

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | FRIDAY 6 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 22°C
Rainfall: 4 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 21
Tithi: Shashti
Star: Punarpusam
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
Yamagandam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.50 am
Jumma: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.13 pm
Maghrib: 5.43 pm
Isha: 6.55 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.05 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 10.18 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 11.33 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+29,429)	(+470)
83,92,835	1,24,824

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,348)
TN: 7,36,777 11,272

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,87,36,874

DEATHS

12,35,322

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
216

worldometers.info

Gen. Naravane conferred honorary rank of 'General of Nepali Army'

Kathmandu: Indian Army chief General MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari at a special ceremony here on Thursday, a decades old tradition that reflects the strong ties between the two militaries.

Suburban train services to resume in WB from November 11

Kolkata: Railways will resume suburban services in three divisions in West Bengal from November 11, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said Thursday. The services in Eastern Railway's Sealdah and Howrah divisions and South Eastern Railways Howrah-Kharagpur division to be run from November 11 will be demand based, officials said.

Indian goes missing in UAE

Dubai: An Indian has gone missing in the UAE where he was on a tourist visa to look for some job opportunities after losing his work due to the coronavirus pandemic, media report said. Chenoth Thuruthummal Ashik, 31, a resident of Kerala, had reportedly gone out for a walk from his friends' flat at the Persia cluster in International City around Saturday but did not return, Gulf News quoted his friend as saying. "Ashik told my other friend Ramees that he was just stepping out of the building for a walk. Then Ramees told Ashik to wait so that he could join him after taking his mask and wallet. But by the time he picked up those items and went down, Ashik had left."

COUNTER

POINT



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Kamal calls all 'good people' to his fold



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UK min warns of virus fines

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Mumbai beat Delhi by 57 runs



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■ **Lead in Arizona, Nevada gives Democrats winning edge**

Biden gets closer to win as Trump plans lawsuit

Washington, Nov. 5: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris of Indian origin inched closer to the magic figure of 270 electoral college votes in te US presidential election, even as incumbent Republican President Donald Trump moved ahead with his plan to mount a massive legal battle.

Mr Biden is falling short of six to 17 Electoral College votes, according to the projections made by various media outlets. Mr Trump's count for the Electoral College votes stood at 214, with his path to victory getting narrower. By late Wednesday, Mr Trump declared victory in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina and Georgia. The Trump campaign went ahead with lawsuits in Georgia, Michigan and Pennsylvania and has demanded a recounting of votes in Wisconsin. Mainstream media has projected Mr Biden as the winner in Michigan and Wisconsin. Mr Trump has maintained a lead in



Jo Biden 253*

Leading in

● **Arizona (11)****

Votes counted: 86%
Biden: 14,69,341
Trump: 14,00,951

● **Neveda (6)****

Votes counted: 88%
Biden: 6,03,907
Trump: 5,92,020

* Electoral votes already won

**No of electoral votes

To win 270

Pennsylvania.

Mr Trump desperately needs to win three other battleground states - Georgia, North Carolina, where he has a narrow lead, and Nevada, where Mr Biden



Donald Trump 214*

Leading in

● **Georgia (16)****

Votes counted: 92%
Trump: 32,28,945
Biden: 31,13,877

● **Pensylvania (20)****

Votes counted: 88%
Biden: 6,03,907
Trump: 5,92,020

● **North Carolina (15)****

Votes counted: 95%
Trump: 27,32,120
Biden: 26,56,383

has a very slim lead. While the Trump campaign is hoping that the president would be able to win Arizona, many media outlets have projected Mr Biden as the winner in that state.

Biden win may bring focus back on human rights

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

With the Democrats seemingly on the verge of victory in the United States presidential polls, India is in a wait and watch mode but may soon have to deal with a new order and changed priorities in Washington such as an increased focus on human rights although bilateral ties are expected to remain strong.

Till Thursday evening, Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden was within striking distance of getting the required number of votes in the electoral college to become President although the Republicans led by President Donald Trump appeared set to move the US Supreme Court after alleging electoral discrepancies.



No compromise on border, Rajnath says ahead of talks

PAWAN BALI | **DC**
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that "no matter what the sacrifice" India was "determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression", as the military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh has entered the seventh month. Mr Singh's comments have come at a time when India and China are due to hold the eighth round of corps commanders' level talks on Friday.

■ **Turn to P4**

TN to ban online gambling

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

The state government has decided to ban online gambling that has been ruining the lives of young people, Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam announced on Thursday. The government was

Govt eases norms for BPOs, ITES cos

New Delhi, Nov. 5: The government on Thursday announced simplified guidelines for BPOs and ITES companies to reduce the compliance burden on them and to facilitate 'Work From Home' and 'Work From Anywhere' framework.

The new rules for Other Service Providers (OSPs) seek to create a friendly regime for "Work from Home" and "Work from Anywhere", while removing frequent reporting obligations for such companies, according to an official release.

The move assumes significance as the industry had been asking for relaxations for 'Work From Home' to continue on a permanent basis as the sector moves towards a blended working model in the post-Covid-19 era. Put simply, OSPs are entities providing applications services, IT enabled services or any kind of outsourcing services using telecom resources.— **PTI**

China suspends flights from India, cites spread of Covid

Beijing, Nov. 5: A number of flights to China planned by India stands cancelled after Beijing decided to temporarily suspend the entry into the country by foreign nationals from India holding valid visas or residence permits in view of the coronavirus pandemic, dashing the plans of some 2,000 Indian professionals to return to their places of work in Chinese cities.

The Chinese embassy in New Delhi on Thursday said that China has decided to temporarily suspend the entry into the country by foreign nationals from India holding valid visas or residence permits in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

The embassy said the "suspension" is a temporary measure that China has to adopt to deal with the current pandemic.

EPS asks Rajasthan, Odisha CMs to lift ban on sale of firecrackers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday requested his counterparts in Odisha and Rajasthan to lift the ban imposed on the sale of burst firecrackers in their states for this Deepavali season.

In letters addressed to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Rajasthan Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot, Mr Palaniswami has requested them to reconsider their decision.

Stating that the ban can have a direct bearing on the livelihood of over 8 lakh workers in Tamil Nadu and an equal number of people engaged in its sale, Mr Palaniswami pointed out that it was part of the cultural ethos of the people to burst crackers during Deepavali. ■ **Turn to P3**



Union home minister Amit Shah waves at BJP's West Bengal unit workers in Bankura, on Thursday. — **PTI**

Shah sets target of 200 seats for '21 Bengal polls

Bankura (WB), Nov. 5: Union home minister and top BJP leader Amit Shah Thursday set a target of 200 out of the total 294 seats in the 2021 West Bengal assembly elections and to come to power in the state, party sources said.

Shah, who visited Bankura during the day to take stock of the party organisation, asked BJP functionaries to take a vow to work hard so that achieves the target, the sources said.

During a closed door meeting with the party leaders he said the state party unit has to put up an intense fight against the ruling TMC to come to power in Bengal.

"Earlier in the day Amit Shahji had said the party would come to power with a two-thirds majority. During the closed-door meet he told us that Bengal assembly election is of immense importance to BJP and we need to ensure that the

party comes to power with 200 seats in the 2021 assembly polls," a state BJP leader said.

The BJP presently has eight MLAs in the state. It also has the support of eight TMC MLAs who switched to the saffron party after the 2019 general elections.

Sources in the party said Shah asked the BJP workers to speak of the pro-people policies of the Centre and the misuse and anti-people policies of the Mamata Banerjee government in the state. "He asked us to tell the people of West Bengal how they are being deprived of the central schemes meant for them as the TMC government has not allowed them to be implemented in West Bengal. We have been told to tell the people about the misuse of the TMC regime in the state," another BJP leader said. — **PTI**

No permission to BJP yatra due to Covid, govt tells HC

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR & D. SEKAR | **DC**
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

The BJP in Tamil Nadu is finding itself in a fix over the question of going ahead with the proposed 'Vetrivel Yatra' or not after the government informed the High Court that it cannot give permission for the yatra to be taken out in view of the threat to public health posed by the Coronavirus that was showing second and third surges in many parts of the world.

While most of the state functionaries of the BJP were keen on taking out the month-long yatra, which was proposed to be kick started from Tirutani on Friday morning, as per schedule violating government rules, police was seemingly determined to ensure that there was no breach of law.

Kamalalayam, the state

● **As per the detailed itinerary, the yatra would go on till December 6 when it would conclude at Tiruchendur**

BJP office in Chennai, was abuzz with deliberations on the next move by the party with the functionaries keenly awaiting the arrival of national secretary C.T. Ravi in the evening to finalise its course of action, while workers, who were preparing the stage for the flag off near the Murugan temple in Thiruttani, were stopped from continuing with the arrangements.

Earlier, soon after the first bench of the Madras High Court comprising Chief Justice A.P. Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy disposed of the petitions filed against the yatra and said that the state government would take a

decision on it, the coordinator of the yatra, Narendran, said "Vel will coming jumping," suggesting that the programme was on.

As per the detailed itinerary, the yatra would go on till December 6 when it would conclude at Tiruchendur. But between the two towns, it would touch almost every part of the state with 69 meetings arranged on the route on the pretext of visiting four other Murugan temples in Swamimalai, Palani, Pazhamudircholai and Thiruparankundram. Ostensibly the yatra would touch the six main abodes of Lord Murugan, known as Arupadi Veedu. But the route was charted out in a manner that the yatra went through Chennai which was north of Tirutani, the starting point, and even Kanyakumari district, which was south of the destination. ■ **Turn to P3**

My last polls: Nitish; I want him back: Modi

NAYEAR AZAD AND YOJNA GUSAI | **DC**
PATNA/NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

On the last day of the election campaigning for the third and final phase of polling in Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made a fervent plea for votes with the announcement that this would be his last election.

"A day after there is a poll in Bihar and this is going to be my last election. Now tell me, will you vote for our candidate," Mr Kumar said after listing his government's achievements while addressing a rally in Dhamdaha in Purnea district.

Almost in tandem, Prime Minister wrote an open letter to the people of Bihar on Thursday saying he

needs Nitish Kumar to be voted back to power so that the state's development "atkae nahin, bhatkae nahin (does not get stalled or go astray)." "I need Nitishji's government in Bihar so that the all round development does not gets stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double engine will take Bihar to new heights of

development in this decade," Mr Modi wrote in his four-page letter in Hindi.

Mr Kumar's sudden announcement hinting at retiring from electoral politics has created a flutter in political circles, especially among NDA leaders who have been aggressively campaigning in Bihar for the last phase of Assembly elections. ■ **Turn to P4**

Actor Vijay says 'no' to dad's political move

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | **DC**
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

High drama prevailed on Thursday evening after K-town was agog with reports that its A-Lister Vijay is finally making his foray into politics and that his father, veteran film-maker S.A. Chandrashekar (SAC), had turned the actor's fans association Makkal Iyakkam into a political party.

When DC contacted Vijay's spokesperson

Jagadish, he rubbished the reports and added the buzz on it was untrue.

However, soon it was revealed that it was SAC who had enrolled the name All-India Thalapaty Vijay Makkal Iyakkam with the Election Commission of India (ECI), awaiting registration.

SAC confirmed to DC that he had applied for registration of a political party in the name All-India Thalapaty Vijay Makkal Iyakkam. "It is my initiative. It is not Vijay's politi-



cally party and he has nothing to do with this whatsoever," the ace director said. Minutes after SAC stated that he had submitted the application to the ECI, Vijay dissociated himself with his dad's political party. In a strongly worded statement, the *Sarcar* star

said, "I came to know through the media that my father Mr S.A. Chandrasekhar has started a political party. I inform my fans and the public that there is no connection directly or indirectly between the political party that my father has started and me. By this, I mean that I will not be constrained by any actions that may take place in the future in connection with politics."

Vijay also urged his fans not to join or serve the

party just because his father started it. "I request my fans not to join the political party that my father has started or work for it. There is no relationship between that party and our 'Iyakkam' (fan club)," he stated.

The actor concluded his statement in a warning tone, saying, "Strict action will be taken against anyone who uses or engage in any activities involving my name, pictures or my All-India Thalapaty Vijay Makkal Iyakkam." ■ **P3**

SHORT TAKES

₹42.5 lakh worth gold seized at airport

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

The Chennai air customs arrested a person for smuggling gold paste from Dubai.

According to sources, on Wednesday, the accused, Razik Ali Hajamohaideen (45) of Madurai, who arrived from Dubai by Fly Dubai Airlines FZ-8517 was intercepted at the exit and on persistent questioning, he confessed to concealing gold paste bundles in the rectum. On personal search, two gold paste bundles weighing 531 were recovered from the rectum. Total 460 grams of gold of 24K purity valued at Rs. 24.1 lakhs was recovered after extraction and the same was seized. Razik Ali Hajamohaideen has been arrested.

In a similar case on Thursday, Mohamed Shaik (28) of Chennai, who arrived from Dubai by Emirates Flight EK 0544 was intercepted at the exit. During a search, four gold paste bundles weighing 412 grams were recovered from the rectum. Total 356 grams of gold of 24K purity valued at Rs. 18.4 lakh was recovered after extraction. Total 816 grams gold of 24 K purity valued at Rs. 42.5 lakhs was recovered and seized under Customs Act 19.

PUDUCHERRY REPORTS 125 FRESH COVID-19 CASES; ONE DIES

Puducherry, Nov. 5: The union territory of Puducherry added 125 fresh COVID-19 cases taking the overall tally to 35,550 while one death pushed the toll close to 600, a top Health department official said on Thursday.

The new coronavirus cases were detected at the end of the examination of 4,110 samples during last 24 hours ending 10 AM, raising the overall tally to 35,550 after transfer of four cases to Tamil Nadu, the Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release.

One person hailing from the Puducherry region succumbed due to Covid pneumonia, taking the toll to 598. No fresh fatality was reported from any of the three outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The Health department Director said that the fatality and recovery rates were 1.68 per cent and 93.17 per cent respectively.

Of the 3.25 lakh samples tested so far, 2.86 lakh were found to be negative and the result of the examination of the remaining specimens was awaited. He said 420 patients were discharged from hospitals in the last 24 hours. As many as 1,829 are active cases while 33,123 patients have been treated and discharged so far. The Puducherry region accounted for 98 of the 125 fresh cases while Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam reported nine new infections each.

— PTI



Man surrenders after killing wife's paramour

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

A 19-year-old youth was allegedly killed by his lover's husband who buried his body around 10 feet under the ground on Tuesday in Kanchi's Siruvakkam. The body was exhumed on Thursday after the accused surrendered himself before Kanchipuram taluk police, confessing the crime along with his lawyer.

The accused has been identified as Ravichandran (43), a resident of Jawaharlal Nehru Street in Kanchipuram. A car driver, Ravichandran married Kamatchi (38), of Karai village in the district, 11 years ago and has two sons, the police said.

Meanwhile, Kamatchi developed an affair with the 19-year-old Dinesh. After

Kamatchi developed an affair with the 19-year-old Dinesh. After Ravichandran came to know about his wife's illicit relationship, he allegedly warned her and Dinesh. The duo, however, eloped last month

Ravichandran came to know about his wife's illicit relationship, he allegedly warned her and Dinesh. The duo, however, eloped last month. Ravichandran recently found the duo and brought Kamatchi home. It is said the woman promised that he will not see Dinesh anymore.

However, On November 3, when Ravichandran came home from work early, he

found Dinesh and Kamatchi together in the house. Infuriated Ravichandran picked up a wooden log and attacked the duo. The police said Kamatchi managed to flee, but Dinesh was caught and died on the spot in the attack. He later took the body in a JCB and buried it on the lakebed in Siruvakkam.

The police said on Wednesday night, Ravi Chandran surrendered at the Kanchipuram taluk police station with his lawyer. He confessed to having murdered and buried Dinesh's body. The Kanchi taluk police, in the presence of SP Shanmugapriya and Tahsildar, exhumed the body and took it to the government hospital for post-mortem.

A case has been registered by the police and investigation is underway.

Prevalence of diabetes up from 19 to 20% in Chennai

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

A recent study titled 'Temporal changes in diabetes prevalence and achievement of care goals in urban South Asia from 2010 to 2016' has revealed that prevalence of diabetes in three mega cities in South Asia including Chennai, had gone up from 19 per cent in 2010-11 to 20 per cent in 2015-16. The mega cities are Delhi, Chennai and Karachi in Pakistan.

The study carried out by Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai in association with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), New Delhi, Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC), New Delhi, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences

To look at changes in prevalence of diabetes and the achievement of the goals and treatment of diabetes, samples of South Asian adults in two different periods of time were collected using identical methods in Delhi, Chennai and Karachi in 2010-11 (16,288) and in 2015-16 (14,587)

(AIIMS), New Delhi, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan and Emory University Atlanta, USA, found that there were no noticeable improvements in key cardiovascular risk factors like blood pressure control or smoking status.

The study, which was published online in the British journal Diabetic Medicine recently, also revealed that a larger number of individuals

with diabetes met two, three, or four treatment goals in 2015-16 compared to 2010-11. However, only seven percent of individuals met all four treatment goals that include glycaemic control, blood pressure control, lipid control and absence of smoking status.

To look at changes in prevalence of diabetes and the achievement of the goals and treatment of diabetes, samples of South Asian adults in two different periods of time were collected using identical methods in Delhi, Chennai and Karachi in 2010-11 (16,288) and in 2015-16 (14,587).

Dr. V. Mohan, president, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation said findings of study underscore the urgent need for concerted policy, system, clinical and

individual efforts to improve the quality of diabetes care. If this is not done urgently, there could be serious consequences with respect to health of individuals and risk of blindness, heart disease, kidney disease and amputations, more pressure on health care systems, and could ultimately affect the economy.

Dr. Mohammed K. Ali, associate professor of Global Health and Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, USA and senior author of the study, said that the findings explain that diabetes was not just about sugar and people need to think of diabetes more holistically and evidence-based care models need to be developed to deal with it.

Hi-tech facility



Health minister Dr C. Vijayabaskar inaugurates CT scan worth around ₹4 crore at Egmore Children's hospital on Thursday. He said Covid hospitals would be opened this weekend and also during Deepavali weekend and those with virus symptoms can come to get tested without any delay.

— DC

Parai group to perform at metro rail stations

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

A group of Parai performers has been roped in to showcase their skills in Metro rail stations as part of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)'s safety awareness measures against Covid-19.

According to CMRL, the

performance has been planned at metro stations as well as metro trains. The awareness drive is being conducted in association with Nimirvu Kalaiyagam, a Parai group.

The performance will be held metro stations including Thirumangalam (November-7 at 6.30 pm) Meenambakkam (Nov-

mber 21 at 6.30 pm) High Court (November 22 at 10 am) Alandur (December 6 at 6.30 pm), Koyambedu (December 14 at 10 am), Central Metro (December 21 at 6.30 pm), Washermanpet (December 25 at 12 pm) Thirumangalam (December 27 at 6.30 pm) Airport (January 1 at 6.30 pm) and Thirumangalam Metro (January 3 at 6.30 pm).

Ahead of Deepavali, DVAC searches government offices

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption is conducting surprise checks at government offices which deal with cash ahead of Deepavali, typically the time when bribes are offered.

Sources said that on Thursday morning two teams of 20 DVAC officers

from Kanchi and Alandur, raided Pallavaram municipality office and Meenambakkam RTO.

The officers have begun the raids at 4.30 am on Thursday. At the Pallavaram municipality office, DVAC found ₹ 1,51,500 in cash and an eight-gram gold coin from the room of Town planning officer Maran. Similarly, around Rs

45,000 and another gold coin weighing 8 grams were seized from the room of a Municipal engineer, Ravichandran. Sources said that bribes were being demanded by officials as a "Deepavali bonus" for the expenses arising out of festival shopping.

The raids are still on and more details are awaited.

Engineer dies due to corporation apathy

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

In a shocking incident that has once again exposed the apathy of the municipal corporation when it comes to public safety, a 29-year-old man died of head injuries when he rammed a median, to avoid falling into a pit dug by the Tambaram municipality for water pipeline, near Tambaram Mudichur road on Wednesday night.

According to the people living nearby, the pit has been dug and the pipeline work was done several days back, but the contractors and the employees of the municipality did not close the pit to avoid danger.

Jayaram (29), a resident of Krishna Nagar in West Tambaram, worked as a software engineer with a

private company in Singaperumal Kovil. On Wednesday midnight, while returning from his workplace, he had to pass through Tambaram Mudichur Salai, where a pit was dug up by the Tambaram municipality. Jayaram reportedly tried to pass the pit on the narrow road, when he allegedly lost control of the bike and rammed the centre median.

Police sources said the victim suffered head injuries and died on the spot. On being alerted by the residents, Chrompet traffic investigation police came to the spot. Jayaram's body has been sent to the government hospital for post-mortem.

Sources said Jayaram, a native of Salem, lived with his wife and children in Krishna Nagar owing to his work in the city. Residents said that he was the only breadwinner in the family and wondered how they will survive now and blamed Tambaram municipality for the tragic death.

The Chrompet traffic investigation police registered a case and began an inquiry. After the accident, the highways department closed the pit on Thursday.

In another accident, a man died after being hit by a water tanker. According to the sources,

T. Kanakaraj (34), a resident of Kovilambakkam area, died after a water tanker knocked him down on Thursday afternoon.

Kanakaraj, an employee of a private company in OMR's Kelambakkam was riding home on his two-wheeler on the Medavakkam-Mambakkam main road when a speeding water tanker hit his bike from behind.

He was thrown off the bike, suffered head injuries and died on the spot. Police sources said the tanker driver fled the spot abandoning the vehicle.

Based on the alert, St. Thomas Mount traffic investigation police arrived at the spot and sent the body of the deceased to the Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and further investigations are on.

COPS PROBING FAKE STAMP PAPERS CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 5

The district crime branch police registered a case based on a complaint filed by the court authorities and are on the lookout for the kingpin behind case involved in submission of colour xerox stamp papers in 75 cases during last year; and allegedly cheated ₹ 27 lakh.

As per existing procedure, the advocates had submitted their case before the court with court fee stamp affixed stamp papers. Instead of producing original stamp duty papers, the advocates had allegedly submitted their cases with colour xeroxed stamp duty papers in 76 cases in different courts, in Pudukkottai district.

Court authorities detected the crime during the annual audit which involved a sum of ₹27.88 lakh. Chief executive officer, C/JM, Pudukkottai, filed a complaint before the District Crime Branch police.

B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

Though the Tamil Nadu government last week gave the nod to schools, colleges, cinemas, zoos and amusement parks to reopen from mid-November by following SOPs, stakeholders and the public have raised concerns.

The state government had taken the decision of reopening schools for higher classes following consultation with experts and also considering holidays ahead in the academic

Reopening of educational institutions and theatres hangs in balance as most of the people are haunted by Covid fear and anxiety. Already the festive rush in shopping hubs continues to be a cause for concern

year. It also felt that classroom learning would facilitate easy understanding for students. But with parents and political parties urging the government to rethink on reopening of school for classes 9 to 12 in view of the pandemic, the government

has decided to seek the opinion of parents on Monday (November 9) and then take a call. School principals, who will hold consultation meetings with parents and parent-teacher association office-bearers, will share the inputs with the government to take the decision. To start with, options like classes functioning on shift basis, alternate days and half-a-day can be considered.

Meanwhile, media reports said 262 students and 160 teachers had tested positive in Andhra Pradesh during the last three days after schools were reopened on November 2 for class 9 and 10 students. However, the AP government had said there was nothing to

worry when compared to the number of students attending schools because safety protocols were in place in all institutions.

The Gujarat education department on Thursday said it would prepare a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) after consulting stakeholders to be followed by educational institutions ahead of reopening of colleges and schools.

Similarly, a decision on reopening of theatres in Tamil Nadu is yet to be taken with issues remaining unresolved between the theatre owners and producers. However, the ministry of culture has issued guidelines for reopening of museums, art galleries and exhibitions under its

ambit from November 10. Sanitisation of premises at regular intervals and wearing of masks by all visitors have been made mandatory. The use of audio guides has also been barred.

Reopening of educational institutions and theatres hangs in balance as most of the people are haunted by Covid fear and anxiety. Already the festive rush in shopping hubs continues to be a cause for concern.

Easing of curbs has helped in reviving the economy and sustaining livelihood. But till the time vaccine is available, there is no room for complacency and people must mask up and never discard safety protocols.

SHORT TAKES

AIDWA stir against price riseDC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR, NOV. 5

Members of the All India Democratic Womens Association (AIDWA) staged a novel protest against price rise, particularly that of onion, here on Thursday. The protesters wore onion garlands and protested against cancellation of subsidy for cooking gas by carrying with them garlanded gas cylinders. They heaped vegetables to highlight the rise in prices of vegetables and provisions. "Because of the price rise, people are not in a position to celebrate Deepavali," said R Kalaiselvi, district president, AIDWA. S Tamil Selvi, district secretary, led the agitation. G Vasanthi, treasurer, AIDWA, T Vasanthi, assistant secretary, participated in the agitation.

Two boys drown in wellZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC
SALEM, NOV. 5

Two boys drowned in a well while swimming near Kadayampatti near here, on Wednesday.

Sources said, Vishwa (12), son of Vengaiyan, hailing from Kaadayampatti Periyannan Kaddu area near here and Rudramoorthy (12), son of Palanisamy, hailing from the same area, were both class -7 students in the same local school.

On Wednesday, both went out to play and did not return. Their parents subsequently launched a search. They found the boys' clothes near an agricultural well belonging to one Senthilkumar in Periyapatti. On a search inside the water, relatives found the bodies of both the boys, and alerted Omalur fire station.

Fire and rescue personnel retrieved the bodies. Omalur police registered a case and are investigating.

Parents found the boys' clothes near an agricultural well belonging to one Senthilkumar in Periyapatti. On a search inside the water, relatives found the bodies of both the boys, and alerted Omalur fire station

Inscription of Veerarajendra Chola period found

A study team comprising Dr A. Prabhu, Department of Tamil, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, History and Archeology Professor Dr Shekar and research scholars Dharanitharan and Saravanan, during their field study found an inscription dating back to the Veerarajendra Cholan period (1070 AD). Explaining their findings, Dr A Prabhu said that several artifacts of historical importance dating back to ancient times have been found in Tirupattur region, and data collected have been made official documents. During field studies, they came across a herostone measuring four feet in width and five feet in height in the farmland of one Jeyakumar in a place called Yerikodi. The tablet was broken in five pieces. Inscriptions on the tablet were made in 21 sentences, with each line neatly underlined. The inscriptions contained the achievements of King Veerarajendra Chola VII. Epigraphist S Rajagopal also confirmed our findings, added Dr Prabhu.

— K. Senthil Nathan

Fake job ring busted, 3 including ex-techie heldDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

The Adyar cyber crime police arrested three men including a former techie after busting a fake job racket in the city.

The main accused, identified as Prabhu (31), had swindled crores of rupees from unemployed techies using the email id of a popular tech firm, where he worked earlier.

According to the police, the accused from Tambaram worked in an IT firm in the city. Police said that he had been cheating people by promising them jobs in the company and was subsequently arrested.

The incident came to light, when one of the vic-

tims, Amarnath from Kottivakkam, lodged a complaint with the Adyar cyber cell on Tuesday, saying he was cheated to the tune of ₹20,500 by a fraudster.

Police said Prabhu joined hands with Solomon from Ambattur whom he met in prison and his friend Yuvaraj to carry out the job racket.

The fraudster gang would message the victims announcing job vacancies. The gang

announces a fake date for the interview, conducts an interview over the phone and later demands Rs 20,000 to 30,000 from the victim, to confirm the job.

The cybercrime police found the location of the office in Kolathur. After two days of surveillance, the police team nabbed the accused.

The police team also seized two laptops, 4 ATM cards and a car. Prabhu, Solomon and Yuvaraj were remanded in judicial custody.

According to the police, the accused from Tambaram worked in an IT firm in the city. Police said that he had been cheating people by promising them jobs in the company and was subsequently arrested

Kamal calls all 'good people' to his foldDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Giving a clarion call to all 'good people' to join hands with him in fighting corruption, Makkal Neethi Maiyam founder Kamal Haasan said people of U. Sagayam, the IAS officer, who resigned from services recently, should be part of his party.

Addressing the media after three days of interactions with party functionaries at a city hotel, Haasan said on Thursday



that honesty would be his election strategy and that priority should be given for eliminating corrup-

tion. Once corruption was done away with, everything else would fall in place, he said, adding that his party was now the Number 3 party in the ztate and had the prospect of winning 100 to 150 seats in the 2021 Assembly elections.

Hassan, who would be going on a state-wide tour after November 26, said that one lakh persons had joined his party recently and that was an indication of the party's poll

prospects. Asked if his party was the 'B' Team of some other party, he said his would only be the 'A' Team.

He said he had been in touch with actor Rajinikanth and was aware of the decision that he had taken on not joining politics. However, he would seek his support, he said, replying to a question. 'Good people should come to politics, but health was more important,' Haasan said with reference to Rajinikanth.

CLOSE TOLL PLAZAS ON ECR, OMR: MARANDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

DMK MP from Chennai Central, Dayanidhi Maran, urged the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami to close down all the toll plazas on ECR and OMR as they all fell within the limits of Greater Chennai Corporation now that the city has expanded.

In his letter, Maran said the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008 prohibited the setting up of toll plazas with 10 km radius of Corporation or Municipal limit.

He pointed out that there were five plazas on OMR that were within Chennai limits and the one at Uthandi on ECR was also against the rules. Besides, the rules explicitly prohibited toll plazas within 60 km of each other, he said.

Maran said the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules 2008 prohibited the setting up of toll plazas with 10 km radius of Corporation or Municipal limit

DMK, CPM demand release of seven Rajiv case convictsDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

DMK president M. K. Stalin and CPM state secretary K. Balakrishnan were among the political leaders who urged the Governor Banwarilal Purohit to accept the recommendation of the state Cabinet and remit the life sentence of the seven persons convicted in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Stalin's letter to the Governor with a copy to Union home minister Amit Shah said DMK had been continuously demanding the early release of Nalini, V. Sriharan alias Murugan, Santhan, A. G. Perarivalan, Jayakumar, Robert Payas and P. Ravichandran, who were 'undergoing the agony of imprisonment for about 3 decades.'

While the Governor has, under Article 161 of the Constitution, the power to suspend, remit or commute any sentence of a person convicted of an offence under any law to which the power of the State extend, 'this important recommendation has been kept pending with-



out taking decision by Your Excellency for over two years which has been causing grave and irreparable hardship to the said convicts.'

Stalin said it was trite in law that a Constitutional authority performed his duty within a reasonable timeframe and that the Supreme Court had, in many cases, held that undue delay in exercising powers under the Constitution was illegal.

He also pointed out that the Supreme Court in January 21, 2020, has passed an order in an SLP filed by one of the convicts, Perarivalan, directing the State to 'inform this Court as to whether any decision has been

taken in respect of the petitioner's claim under Article 161 of the Constitution of India, in view of the order dated 06.09.2018 passed in Writ Petition (Crl.) 48 of 2014.'

Very recently, on November 3, the court had heard the matter again, Stalin said and added that 'The fact that the recommendation of the state Cabinet has been kept pending for over 2 years by Your office reflects poorly on the State and gives the impression that the State is not run in accordance with law.'

Balakrishnan, in a statement, urged the Governor to take a decision on realising the convicts on the basis of the court direction. He also pointed out that the seven persons had not been released despite demands to that effect from various political parties.

MNM founder actor Kamal Haasan was also hopeful that the Governor would take the decision at the earliest.

Meanwhile, former TNCC president E. V. K. S. Elangovan said that his party had no objection to the release of the convicts as per the law.



Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar along with Chennai district collector Seethalakshmi distributes free sarees and dhoties for Deepavali festival under the social security scheme. He also distributed sewing machine and iron box to beneficiaries at Purasawalkam in Chennai on Thursday.

— DC

Bonus for Tasmac staffDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

A release issued by the managing director, TN State Marketing Corporation Limited, Chennai, the government had issued orders for payment of bonus of minimum 8.33 per cent and

ex-gratia of 1.67 percent subject to the salary ceiling of ₹7,000 for the year 2019-2020 payable during 2020-2021 to the workers and employees of State Public sector undertakings who are in the C & D groups.

The bonus and ex-gratia shall be disbursed to eligible

'American fall army worm' at Kumarapatti village near here, on Wednesday.

Ramu said that maize farmers should follow integrated pest management practices to effectively control 'fall army worm'. Application of 100 kgs of neem cake per hectare before last ploughing, seed treatment with beauveria bassiana biopesticide, spray of azadirachtin in 15 days, young maize crop, spray of any one of the insecticides like Spinetoram, corogen, flubendiamide, in maize crop 25 days after sowing seeds, synchro-

nised sowing and pesticide spraying by all maize farmers, border crop like castor, cowpea, gingelly, sunflower, sex pheromone traps at 12-25 per hectare, he added.

He further said, the department of agriculture provided 50 percent financial assistance at the rate of ₹2,000 per hectare as back-ended subsidy towards purchase of insecticide to maize farmers. He wanted all maize farmers to utilize this opportunity to avail subsidy by producing purchase vouchers to the officers concerned.

employees in corporate office, regions, depots and district manager offices where the individual was working as on 31/3/2020.

The bonus and ex-gratia is to be disbursed immediately through the bank account of the employees.

Hope BJP maintains discipline: Minister

From P1

Seeing devious plans behind the proposal to take out the yatra, political parties had been crying foul ever since it was announced. There were even allegations that the yatra was being taken out with a view to fanning communal hatred.

However, Senthil Kumar and Balamurugan, who had approached the court, had cited the coronavirus pandemic as a reason to not allow the yatra. During the hearing on Thursday, advocate general Vijay Narayan told the court that the government had no plans of allowing the yatra.

The BJP argued that it would follow all the safety norms relating to Covid-19 like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. It claimed that the yatra would comprise vehicles and there was no risk for human beings as there would not be crowding of people. Fisheries minister D.

Jayakumar told the media at Purasawalkam after attending a government function that the government could not give permission for the yatra in view of the coronavirus threat. It was a decision taken with public health in mind with a view to protecting people's lives.

Jayakumar said it would be good if the BJP accepted the government decision and gave up the idea of the yatra. The coronavirus spread was brought under control only with the cooperation of people, he said, hoping that the BJP would also maintain discipline.

All are bound by the rules and regulations of the state and the law would take its course against those who violated it, he said. Makkal Neethi Maiyam founder Kamal Haasan said the government might have taken the decision to bar the taking out of the yatra to maintain L&O.

'Anyone can start a political party'

From P1

Though the statement came sans the signature of Vijay, his publicist Riaz affirmed that it is an official note from the actor.

Sources disclosed that there has been a rift between Vijay and his dad for quite some time now and it has come out in public with this unpleasant exchange of words. However, SAC refuted it: "There's no misunderstanding between me and my son Vijay. In fact, it was me who started Vijay's Fan Club in 1993 and later converted into Vijay's Makkal Iyakkam. I felt rasigaram dram (fan club) is not only for fans and followers of Vijay, but it should go to the next level of serving the peo-

ple."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami quipped on Vijay's political foray: "In India anyone can start a political party."

In the recent past Vijay, one of the highly paid actors in Tamil cinema, has been in news for subtly propelling his political aspirations in his recent films like Mersal and Sarcar. Industry pundits, however, say that Vijay, who is still young and enjoys a big market and commands a huge remuneration, will not jeopardise his career and plunge into politics at this point of time. "He would continue acting in films for the next five years and may make a clever move to enter politics in the 2026 elections," they added.

'Restrict bursting of crackers'

From P1

He recalled the Supreme Court order dated October 23, 2018, which, after considering the direct and indirect employment involved in manufacturing of crackers and to safeguard the traditional/cultural way of celebrating the Deepavali festival, asked the states "to encourage bursting of crackers in public places for a limited period of two hours on the day of Deepavali" in the letter.

"In tune with the Supreme Court directions, we in Tamil Nadu have restricted



the bursting of green crackers to one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. Tamil Nadu has been a major cracker



manufacturing state, the units use raw materials with reduced emission level and low decibel," he noted.

Honouring cops

CoP Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal rewards police personnel for their work excellence on Thursday.

— DC

IN BRIEF

ODISHA FARMERS
OPPOSE NEW
FARM LAWSAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 5

Thousands of farmers under the banner of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan on Thursday marched to Bhubaneswar as a mark of protest against the three farm laws passed by the Narendra Modi government in the monsoon session of the Parliament.

The outfit leaders alleged that all democratic norms were flouted to get the three farm reform Bills passed in a hurry.

Before the farmers entered the heart of the city, the police swung into action and stopped the march at Hi-Tech Hospital Square and took into custody several leaders, including Akshay Kumar, Seshadeb Nanda and Manohar Ali.

Protesting the arrest of their leaders, the farmers sat on a dharna on the National Highway 6. A scuffle broke out between the outfit members and police, sources said.

"We are opposing the Central farm laws including the stoppage of the Minimum Support Price system. Due to such laws, the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply. We also demand amendment of the relief code to provide a compensation of ₹15,000 per acre to farmers for crop loss," said Akshay Kumar.

INDIA FUMES
OVER PAK'S MOVE
ON KARTARPURDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

India on Thursday strongly condemned Pakistan's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee — a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh Community — to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body.

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

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

Both countries had inaugurated the Kartarpur Sahib corridor on both sides of the border (Indian and Pakistani Punjab) a year ago for the 550th birth anniversary of the Guru Nanak.

The MEA said, "This unilateral decision by Pakistan is condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large."

IJU CONDEMNS
ARREST OF
ARNAB GOSWAMI

Hyderabad/Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) strongly condemned the arrest of *Republic TV* Chief Editor Arnab Goswami in Mumbai on Wednesday in a closed and then reopened two-year-old case of alleged abetment of suicide. It termed it as an attack on freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) President K. Sreenivas Reddy and Secretary-General, and member of the Press Council of India Balwinder Singh Jammu said the action of the Mumbai Police smacked of political vendetta against a newsmen who was critical of the state government.

The IJU leaders said, "While we do not approve the brand of journalism Arnab Goswami and his *Republic TV* practice, the arrest and the way he was arrested exposes the political intent of the Mumbai Police, who are considered to be the best in the country. We would like to point out that attempts to silence criticism, however unreasonable it may be, violates the fundamental right of freedom of the press and freedom of expression."

This is going to be my
last election: Nitish

JD(U) says his statement can not be seen as retirement

From Page 1:

"We don't know what prompted him to announce this but I can say that people of Bihar will not let him retire. People want him because he has worked for the development of Bihar," BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel said.

Political analysts are of the view that Mr Kumar may have said this to attract voters in his party's favour as he has been facing massive anti-incumbency in the polls. Recently, while addressing a rally in Madhubani, onions were thrown at him while he was speaking about employment and development.

"Even if he has announced that this is going to be his last election, we know that he will continue to work for the welfare of people. His statement cannot be seen as his retirement, he has a long way to go," JD(U) spokesperson Ajay Alok said.

"All is well that ends well," the chief minister said on Thursday while addressing a gathering of his party's supporters during his public meet-



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrives to offer prayers at the High Court Mazar during Urs festival in Patna on Thursday. — PTI

● The final phase of polls for 78 seats covers the 16 districts of Seemanchal region and north Bihar having a concentration of Muslims, Yadavs and Dalits.

Mr Modi, in his open letter, reminded people of Bihar so that the all round development does not get stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double

(deficiency to aspiration) and asserted that people have voted for development, good intentions, good governance and aatmanirbharta and not on caste lines, or for corruption and opportunists.

"I am very much convinced about the development of Bihar. I need Nitish Ji's government in Bihar so that the all round development does not get stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double

engine will take Bihar to new heights of development in this decade," the PM wrote in his letter.

While the BJP's poll managers are receiving "positive and enthusiastic indicators" from the two phased polling, sources said there is unease regarding ally JD(U). Anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar led government and the chief minister himself could impact the NDA's arithmetic.

5- yr not enough to
drive out 'Mughals'
from Assam: MinMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 5

Continuing his tirade against "Muslim Bangladeshi immigrants" defining them as "Mughals", Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Thursday said that five years term was not enough for the BJP-led alliance government to drive out the modern "Mughals" who have succeeded in establishing a very deep root in past 70 years in Assam.

Admitting that these "modern Mughals" have also found place in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Mr Sarma told reporters that his government has decided to approach the Supreme Court after the assembly polls next year for complete re-verification of the NRC.

Accusing former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela of

messing up with the process of updating the NRC and misleading the apex court also, Mr Sarma said that they will bring all these anomalies to the notice of the apex court besides taking action against Mr Hajela.

Asserting that BJP was committed to drive out "modern Mughals" from the state, Mr Sarma who was supervising the construction of a new six-lane bridge on Brahmaputra in Guwahati, came down heavily on All India United Democratic Front and accused them of patron of the "Mughals". "Mughals" have become a constant reference, a significant metaphor in Assam politics. It started recently with Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal referring it for AIUDEF which allegedly carries the "Bangladeshi" party tag.

Nyay, a boon for
C'garh's economy

Hyderabad, Nov. 5: A wave of joy and enthusiasm strikes the rural areas of Chhattisgarh, especially the agrarian sector with the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna, launched by the Chhattisgarh Government, to boost the rural economy.

Within a few months of its launch, it has proved to be a boon for the entire state's economy.

The scheme has strengthened and uplifted the rural livelihood from its core.

Chhattisgarh has bagged the first position nationwide, along with Andhra Pradesh, by collecting 26% more GST in this year's month of October, when compared with the same month last year, amid

the economic slowdown caused due to Covid-19 crisis.

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel led state government, launched the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna, on May 21 on the martyrdom day of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The scheme had derived its initial vision and essence with Rahul Gandhi's Promise of Nyay in his manifesto.

It was decided that to make the rural economy self-sufficient and self-reliant, direct money needs to be transferred into the farmer's bank accounts and not mere loans can solve the existing issues, which are making them weaker day by day.



The Chhattisgarh government launched the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna on May 21.

Low temperature, calm
wind and smoke render
Delhi air quality 'severe'

New Delhi, Nov. 5: A layer of haze lingered over the national capital and its suburbs on Thursday morning, with raging farm fires and a fall in the wind speed and temperatures pushing air quality to the worst levels in around a year.

As the skies hung heavy and acrid over the region, people complained of itchy throat and watery eyes.

Experts said unfavourable meteorological conditions — calm winds and low temperatures — and smoke from farm fires in neighbouring states led to a dense layer of haze on Wednesday night as the air quality index entered the "severe" zone.

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 561 microgram per cubic meter (g/m3) at 8 am — the highest since November 15 last year, when it was 637 g/m3, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 g/m3 are considered safe in India.

PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers which is inhalable. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

The levels of PM2, finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream, were 347 g/m3. PM2.5 levels up to 60 g/m3 are considered safe.

On Wednesday evening, the noxious haze reduced visibility to merely 600 metres at the Safdarjung Observatory, smudging

landmarks from view. It was 1,200 metres on Thursday morning.

If this was not enough, a large number of people across Delhi-NCR burst firecrackers to mark the festival of Karwa Chauth.

"People are bursting crackers and it is not even Diwali yet. The city has already become a gas chamber. This happens every year. For how long will this continue," asked Shiv Shrivastava, a resident of south Delhi.

"I can feel the pollutants in my throat despite wearing a mask. My eyes are burning. It is going to make the pandemic worse. I am scared," said Piyush Vohra, a resident of Jangpura.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum wind speed was 5 kilometres per hour on Thursday morning and the minimum temperature 11.2 degrees Celsius. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

Health experts said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, air pollution has become a serious health concern for about the two crore residents of the national capital.

According to a doctor at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, intake of every 22 micrograms per cubic metre of polluted air is equivalent to smoking a cigarette. — PTI

Maharashtra may also ban
fire crackers this DeepavaliSONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday urged the citizens to celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The minister said that the issue has already been discussed in the cabinet meeting, but the decision on it is yet to be taken.

Rajasthan, West Bengal and New Delhi have already banned the firecrackers in view of the Covid-19

Mr Tope held a meeting with officials of the state task force and death audit committee set up on the background of Coronavirus. The state is taking precautions against the second wave of Covid-19, the minister said adding that as a precautionary measure, the state government has decided to increase fever surveillance in the state.

After the cabinet meeting, Mr. Tope said that the second wave of infection is already in European countries including Spain, France, UK. He also said that if the precautions are

not taken, it would have an adverse impact on the state's efforts to check the spread of coronavirus.

"The smoke emanating from firecrackers would weaken the respiratory system. We have held a discussion in the cabinet meeting. The people of the state should celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The people would respond to the appeal," the public health minister said.

Mr Tope said he would also take up the issue with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Firecracker emissions create a heavy layer of smoke in the air, which can cause breathing problems, he said.

It has also been discussed whether environment friendly firecrackers can be used, Mr Tope added.

According to reports, the state health officials are bracing for a second wave in state, possibly in December or January when it gets cooler. "Considering the onset of winter, the state government plans to increase fever surveillance across the state for early detection of the Covid-19 infection," Mr Tope said.

COVID HAS CHINA
BAN FLIGHTS
FROM INDIA

From Page 1

"China will make further adjustment and announcement in accordance with the ongoing pandemic situation in a timely manner," it said.

The notice affected the plans by about 2,000 Indian professionals and their families who have been trying hard to return to back to their work and businesses.

Their hopes were brightened recently when China lifted the ban on the visas and resident permits which encouraged many of them to finalise plans to return.

India announced early this week plans to operate Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) flights to China from Delhi on November 13, 20, 27 and December 4 to facilitate their return.

Officials here said the flights now stand cancelled as a result of China's move to suspend visas.

India has so far operated six VBM flights and the last one operated in Delhi-Wuhan sector. Twenty-three passengers on that flight tested positive including 19 of them for asymptomatic symptoms.

Asked for the reason for the sudden action, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Thursday that "the notices issued by the Chinese embassies in the relevant countries have made it clear that this is a temporary response necessitated by the current situation of Covid-19". "Learning from other countries' practices and taking into consideration the evolving epidemic situation, we have adjusted measures concerning pertinent travellers to China," he said. — PTI

From Page 1

Till now, the two countries have failed to reach any agreement on total disengagement from the flash-points in Ladakh and are gearing up to keep their troops at forward positions during the harsh winter ahead.

Friday's meeting of the Indian and Chinese generals, which will be held at Chushul in eastern Ladakh, will be the first under the new commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon. The earlier meetings were headed on the Indian side by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, who has now been made commandant of the Indian Military Academy. The Chinese side will be led by its South Xinjiang Military Region head, Maj. Gen. Liu Lin.

The defence minister noted that India is facing multiple challenges on its borders. "India is a peace-loving country. We believe differences should not become disputes. We attach importance to the peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue. However, India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression, no matter what the sacrifice," Mr Singh said in a speech to mark the diamond jubilee of the National Defence College.

Defence secretary Ajay Kumar said India had made it clear it stood for an inclusive and rules-based order. "We don't believe in any one country trying to unilaterally dominate its position over others by force," he said.

"We have shown very clearly that when these values are attacked or going to be challenged, we will stand up to them. We have stood up to what has happened in the eastern border and we have stood up to any pressure mounted against us in this regard," Mr Kumar added.

The defence minister said peace can only be ensured through the ability to deter war. "We have attempted to build this deterrence through a judicious combination of capability development and an emphasis on the long-term policy of indigenisation," said the minister.

HARYANVIS FIRST: STATE ASSEMBLY
PASSES BILL ON 75 PC JOB QUOTA

Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Haryana Assembly on Thursday passed a bill to give 75 per cent reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the state, a key poll promise made by ruling alliance partner Jannayak Janta Party.

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 provides the quota for local people in private sector jobs

The government will also increase testing at malls, shopping complexes, grocery shops and public transport, among others, as these locations have been identified as "super-spreader", the minister said. Apart from this, the state government has decided to extend the decision to reserve 80 per cent beds in private hospitals for Covid-19 patients, he added.

The number of daily coronavirus infections in Maharashtra have been falling constantly over the last 40 days. The state's Covid-19 tally on Thursday crossed the 17 lakh-mark after it recorded 5,246 fresh cases, a state health department official said. With the addition of the new cases in the last 24 hours, the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 17,03,444.

The state also reported 117 more deaths, taking the fatality count to 44,804.

Mumbai city reported 841 positive cases, which pushed its overall case count to 2,61,681, while its death toll rose to 10,377 with 25 more patients succumbing to the infection.

No compromise,
says Defence min

No relief for Arnab, HC to hear bail plea today

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The Bombay High Court will on Friday hear a plea filed by *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami seeking interim bail in the 2018 abetment of suicide case in which he has been arrested. HC also directed Goswami's lawyer to make Akshata Naik wife of deceased Anvay Naik and the Central government as a party in the plea and serve a copy of plea to them. HC will also hear application of Adnya Naik, daughter of deceased Anvay Naik, seeking re-investigation of A summary report filed by Police in connection with the suicide of her father.

Mr Goswami's Counsel Harish Salve on Thursday argued that nothing will happen if applicant Goswami is allowed to go out on bail and sought an interim bail for him.

Mr Salve further sought that FIR against his client should be quashed and questioned illegal arrest

made by the police. Abad Ponda, second lawyer of Mr Goswami, termed re-investigation of abetment to suicide case illegal and pressed for interim relief. He further argued that commencement of new investigation after re-opening the shut case is contrary to the well settled principle of law.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik directed Mr Goswami to make the complainant in the case, Akshata Naik, Anvay's wife, and Central government parties in the case and said, "We have to hear all the parties concerned before considering the interim bail sought by the applicant. We have to hear the complainant who is family of the deceased. The family has also filed a petition seeking transfer of probe."

Mr Goswami was arrested on Wednesday from his residence at Lower Parel in Mumbai and was taken to the Alibaug police station in neighbouring Raigad dis-

trict. He was produced before a magistrate's court which remanded him in judicial custody till November 18. Mr Goswami then moved the High Court.

Mr Ponda informed the HC that a bail plea filed before the Alibaug magistrate's court has been withdrawn. "The magistrate had not given clarity on when the bail plea would be heard and had also expressed difficulty in hearing the same as the case lies in the jurisdiction of the sessions court. Hence, we are seeking for interim bail here in high court," he said.

The petition alleged that Goswami and his son were assaulted by the police team when it arrested the journalist in a motivated, false and closed case. This is another attempt of political witch-hunt and vendetta politics against the petitioner and his channel, it alleged.

A case that was decisively closed was reopened for forcibly arresting the petitioner "in a prima facie act

of revenge and vengeance for his news coverage", it said. It claimed that in May 2018, the police had recorded the statements of Mr Goswami and two senior officials of *Republic TV*, and he had also provided documents to the police about the business transactions with Naik's company.

Mr Goswami's company ARG Outlier had paid over 90 per cent of the amount due to Naik's firm Concorde Designs as per the contract, it claimed.

"In July 2019, the entire balance amount due was transferred to the bank account of Naik's company but the amount was returned because the account was inoperative," it said.

Meanwhile, the Alibaug police in Raigad district on Thursday filed a revision application before a sessions court challenging the order passed by the magistrate remanding Mr Goswami and two others to judicial custody in the case. Chief Judicial Magistrate

Sunaina Pingle had on Wednesday remanded Goswami and the two other accused in judicial custody till November 18.

After hearing arguments from both sides for almost six hours, the magistrate passed an order at around 11.30pm. After perusal of the case diary and other relevant documents, the magistrate noted that the prosecution has failed to prima facie establish a link between the deceased and the accused persons.

"Taking into consideration the reasons behind the arrest of the accused persons and the arguments put forth by the accused persons, the arrest appears to be prima facie illegal," the CJM said.

The police said the Chief Judicial Magistrate court had erred in not considering the submissions and grounds submitted by the prosecution while seeking custody of Mr Goswami and two other arrested accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitesh Sarda.

IN BRIEF THREE HAFIZ SAEED AIDES SENTENCED

Lahore, Nov. 5: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday handed down up to 16 years' imprisonment to three top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in two cases of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore convicted Saeed's brother-in-law Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

The JuD leaders were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttari announced the sentence in two cases of 2019.

UK FURLOUGH WAGE PLAN EXTENDED

London, Nov. 5: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday extended the furlough, or taxpayer-funded wage support scheme, until the end of March next year.

Sunak, who has been leading the UK's economic response to the Coronavirus pandemic, made a statement in Parliament to confirm that the scheme will pay up to 80 per cent of employee wages up to £2,500 a month, with a review of the policy scheduled for January next year.

The revised version of the furlough or forced leave scheme, which is designed for employees to hold on to their jobs through lockdown, will mean that anyone made redundant after September 23 can be re-hired and put back on furlough. "I've always said I would do whatever it takes to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK," he said.

DUBAI DRAW: INDIAN EXPAT WINS \$1 MN

Dubai, Nov. 5: An Indian expat in Bahrain has won a whopping \$1 million in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire draw. Sunil Kumar Kathuria, 33, who works as a sales person for a private company in Manama, became the 342nd person to win the million dollars on Wednesday, *Gulf News* reported.

A resident of Manama, he won \$1 million with his ticket purchased online on October 17. He is also the 170th Indian to win \$1 million at the DDF Millennium Millionaire draw. "I am a second generation expat living here (in Bahrain). It has been almost 10-12 years since I visited Dubai. I will make a trip sometime," Kathuria was quoted as saying by the report.

"It (money) will be put to good use. I want to do some charity perhaps buy a home. I will discuss with my parents and see what to do with it. Right now we are just excited with the win," he said. According to DDF organisers, Indian nationals make up the highest number of Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire ticket buyers.

VATICAN NOD TO PRIEST SEX ABUSE PROBE

Warsaw, Nov. 5: The Vatican has ordered an investigation into allegations that a now-retired archbishop in Poland was negligent in investigating reports of sex abuse of minors by priests in his Gdansk archdiocese.

The Vatican Embassy in predominantly Roman Catholic Poland said the archbishop of Warsaw had been assigned to conduct the probe and that the preliminary investigation into Archbishop Slawoj Leszek Glodz has been completed. The embassy provided no details about the outcome in a statement issued this week.

Pope Francis accepted Glodz's resignation on his 75th birthday in August, a sign he was taking the allegations against the archbishop seriously. Glodz, who had also served as the chief chaplain of Poland's armed force, denies any negligence. Abuse survivors included Glodz in a report identifying two dozen current and retired Polish bishops accused of protecting predator priests. The report was delivered to Francis on the eve of his 2019 global abuse prevention summit at the Vatican.

Oregon police face off with far-left protesters, arrest 10

Riot declared in Portland, emergency order extended fearing violence

Portland, Nov. 5: Oregon police and National Guard troops in camouflage trucks pursued far-left protesters around the US city of Portland as a riot was declared late Wednesday, making at least 10 arrests.

The northwestern city that has seen continuous protests since summer had been placed on high alert by Governor Kate Brown, who extended an election-night emergency order amid fears of violent clashes over the contested US polls.

A heavy law enforcement presence flooded the streets after a handful of demonstrators broke off from hundreds-strong anti-Trump protests to shatter storefront windows, and a man believed to have thrown a Molotov cocktail was arrested.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office cited "widespread violence" in the city's downtown area, including glass bottles thrown at police who advanced on demonstrators. An *AFP* journalist at the scene witnessed two arrests during a skirmish on a street corner that left protester Michael Ream with a bloodied face.

"It's the same thing it always is — just horrible conduct of the police force and the terrible legacy that they carry every day," the 38-year-old PhD student told *AFP* as police handcuffed him.

Asked whether this week's contested election had brought him to the streets, he replied: "More or less. I mean, I haven't been out (protesting) in a while." Portland has seen months of clashes between police and demonstrators, angered at the repeated killings of POC Americans by law enforcement officers across the country. — *AFP*



An Oregon State Trooper hits a protester with his baton while dispersing a crowd of protesters in Portland, Oregon on Thursday. Protests, some peaceful and others violent, broke out in Portland as the presidential election remained undecided. — *AFP*

No comments: UN spokesman

United Nations, Nov. 5: A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said that he has no comments as of now on the 2020 US Presidential Election and the process is being watched closely. "No, not at this point. I mean, we're all watching, obviously, closely. The process is still... is

● **SPOKESMAN FOR the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric was responding to a question whether Trump's assertion that he won the poll is helpful or dangerous.**

playing itself out. We do not have a comment at

this point." Spokesman for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric said on Wednesday. He was responding to a question on if he has a comment yet on the US election and whether President Donald Trump's assertion that he won the election is "helpful or dangerous." — *PTI*

Over 12 Indian Americans win polls

Washington, Nov. 5: More than a dozen Indian Americans have won state-level elections. This is besides the four Indian Americans elected to the US House of Representatives: Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi.

The five women elected are Jenifer Rajkumar to the New

York Assembly, Nima Kulkarni to the Kentucky State House, Kesha Ram to the Vermont State Senate, Vandana Slatter to the Washington State House, Padma Kuppala to the Michigan State House, Niraj Antani to the Ohio State Senate, Jay Chaudhuri re-elected to the North Carolina State Senate,

Amish Shah to the Arizona State House, Nikil Saval to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Ranjeev Puri to the Michigan State House, Jeremy Cooney to the New York State Senate. Ash Kalra has been re-elected to the California State Assembly for the third consecutive term. — *PTI*

BIDEN VOWS TO REJOIN PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Washington, Nov. 5: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270. His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media. On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one. The US, under the Obama administration, had acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016. It was a signature achievement of the Obama administration. — *PTI*

U.S. SETS RECORD WITH OVER 1LAKH NEW INFECTIONS

Washington, Nov. 5: The United States set another record for daily confirmed Coronavirus cases as states around the country posted all-time highs, underscoring the vexing issue that confronts the winners of the presidential race. The surging cases and hospitalisations reflect the challenge that either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will face in the coming months over the pandemic, with winter and the holidays approaching. Public health experts fear potentially dire consequences. — *AP*

"Where a more intense intervention is needed then the police will be involved and of course the fine structure is still in force," Buckland told the BBC. "I think the message has to go out very clearly that this will only work if we all play our part," he said. — *PTI*

UK min warns of virus fines

London, Nov. 5: The UK government on Thursday reminded people about the tough fines in place over severe breaches as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown in order to try and control the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, expected to last at least until December 2.

UK Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said that while the police forces of the country will continue to follow the principle of policing by consent, they would respond to "egregious breaches" and hand out fines where necessary. Under the legal requirements in place, people have been told to stay at home unless leaving for work if they can't work from home or to shop for essentials or a form of daily exercise.

All non-essential shops, pubs, bars, restaurants and gyms have been ordered to close and households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a so-called "support bubble". There is a £200 fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of £6,400 and organisers of large gatherings face a £10,000 fine.

Eta: 5 killed, fishermen stranded in Atlantic

Tegucigalpa, Nov. 5: Honduras girded for further floods and landslides even as Storm Eta weakened into a tropical depression on Wednesday on its course towards Florida, after at least five deaths and dozens of fishermen left stranded in the Atlantic.

Eta, one of the most powerful storms to strike Central America in years, hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane before weakening as it swept over neighbouring Honduras.

Eta is forecast to return to sea and regain momentum as a tropical

FLOOD | FURY

storm, reaching Cuba and southern Florida this weekend, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Across swathes of Nicaragua and Honduras, the storm has damaged homes, roads and bridges, forcing thousands of people to flee to shelters.

With alerts active for "life-threatening flash flooding," Honduras declared a state of emergency, allowing officials to order evacuations.

The most important thing is human life," government spokesman Carlos Madero told reporters.

By evening, Eta was about 70 miles (115 km) east of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, and blowing maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph).

Amid the pummeling rain, a 15-year-old boy drowned trying to cross a river and a 13-year-old girl died in a landslide on her home.

Dozens of people living along Tegucigalpa's Choluteca river evacuated as the water overflowed from the banks.

— *Reuters*

Extradite Nirav, Mallya from UK soon, says India

London, Nov. 5: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held talks with British Home Secretary Priti Patel in London during which he strongly underlined India's interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

"We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible," said Shringla. "Also, Nirav



Vijay Mallya



Nirav Modi

Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard," he said. Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts. — *PTI*

GOBICHETTIPALAYAM MUNICIPALITY
TENDER NOTICE
Dated: 3.11.2020
Roc. No. 2415/2020/H1 - 2417/2020/H1
1) Tenders are invited by the Commissioner, Gobichettipalayam Municipality, for Municipal Solid Waste Management services comprising of door to door collection of Municipal Solid Waste, road/street sweeping, drain cleaning, Public toilet cleaning and storage of waste at designated collection points on contract basis for a period of one year. In ward Nos.24,26,28,29 and 30 and Engaging 19 workers for Municipal School Toilet and Campus Cleaning Services on contract basis (Two Package system) for a period of one year in Gobichettipalayam Municipality. 2) Engaging 30 workers for Municipal Solid Waste Management primary collection works in the 5 wards of Gobichettipalayam Municipality - Estimate Rs. 68.46 Lakhs. 3) Engaging 19 workers for Municipal School Toilet and Campus Cleaning Services on contract basis for a period of one year in Gobichettipalayam Municipality - Estimate Rs.42.12 lakhs 4) Tender schedules can be downloaded at free of cost from the following website address: <https://ntenders.gov.in> and also can be get from Information centre of Gobichettipalayam Municipal Office at preferred cost.
5) Common Date and time (a) Pre-bid meeting date and time : 20.11.2020 - 11.00 AM b) Downloading of Bid Document : 27.11.2020 upto 3.00 PM c) Submission of Bid Document : 27.11.2020 upto 3.00 PM d) Opening of Technical bid : 27.11.2020 - 3.30 PM
If the date of specified tender is declared as a holiday, the tenders will be received in the next working day in the same place at the same time. Any clarification required may be sought from the office of the Gobichettipalayam Municipality Public Health Section during office hours on all working days.
Commissioner, Gobichettipalayam Municipality
DIPR/4/55/76/ndc/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER, NAMAKKAL. Public Notice under Sub-Section (2) of Section 15 of Tamilnadu Highways Act – 2001 and Tamilnadu Highways Rules – 2003 Section-5 Dated: 22.10.2020											
Under sub-section (2) of section 15 of Tamilnadu Highways Act-2001(Tamilnadu Act 34/2002) notice is hereby given that the lands specified in the Schedule and Situated in the Village of 68 Vagurampatti in the Taluk of Namakkal in the District of Namakkal are required for highways purpose, to wit for the formation of bye pass road to Namakkal town. All persons interested in the lands are, accordingly required to lodge before the District Revenue officer, Namakkal within thirty days from the date of Publication this notice, a statement in writing of their objections, if any, to the acquisition of said lands. Any objection/ statement which is received after the date or which does not clearly explain the nature of the sender's interest in the lands liable to be summarily rejected. objections received within the due date, if any will be enquired by District Revenue officer, Namakkal, when the objectors will be at liberty to appear in person or by a person or persons authorized by him or them in this behalf or by a pleader and to adduce any oral or documentary evidence in support of their objections.											
District : Namakkal				Taluk : Namakkal				Village : 68 Vagurampatti			
Sl. No.	Natham Survey No.	Proposed Sub Division No.	Total Extent of the lands in (Sq. ML.)	Total Extent of the lands to be acquired in (Sq. ML.)	Classification of the Lands	Name of the Pattadar as per Natham Chitta	Details of Buildings, Structures, Trees, Crops and Others	Boundaries for the proposed Acquisition lands			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(N)	(E)	(S)	(W)
1	99/25	99/25B	81	53	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 766 Subramaniam S/o.Ramasamy	-	Natham S. No. 99/3B	Natham S. No. 99/82	Natham S. No. 99/26B	Natham S. No. 99/25A
2	99/26	99/26B	81	42.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 767 Jayanthi W/o.Murugan	Young Baala Tree-1	Natham S. No. 99/25B	Natham S. No. 99/84	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 99/26A
3	99/52	99/52B	81	36.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 793 Vijayalakshmi W/o.Kannan	-	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 99/86	Natham S. No. 99/90B	Natham S. No. 99/52A
4	99/72	99/72B	81	1	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 813 Ponnammal W/o.Rangasamy	-	Natham S. No. 99/72A	Natham S. No. 99/73B	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/72A
5	99/73	99/73B	81	80	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 814 Duraisamy S/o.Rangasamy	-	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/73A, 99/72B
6	99/76	99/76B	81	7	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 817 Seerangayee W/o.Kuppan	Bathroom -1 (Part) Ground Water Tank-1 (part)	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/81	Natham S. No. 99/79B	Natham S. No. 99/76A
7	99/79	99/79B	81	15.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 820 Maduraiaveeran S/o.Chinnadan	Drum Stick Tree-1	Natham S. No. 99/76B	Natham S. No. 99/80	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/79A
8	99/80	99/80	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 826 Kandasamy S/o.Paramasivam	Young Unja Tree-2	Natham S. No. 99/81	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/79B
9	99/81	99/81	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 827 Nallusamy S/o.Kuppusamy	Bathroom-1, Neem Tree - 1	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/80	Natham S. No. 99/76B
10	99/82	99/82	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 828 Kumaresan S/o. Venkatachalam	-	Natham S. No. 99/3B	Natham S. No. 99/83	Natham S. No. 99/84	Natham S. No. 99/25B
11	99/83	99/83	85.5	85.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 829 Periyasamy S/o.Rangan	-	Natham S. No. 99/3B	Natham S. No. 89	Natham S. No. 99/85	Natham S. No. 99/82
12	99/84	99/84	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 830 Anutha W/o Gopalakrishnan	-	Natham S. No. 99/82	Natham S. No. 99/85	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 99/26B
13	99/85	99/85	87.5	87.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 831 Malliga W/o Veerasamy	IAY Terraced House-1, Asbestos Shed-1 Bathroom-1 Water Tank-1	Natham S. No. 99/83	Natham S. No. 89	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 99/84
14	99/86	99/86	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 832 Palaniyammal W/o.Sekar	IAY Terraced House-1, Asbestos Shed-1, Hut-1, Bathroom-1 Water Tank-1	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 99/87	Natham S. No. 99/89	Natham S. No. 99/52B
15	99/87	99/87	101.5	101.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 833 Murugesan S/o.Ramasamy	-	Natham S. No. 99/3C	Natham S. No. 89	Natham S. No. 99/88	Natham S. No. 99/86
16	99/88	99/88	106.5	106.5	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 834 Sarninathan S/o.Palani	Drumstick Tree-1	Natham S. No. 99/87	Natham S. No. 89	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/89
17	99/89	99/89	81	81	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 835 Suguneswari W/o.Balasubramani	-	Natham S. No. 99/86	Natham S. No. 99/88	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/90B
18	99/90	99/90B	81	39	Natham Village Site	Natham Patte No. 836 Arukkani W/o.Palani	-	Natham S. No. 99/52B	Natham S. No. 99/89	Natham S. No. 99/3E	Natham S. No. 99/90A
Total Extent of Natham Village Site Lands to be acquired – 1141.5 Sq.Mts. DIPR /598 /LAND/2020								Land Acquisition Officer and District Revenue Officer, Namakkal.			

DECCAN Chronicle

6 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden or Trump? US is facing uncertain future

Three days after a deeply divided America went to the polls to elect its next President, we still don't know for sure if Donald Trump will stay at the White House for the next four years, or if his Democratic challenger Joe Biden – and his running mate Kamala Devi Harris – will take the oath of office on January 20 next. With this election having seen a record turnout, and over 100 million votes – close to half the total – being cast ahead of the actual date, not to mention the larger-than-usual number of mail-in ballots (particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in which the US recorded the largest number of cases), the counting is still going on relentlessly in several of the so-called “battleground” states.

At the point of writing while it does appear Mr Biden, the former vice-president who served under President Barack Obama, is likely to get a clear majority of the popular vote, and is far closer than Mr Trump, the incumbent, to reaching the 270 magic figure in the Electoral College, and becoming America's 46th President, nothing is ever certain till he actually reaches that mark. That might happen tonight, or sooner, or it may take many days, if not weeks, but the rules of the game require that all ballots must be counted.

Shockingly, however, the sitting President, who is sworn to uphold the US Constitution, doesn't seem to feel so, and in an outrageous statement at the White House on Wednesday demanded the counting be halted and declared that he had already won. This while votes were still being tallied in several states, and he himself was leading in some of them. He also threatened to move the Supreme Court to get the count halted, and by Thursday his campaign's legal teams followed through in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, and sought a recount in Wisconsin, which had gone in Mr Biden's favour, to stave off the President's defeat. We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority inclined towards Mr Trump's right-wing ideology), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy.

If Mr Biden does succeed finally in making it to the White House, despite all the impediments put in his way, he will find that governing will not be an easy task. Disappointingly for him, the vote on Tuesday was not the decisive rejection of “Trumpism” he and his party had campaigned for, and though the Democrats managed to retain control of the House of Representatives, their likely failure to wrest back control of the Senate means that a Biden administration will face roadblocks all the way, and perhaps be forced to resort to executive orders to deliver on its agenda. While a change of guard in Washington may be welcomed in most of the world, especially among America's closest allies, Mr Biden might find his diplomatic skills may first have to be deployed to work with the Senate's Republican leaders. The strong India-US strategic partnership is expected to remain on track, as it has bipartisan support in America, but New Delhi should be prepared for some pinpricks.

Alimony guidelines welcome

The Supreme Court's order laying down guidelines for the lower courts when deciding petitions for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases is a welcome step on many counts. First and foremost is that there is a set of guidelines to be followed by family courts, magistrates and lower courts to ensure uniformity and consistency in such cases. This should help early settlement of cases as the presiding judges have a solid base to build their orders on. The second is that maintenance will be paid from the date of filing of a petition in a court. This one norm will disincentivise husbands from prolonging such cases, which often end up in the Supreme Court. The court has observed that the pendency of the cases and the final settlement, could take years and the estranged partner would be living a miserable life, unable to meet life's expenses. The guidelines assure the woman a source of money even if it comes bit late. In economic parlance, she can monetise her petition and escape penury.

The apex court has taken care to make the process of deciding alimony as transparent and just as possible. The courts must henceforth take into account the financial position and assets of both the partners before deciding the quantum of maintenance; the expenses of the children and the basic needs, and the spiralling inflation should also be factored in while arriving at a sum. That the court has attached such orders the authority of an order of a civil court will enable the aggrieved partner to approach the authorities to enforce it, should there be a breach. In short, through a single order, the apex court has some shed light into the lives of thousands of women whom patriarchy had dumped into the dungeons of misery on the watch of a heartless judicial system. They can now hope for an escape.

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Subhani



Pakistan in free fall is dangerous for India



Syed Ata Hasnain

Pakistan is in the news again, this time over looming threats to the Imran Khan government from a surprisingly united Opposition. Coupled with the bankruptcy of the economy, the cozying up to Turkey and Malaysia's wholly Islamist agenda, the fall-out with France over the recent terror and *Charlie Hebdo* cartoon issue, and its retention on the Financial Action Task Force's grey list; all these are creating a spectre of uncertainty and despair. The visible symptoms of the Opposition taking Imran Khan's government to the cleaners are there for all to see. Massive demonstrations under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) were held in Gujranwala and other cities. The PDM is an 11-party conglomeration (not an alliance yet) that has surprisingly seen Bilawal Bhutto's PPP and Nawaz Sharif's PML(N), represented physically on the frontlines by his daughter Maryam Nawaz, coming together with Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam. It includes Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal. The objective is to rid Pakistan of the rule of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that was catapulted to power by the Pakistan Army in 2018. The ultimate intent is, of course, to remove the all-pervasive hand of the Army from Pakistan's politics. These leaders hope to throw up a civil society movement to achieve that, but Pakistan's civil society along with its media have been emaciated over the years. In 1968, Ayub Khan could be overthrown partially due to the powerful civil society-led movement in the streets, although it did lead to the imposition of martial law. Ever

since the overthrow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, the powerful Pakistan Army has ensured the further weakening of civil society and the media to obviate the possibility of popular street revolts. The “Deep State”, which runs Pakistan, despite the front of so-called elected civilian governments, has cleverly used the draw of religion and ideology along with out-sourced power to the clergy to keep intact its influence and power. But now things seem to be changing, with the altered circumstances. Can these circumstances make a difference in the internal power game in Pakistan?

We have earlier seen massive turnouts of people in Pakistan, but mostly on religious and ideological calls. Islamabad was blockaded by such calls many times in the past five years. This time it is for a political cause after long, and unity among political parties isn't something to be easily expected. Things appear much more serious with the two strongest parties PML(N) and PPP having set aside their differences for the moment and agreed upon a compromise leader in Maulana Fazlur Rehman. This unity may not last long due to their regional power bases attempting to upend each other. The PDM proposes to launch a mass protest campaign comprising public gatherings, political rallies, no-confidence motions, en masse resignations from assemblies and, finally, a long march in January that will culminate in a sit-in in Islamabad until their demands are met. Sticking together long enough to see it through will be a major challenge. The Army may have some ways of its own to break this unity; an offer of power to one

party may well be on the cards: anything is possible in Pakistan's fractious politics.

What does favour the Opposition is the abysmal state of the economy and the fact that Imran Khan and the Army have little clue on what to do about it. In addition, the most emotive issue of Kashmir seems to be slipping from the Pakistan government's hands after the Indian moves of August 5, 2019, which abrogated all special constitutional provisions for J&K. In a recent move, Saudi Arabia released a new banknote and the world map displayed on the obverse side of the note doesn't show Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir as parts of Pakistan. This coming from a nation that supported Pakistan for many years and was responsible for almost all its economic bailouts clearly shows that its interests do not lie with Pakistan's awkward internal politics or its inability to pursue American-Saudi interests. Pakistan's support to Turkey and Malaysia in an apparent bid to cultivate new power equations within the Islamic world is bringing it to grief with Saudi Arabia. Now with further efforts to be more Islamic than the others, by taking on France, Pakistan is actually falling foul with the Western world in general without considering the future of its economic bailouts; as China's largesse is not unending. China, that invested \$60 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, is also hand in glove with the Islamabad regime in exploiting Balochistan and Sindh, which is

fuelling discontent among the people of these provinces.

Where the Opposition has a slight advantage is that the Army may have no plan to step in to directly rule a nation with a bankrupt economy. Thus, martial law is a long shot and unlikely. The fairly professional Pakistan Army may appear to be united behind its chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. However, the ambitions that subordinate generals harbour are rarely known. The batches of generals who were overlooked for the top slot due the controversial three-year extension given to Gen. Bajwa by Imran Khan, would yet wish to see his back. With a new government there could be the possibility of a new Army leadership, though Gen. Bajwa will use all his guile to stay on and be the guiding light to a new dispensation if he ditches Imran Khan.

The Pakistan Army under Gen. Bajwa does not seem to be as intelligently energetic as in the past. Its handling of the Sindh police case in the totally unnecessary effort to intimidate Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, Safdar Awan, has badly let down its image. What also appears true is the inability of the Pakistan Army to push back sufficiently on J&K. It may rest content with what has happened in Ladakh but another year in J&K with the networks under strain, different leaderships wiped out and fresh ones unable to infiltrate, is likely to see much higher advantage to India. It is at such times that India needs its antennae up higher than usual. When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war which it intends fighting for long, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution. A Pakistan in free fall is always unpredictable and thus dangerous.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution

LETTERS

MUCH NEEDED BAN

Apropos your report SC asks for Centre's stand on lifetime ban (Nov. 5). India badly needs political and electoral reforms, hence a lifetime ban on convicted politicians should be brought into immediate action. Right from MPs to MLAs, a number of them are either convicted with criminal offences or under corruption and unfortunately the country is being led under these immoral leaders. With the support of the judiciary, the Election Commission can make it mandatory for clean and clear political standards. A leader is a representative of the people and he/she needs to have ethical values for leading society in a rightful manner.

Jacqueline Netto,
Chennai

INDECISIVE TN GOVT

THE DECISION of the Tamil Nadu government to get parents' views on November 9 after issuing a circular that the schools in the state will reopen on November 16 is putting the cart before the horse. Be that as it may, one feels, there can be no problem in having remedial or doubt clarification classes in schools (especially, for classes 10 and 12) with parental consent, which of course should be in writing. Schools with adequate infrastructure facilities can easily follow the safety guidelines and set the academic ball rolling. Online classes can go on as usual. The government and voluntary organisations can lend a helping hand to schools in this matter and also endeavour to bridge the so-called digital divide prevailing in the society. It's imperative that people in general and the stakeholders in particular galvanize themselves to the new normal.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

BIDEN HAS AN EDGE

THERE IS no decisive winner yet in the US presidential poll as the counting of the votes for the key battleground is far from being completed. No doubt, it has all the marking of a cliffhanger and not an easy win for Joe Biden as trumpeted by pollsters. While Biden is now marginally ahead in swing states of Michigan and Wisconsin, Trump is leading in Pennsylvania. While Biden camp is pinning its hope on early voters who were believed to had cast their votes in favour of Democrats to sail through the tight race and win the presidency, Trump have had no qualms in accusing Joe Biden of having committed a fraud on the American public. Only the final results of battleground states will determine who will be the real winner in the presidential race.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

Raj Mohan Tella



IPL's purpose to boost talent, but cricket should always come first

For a cricket spectator like me, the IPL or the Indian Premier League presents long periods of intense self-absorption. But I am sometimes intrigued by what could have been the actual purpose of this greatly addictive tournament.

Great cricket, a revenue opportunity for the cricket board, advertisers getting to reach cricket-worshipping India, spectators banding together as fan armies — all of this, yes, but the one that appeals to me deeply is this — it is a platform for young cricketers to play, compete with some of the best players in the world and gain that much-needed international exposure.

Imagine a T. Natarajan bowling to Chris Gayle. Or an Ankit S. Rajpoot getting advice from Steve Smith. IPL seems to help in gaining confidence, earning a standing and possibly even bolstering their self-worth. For some of them, it has

paved the way to donning the India colours. If you ask me, this is the real worth of IPL.

“*Yatra pratibha ausara prapnoti-hi*”, which means “Where talent meets opportunity”. This is what is inscribed on the IPL trophy. And this rings so true hearing Hyderabad bowler Mohammed Siraj's down-to-earth articulation of his humble beginnings and passion for cricket. How cricket and his IPL earnings gave him an opportunity to provide basic creature comforts to his parents and brother. This season, Siraj has hit the headlines in IPL for several reasons. And now he is also a part of the Indian Test team. There are many more young cricketers who have stories similar to Siraj's. All of which reflect IPL's real brand purpose.

But does purpose really matter? Especially for brands and businesses? We hear so much talk from mar-

keting wizards that purpose guides brands and purpose it is when you have to connect with the new, thinking consumer. Some pundits even say that purpose means brands having a point of view and appeal to the higher, emotional needs of a consumer. No disagreements on that. But isn't the fundamental question the ability of a brand to deliver a functional benefit, solve a problem or meet a need? Certainly, a brand can advocate a purpose, but while doing that the assumption is that the functional aspects are getting delivered. Because that allows for basic survival of the brand. And purpose helps building on it with elements of emotion and differentiation.

In the difficult times we live in now, when survival of businesses seems to be paramount, functionality is at the core. It cannot be sacrificed for purpose. And merely having one is not enough. What pur-

pose does have a Parle G have, except to give us all a satisfying and value for money biscuit time? It is in fact one of India's most popular comfort food. Or for that matter isn't the purpose of all payment apps to deliver convenience and speed while protecting our details? But if you were to say a hospital brand or an organic food company needs to have a purpose, I would agree. Purpose is not a holy grail. Marketers need to prioritise functionality and layer this with the avowed purpose. I would suggest a four-point check list for deciding on the purpose — understand the functional benefits of your brand, assess the emotional dimensions your brand can shoulder, do a pulse check on your more vocal target audiences, their needs and aspirations, and draw a strong connection between the purpose and your line of business.

Switching back to IPL and brand

purpose in that context — don't we all need to have great, gripping and enjoyable cricket first, then as fans or rather as consumers of cricket, we move our attention to the other outcomes, like young names getting recognised and gaining a semblance of financial stability? Just imagine; if IPL were to only tell you they were bringing young cricketers together and providing them a platform. Would you watch IPL with the same enthusiasm? Well as a fan and cricket lover you would want the big names, the fanfare, the myths and stories that cricket creates and the nailbiting finishes — all of which are the promise of IPL. After that comes the purpose that has let a Mohammed Siraj bowl us over...

Raj Mohan Tella is the founder of Brandlogues, a global brand consulting firm. He can be reached at rajmohan@brandlogues.com.

quick
BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,340.16	1.78
Nifty 50	12,120.30	1.78
S&P 500*	3,513.95	2.05
Dollar (₹)	74.39	0.48
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.84	-0.14
Euro (₹)	87.48	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,980.158	0.30
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.86	-0.37
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.858	-0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.766	-0.002

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Hyundai drives
in all new i20
at ₹6.8 lakh

Hyundai, India's second biggest carmaker, launched its all-new fourth generation Hyundai i20 premium hatchback with prices for the petrol versions starting at Rs 6.80 lakh and the diesel version starting at Rs 8.20 lakh to aggressively push sales in the festive season. The new Hyundai i20 will take on Tata Altroz, Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Toyota Glanza, Volkswagen Polo and Honda Jazz.

■ Recovery halts in Bharat; net 5.5L jobs lost
50L find salaried jobs in OctoberSANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Though close to 50 lakh jobs were created for the salaried class in October, huge employment losses in rural India has halted the job recovery seen in the country since May this year. October recorded the first fall in jobs since May, with around 5.5 lakh losing employment during the month, according to think-tank CMIE. Rural small traders and wage labourers accounted for most of the employment loss.

It looks the job scenario has deteriorated after seeing a rapid recovery from May onwards. CMIE says the process of recovery of jobs that was robust during May, June and July and slowed down in August and September has now reversed into a fall in employment in October.

Of the 121 million jobs lost in April, 110 million jobs came back during May, June and July. Then, August and September saw the addition of only 5 million jobs. Now, October recorded the first fall since the recovery began, according to CMIE.

The IHS Markit Services PMI survey too found that employment had declined in October, despite the optimism towards the year-ahead outlook strengthening. Amid reports of workers on leave failing to return and difficulties in hiring staff due to the pandemic, services employment decreased again in



October, the survey said.

Commenting on the CMIE survey, Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the job losses have happened among small traders and wage labourers in the rural areas. The employment among these categories dipped almost 10.6 million from 130 million to 120 million in a month's time. However, the salaried class added close to 5 million jobs and businesses and farmers another five million, which led to a net job loss of 5.5 lakh, she said.

"The job losses could have happened probably due to the migration of hawkers and wage labourers back to the cities. Due to this migration, rural jobs show a clear dip, but urban centres have not added jobs as companies are still working on limited manpower," Shah added.

This fall in employment has come at a time the demand for jobs is rising. The count of the unemployed who were willing to work increased by 12 million in October.

Accordingly, the employment rate—which measures the extent available labour resources (people available to work) are being used—deteriorated in October. It fell from 38 per cent in September to 37.8 per cent in October. This is an outcome of a combination of a stagnant labour participation rate and an increase in the unemployment rate.

The labour participation rate as of October 2020 remains significantly lower than the levels seen till February 2020. The employment rate had shed a massive 12.2 percentage points in April. Much of this, 10.4 percentage points, was recovered during May, June and July.

The employment rate has been falling every year since 2016-17. It fell by 1.13 percentage points in 2017-18, then by 1.46 percentage points in 2018-19 and by 0.46 percentage points in 2019-20. If this trend were to continue, 2020-21 would see another fall of about one percentage point in the employment rate even if there were no lockdown.

Saudi fund PIF
puts ₹9,555 cr
in Reliance
Retail Ventures

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm on Thursday raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total fundraise in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.58 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore.

"This investment will further strengthen PIF's presence in India's dynamic economy and promising retail market segment," the statement said.

"The transaction is in line with PIF's strategy as a leading global investor with a proven track-record of investing in innovative and transformative companies globally and develop strong partnerships with leading groups in their respective markets," it said.

India's retail sector is one of the largest in the world and accounts for over 10 per cent of its GDP, which presents meaningful growth potential.

Ambani said: "I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance."

RBI makes co-lending
easier for banks & NBFCsFALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

In a bid to improve the flow of credit to the unserved sectors of the economy and to make funds affordable for them, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday revised the guidelines for banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, to jointly lend to the priority sector. Analysts said the co-lending scheme would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their retail loan growth.

"The primary focus of the revised scheme, rechristened as "Co-Lending Model" (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and

greater reach of the NBFCs," the RBI said in a release.

The CLM is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018. Under CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, the RBI said, adding that "the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books. However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the

individual loans on their books. The guidelines state that if the bank can exercise its discretion regarding taking into its books the loans originated by NBFC as per the agreement, the arrangement will be akin to a direct assignment transaction. The NBFC will not have to maintain the minimum holding period (MHP).

Anil Gupta, vice-president and sector head—financial sector ratings, Icr, said, "Under the CLM, if NBFCs and banks have a prior co-lending arrangement, NBFCs can immediately sell down their loan portfolio to banks without completing the minimum holding period requirement under the direct assignment transactions. This would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their ability to drive their retail credit growth."

Market excited over a likely Biden win

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The stock market surged for the fourth straight session to close at over eight-month high, with Sensex and Nifty-50 gaining over 1.75 per cent, in line with the gains in the global markets on emerging US presidential election trends showing Joe Biden leading the race for White House.

Foreign institutional investors were major buy-

ers, by Rs 5,368.31 crore, in the Indian market as per provisional data.

Investors perceive a Biden victory to be good for the global markets and economies and this led to buying in equities all over the world, analysts said.

Following over two per cent gains in the overnight US market, the Indian market, like its peers Asia, made a gap-up opening with the Sensex opening 496 points up at

41,112 and rose steadily through the session to close 724 points up at 41,340.

After a long time, all the 30 Sensex constituents closed in the green led by big gains for the financials mainly banks, IT and index heavy weight Reliance Industries.

The broader market was equally euphoric, with BSE Mid-cap and BSE Small-cap indices gaining 1.74 per cent and 1.70 per cent, respectively.

COFFEE-BREAK

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



Aries: Seek out loved ones; resolve issues mutually. Family issues take precedence over career concerns; you spend more time at home and connect with loved ones.



Taurus: Your work contributions bring you appreciations. You prioritise enhancing your financial security. De-stress and relax; your hectic schedule could affect your health.



Gemini: Curtail your hectic lifestyle to avoid health issues. Redecorate your home. Organising your resources enables you to stay ahead of the competition.



Cancer: Those who matter recognise your efforts, bringing you newer options. Making decisions at home gets easier—you won't face oppositions you can't overcome.



Leo: Try finishing ongoing assignments, so you clear the deck for new opportunities. You'll feel responsibilities for the family as you plan ahead.



Virgo: You may feel short of resources for your activities. Heavy expenditure and low income may cause dissatisfaction. Businessmen must be cautious. Hasty decisions may cause heavy losses.



You share your b'day with
Emily Jean "Emma" Stone is an American actress. The recipient of several accolades, including an Academy Award, a British Academy Film Award, and a Golden Globe Award, she was the world's highest-paid actress in 2017.



Libra: Employees live routine life, but the self-employed may find the going tough. Artists and show-biz employees get overworked. Your intellect is at its best during the day.



Scorpio: Separate professional and personal lives. At work, your strict adherence to rules may fetch you appreciation. Financial status remains unchanged.



Sagittarius: Those in real estate get disappointed over delayed returns. Status quo continues in personal property matters. Politicians and public-life officials get introspective.



Capricorn: Ensure everyone's on the same page to prevent miscommunication. Be flexible when dealing with changing situations at work and home.



Aquarius: Stay on good terms with colleagues. Expect positive performance appraisals given your ability to deliver despite pressure.



Pisces: Don't get too involved in loved ones' problems—you may not have all the facts. Property investments bring gains. Solve simmering domestic issues, or unexpected events could trigger emotional responses.

CATCH THE
OPPONENTS
WITH A
RADAR GUN

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "In skating over thin ice, our safety is our speed."

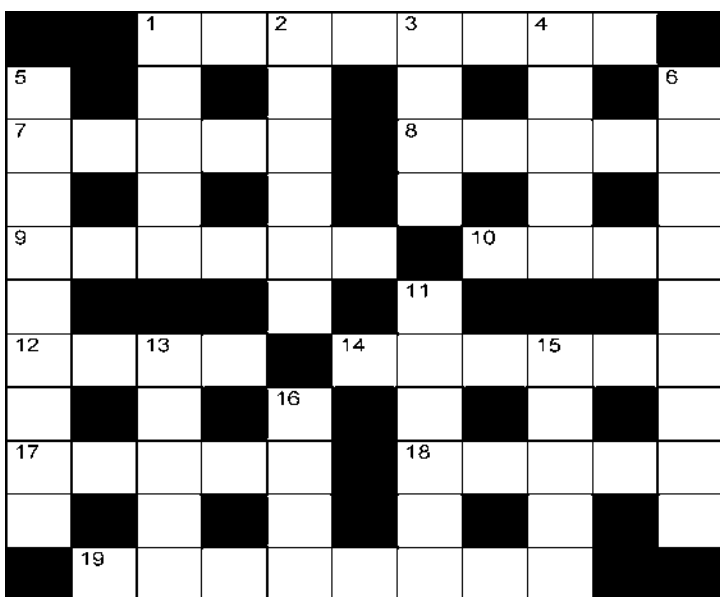
These days, if it is your turn to bid, you try to do anything but pass. If you have good support for partner's suit, but insufficient values for game, you leap into the stratosphere, as recommended by the Law of Total Tricks.

However, the LTT isn't infallible, and sometimes one player misleads his partner

with potentially fatal consequences. This is especially true when the opponents are using a radar gun and know how to deal with speeding opponents -- as in today's deal from an online duplicate.

East was tempted to respond one no-trump but decided that if his side belonged in three no-trump, partner, with a strong hand, should probably be the declarer. Then South could not resist throwing in a lead-

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- Squeeze (8)
- Unconfined (5)
- Urbane (5)
- Fortified building (6)
- Join line (4)
- Encourage (4)
- Deadly (6)
- Domesticated (5)
- Ballroom dance (5)
- Elastic (8)

Down

- Traverse (5)
- Breakfast food (6)
- Stratagem (4)
- Musty (5)
- Vary up and down (9)
- Bright scarlet colour (8)
- Putrefying (6)
- Entire range (5)
- Nearby (5)
- Slight advantage (4)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Airstrip, 6. Tonic, 7. Ransom, 9. Fuss, 11. Dirge, 12. Covet, 13. Cedex, 16. Silver, 18. Fair, 19. Duodenum.

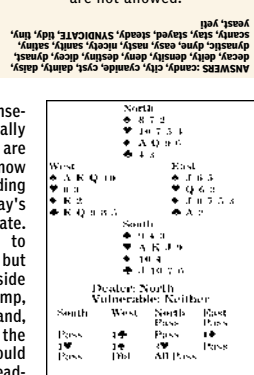
Down: 1. Artefacts, 2. Rungs, 3. Rare, 4. Pensive, 5. Duo, 8. Maelstrom, 10. Swerved, 14. Drawn, 15. Ergo, 17. Ivy.

Word Mine

Y
CNS
TIAD E

TODAY'S RATINGS: 24 AVERAGE; 27 GOOD; 2 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.



Jumble

CRILY
SEYMS
XTROVE
TANUMU

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Yesterday's Jumble: MUNCH PFACE

Answer: For sports fans, the invention of the remote control was a — GAME CHANGER



Ben Franklin was able to invent bifocals because of his ability to —

(Answer: Monday)

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directing overall in his strong four-card suit. But North, believing that they had a nine-card fit, jumped to the nine-trick level. West, unwilling to sell out to that contract, made a card-showing double. Then East wondered what to do next. Even if the heart queen were a stopper, would they have nine winners in three no-trump? Unlikely. Also, five diamonds seemed miles away. So, East passed. West took his three spade

winners before shifting to the club king. East overtook with his ace and returned the suit. West played a third round of the suit, East overruffing dummy's heart 10 with his queen. That was down two, plus 300, which proved to be a 90% board.



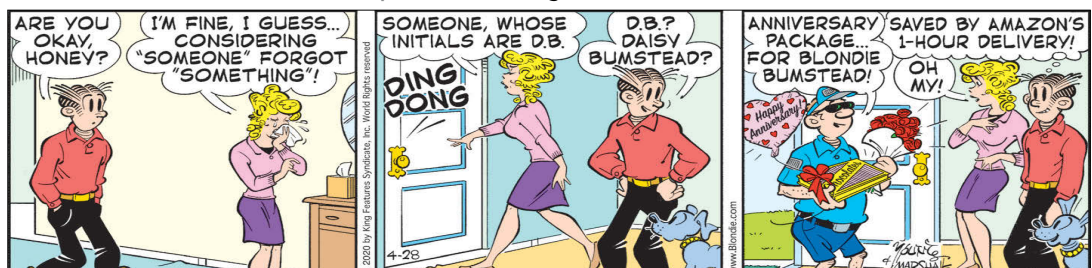
CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs

SHORT TAKES

Usman's bro jailed for fake terror plot

Sydney: Australian international cricketer Usman Khawaja's older brother was jailed on Thursday after being sentenced for his actions in framing a colleague using a fake terror plot. Arsalan Tariq Khawaja admitted forging entries in the notebook of his University of New South Wales co-worker Kamer Nizamdeen in August 2018 after being jealous of Nizamdeen's contact with a mutual female friend. Nizamdeen was arrested, locked up in a maximum-security jail for four weeks and incorrectly labeled a terrorist in the media before police discovered he had been set up. Khawaja also admitted phoning authorities in 2017 about a love rival, another man of whom he was jealous, and made visa and terrorism accusations including that the man had trained overseas. In the New South Wales District Court, Judge Robert Weber jailed the 40-year-old Khawaja for four years and six months with a non-parole period of two years and six months. Khawaja made entries on at least 22 pages of a notebook and handed it to university staff. The notebook contained death threats against then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the governor-general, as well as lists to attack police stations, the Boxing Day cricket test match in Melbourne and landmarks. — PTI

1,000th win for Nadal in Paris

Paris: Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches on Wednesday by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters, while Diego Schwartzman and Alexander Zverev also reached the third round. The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark. The Spaniard had to fight back against fellow Spanish veteran Lopez, 39, but did enough to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week. Meanwhile, Argentinian Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of reaching the ATP Tour Finals for the first time thanks to a third-round thrashing of Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Paris Masters on Thursday. The sixth seed raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory in one an hour and will face either third seed Daniil Medvedev or Australia's Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals on Friday. — AFP

Bopanna-Marach make quarters

Paris: India's Rohan Bopanna and Austrian Oliver Marach stunned ninth seeds Fabrice Martin and Jean-Julien Rojer in a hard-fought second round encounter to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Paris Masters tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Austrian pair came from behind to defeat their fancied rivals 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the round of 16 tie Wednesday night. After losing the first set, the duo of Bopanna and Marach won the second to put the pressure on the French-Dutch pair.

MIGHTY IN FINAL

Ishan, Suryakumar punch big as Mumbai mum Delhi

Dubai, Nov. 5: Defending champions Mumbai Indians reached their sixth Indian Premier League final beating Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in the first Qualifier on Thursday.

Batting first, MI scored 200 for 5 riding on half-centuries from Suryakumar Yadav (51 off 38 balls) and Ishan Kishan (55 no off 30 balls). Hardik Pandya also scored 37 off 14 balls.

In reply, Delhi Capitals finished on 143 for 8 with Jasprit Bumrah taking 4 for 14.

Suryakumar Yadav's near flawless half-century complemented by Hardik Pandya's death-over fireworks saw Mumbai Indians put up an above-par 200 for 5 against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier of the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Surya smashed his way to a 51 off 38 balls to lay a foundation that was enough for Hardik murder the bowling with five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

In between, Ishan Kishan was an ideal anchor with a priceless half-century (55 off 30 balls), adding 60 for the sixth wicket with Hardik in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with his cerebral bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics as far as his pace department was concerned.

Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office.

In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls bowled by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants,



Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Delhi Capitals during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

who were bowling short of length consistently.

At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)'s dodgy hamstring did play its part as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before. De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs. — PTI

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40, Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Nortje 51, Ishan Kishan not out 55, Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0, Krunal Pandya c Sams b Stoinis 13, Hardik Pandya not out 37. Extras (B-1, LB-2, W-1) 4. **Total (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200.**

FoW: 1-16, 2-78, 3-100, 4-101, 5-140. **Bowling:** Sams 4-0-44-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0, Axar Patel 3-0-27-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-50-1, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c de Kock b Boult 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Bumrah 0, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Boult 0, S. Iyer c Rohit b Bumrah 12, Stoinis b Bumrah 65, R. Pant c Suryakumar b K. Pandya 3, Axar Patel c Chahar b Pollard 42, Sams c de Kock b Bumrah 0, Rabada not out 15, Nortje not out 0. Extras (W-6) 6. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 143.**

FoW: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-20, 5-41, 6-112, 7-112, 8-141. **Bowling:** Boult 2-1-9-2, Bumrah 4-1-14-4, K. Pandya 4-0-22-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pollard 4-0-36-1, R. Chahar 2-0-35-0.

Sunrisers look for fresh push

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 5: With momentum on their side, a confident Sunrisers Hyderabad would look for another complete performance to continue their forward march in the IPL when they face a struggling Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator here on Friday.

Pushed to the wall after a slow start to the tournament, SRH produced a lion-hearted effort in the second leg and peaked at the right time to qualify for the play-offs by finishing third in the league standings, just ahead of RCB.

It has been contrasting results for the two teams in the business end of the tournament.

While RCB suffered four consecutive defeats to finish the league stage at the fourth spot, SRH registered a hat-trick of wins to edge past Virat Kohli's men in the standings.

NUMBERS GAME	
HEAD TO HEAD	
OVERALL:	● Matches: 16 ● Hyderabad: 8 ● Bangalore: 7 ● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)
MEETING IN 2020	
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai.	● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Sharjah.
FOR THE RECORD	
● Devdutt Padikkal with 472 runs at an average of 33.71 in 14 innings of as many matches is the top scorer for Royal Challengers Bangalore in this IPL.	● Rashid Khan who claimed 19 wickets at an average of 15.57, is the highest wicket-taker for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL.

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

SRH made a remarkable turnaround in their final three games — defeating Delhi Capitals, RCB and table-toppers Mumbai Indians to book their last-fourth berth.

And come Friday, SRH would be brimming with confidence, especially after their 10-wicket win

over MI in the last must-win game.

The credit for SRH's success in the past few matches goes to the opening pair of Warner and Wriddhiman Saha.

The duo has clicked upfront and has so far shared two century stands — 107 against DC

and then 151 against MI.

While Warner has led SRH from the front, scoring 529 runs from 14 games to occupy the second spot in the scorers' list, Saha (184 runs from 3 matches) has proved that the SRH team management has erred in benching him for 11 ties.

On the other hand, knowing very well that another blunder could send them packing, the Kohli-led RCB have a lot to ponder over.

Young Devdutt Padikkal, who scored his fifth fifty of the event in their last game, has been consistent at the top but Kohli needs to step up as of late, his strike rate has come under the scanner.

Kohli and AB de Villiers need to take responsibility in the big match for RCB, which also features the likes of Chris Morris, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar and bats quite deep. — PTI

‘TEMPERATURE DROP MADE CHASE EASIER’

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Batting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that with temperatures dropping in the UAE, it has become easier to chase in the ongoing IPL as the tournament enters its business end during which the dew factor has also come into play.

“The tournament started six weeks ago. What the temperature was back then compared to what it is now, on an average it has dropped by six degrees,” Tendulkar said on 100MB app.

“Also if you look at shadows, the positioning is such, sunset timing is different. All these things affect the pitch. The pitch temperature was earlier coming down only in the second innings,” cricket legend Tendulkar further added. — PTI

Sophie trailblazes misfiring Velocity

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone grabbed four wickets for just nine runs in a sensational bowling display to help Trailblazers beat Velocity by nine wickets in their Women's T20 Challenge match here on Thursday.

Englishwoman Ecclestone, ranked number one in the ICC T20 rankings, was well supported by veteran Jhulan Goswami (2/13) and Rajeshwari Gaekwad (2/13) as Trailblazers dismissed Velocity in 15.1 overs.

Trailblazers then chased down the small target of 48 in just 7.5 overs with opener Deandra Dottin and Richa Ghosh remaining not out on 29 and 13 respectively.

Despite their win against Supernovas on Wednesday, Velocity's net run rate would take a beating after Thursday's loss and that could hit them hard.

It was, however, a quiet start in the run chase for the Trailblazers as the Velocity bowlers denied them any loose balls. Dottin and captain Smriti Mandhana (6) were finding hard to get the boundaries. Mandhana finally went for the aerial route but perished in the process.

The Trailblazers were 28 for 1 at the end of powerplay and they ended the match in quick time with Ghosh hitting a six to take her side to victory. Velocity captain Mithali



Sophie Ecclestone of Trailblazers in action against Velocity during their Women's T20 Challenge match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

Raj's decision to bat first backfired as half of her batswomen were back in the dressing room inside powerplay for just 22 runs.

Shafali threatened to play a big innings as she hit a four and a six early one but the seasoned Goswami outfoxed the youngster, sending her stumps cart-wheeling. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

■ Velocity 47 in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 13; Sophie Ecclestone 4-9, J. Goswami 2-13, RS Gayakwad 2-13) lost to Trailblazers 49/1 in 7.5 overs (Dottin not out 29)

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, NOV. 5

After a nine-month break, the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship resumes in a bio-bubble at the MMRT circuit here on Saturday and behind closed doors necessitated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The strict enforcement of government mandated SOPs would mean absence of spectators, guests and the media with the entry restricted to competitors with a maximum of two helpers each and officials. By successfully conducting the first round of the National Drag Racing Championship for two-wheelers last month, also in a closed environment, MMSC took the lead to resume motorsport activities in the country following easing of restrictions.

Chairman of the meet Vicky Chandhok said: “It has been a tough year for everyone due to the pandemic, but after the government eased restrictions and allowed resumption of sporting activities, we conducted the National Drag races last month without incident.”

“This weekend, we go a step further by resuming the four-wheeler championship, again with protocols in place with no compromise on safety and health of all involved by implementing temperature check, hand sanitization,



wearing of masks and physical distancing. Our very popular hospitality enclosure will also unfortunately be sealed off for now to ensure that the norms of social distancing are met,” he added.

The weekend card includes triple-headers in the popular Indian Touring Cars (ITC), Super Stock and the Indian Junior Touring Cars categories, as also the MRF Saloon Car Championship, featuring Toyota Etios, making its debut in the National Championship, while the Formula LGB 1300, will have four races.

Going into the second round, Race Concepts (Bengaluru) drivers, veteran Arjun Balu (Coimbatore) and Rithvik Thomas (Bengaluru) head the ITC and Super Stock classes, respectively, with 50 points apiece after scoring a double each in the opening round in February. The Formula LGB and the MRF Saloon Car Championship classes will have their first runs of the season this weekend.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Eliminator — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Adelaide Strikers from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Quarterfinals from 6.30 pm (session 1) and 11 pm (sessions 2) on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Italian League: Sassuolo vs Udinese from 1.15 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

WWE

NXT: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

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Lionel Messi (right) of Barcelona vies with Dynamo Kiev's Illia Zabarnyi during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Wednesday. — AFP

Barca, Juventus clinch wins; PSG, Man U come croppers

Paris, Nov. 5: Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Nine-man PSG lost to RB Leipzig in a repeat of last season's semi-final and Chelsea proved too strong for Rennes, with Timo Werner twice converting from the penalty spot.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou after he was fouled in the area and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Viktor Tsygankov grabbed a consolation for Coronavirus-hit Dynamo as Barca, winless in four games in La Liga, recorded their third successive Group 'G' victory to stay three points clear of Juventus. Cristiano Ronaldo made his

first start for the Italian champions since September after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone in Budapest by Alvaro Morata, whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

Paulo Dybala added a third before an own goal from Lasha Dvali, with Franck Boli netting for the hosts in the final minute.

United produced a shambolic first-half defensive display as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir. Demba Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

Anthony Martial's header cut the deficit before half-time but United saw their momentum in

Group 'H' halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month.

Emil Forsberg's penalty earned Leipzig a 2-1 victory as they came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up. Angel di Maria had given PSG an early lead in Germany but Christopher Nkunku levelled before half-time for Leipzig and Forsberg converted from the spot in the 57th minute before the visitors had both Idrissa Gueye and Presnel Kimpembe sent off.

Chelsea strolled to a 3-0 win at home against Rennes who saw defender Dalbert sent off after conceding two penalties in the first half.

Werner took over spot-kick duties from Jorginho and confidently tucked both away before Tammy Abraham turned in a third for the Blues on 50 minutes. — AFP