

# DECCAN Chronicle

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CHENNAI | SATURDAY 7 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 30°C  
**Min:** 26°C  
**Rainfall:** 0.5 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” ■ **P3**

## 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.”

## STATE | 3

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



## WORLD | 5

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

## SPORT | 6

**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.



— AP

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

538 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, Brahmadiha 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*

## CDS will not rule out larger conflict

New Delhi, Nov. 6: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is facing “unanticipated consequences” for its misadventure in eastern Ladakh because of the “firm and strong” responses by the Indian armed forces, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat said on Friday.

In an address at a virtual seminar, Gen. Rawat said the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh remained tense and that India's posturing has been “unambiguous”. “We will not accept any shifting of the Line of Actual Control,” he asserted.

Talking about the overall security calculus, Gen Rawat said border confrontations, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted.

The Chief of Defence Staff also touched on the issue of cross border terrorism from Pakistan and the way it has been dealt with by the Indian armed forces. Gen Rawat said the “constant friction” with the two nuclear-armed neighbours (Pakistan and China) poses a danger of regional strategic instability with the potential for escalation. — *PTI*

## Two militants, civilian killed in gunbattle in Kashmir

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 6

A fierce gunbattle which started between a group of militants and the security forces outside the Kashmir Valley's highway town of Pampore on Thursday evening and continued through Friday left two suspected Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) militants and a civilian dead.

A third militant surrendered before the security forces before mounting a final assault against his associates holed up in a private house in a cordon-and-search operation, officials said.

They said the operation

was launched jointly by the J&K police's SOG counterinsurgency unit, the Army's 50 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF's 110 Battalion in Lalpora Chatlam area of Pampore, about 20 km south of Srinagar, “on specific inputs regarding the presence of terrorists”.

In initial exchange of fire, two civilians were hurt. One, identified as Abid Ahmed Mir, succumbed to his injuries in hospital later. A statement by the J&K police here claimed the duo was hit after the militants fired “indiscriminately” and escaped from the place they were hiding in.

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## 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.



## 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.

## State yet to achieve positive sex ratio

A. ARUL PALANI | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

Tamil Nadu is yet to achieve a positive sex ratio as there are lot of disparities across districts with the general sex ratio and juvenile sex ratio declining. The low sex ratio is not only a gender discrimination issue but also a threat to the balanced demography of a society.

The state had shown progress in general sex ratio and juvenile sex ratio from the census years 2001 and 2011. In 2001, districts Dharmapuri, Salem, Namakkal and Theni were known for female infanticide and foeticide with a low juvenile sex ratio. In 2011, Krishnagiri, Erode, Karur, Dindugul, Cuddalore and Ariyalur also registered low juvenile sex ratio. Cuddalore and Ariyalur districts reg-

**The state had shown progress in general sex ratio and juvenile sex ratio from the census years 2001 and 2011. In 2001, districts Dharmapuri, Salem, Namakkal and Theni were known for female infanticide and foeticide with a low juvenile sex ratio**

istered a child sex ratio below 900. This was revealed in a meeting of the State Development Policy Council (SDPC), formerly State Planning Commission, in Chennai on Friday. The review meeting on 'Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PC&PNDT Act)' was organized under the leadership of C.

Ponnaiyan, vice-chairman, SDPC. Among others Dr. Atul Anand, Member-Secretary (FAC), State Development Policy Council, Jayashree Raghunandan, Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. S. Gurunathan, Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, officials from stakeholder departments and domain experts took part in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Ponnaiyan said though Tamil Nadu has performed remarkably well in the implementation of PC&PNDT Act, socio cultural practices still are a hindrance in improving the child sex ratio. He insisted on strict enforcement of Inheritance laws, economic empowerment of women, wage parity, stringent action against unauthorized USG training centres and drafting modalities to regulate scan centres.

## Migrant worker falls into crushing machine, dies

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 6

A 29-year-old migrant labourer from West Bengal was killed after he fell into a crushing machine here on Friday, in a company in Tambaram, where he was employed.

The deceased was identified as Niranandha Malik of Howrah in West Bengal. He had been employed with a private company in Erumaiyur in Tambaram.

The incident happened on Friday when the victim and his friend, Burobose Malik (28) from West Bengal were crushing m-stone in a crusher, when accidentally Niranandha fell into the crushing machine, the police said. "The moment he fell on the belt, he was pulled into the crushing machine and got crushed along with stones," the police said. Though other employees immediately stopped the machine, they were unable to save him. They removed his body parts from the crushing machine and belt.

The employees alerted the Somangalam police, who reached the spot and sent the body to a government hospital for post-mortem. The police have registered a case and further investigations are on.

The deceased is survived by his wife and a child. Police said that the deceased has left his family in the native and came to the city a month back seeking a job.

## 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 Urappakkam. 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.



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## 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 Barakath 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 media persons 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 Rs 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 minister.

— DC

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

Saying 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 Rs 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 the city 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 Ambekdar College Road will be diverted towards Mettupalayam - Cooks Road, Strahans Road to

roads.

1) The vehicles coming from Ambekdar 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 Jalamia (Perambur High Road).

2) i) The Heavy vehicles coming from Perambur High Road (South) towards Ambekdar 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 Ambekdar 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

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.

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 tries 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.

**Murugan car allowed to offer worship**

From Page 1

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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## quick BITES

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

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

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

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

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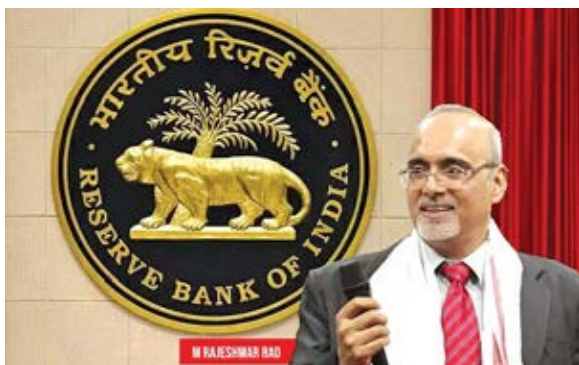
## RBI deputy governor Rao calls for tighter oversight Big NBFCs need to scale down or become banks

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 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 23, 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.

## WORLD

### 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.

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

President was making unfounded accusations on polls being stolen from him



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

### GRETA RECYCLES TRUMP JIBE, ASKS HIM TO 'CHILL'

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

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

## Trump sons stand by their father's election claims

New York, Nov. 6: While Donald Trump's political allies remained silent or distanced themselves on Thursday from the US president, increasingly alone in his fight against what he says is widespread election "fraud", his oldest sons declared their filial loyalty. Donald Trump Jr., the eldest, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election.

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

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

### 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

## 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. —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	Strengthening of Roads under TNRRIS - 2020 - 21 (80% CGF Grant) Scheme	Rs.29.00 Lakhs to Rs.67.49 Lakhs	6 Months

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

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CORRIGENDUM (5th NOVEMBER, 2020)	
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Start date of online payment of fees to start the application process	26th October, 2020, 10:00 hrs IST
Last date for online payment of fees for the application process	17th November, 2020, 17:00 hrs IST
Last date for filling and submitting online 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	
Web link to see advertisement and fill application online: <a href="http://www.sggpi.ac.in">www.sggpi.ac.in</a> <a href="http://5.9.212.47/pgi_faculty_oct2020/">http://5.9.212.47/pgi_faculty_oct2020/</a>	
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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR MAINTENANCE WORK	
Sr. No. (1) E-Tender No.: 71-ST-TENDER-2020, Date: 03.11.2020. Work: "Provision of Miscellaneous maintenance work at JND siding against deposit work". Tender Value: ₹ 1,44,98,168.72 (₹ One Crore Forty Four Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty Eight point Seven Two Paise Only). Earnest Money Deposited ₹ 2,22,500/- (₹ Two Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only). Submission of Tender: Upto 15.00 hours on 01.12.2020.	
The complete information of above e-Tender Notice is available over websites: <a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">http://www.irops.gov.in</a> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.	
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## 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 (7/3) 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 in 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 1.15 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 Sreevats Goswami off Holder. An over later, Holder picked up his second victim when Padikkal pulled one to Priyam Garg inside the circle as RCB slumped to 15 for 2.

Aaron Finch (32 off 30), who replaced Josh Philippe, and de Villiers then tried to stabilise the innings with a 41-run third wicket stand. But twin blows in the 11th over put paid to RCB’s effort. First, Finch departed, caught by Abdul Samad off Shahbaz Nadeem (1/30) and then a ball later, Moeen Ali was caught short off the crease by a direct hit from Rashid Khan.

Shivam Dube (8) didn’t



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 20 overs) 131.**

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

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

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

## Supernovas in a must-win game

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Kane sparkles for Spurs; Arsenal win

**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-gap 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 Kseru 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 Sherrif scored own goals that dug the grave for Molde and gave the Gunners an early lead with much toiling.

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. Two-time European champions Benfica fought back and in added time levelled when Darwin Nunez raced through and slotted home past Allan McGregor. — AFP


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