

BJP LEADERS ATTEND ACTIVIST'S FUNERAL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

BJP chief Bandi Sanjay, party vice-president D.K. Aruna and Nizamabad MP D. Arvind attended the funeral of Srinivas, a party activist who was had attempted suicide last week. Srinivas was undergoing treatment for 58 per cent burns that he sustained when he set himself on fire on November 1, to protest against the arrest of the state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay in the run-up to the Dubbalk by-election. Srinivas succumbed to his injuries on Thursday night while undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Srinivas' last rites were performed at Tummamaliguda in Yacharam mandal of Ranga Reddy district on Friday. The leaders expressed grief over his death. Bandi Sanjay regretted that Srinivas could not be saved despite the best of efforts by the doctors.

The state BJP chief appealed to party cadre not to take any extreme steps as they would achieve nothing with such acts. He advised party workers to instead keep fighting for justice in a democratic way.

The BJP has called for protests across the state claiming that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and his government are responsible for the death of Srinivas.

Web course for Urdu

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 6

Moulana Abdur Raheem Ansari, Urdu Academy president, on Friday launched a seven-day online Urdu foundation course for those who do not speak the language. The course can be accessed on smartphones and laptops.

Moulana Ansari said the course was designed to international standards. He said

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late. MAHAREDDYGARI MAHIPAL REDDY

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CORVINE CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD., DIRECTOR OF PRABHAVA ORGANICS PVT LTD.

"Your memories remain deep in our hearts forever"

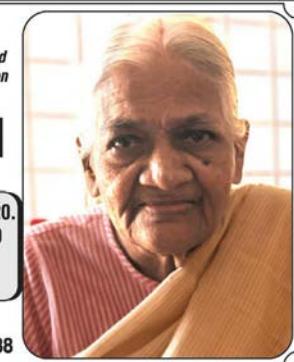
Family Members, Management & Staff of Prabhava Organics Pvt. Ltd
Corvine Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

OBITUARY

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, will live even if he dies." John 11:25

S. KAMESWARI
W/o Late. Bro. S. SANKARAIAH

Called to eternal Glory on 06.11.2020.
Funeral will be held on 07.11.2020
at 3pm Narayanguda Cemetery,
Hyderabad.



Inserted by: Family Members
Contact: 9703140343, 7799880088

OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7

Late Smt. ANGEL COLE
Entered into eternity on 04-11-2020.
Funeral Service on 07-11-2020 at CSI Wesley Church, Ramkote @ 10.30 p.m.
Funeral at Narayanguda Cemetery @ 4.00 p.m.

Inserted by:
David Cole & Madhavi (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Sarah & Allan (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Mary & Prem (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Kezia & Ezekiel (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Daniel, Joyce, Michael, Jordan & Neil
Memorial Service on 08-11-2020 Wesley Church, Ramkote @ 12.30 p.m.

SHRADDJANJALI

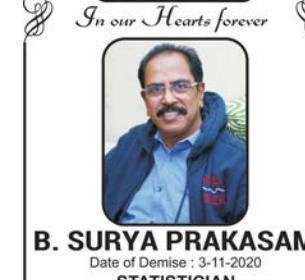
Smt. MYSORE PRASANNA

DOD: 05-11-2020
Inserted by: MYSSORE THODUPUNOORI & BELIDE FAMILY
Contact No. 9497008234
9484133231

(S/2021/D00794)

OBITUARY

In our Hearts forever



B. SURYA PRAKASAM

Date of Demise : 3-11-2020
STATISTICIAN
NIEPID
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED
A Perfect Gentleman and Great Human being

SPIRITUAL YOGA FRIENDS CLUB
SECUNDERABAD

Inserted by:
Mr. David & Mrs. David

Mr. David & Mrs. David

DOB : 17-05-1954 DOD : 07-11-2019

Inserted by:
Mrs. Mrs. & Mr. Nikhil Raj, Ramya, Mrs. & Mr. Vishal, Jennifer and Grand Children

Mr. John Dammala H/o Helen Dammala

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DOB : 17-05-1954 DOD : 07-11-2019

Inserted by:
Wife, Mrs. & Mr. Nik

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 Dhankhar 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

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

NAYEER AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOMAN CLAIMS HER HUSBAND HAS 20 WIVES

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
| DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 6

A woman from Jeypore on Friday registered a complaint with the Town police station against her husband alleging that he has as

many as 20 wives. Sanjukta Patra from Christian Peta locality informed the police that her husband Prabhat Chetti threw her out of the house after bringing in another woman.

She said that despite having two kids, her husband

has been disloyal to her and has several relationships with other women.

Alleging that Prabhat has signed their house and property in the name of the woman he recently moved in with, Sanjukta requested the police to intervene.

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DECCAN Chronicle

7 NOVEMBER 2020

Don't stretch CBI, put onus on police instead

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scientific shout-out

Closed 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 dystopian "social facts" of a skewed sex ratio, low literacy numbers among women (at 65 per cent compared to men's 82 per cent) and a high dropout rate, this is an important stride and cause for cheer, especially for egalitarians and votaries of women's contribution.

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

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

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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 graft 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-

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 a 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 tantric 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-declarative 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 rural 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

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LETTERS

LOST CAUSE

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

Madhu P.V.
Secunderabad

SCHOOL WATCH

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

Shahzab Husain
Hyderabad

OVER REACTION

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

G. Thirupathaiah
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

'Netaji went underground'

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES
FACEBOOK SHUTS DOWN 'STOP THE STEAL' GROUP

San Francisco, Nov. 6: Facebook on Thursday shut down a pro-Trump group organizing 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.

The social network acted as ballot counting continues in battleground states two days after Tuesday's vote, with Democrat Joe Biden still confident of capturing the presidency from incumbent Donald Trump.

"In line with the exceptional measures that we are taking during this period of heightened tension, we have removed the Group 'Stop the Steal,' which was creating real-world events," Facebook said.

GRETA RECYCLES TRUMP JIBE, ASKS HIM TO 'CHILL'

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

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

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

US TV networks stop airing Don's speech

President found making unfounded accusations on polls

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.

— AP



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

Trump Junior stands by his father's election claims

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

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating 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 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 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!". — AFP

US poll outcome won't impact ties with India: MEA

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

With Democrat candidate Joe Biden on the verge of victory in the United States Presidential polls, India on Friday said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between both nations has "very strong bipartisan support" in the US, thereby hinting that bilateral ties would continue to grow stronger irrespective of the election outcome.

New Delhi said it was awaiting the results of the US Presidential elections.

At his weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said that Indo-US bilateral ties "rest on strong foundations" and that this "encompasses cooperation in every possible sphere" ranging from strategic ties to the defence sector, trade and investment as well as people to people ties. He pointed out that successive administrations in the US have raised bilateral ties to a higher level.

Observers point out that this may be a strong indication that New Delhi may well be gearing up to do

OBSERVERS POINT out that Biden was US Vice-President for eight years when the Barack Obama Administration strengthened ties with India including under the current Narendra Modi government from 2014-16.

business with a new Democrat-led Administration in Washington.

Observers point out that Biden was US Vice-President for eight years when the Barack Obama Administration strengthened ties with India including under the current Narendra Modi government from 2014-16.

Prime Minister Modi had developed a close understanding and rapport with President Trump in the past four years which had culminated in the US President's much-publicised visit to India in February this year and the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue at the foreign and defence ministerial level just days ago in New Delhi when the Trump administration had declared that it "stands with India" in the face of China's aggressive military posture in the Ladakh sector.

TOP DEMOCRAT PELOSI CALLS BIDEN 'PRESIDENT-ELECT'

Washington, Nov. 6: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, on Friday called Joe Biden the "president-elect" of the United States after he pulled ahead in key election results.

"This morning it is clear that the Biden-Harris ticket will win the White House," Pelosi told reporters after Biden overtook President Donald Trump in the potentially decisive state of Pennsylvania.

"President-Elect Biden has a strong mandate to lead," she said.

It is a happy day for our country. Joe Biden is a unifier, because he is determined to bring people together." Pennsylvania would be enough to put Biden past the magic number of 270 votes in the state-by-state Electoral College, which determines the presidency.

Biden also took a razor-thin lead in votes counted from Georgia, which Trump until late in the campaign did not consider to be in play.

— AFP

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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 percent 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 go all 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, fertilizer, 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 sets new record with 1.2L Covid cases

Fatality figures cross 1,000 for third consecutive day

BORIS APPEALS FOR UNITY AS ENGLAND GOES INTO LOCKDOWN

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

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. — AFP



Members of Red Cross evacuate people after the overflow of Bambito river due to the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Eta, in Bambito on Friday. — AFP

Storm Eta triggers flood, 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.

"In the morning we had four dead, now the figure is over 50," Giammattei said late on Thursday as he visited a flood-hit area of the country's battered Caribbean coast.

Giammattei said that one landslide buried 25 homes in an indigenous community in the north of the country.

The president said it was impossible to reach the area because roads had collapsed due to the heavy rain.

Around 10 people were killed in Huehuetenango in northwestern Guatemala, in another landslide.

The civil protection agency earlier reported that five people died in separate landslides, including two children aged 11 and two, whose fragile family dwelling was swept away.

The Guatemalan deaths brought the overall toll from Eta to more than 60, as earlier officials said 18 people had died across the region.

Panama also felt the force of Eta's wrath, as landslides buried two homes in Chiriquí province on the Costa Rican border, killing five people, the National Protection System said.

The storm brought heavy rain that caused deadly flooding in Nicaragua, Honduras,

CHINA SHUTS ITS DOORS TO MORE COUNTRIES

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

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

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

PRESSURE ON W.H.O. TO INVITE TAIWAN TO MEET

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

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

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

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

But critics say this does not make sense.

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

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

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

EIGHT ARRESTED FOR VIENNA TERRORIST ATTACKS HAD PRIOR CONVICTIONS

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 on 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. — AFP

NIZAMABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No. ME/NMC/25/2020, Dated:05-11-2020

Tender is invited for 15 Nos works Laying of BT Roads, Construction of Toilets, Procurement of Pickup Trucks and Electric Buggy Vehicle and raising of Nurseries at various places etc., under General funds. SCSP fund and Patta Pragathi fund. Last Date for submission of bids 13-11-2020 @ 5.00PM. For further details see on e-procurement platform i.e. <http://tender.telangana.gov.in>. For Further Details, Contact: 7331187224. R.O.No.6764-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Commissioner NMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

O/o Superintendent Engineer, PR, Khammam.

NIT No.65 to 74/2020-21, e-Proc Tender Notice Dt : 05.11.2020 No. of works(10) Name of the works : C/o of Gram Panchayat Building at Gopala Krishnayya Banjar, Rajahmundry, Khammam District and other all works in undersigned. TOTAL ECV : 2.00 Crores. Description of items ECV, EMD, availability of tender documents, important dates, tender conditions, eligibility of tender and all other details are available from 11.11.2020 onwards on <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>. The last date for online submission of tender is 20.11.2020. Contact No.08742226933. Sd/- Superintendent Engineer, R.O.No.673-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Dt : 06-11-2020 P.R. Regional Office, Khammam

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

hmda 7th Floor, Swarnayamini Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

Public Notification No. 15(3) of HMDA Act, 2008 (G.O. Ms. No.159, dated 29.09.2020) In exercise of Powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the Notified MDP-2021 vide G.O.Ms.No.33 MA & UD, dt:24.01.2013 as required in the sub-section(1) of the said section. The site in Sy.No.715/716/722/A & 722/A/1 situated at Nandigama (V), Nandigama (M), Ranga Reddy District to an extent of 5938.99sq.mtrs, which is presently earmarked for Residential use zone in the Notified MDP-2031 vide G.O.Ms.33 MA & UD, dt:24.01.2013 is now designated as manufacturing use zone for settling up unit of Warehouse under Green category. The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/> R.O.no.112-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Dt : 06-11-2020 Sd/- for Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)

'E' Procurement Notice No.32/VMC/AE/2020-21, Dt:06-11-2020

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1	Improvements Vinayaka Temple road. Widening of Armbekar road with BT road from Kummarai palern Junction to Bye-pass road, Improvement to Drain at Janda Street from Ganapathy Rao Road Junction to janda chettu center in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (With Reverse Tendering Auction)(1 Work)	320.00

Contact: Superintending Engineer (Works), VMC, Vijayawada - 520 001. Further details can be seen @ 'e' procurement market place @ www.tender.apereprocurement.gov.in

Download of bid documents starts from - 09-11-2020 @ 04.00 PM. Last date / time for receipt of tenders from - 23-11-2020 up to 4.30 P.M. Reverse Tendering 1 work Starts from - 24-11-2020 from 2.00 P.M.

Sd/- For COMMISSIONER

SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

RAEBARI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.)

Tele : +91 522-2494009 - 8, FAX : +91 522-2698129, 2686017 Website : [www.sgpm.ac.in](http://sgpm.ac.in)

CORRIGENDUM (5th NOVEMBER, 2020)

In reference to the advertisement No. I/38/ER/ACAD/2020-21, the following clarifications/amendments are hereby notified for information of all concerned:-

Start date of online payment/fees to start the application process 26th October, 2020, 10:00 hrs IST

Last date for online payment/fees for the application process 17th November, 2020, 17:00 hrs IST

Last date for filling and submitting application 04th December, 2020, 17:00 hrs IST

Last date for receipt of hard copy of application 23rd December, 2020, 17:00 hrs IST

Cut-off Date for determining the Qualification & Experience and upper age limit is 31st January, 2021

Weblink to see advertisement and fill application online: www.sgpm.ac.in http://5.9.212.47/pgi_faculty_oct2020/

Note : Please also note take off corrigeendum/5 which are uploaded on the website www.sgpm.ac.in, before last date for online payment of fees for the application process.

ADVT No. I-43/ER/Acad/2020-21 DIRECTOR

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, कला और जलवाया परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

एरोडा कॉम्प्लेक्स, एरोडा, उत्तराखण्ड, 248001 (U.P.)
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building, No.34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034 E-mail: ro.mefcc@gov.in Ph: 044-28222041, Fax: 2832536

F.No. 14019/ROSEZ/CHN/5/115 Dated : 06th November, 2020

NOTIFICATION

Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Hyderabad invites applications from the reputed service providers registered under Registrar of Companies for engagement of contractual staff (purely on contract basis) in various categories as per the MoEF&CC, New Delhi letter no. 6-11/2020-ROHQ dated 15.10.2020.

Detailed Documents, Terms of Reference and other terms and conditions are available at www.moef.gov.in. The last date of receipt of applications is 1

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

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

* As of 8:30 PM IST

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

The issue price for the Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at ₹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 ₹50 per gram to investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

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

FALAKNAAZ SYED

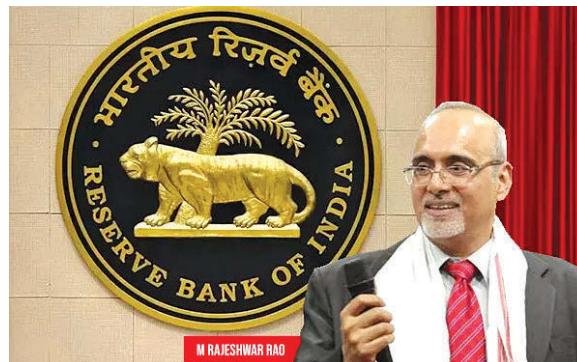
MUMBAI, NOV. 6

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 batted for the principle of proportionality and recommended a graded regulatory framework for NBFCs calibrated in relation to their contribution to systemic significance.

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

"One can also argue that the design of prudent 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.

No-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 7.8 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.

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

LIC comfortable with unified regulator for financial sector

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6



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

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

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

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

BSE's market capitalisation was back to pre-covid

days touching over Rs 163.60 lakh crore.

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

Nirali Shah, senior research analyst, Samco Securities, said.

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Covid at home, Gambhir isolated

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

Ailing Maradona still in hospital

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

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

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

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Semifinal from 6.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

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

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

Williamstuns RCB

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



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 0, S Dube c Warner b Holder 8, Washington Sundar c Samad b Natarajan 5, N Saini not out 9, M Siraj not out 10. Extras (NB-1, W-3). 4. **Total (for 7 wickets in 19.4 overs)** 131.
FoW: 1-2, 2-15, 3-56, 4-62, 5-99, 6-111, 7-113.
Bowling: Sandeep Sharma 4-0-21-0, Jason Holder 4-0-25-3, Natarajan 4-0-33-2, S. Nadeem 4-0-30-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-22-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner c AB de Villiers b Mohammed Siraj 17, Shreevats Goswami c AB de Villiers b Mohammed Siraj 0, Manish Pandey c AB de Villiers b Adam Zampa 24, Kane Williamson not out 50, Priyam Garg c Zampa b Chahal 7, Holder not out 24. Extras (LB-5, NB-1, W-4). 10. **Total (for 4 wickets in 19.4 overs)** 132.
FoW: 1-2, 2-43, 3-55, 4-67.
Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-28-2, Navdeep Saini 3-4-0-31-0, Washington Sundar 2-0-21-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-12-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-24-1, Moeen Ali 1-0-4-0, Shivam Dube 1-0-7-0.

Supernovas in a must-win game

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

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

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

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

Mandhana will be hoping that the bowlers continue

to do well against a strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur.

The southpaw will be

aiming to showcase her

skills and expect her bat-

ting 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.

S. AFRICAN PACER MORKEL IN BIG BASH AS AN AUSSIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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