

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | MONDAY | 9 NOVEMBER 2020



NATION | 4

Another TMC MLA to shift to BJP



WORLD | 5

5 lakh Indians likely to receive US citizenship

SPORTS | 8

Messi turns the game for Barca



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Vol. 83 No. 311 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

WEATHER

Max: 31.2°C
Min: 17.8°C
RH: 38%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 31/17 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,854)	(+409)
85,41,173	1,26,525
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,440)	(+5)
TS: 2,50,331	1,377
(+2,237)	(+12)
AP: 8,42,967	6,791

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,05,30,449
DEATHS
12,59,562
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
216
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Ashtami till 6.49 am; Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Navami till 5.27 am (Tuesday)
Star: Ashlesha till 8.39 am
Variyam: 8.16 pm to 9.49 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.22 pm to 1.07 pm; 2.37 pm to 3.23 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HILIRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 22, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.16 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.06 pm
Maghrib: 5.48 pm
Isha: 6.57 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.18 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM
MOONSET 12.10 AM
MOONRISE 1.24 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

India, China to hold more talks

New Delhi: India and China are likely to hold another round of military talks this week to discuss specific proposals for a possible breakthrough in the long-negotiated disengagement process in eastern Ladakh where their two armies are locked in an over six-month border stand-off, authoritative sources said on Sunday. The eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks on Friday had broadly discussed disengagement of troops from specific friction points and both sides would like to take forward the "constructive" dialogue to the next round with detailed deliberations, they said.

Pune ATM hacker nabbed in UP

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force has nabbed a gangster involved in hacking ATMs in Pune along with his accomplices there and withdrawing lakhs of rupees from cash dispensing machines. The STF apprehended gangster Mukesh Yadav from Maharajganj area in Kanpur on Saturday on a tip-off from the Pune police. During his interrogation, Mukesh told STF sleuths that he along with other youths used to illegally draw money from ATMs taking advantage of technical glitches in them.

India's longest cable suspension bridge



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

DOCTOR DIES OF SECOND COVID INFECTION IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, NOV. 8

A children's specialist working at the Badvel Government Hospital became the first government doctor succumbing to Covid-19 in Kadapa district.
Dr Nandakumar was an alumnus of Kadapa RIMS Hospital belonging to 2007-13 batch. He had been working as a paediatrician at Badvel Government Hospital for the past three years. Dr Nandakumar had contracted Coronavirus a couple of months ago but recovered. Last week, he was again diagnosed with Covid-19. When his condition turned critical on Saturday, his family members shifted him to a private hospital in Chennai, where he died on Sunday morning.
Scores of government and private doctors had been diagnosed with the disease after the Coronavirus epidemic spread in Kadapa district. About 25 postgraduate medics, 30 house surgeons, 25 nurses, 15 doctors, 30 supporting staff, and 20 sanitation staff on duty at Kadapa RIMS Hospitals had been affected by the virus. However, they all recovered. About 10 private doctors working at Fatima Institute of Medical Sciences have recovered.

DC Impact

KCR wife comes to rescue of bereaved worker's kin

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 8

On coming to know of the pathetic condition of the family of Thirupathi, a mason from Thirumalapur of Ramadagu mandal who died recently, from a report published in *Deccan Chronicle* on Sunday (*Good Samaritans come to the rescue of a poor family, DC, Nov. 8*), Shoba, wife of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekar Rao, donated ₹1 lakh to the family.
Thirupathi (45) died on October 18 of health complications. His wife, parents Hanumandlu (80) Bhumavva (75) and children Abhigna (10) and Navaneeth (8) were dependent on him. Thir house collapsed during the rains last month.
Moved by the dire straits the family was in after the death of their sole bread earner, some philanthropists came forward and donated ₹1.75 lakh to the family, along with 25 kgs of rice on Saturday. The family was taking shelter in a community building. Thirupathi's wife and his old mother Bhumavva worked as farm labourers to nourish the children.
Coming to know about their pathetic state, with



Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar consoling the family members of Thirupathi in Thirumalapur of Ramadagu mandal in Karimnagar district on Sunday.

the news report covered in *Deccan Chronicle*, Shoba called up Choppadandi MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar and sent him ₹1 lakh and asked him to donate the money on her behalf to the family and also to allot a double bedroom house from the government.
Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Ravi Shankar said, "Shobamma called me on Saturday evening and directed me to console the family members of Thirupathi and provide much needed help immediately from the government and to allot a 2BHK house. She even sent ₹1 lakh and asked me to hand it over to them."
Ravi Shankar had collected ₹1 lakh in the form of donations from philanthropists and had contributed ₹1 lakh himself. He met Thirupathi's family on Sunday and, after consoling them, handed over ₹3 lakh and assured a 2BHK house. The family requested the MLA to reconstruct their collapsed house to which MLA agreed. He also assured them that the children will be given admission in a gurukul residential school and will be looked after by the government until their education is completed.
Thirupathi's parents expressed happiness and thanked Shoba for taking the initiative and rescuing them from their problems. They also thanked all those who came forward to help them.

Normal winter for Telangana, says IMD

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

This year, unlike the last, the city and the state will experience a regular winter and as per schedule. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has

forecast that temperatures across the state will drop after November 9.

"There are anticyclonic circulations in certain parts of the country which are pushing cold winds from the north to the peninsula. The northern

and north-western districts of Telangana state will witness a drop in temperatures," said IMD-Hyderabad director Dr K. Nagaratna.

The lowest temperature the city has recorded this winter is 15.6°C, 3.3°C

below from the normal for this point of time. The lowest minimum ever recorded was in November when the city recorded 10.8°C in 1981. One reason cited for the missing winter last year is the absence of cold winds over the state.

GREEN | STAR Tree spread over 4 acres starts sprouting leaves in win for conservation

700-year-old Banyan tree rejuvenated in TS

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI DC
MAHBUBNAGAR, NOV. 8

The iconic 700-year-old banyan tree spread over four acres, popularly known as the Pillalamarri tree in Mahbubnagar, has been given a fresh lease of life and is now sprouting leaves again. District collector S. Venkat Rao said that the conservation efforts had yielded results and the tree was now growing again.

Narrating the story of decay of the tree which was almost near its demise, the collector said that the trunk was weakened and the branches were falling off and green



The 700-year-old banyan tree in Mahbubnagar

shoots were a rarity. Among other problems, the tree suffered an infestation of termites that rendered several branches hollow. Besides, it has also

suffered from fungal infection. What was written off as a gone case has been reclaimed with micro-management of the massive banyan tree by the for-

est officials, he said. When officials began the effort to revive the tree, they first banned visitors. 'Intravenous injections' administered to the tree to stop the termite infestation and fungal infection.

The leaves of the banyan tree are large, leathery, glossy, green, and elliptical. Like most figs, the leaf buds are covered by two large scales. Healthy

young leaves have an attractive reddish tinge and it could be seen on the Pillalamarri tree, Venkat Rao said.

A forest official said that old banyan trees are characterised by aerial prop roots that mature into thick, woody trunks. These become indistinguishable from the primary trunk with age. Old trees can spread laterally by using these prop roots to grow over a wide area. In some species, the prop roots develop over a considerable area that resembles a grove of trees, with every trunk connected directly or indirectly to the primary trunk, he said.

ARMY OFFICER, 3 JAWANS KILLED IN LoC FIREFIGHT

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 8

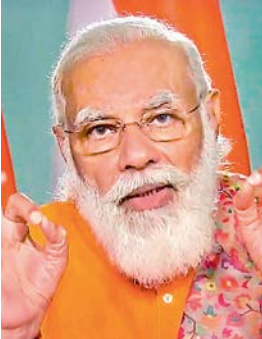
Four Indian soldiers, including an Army officer, and three militants were killed in a firefight raging in the Machil sector close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir's Kupwara district since Saturday night.
Officials here said on Sunday that the slain militants were part of a large group of infiltrators engaged in the gunfight by alert Indian Army and BSF troops the moment they sneaked into the Indian side of the LoC overnight.

The Army initially refused to disclose the names of the slain officer and jawans. But later Army, BSF and J&K police sources identified them as Lt. Asutosh Kumar, Havildar Parveen Kumar and Sepoy Rada of the Army and Constable Sudeep Sarkar of the BSF's 169th Battalion.

Defence spokesman Col. Rajesh Kalia said that at about 1 am on Sunday a BSF patrol noticed suspicious movement near the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS) along the LoC fence. "A firefight ensued in which one terrorist was killed. The firefight stopped at 4 am," he said. Col. Kalia added: "Our own troops suffered three KIAs (killed in action) and two jawans were injured, who have been evacuated."

DeMo helped to cut stash: Modi

Tax compliance, transparency increased: BJP



Narendra Modi

been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Modi said using the hashtag 'DeMolishingCorruption'.
The PM also shared a graphic on how demonetisation had ensured better tax compliance, improved the tax to GDP ratio, made India a less cash-based economy and gave a boost to national security.
BJP national spokesperson Rajeev Chan-

drasekhar told the media at the party headquarters here: "Demon-etisation dealt a body blow to the systemic financial corruption and black money economy. Since then, it has simultaneously invigorated formal economy and brought unprecedented financial benefits to all sections of society."

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

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

Oppn fled during city floods: KTR

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Laying the ground for an aggressive campaign for the fast-approaching GHMC elections, TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao launched a blistering attack on the BJP which the ruling party appears to be seeing as the primary rival.

He dismissed the Congress as "*nadaan dushman*" (innocent enemy), clearly setting the target as the ruling party begins its attempt to defend its 100 wards in the GHMC Council and gain some more.

Recently, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, referring to internal party



K.T. Rama Rao

surveys, had indicated a slight increase for the BJP in the GHMC.

During a nearly one-hour press conference, Rama Rao alleged that Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy and BJP MPs had failed help the city.

■ **Page 2: What did BJP leaders do for Hyd?: KTR**

TS stalling flood report: Kishan

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy condemned IT minister K.T. Rama Rao's remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was discriminating against Telangana state in the matter of flood relief.

He alleged that the state government had not sent a comprehensive report to the Centre with regard to the damage sustained by the state following the floods last month.

He was speaking at a party meeting in Tad-bund, Secunderabad, on Sunday.



G. Kishan Reddy

Cantonment Board vice president Ramakrishna and other leaders were present along with him.

Kishan Reddy alleged that the minister's followers and party cadre were "looting" flood relief funds.

■ **Page 4: Show spotless road: Kishan dares KTR**

Farmers relieved as orange prices rise

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC
KADAPA, NOV. 8

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

Their rates have currently touched ₹40,000 per tonne, though during

Dasara last year, they had sold for ₹70,000 per tonne. Subsequently, in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic, their prices fell to ₹15,000 per tonne. This was mainly due to transportation issues following the lockdown. Exports came down to zero. Traders did not come forward to buy a the harvest for even ₹10,000 per tonne.

OTHER STORIES

MANUU TO HOLD PROGRAMME FOR FRESHERS

Hyderabad, Nov. 8: The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) is organising a six-day Deekshashrambh — Student Induction Programme (SIP) — online for new students in regular courses from Monday to November 17. The online sessions will be held on the Manuu Youtube site, Instructional Media Centre, every day from 2 pm to 4 pm.

A special lecture, 'College life and higher education' will be given by Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, in-charge Vice Chancellor, at the inaugural. Prof. Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood, in-charge registrar, will give a brief report on the university, a press release said.

Newcomers may register themselves on the link <https://forms.gle/mQ5MdG3Q1hyEnaJ47> and can use the link: <https://t.me/loinchat/RxAsJU50YZ> is9 8qNxGiW for easy communication to join the university's Telegram community. Attending all sessions is compulsory and the participants will be given an e-certificate. — INN

PRABHAKAR: TS MISUSED CENTRAL FUNDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Former MLA and BJP state vice president N.V.S.S. Prabhakar challenged Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao to a debate on funds released by the Centre for flood relief in the city.

Prabhakar stated that Union minister Nitin Gadkari had released ₹224 crore for repairing damaged highways and roads in the state. Another ₹202 crore had been released from the National Disaster Management Fund..

The Centre had sent a high-level team to the city to take stock of the situation and assess the damage for sanctioning relief. Prabhakar said the state government had neither sent a complete report on the flood havoc nor allowed the Central team to study the situation. It had not made arrangements to for the Central team to meeting farmers as well as flood-affected persons.

He alleged that the Dharani portal for land registration was not up to the mark. "How come double registrations took place in Nalgonda district," Prabhakar asked, referring to a specific instance.

● **PRABHAKAR SAID** that the state government had neither sent a complete report on the flood havoc nor allowed the Central team to study the situation. It had not made arrangements for the Central team to meeting farmers as well as flood-affected persons.

KISHAN TO KTR: SHOW ANY ROAD NOT DAMAGED

From Page 1

On the issue of quality of work carried out in the city, he challenged Rama Rao to show which road had remained without any damage in the GHMC limits. He said that the TRS did not have the right to ask for votes in the ensuing GHMC elections.

Stating that the failure of the Chandrashekar Rao administration was exposed during the floods, Kishan Reddy expressed concern that hundreds of colonies were affected because of their negligence.

Reddy said that the Centre had allotted ₹224 crore for flood relief and alleged that TRS was showing interest only in the elections and not on solving the problems of the people. He said that the Chief Minister had not conducted single review of the flood situation nor had visited a single distressed family.

Kishan Reddy wanted to know from Rama Rao the number of double bedroom houses that were allotted to beneficiaries in the Greater Hyderabad region.

BJP state party president Bandi Sanjay Kumar remarked that both Rama Rao and his cousin and MP J. Santhosh Kumar were lobbying for the Chief Minister's post.

He alleged that the state government was diverting the funds meant for the Cantonment Board that are sanctioned by the Union government. He challenged the Chief Minister to an open debate on funds for the cantonment area.

Mutation of lands set to get easy

Buyers to benefit in new act; as they will know defects of the land at time of registration

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 8

The new revenue act, 2020, enacted as Telangana Rights in Land and Pattadar Passbooks Act (TRLPP), 2020 (Telangana Act no. 9 of 2020) that came into force from October 29 will be a great relief to those who want to buy farm lands in Telangana as mutation of land rights will be an easy affair now.

As far as corruption is concerned, there are no signs of it lessening and it is likely to take new forms.

Persons who bought farm lands long ago are still wandering to and from the mandal tahsildar offices for mutation to the lands that they bought from others.

Pamireddy Naga Kiran Reddy, a farmer from Dammamet, says "I have been going to the mandal tahsildar officer for the last four years for the mutation of land that was bought by me in Dammamet and have not succeeded. I hope that TRLPP will solve the problem for me."

There is no guarantee that the new act will address the lacunae of the land records purification programme but there is a chance to expose such defects during the selling of these lands.

Swarna Venkateswarlu, retired joint collector, said that 20 per cent of pattadar passbooks had defects and the government should address such cases.

The Dharani portal will not address it. "My cousin's case is the best example. His land was entered into the passbook of his elder brother. Correction is not being done and he goes to the tahsildar's office every day. The concerned Village Revenue Officer (VRO) is talking irritably when he was questioned for the fault."

As far as corruption is concerned, he said that the mandal tahsildar will run a parallel system to get some money in the new system. The person who buys farm land has to pay more than the registrar offices collected so far.

He said that the only relief is that land mutation will be speedy.



Additional collector Lakshmi Narayana accompanied by Peddapalli MLA, D.Manohar Reddy inaugurates the additional rooms in the tahsildar's office in Peddapalli town. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Tahsildar offices get ready to register farmlands

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 8

Tahsildar officials of erstwhile Karimnagar district are all set to take up transactions of agricultural lands through the online Dharani portal, launched by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

All technical arrangements have been put in place at various tahsildars' offices in Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli, and Rajanna Sircilla districts in this regard.

Officials have already uploaded details of revenue villages and lands as per their survey numbers. Farmers can now start selling, purchasing, transferring and mutating their agricultural lands online by paying the required fee without making rounds of various government offices.

Online transactions will be through 16 tahsildars' offices in Karimnagar district, 18 in Jagtial, 14 in Peddapalli and 13 in Rajanna Sircilla districts.

All these offices have been equipped with computers, scanners, printers, biometric devices, web cameras, AP Swan cable network, CCTV cameras and government-administered broadband, apart from local 30 mbps broadband connection.

A 5 KV UPS device will ensure uninterrupted power supply. All offices have been linked to the CCLA (Chief Commissioner of Land Administration) office in Hyderabad.

Tahsildars of 61 mandals, two RDOs, five superintendents and computer technicians, in addition to nayab tahsildars, have already been trained in various operations at a training camp held at Hyderabad.

Significantly, the government has also given authority to tahsildars for transforming agricultural lands into non-agricultural.

"Interestingly, the mutation system had happened earlier too and the mandal revenue officers used to postpone it as part of their delaying tactics to get

some money from the party," Venkateswarlu said.

It is expected that the buyer of the land will have another benefit in the new

act; s/he may know the defects of the land at the time of registration.

N. Rambabu, an expert in revenue matters, said, "The tahsildar should get

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 8

Dharani portal services went online in 75 mandals in erstwhile Warangal district. The state government set up the portal so that people could avail revenue services easily. All the tahsildar offices will provide joint registrar services.

With an increase in irrigation facilities, lands in villages have become prime property. Farmers feel that the new revenue act protects their land rights, and they can focus on cultivation instead of uncalled disputes.

S. Odelu of Bhattapally in Warangal Urban district said, "The Chief Minister undertook a massive programme to thwart the existing brokerage system in the revenue department. In the past, we had to visit the tahsildar's office for years to get our lands demarcated. Brokers would also exploit farmers. We are told that all of that will no longer be possible and works pending for years will be solved. If that is true, then the Telangana farmers are indebted to the CM."

Another farmer, B. Krishnaiah from Jangaon said that he now does not have to leave his farm work to visit the revenue office. "Earlier, if I had to go to the revenue office regarding a land deed, I had to dedicate an entire day. Hopefully, that will no longer be the case anymore. The Dharani portal saves a lot of time as land transactions are completed within minutes," he said.

Peddapalli additional collector Lakshmi Narayana, inaugurating additional rooms for providing services at Peddapalli tahsildar office, said Dharani portal will ensure that all land transactions in the state are transparent. All transactions will be in agreement with pattadar and passbook holders. In case land is being transformed for other purposes, collecting biometric data of land owners will be mandatory, Lakshmi Narayana pointed out.

all the history of 50 to 70 years of the land before registering the land from one name to another."

Soyam Raja Babu, a farmer in Mandalapalli, said that he welcomes the new act because of the swift mutation of land ownership.

● **THERE IS** no guarantee that the new act will address the lacunae of the land records purification programme but there is a chance to expose such defects during the selling of these lands.

● **THE BUYER** of the land will have another benefit in the new act; s/he may know the defects in the land at the time of registration.

What did BJP leaders do for Hyd, asks KTR

From Page 1

Clearly irked by the BJP's 'Mana Hyderabad' slogan, Rama Rao wondered: "What have Telangana BJP leaders done for Hyderabad? One minister of state and four MPs have failed to fetch even a penny for the city."

"The BJP has not got a penny for Hyderabad but they came up with Mana Nagaram, Mana BJP slogan recently. It's a shame," he said.

On the matter of flood relief operations by the Opposition, Rama Rao said, "While we were on the ground, reaching out to the people and providing relief, the BJP and Congress were busy campaigning in Dubbakk. They were doing politics during the crisis."

He said that even before the rains had subsided, the Chief Minister had announced ₹550 crore for flood relief. "If needed we will request him to sanction ₹100 crore more."

Rama Rao claimed that financial assistance of ₹10,000 was given to 4.3 lakh people. "This assistance was provided even before rains subsided. Without seeing the political and social background of the affected persons, we have provided assistance," Rama Rao said.

Stating that the GHMC has a list of beneficiaries along with their photograph and signature, Rama Rao said, "It's sad to see some BJP leaders protest even though they themselves have received the financial assistance."

"While it was brought to our notice that a few families did not receive the ex gratia, we have again started to reach out to them," he said, adding that 920 teams had been deployed to deliver the aid at the doorstep of the vic-



TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao speaks during a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday. — DC

tims. He said that Hyderabad was the first metro to set up a Disaster Response Force with 800 members headed by an IPS officer to combat such flood situations.

Hitting out at BJP leaders' claim of Centre's contribution to the state, Rama Rao said that since 2014, Telangana state's contribution to the Centre in the form of taxes was ₹2,72,926 crore whereas the Centre had only released ₹1,40,329 crore to the state. The is getting its legitimate share from the Centre, not an additional penny has been given, he said.

Reminding that the Chief Minister had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking immediate assistance of ₹1,350 crore after the rains, he said, "25 days have elapsed, we still have not received a response from the Centre."

He said the Prime Minister had responded to the Karnataka Chief Minister within four days when they asked for financial assistance of ₹669 crore. In 2017, the PM did an aerial survey of Gujarat during floods and released financial assis-

regretted that one person who happens to be close to a local political leader was trying to grab his land by creating fake documents.

Thatepalli says he has been paying tax to the local gram panchayat for the piece of land but all of sudden a person started influencing them and claimed that he was the real owner of the land and showed fake documents. He regretted that the local revenue officials were not coming to his rescue though he had enough proof to show that he owned the land.

Previous exercises by the government such as purification and updating of land records and regularisation of lands with *sad-abinama* went against the poor and marginalised sections. Many poor farmers have lost their lands to others without a proper field survey by the surveyors because of the influence of the rich and political leaders.

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OTHER STORIES

PRAMOD MADE
IN-CHARGE OF
HINDU USTAVADC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, NOV. 8

Pramod Kumar Khatri has been elected unanimously as in-charge president of the Sanathana Hindu Ustava Samiti in Adilabad.

In a statement issued, committee members elected Pramod Kumar Khatri as in-charge president since president Eria Satyanarayana is unable to participate in the samiti activities due to ill health.

P.S RAHUL RAJ IS
COLLECTOR OF
KOMARAM BHEEMDC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD,
NOV. 8

P. S. Rahul Raj an IAS of the 2015 batch, presently Additional Commissioner of GHMC has been transferred and posted as the collector for Komaram Bheem, Asifabad district.

The state government issued orders to this effect. Present collector Sandeep Kumar Jha is transferred.

TRIBAL STUDENT
EARNS SEAT IN
IIT-VARANASIDC CORRESPONDENT
MANCHERIAL, NOV. 8

Tribal student Naitham Rajesh has bagged a seat in IIT-Varanasi in pharmaceutical engineering (Integrated M. Tech).

Naitham Rajesh studied at the Social Welfare Center of excellency for boys, Bellampalli.

Principal Inala Saidulu said Naitham Rajesh excelled in the JEE main and advance Entrance 2020-21 and secured a good rank getting a seat in the prestigious institution.

SON OF SARPANCH
BEATS MENTALLY
CHALLENGED MANDC CORRESPONDENT
NIRMAL, NOV. 8

The son of a sarpanch beating a mentally challenged person was caught on camera and went viral on Saturday night.

Srinivas, the son of the sarpanch, thrashed Raju a mentally challenged person, on the allegations that the latter harassed a woman in Lingapur village in Kadam mandal in Nirmal district.

Local police say that there is an old rivalry between the victim and family members of the local sarpanch.

120 KG GANJA
WORTH ₹4.80L
SEIZEDDC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 8

Task Force police and Konigerla sub-inspector Mogli caught a person transporting 120 kg ganja worth ₹4.80 lakh in the open market at Tanikella in Konigerla mandal on Sunday.

A person was taken into custody and the ganja seized. The ganja was being transported from Bhadrachalam to Jaheerabad in Innova vehicle.

SEER GIVES
TRADE BODY
LIFE LESSONS

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Trade on Sunday organised a virtual seminar on the topic 'Life lessons to business lessons and crises into opportunities'. Addressing the seminar, Dr Gnanvatsal Swami of Akshardham Swamy Narayana Samatha spoke of combatting problems arising because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He talked of the power of positive thinking, motivation and persuasion in doing things, commitment to do things as per need, and determination to achieve the desired goals.

He cited examples of sportsmen such as Sri Lankan cricketer Marvan Atapattu who, after three consecutive failures, with his determination and will power, achieved great heights. On motivation and persuasion, he cited the example of Joe Biden, a senator at the age of 28 in 1972, who pursued his goal and became US President at 78 recently.

To fill seats, pvt engg colleges play 'dirty'

Faculty pressurised to get admissions or lose job

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 8

Some private engineering colleges to fill vacant seats of various courses are adopting unethical methods, by admitting students into the respective colleges in erstwhile Karimnagar district.

There are 13 engineering colleges in united Karimnagar district, of which two are government colleges affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad.

One in Manthani of Peddapalli district and the other in Kondagattu of Jagtial district.

A total of 3,665 seats are available in various courses. Out of which 630 (330 in Manthani JNTU college and 300 in Kondagattu JNTU college) seats in two government engineering

■ **PRIVATE ENGINEERING colleges are competing for admissions to fill the remaining 1,716 seats.**

■ **STUDENTS ARE being lured with offers of fee reimbursement.**

colleges, and 3,035 seats in 11 private engineering colleges.

In the first round admissions of BTech, 1,949 seats were allotted, and 630 seats in two of the government engineering colleges got filled. Of the 3,035 seats in the private engineering colleges, 1,319 seats got filled.

Private engineering colleges are competing for admissions to fill the remaining 1,716 seats. Students are being lured by offers to grab the fee

reimbursement.

The college management are collecting the students original certificates. Candidates who submit their original certificates to a college cannot participate in web counselling, as they need original certificates to attend the session as certificate verification is done.

Many students are unaware of the tactics used by the private engineering colleges and are victims of the packages being offered.

Once a student gets admission in a college, these institutes use various strategies to collect money from them.

Representatives of several student organisations brought these incidents to the notice of the concerned authorities of the educational department

but no action taken.

The state president of the Bahujana Student Federation (BSF), Jakkannapally Ganesh has alleged that some colleges are giving commissions to the faculty of intermediate colleges for passing on the phone number of students and admitting these students.

These private colleges are also deploying PROs and pressurising their faculty to get admissions. Some faculty have received warnings, if they fail to fill the seats, they will lose their jobs.

Many of these private engineering colleges, lack proper facilities and well-qualified faculty, he added.

He demanded that the government take immediate action against these private engineering colleges.

TECHIE HELD
FOR ABUSING
WOMANNAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

A software engineer who was harassing a woman who was waiting for her bus at Ameerpet was arrested after he manhandled a police constable late on Saturday night.

The accused, identified as K. Mahesh, is a techie residing in Somajiguda, said the Panjagutta police. The woman, who was heading towards her hometown in West Godavari, was waiting at the bus stand near a shopping mall when he started harassing her.

"He started pulling her arm and she screamed for help. Our patrol reached the place and constable Sailu intervened. When he was being questioned, he held Sailu by the collar and later pushed him away while resisting detention. This caused minor abrasions to the constable," the police said. Based on a complaint, cases were booked on Mahesh.



Private teachers protest at Ekashila Park in Hanamkonda on Sunday.

— DC

Private teachers protest,
demand job securityANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 8

Private school teachers in large numbers held a protest at the Ekashila Park in Hanamkonda on Sunday, demanding that the Central government take steps to provide them employment security as they have not been receiving their wages for the last eight months.

The Telangana All Private Teachers' Association (TAPTA) founder president Chanderlal Naik Chouhan

■ **STATE government should provide employment guarantee according to the GO 45 and issue orders to the private schools.**

said. District Congress Committee president Naini Rajender Reddy extended solidarity to the teachers said that the state government must hold an all-party meeting and resolve the problem.

BJP state spokesperson Enugula Rakesh Reddy said, "The state must provide aid to private teachers just like they did to the lawyers and the Hyderabad flood victims." He demanded that the state provide ₹50,000 financial aid to private teachers.

said. District Congress Committee president Naini Rajender Reddy extended solidarity to the teachers said that the state government must hold an all-party meeting and resolve the problem.

BJP state spokesperson Enugula Rakesh Reddy said, "The state must provide aid to private teachers just like they did to the lawyers and the Hyderabad flood victims." He demanded that the state provide ₹50,000 financial aid to private teachers.

Mahbubabad
MLA tests +veANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 8

Mahbubabad MLA Banoth Shankar Naik has tested positive for the Coronavirus. The ruling party legislator made the announcement himself and asked party workers and people who have interacted with him in the recent past to undergo Covid-19 test.

"After I felt unwell in the morning, I went for the test which came out positive. Currently, my health condition is safe. There is no need to worry. Party workers and all people of the constituency can call me on 9908903555 and



9989303555," the TRS legislator stated.

His support staff who subsequently went for Coronavirus tests have reported negative.

Shankar Naik, along with several other TRS leaders, had attended the wedding of Ennumamula agriculture market chairman A. Sadanandam's daughter on Saturday.

DISTRICTS SEE SURGE IN CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Fifteen of the state's 33 districts have seen significant surges in Covid-19 cases during the current week compared to the week before. The rise in cases ranges from a 'low' of 31 per cent in Nagarkurnool district to a high of 86 per cent in Mulugu district.

According to the Centre for Covid Monitoring, Nagarkurnool district had 200 cases the week before, while the week ending on November 6 saw 262. Mulugu district, for the same period,

recorded 117 and 218 cases. Five of the 15 districts that witnessed rise in Covid-19 cases — Jayashankar-Bhupalapalli, Peddapalli, Vikarabad, Yadadri-Bhongir and Mulugu — registered a 50 per cent or more increase in cases while in 10 other districts, the increase ranged from 31 to 49 per cent.

The data used for the analysis by the Centre for Covid Monitoring is from the daily Covid-19 bulletins issued by the state health department.

The centre is a joint effort by the Administrative Staff College of India, FICCI, and FTCCI.

Cong to hold rally on Nov. 11,
against irrigation failures in TSRAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 8

Congress has decided to commence state-wide agitation against the lackadaisical policies of the Chief Minister in the irrigation sector.

Congress Legislative Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Sunday, that the Congress will take out a tractor rally in Khammam on November 11 to expose the failures of the TRS-led government in the irrigation sector.

He said, "The Kalvakurthi Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) at Yellur in Kollapur mandal in Nagarkurnool district is another addition in the list of failed projects."

The floods in the River Krishna submerged the Yellur pump house in the first phase of the KLIS. This pump house is the only source to draw the Krishna waters from Srisaillam and has five motors, including one on standby.



CLP leader M. Bhatti Vikramarka addresses the media in Khammam on Sunday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Congress constituted a committee and appointed Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka as chairman to study the loss incurred due to the submergence of the pump house. Vikramarka said that Congress is going to constitute a technical committee to assess the loss in KLIS, due to the submergence and will visit the site on November 18.

Vikramarka said, "The government has deputed huge police personnel at the site to obstruct the opposition parties from entering. Will KLIS be under the prohibited area list?". The pump house in KLIS has 14 floors, and floodwaters reached the

10th floor. When they started the second motor, a couple of hours later, water gushed into the pump house, submerging it in 20 minutes.

Referring to the floods in Telangana, Vikramarka said that the comprehensive crop policy of the Chief Minister is a failure. "Farmers were forced to raise quality rice and are now in crisis".

He demanded the government to lift paddy by paying ₹2,500 per quintal. Cotton crop has been damaged badly due to the heavy rains.

The government should save these farmers immediately.

TS registers 1,440 new cases

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

Covid-19 cases in the state crossed the 2.5 lakh mark with 1,440 fresh cases taking the overall caseload to 2,50,331 on Saturday, according to the state health department bulletin issued on Sunday.

The toll stood at 1,377, including five persons whom the health department reported as dying from the disease on Saturday.

Though all the districts have been reporting Covid-19 cases almost

every day, with the rare exceptions when a couple of districts registered nil cases, Hyderabad the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation areas surrounding the city that are treated as one geographical unit by the health department for tabulating Covid-19 cases continues to produce the most number of new cases each day.

It may be recalled that the first Covid-19 case in Telangana state was found in the city on March 2 from Mahendra Hills area of Secunderabad.

■ **HEALTH DEPARTMENT said as on Saturday 8 pm, TS had 19,890 active Covid-19 cases of whom 2,755 Covid-19 patients were receiving treatment in government and private hospitals.**

For Saturday, the health department said the GHMC area had 278 new cases, followed by 133 in Medchal-Malkajgiri, and 112 in Ranga Reddy districts.

While Bhadradi-

Kothagudem district reported 97 cases, Khammam recorded 91 new cases, the department said. The cases reported on Saturday, 1,440, were fewer than the 1,607 on Friday. However, the number of Covid-19 tests conducted on Saturday were also fewer, 42,673, compared to 44,644 on Friday.

The health department said as on Saturday 8 pm, Telangana state had 19,890 active Covid-19 cases of whom 2,755 Covid-19 patients were receiving treatment in government and private hospitals.

COMBAT | PLAN

Social medial panels at municipality, village and booth level

TRS raises 'cyber army' to fight opposition

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
MANCHERIAL, NOV. 8

To make people aware of the TRS welfare and development schemes initiated by the state, the TRS is training selected youth in handling the TRS social media handles.

The TRS soon will constitute municipality, mandal, village and booth level social media committees.

For the first time, a training programme was organised by TRS Chennur MLA Balka Suman at Chennur in the Mancherial district for 1,300 party activists, especially educated youth, on how to use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp and other mediums to campaign for the party.

The training programme focused on how to counter the opposition parties campaigning against the TRS, its policies and schemes.



TRS activists receive training on social media at a programme organised at the Chennur headquarters in Mancherial district.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

The Dubbaka election campaign and its related incidents are examples of how the BJP is using social media.

Many videos with con-

tent against the TRS are flooding social media and will play a role in the elections.

Chennur MLA Balka Suman has asked party

activists and educated youth to be active on social media and campaign for the government welfare and development schemes.

He said, "The trained TRS youth will campaign for the party and will counter the opposition on social media."

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SHORT TAKES

BOY STUCK INSIDE BOREWELL FOR 90 HOURS DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, NOV. 8

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

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

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

NCB ARRESTS NADIADWALA'S WIFE OVER DRUGS

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

ARNAB SHIFTED TO TALOJA JAIL FOR USING PHONE

SAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

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

INDORE OFFICIALS RAZE 'COMPUTER BABA' ASHRAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, NOV. 8

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

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

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

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

The district administration announced plans to build a temple and a modern cow shelter on the land.

Light in the darkness



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

— PTI

Modi looks forward to working closely with Biden, hails Harris

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

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

It may be recalled that India had on Friday said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between both nations has "very strong bipartisan support" in the US, thereby hinting that bilateral ties would continue to grow stronger. At his weekly media briefing two days ago, MEA spokesper-

son Anurag Srivastava had also said that Indo-US bilateral ties "rest on strong foundations" and that this "encompasses cooperation in every possible sphere" ranging from strategic ties to the defence sector, trade and investment as well as people to people ties.

India may well have to deal with an increased focus on human rights from Washington during the tenure of Biden and Harris on the Kashmir issue and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). However, bilateral ties are expected to remain strong especially in the defence and strategic sectors. Biden's stand on China in the Indo-Pacific region and on Pakistan in the context of both cross-border terrorism and the

Afghan situation will also be watched closely by New Delhi as it will have major implications for India.

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

Modi tweeted, "Heartiest congratulations to Joseph R. Biden on his election as President of the United States of America and @KamalaHarris, as Vice President. I wish @JoeBiden a successful tenure and look forward to working with him to further strengthen India-US relations."

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

President Kovind said in his Twitter message: "My sincere felicitations to Joseph R. Biden on his election as President of the United States of America and @KamalaHarris, as Vice President. I wish @JoeBiden a successful tenure and look forward to working with him to further strengthen India-US relations."

Himanta to work out Naga accord

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

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

Sources indicated that the state may be allowed to adopt its own flag through some executive decision at the state level.

COVID CURE MAY REACH COMMON MAN ONLY IN 2022: AIIMS DIRECTOR

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

Amid the rising Coronavirus cases in the country, Delhi-AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, has said that common man will have to wait till 2022 to get the Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr Guleria, who is also a member of the national task force on Covid-19 management, asserted that it will take "more than a year" for an authentic vaccine to hit the Indian market.

"In our country the population is large; we need time to see how the vaccine can be bought from the market like a flu vaccine and take it.

That will actually be the ideal situation. So it could be by the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022", he said in an interview to a news channel.

Asked about the challenges India would have after the vaccine is available, the AIIMS director said that the prime focus would be on its distribution so that it reaches every part of the country.

"Maintaining the cold chain, having adequate syringes, adequate needles and being able to deliver it to the remotest part of the country in a seamless manner," he said.

Another TMC legislator revolts against Mamata

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 8

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

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

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



Mihir Goswami

Didi to get destroyed like that home? (sic)," Goswami posted on Facebook on Friday.

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

Rattled by his attacks, the TMC dared him to quit his Assembly seat and the party. "Criticism of Ms Banerjee while

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

On Sunday, Goswami, whom BJP MP of Coochbehar Nisith Pramanik met recently, did not hide his desire to leave the TMC.

Without naming the BJP, he wrote on Facebook, "Requests from well-wishers to me to join another party is true. I will inform all about my visit to New Delhi if there is time and opportunity. I know the people will be divided with the news of my entry to another party in future. One section wants me to join the new camp soon, another feels sad. But all can not be made happy simultaneously. In that case, working for the people with honour will be my only condition (sic)."

Indian troops at LAC stock up to sustain for 1 year

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 8

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

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

Top sources told *Deccan Chronicle* that the Indian troops have been "all stocked up" to keep them going for a year, if not more. Once the winter gets harsher towards December, when Ladakh witnesses heavy snowfall, all supply routes will be hit.

On the hilltops and ridges at more than 15,000 feet, the temperatures plummet to -25° Celsius and even lower while the windchill factor makes the situation worse, even leading to deaths.

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

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

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

With unpredictable weather throwing a major challenge, large quantities of kerosene, canned food, repair equipment for uninterrupted communication, vehicles among other logistics have been supplied to the strategic locations. Supplies have been divided among all the Army posts, which, in the event of getting cut off due to the harsh weather, can sustain themselves.

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

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

India, China to exercise restraint along frontlines

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WILDLIFE | PROTECTION

Move to save endangered species under consideration

Purple frog to be Kerala's state amphibian

Kochi, Nov. 8: The purple frog, one of the rarest frog species endemic to the Western Ghats, would soon be declared as Kerala's official amphibian.

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

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

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Surendrakumar said.

The matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the state wildlife board.

Official sources said the move to declare it as the state's amphibian as it was mostly endemic to Kerala region of Western Ghats.

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



Pignose frog

but is also one of the unique amphibians.

Biju said the purple frog, which remains underground most of the year, is found mostly in the Kerala part of the Western Ghats.

The frog was found in one forest area of Tamil Nadu

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

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

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

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

— PTI

IN BRIEF

DOGS SET FOR WHITE HOUSE COMEBACK

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

Not just one, but two German shepherds, one a rescue.

One is Champ, who has been with the Bidens since 2008. The other is Major, who the Bidens fostered and then adopted in 2018.

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

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

Enter Trump, a famously finicky germophobe, and the first president in over a century to not have a dog.

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

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

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

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

TRUMP FAIR GAME FOR SM RULES

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

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

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

The winner: Biden vows virus action on 'day one'.

Ethiopia vows to replace Tigray government

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

BUBBLY MOOD: RUSH FOR CHAMPAGNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris deliver remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday, after being declared the winners of the presidential election. — AFP

After poll win, Biden pledges to unite US

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

Washington, Nov. 8: Pledging to be the president of all Americans, Joe Biden has sought an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation" in the deeply-polarised nation, as he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris celebrated their historic triumph over Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought presidential election.

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

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

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify; who doesn't see red states and blue states, only sees the United States," Biden, 77, said in his victory speech before a drive-in audience in his hometown, Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday night, nearly ending the uncertainty over the out-

Joe recites deceased son's favourite hymn

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

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

come of Tuesday's election. Biden, who has succeeded in his third bid to the White House, thanked his supporters, saying he had earned votes from the "broadest and most diverse coalition in American history." "I am humbled by

who had served as Delaware's attorney general, in 2015 to a brain tumour at the age of 46.

Biden defeated Donald Trump in a bitter and closely-fought presidential election. He gave his victory speech before a drive-in audience in his hometown, Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday. On Eagles' Wings "captures the faith that sustains me and which I believe sustains America, and a hope, and I hope it can provide some comfort and solace to the 230,000 Americans who have lost a loved one due to this terrible virus this year," said Biden. — PTI

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

"The people of this nation have spoken, they've

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

commissioner. "The task force... could begin meeting within days," the daily said. In his victory speech, Biden said that the plan will be built on a bedrock of science. "It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern. I will spare no effort — or commitment — to turn this pandemic around," he said.

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

Health Secretary in the Biden administration.

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

5 lakh Indians likely to receive US citizenship

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

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

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

The Biden administration will support family-based immigration and

● **PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE Biden will continue strengthening India-US relationship, think-tanks and prominent Indian-American experts have said. "A Biden administration will be mostly positive for India," said Rick Rossow from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank.**

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

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

BIDEN PLANS TO INCREASE H-1B VISA LIMIT

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

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

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

You assured new day for US: Harris to Americans

Ancestral village celebrates her win

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, NOV 8

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

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

AUNT: FEEL VERY HAPPY OVER KAMALA WIN

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

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

woman in this office, she would not be the last. "We are so grateful to Joe and Jill for welcoming our

family into theirs on this incredible journey," she said. — PTI



Women of Thulasendrapuram near Mannargudi draw rangolis congratulating Kamala Harris for winning the US election on Sunday. — DC

POLL | RESULT

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

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

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

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

two nonconsecutive terms, CNN reported.

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

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

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

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



Donald Trump

required to win the race for the White House.

Kushner has approached the President about conceding the election, CNN quoted two unidentified sources as saying. Kushner has told others that he has urged the president to

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

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

try decide, as we have long said, and voters have made their choice very clear," Voice of America quoted Sanders as saying. But Trump appeared to be defiant, even after all major US media outlets projected Biden as the winner.

"I will not rest until the American People have the honest vote count they deserve and that Democracy demands," Trump said in the statement, which states that the campaign's legal battle will begin on Monday.

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

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY OFFERS DON JOB

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

DECCAN Chronicle

9 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden offers US healing touch, world is relieved

The contrast couldn't have been starker. The statesmanlike address by Joseph R. Biden hours after his clear victory in America's presidential elections late Saturday night, soon after he won in Pennsylvania and got a majority in the Electoral College, signalled that the ugliness and friction of the Donald Trump years would soon be over, and the United States would once again try to be a "beacon for the globe" and "lead by the power of our example". Urging an immediate end to the "grim era of demonisation in America", President-elect Biden said it was a "time to heal" and reached out to all, including those who voted for Mr Trump, and vowed that he would be their President too. Mr Biden will have to work particularly hard, as in the four years since Mr Trump came to power and encouraged the rise of divisiveness and hate-filled politics, opponents were perceived as enemies, not rivals. The conduct of the White House's occupant isn't helping: even 24 hours after defeat, he is refusing to concede, which some close advisers, even his son-in-law, have advised him to do, and is still talking of legal challenges in several states and trying to seek the Supreme Court's help in a desperate bid to cling on. More worryingly, he is inciting his supporters to hold protests, with reports of clashes between them and Mr Biden's supporters. Once wonders how long it will take him to accept reality.

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

The spontaneous celebrations across America since Saturday night, with scenes of jubilation in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, show a nation that has received deliverance from four years of darkness, with rising hope that better days lie ahead. Saying he wanted to "restore the soul of America", Mr Biden pledged to get down to work right away, in a bid to get the Covid-19 pandemic (where the US tops the world, and Mr Trump had largely ignored) under control from Day 1. He said he will name a transition team with top scientists Monday to work out a strategy in this regard.

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

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

Health before festivity

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

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

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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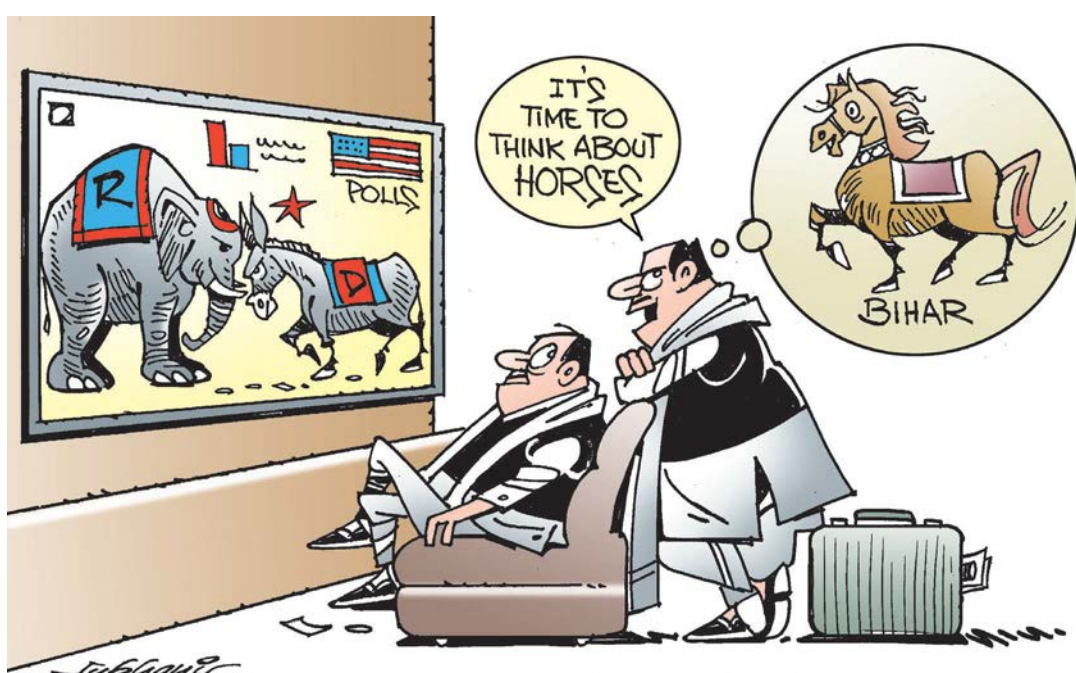
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Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



The new Cold War



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

In the dying days of the Second World War as the Allied Expeditionary Force under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower closed in on Germany from the West, the Soviet Red Army under the leadership of marshals Georgy Zhukov and Ivan Konev did so from the East and they set the stage for the next conflict — namely who would dominate Europe post the end of that war. The ideological contest that ensued between democratic liberalism and Soviet communism would consume Europe for the next four-and-a-half decades till the Berlin Wall finally fell on the 9th of November, 1989.

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

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

Harry S. Truman at the South Carolina House of Representatives. "Let us not be deceived," Baruch said. "We are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home. Let us never forget this."

The term soon caught the fancy of the world after it was given a fresh lease of life by the legendary columnist Walter Lippmann in his *New York Herald Tribune* piece in September 1947. Soon thereafter, this proxy war was fought for 40 five years across distant theatres of the world ranging from Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Cuba, countries of South and Latin America, Africa and finally Afghanistan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Nansha district, covering the Sparty Islands, both of which are also claimed by Vietnam. It simultaneously transgressed at various places across the Line of Actual Control that separates India from China, especially in Eastern Ladakh around the same time, and moved on the political sovereignty of Hong Kong with a new security law in the May of 2020.

It is now only a matter of time that China would translate its new-found economic alliances into pro-forma military pacts across different continents subterfuged and packaged as arrangements for protecting Chinese investments overseas. In South and North Asia it already has two nuclear-armed allies, Pakistan and North Korea. Both have heavy Chinese investments. In Pakistan it is in the form of the 70 billion USD China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite window dressing in the wake of North Korea's nuclear tests, is virtually sustained and nourished by the Chinese.

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

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

LETTERS

DOUBLE-DECKERS

The idea of getting double-decker buses back is be good (*Double-decker buses might return, DC, Nov. 8*). Many developed countries have opted for them, like England. They accommodate more passengers and occupy less space and cut pollution.

Paris Katherine
Hyderabad

WOMEN POWER

The election of Kamala Devi Harris as the US Vice-President and the consequent addition of several firsts to her name is very inspiring for women power. A perfect example of 'Practice what you preach' can be found in Kamala's words, "What I want young women and girls to know is that you are powerful and your voice matters."

Ramala Kinnara
Hyderabad

US POLL CARTOON

We cannot agree with the cartoon showing the US polls as a snail's race. Though their process is slow, it is foolproof. American democracy has a reputation.

U.N. Murthy
Secunderabad

INDIAN ENVIRONMENT

The write-up may be hilarious but it has given food for thought (*Plotting a son-rise on shifting sands, DC, Nov. 8*). It is a sad commentary of how the rich and powerful in India have their way in reducing a serious issue like environment and manipulate it to further their ends and to their advantage.

B. Shiv Kumar
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Did CIA overthrow Ayub?

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

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

Kishwar Desai
London Diary



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

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

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

The second lockdown, in fact, has evoked greater anger among the public and much less support for the government, alas. There is a division even within Boris's own backbenchers. Travel is banned;

pubs and restaurants are shut. We know the rules but we like them less and less. Even the Queen rushed back to Windsor from her Scottish home last Wednesday so she could spend the lockdown near London. Of course, her convoy of cars got stuck in a traffic jam but then help was at hand and her party escaped by driving on the wrong side of the road.

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

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

wandering from door to door.

Strange isn't it that so many of these harvest festivals have lights and firecrackers associated with them? Though fewer are being celebrated with fire and fervour, and soon these may become part of history.

Diwali is being celebrated at a distance as well. Now of course, PIOs (People of Indian Origin) are valuable voters. So the leaders of the major political parties were part of a digital Global Diwali Festival lasting from Friday to Sunday, organised by the energetic Manoj Ladwa. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, also made a speech in which he managed to get Rama, Sita and Ravana into his message (without for once making any mistakes) along with a mention of *samosa* and *gulabjamun* and then connected it all with a conquest over Covid. Now we are waiting for Kamala Harris to do the same.

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

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

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

A complete contrast is provided by a new biography of Shapurji Saklatwala who was Labour MP for Battersea North during the 1920s and a Communist as well. *Comrade Sak* has been written by Mark Wadsworth, himself the child of a

Jamaican father and a Finnish mother who has been in the Labour Left for a long while. Saklatwala was the third Parsi MP following Dadabhai Naoroji and Mancherji Bhownagari in the 1890s. Like them he was actively interested in fighting for Indian Independence.

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

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

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

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,893.06	1.34
Nifty 50	12,263.55	1.18
S&P 500*	3,509.44	-0.03
Dollar (₹)	74.19	0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.54	-0.71
Euro (₹)	87.86	0.00
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,717.791	1.52
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.52	-1.41
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.871	0.013
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.827	0.049

* As of Friday/Saturday

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

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

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



Indian Overseas Bank has sought a capital support of about Rs 1,000 crore from the Centre to create a buffer for any exigency. IOB, which has posted profit for the last three consecutive quarters, expects to continue the trend in the remaining part of the current fiscal year. "We expect the trend to continue and book profit quarter after quarter aided by prospects of better recovery," managing director P. P. Sengupta said.

IOC director Singh to head Petronet LNG



Indian Oil Corp director-pipelines Akshay Kumar Singh will be the new managing director and chief executive of the country's biggest gas importer, Petronet LNG Ltd. Singh replaces Prabhat Singh who completed his five-year term on September 13.

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

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



■ Risk-reward less attractive after recent rise in stocks Economy holds key to new Samvat fortunes

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 8

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

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

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

The pandemic has accelerated the shift towards a digital economy. In Samvat 2076 the leadership shifted from banking to the technology sector.

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

Now, when most European nations are going in for fresh lock-



Brokerages Diwali Pick

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"As we advance towards getting the vaccine (by

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

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

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

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

Divide between larger & smaller MFIs deepen in Covid times

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

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

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

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



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

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

"This makes the smaller MFIs more vulnerable than the large ones, as the latter enjoy strong balance sheet liquidity, better oper-

ating profitability and healthy financial flexibility. So the small MFIs could witness a contraction in their AUMs and report losses in FY21.

This could result in pressure on their credit ratings, especially the entities with high leverage and weak liquidity. But large MFIs are expected to witness some growth in their AUM in FY21.

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

MSMEs claim over 50% recovery; services drag

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

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

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

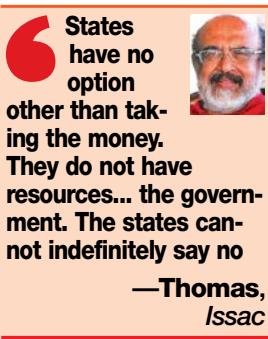
Rajive Chawla, chairman of IamSMEofIndia, said, "Manufacturing MSMEs have been witnessing a month-on-month growth in the last four months. Initially, organising working capital was a major challenge. Now those issues have

Kerala too may accept GST compensation option

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 8

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

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



over, we will talk to them and take coordinated action," he said.

Nevertheless, the state will continue to raise the issues pertaining to the GST compensation decisions taken by the Centre. It feels that the decision taken outside the GST Council is illegal. He said decisions have to be taken and ratified at the GST Council. "Further, as there was a dispute, there should be a dispute

redressal mechanism," he said.

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

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

Bigbasket's customer data stolen?

PRASOON SRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, NOV 8

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

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

Cyble said a hacker has put data belonging to

Bigbasket on sale for around Rs 30 lakh.

"In the course of our routine dark web monitoring, the research team at Cyble found the database of Big Basket for sale in a cyber crime market, being sold for over \$40,000. The leak contains a database portion; with the table name 'member_member'. The size of the SQL file is about 15 GB, containing close to 20 million user data," Cyble said in its blog.

It added the data put on sale includes names, email

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

While Cyble has mentioned "passwords", Bigbasket uses a one-time password sent via SMS which keeps changing.

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

—PTI

India Inc looks forward to stronger Indo-US ties



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

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

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

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

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

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

—PTI

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

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

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

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

vehicles business unit president Shailesh Chandra told PTI. It is therefore imperative that whosoever has greater share of SUVs in the portfolio will have a greater pie, share of the market, he added.

"So we have taken note of that sometime back and accordingly targeted to have the widest SUV portfolio," Chandra said.

Both Nexon and Harrier were doing great in the market in terms of sales numbers, he noted.

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

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

Royal Enfield to roll out new bike every quarter

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

The company is also planning to set up an assembly unit in Thailand in the next 6-12 months followed by Brazil in the near future.

"Going forward two additional models are going to come—Gravitas and Hornbill (code-names). Gravitas will be a seven-seater SUV while Hornbill will

"We have now got a product plan for the next five to seven years. We are looking at launching a new model almost every quarter and I am not even talking variants and colour options kind of stuff...28 models at least (in the next seven years) that's the bare minimum," Royal Enfield CEO Vinod K. Dasari told PTI. He further said, "All these (new models) will play in the mid segment — 250cc to 750 cc. That's our focus area." —PTI

be a sub compact SUV so we will have four SUVs in our portfolio which would be the widest portfolio," Chandra said. Hornbill with a very aggres-

sive position at one end and Gravitas at the other end, the company with four products would be well poised to tap the growing trend towards SUVs, he noted.

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

Holding new MCC Foundation patron

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

The MCC Foundation is the charitable arm of the Marylebone Cricket Club, custodians of the game's laws, and was created with the aim of enhancing lives through cricket.

The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community. Throughout a professional career that spanned 15 years, Holding carved out a reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time.

Since retirement, he has worked as a commentator on Sky Sports' cricket coverage and, more recently, has earned praise as a powerful and eloquent advocate for racial equality "both in the game and further afield".

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

Pak thump Zim to clinch T20 series

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Pakistan proved too strong for Zimbabwe as they won the second Twenty20 international by eight wickets in Rawalpindi on Sunday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Riding on half centuries from skipper Babar Azam (51) and 20-year-old Haider Ali (66 not out), Pakistan made short work of a modest 135-run target, achieving victory with 29 balls to spare.

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

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

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 134/7 (Burl 32 not out, Qadir 3/23, Rauf 3/31) lost to Pakistan 137/2 (Haider Ali 66 not out, Babar Azam 51.)

Ex Pak skipper Sarfaraz fined

Karachi: Former Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed has been penalised 35 per cent of his match fee for using "inappropriate language" during a Quaid-e-Azam Trophy match. The 33-year-old stumper, who is leading the Sindh First XI, admitted to the level 1 offence relating to use of inappropriate language during his side's match on Saturday.

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

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

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

Ram settles for runner-up finish

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

It is now the fifth time that Ramkumar has not won a final on the Challenger circuit. His previous runner-up finishes came at Tallahassee (April 2017), Winnetka (July 2017), Pune (November 2017) and Taipei (April 2018).

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

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

WWE

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

DELHI ECLIPSE SUN

All-round Capitals beat Hyderabad to book maiden final spot

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: M. Stoinis b Rashid 38, S. Dhawan lbw Sharma 78, S. Iyer c Pandey b Holder 21, S. Hetmyer (not out) 42, R. Pant (not out) 2. Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-2) 8. **Total (for 3 wkts, in 20 overs) 189.**

FoW: 1-86, 2-126, 3-178. **Bowling:** Sharma 4-0-30-1, Holder 4-0-50-1, Nadeem 4-0-48-0, Khan 4-0-26-1, Natarajan 4-0-32-0.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: P.K. Garg b Stoinis 17, D. Warner b Rabada 2, M. Pandey c Nortje b Stoinis 21, K. Williamson c Rabada b

Stoinis 67, J. Holder c Dubey b Patel 11, Abdul Samad c sub (KMA Paul) b Rabada 33, Rashid Khan c Patel b Rabada 11, S. Goswami c Stoinis b Rabada 0, S. Nadeem (not out) 2, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 2. Extras (lb-1, w-5) 6. **Total (for 8 wkts, in 20 over) 172.**

FoW: 1-12, 2-43, 3-44, 4-90, 5-147, 6-167, 7-167, 8-168.

Bowling: R. Ashwin 3-0-33-0, K. Rabada 4-0-29-4, A. Nortje 4-0-36-0, M. Stoinis 3-0-26-3, A. Patel 4-0-33-1, P. Dubey 2-0-14-0.

Stoinis (3/26) shone with the ball for the winners.

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

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (21) could not do much but

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

Dhawan, in his well-paced innings, hit six fours and two sixes. He added 52 runs for the third wicket with Hetmyer

before being dismissed by seamer Sandeep Sharma (1/30).

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

did not cost them much.

Yet again, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (4-0-26-1) was the most effective bowler though T Natarajan bowled well in slog overs.

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

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

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



Delhi Capitals players celebrate the wicket of Manish Pandey of Sunrisers Hyderabad during their IPL Qualifier 2 match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. Capitals won by 17 runs.

— BCCI

SAHA HAS HAMSTRING TEAR, ALL EYES ON BCCI

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

It will now depend on what call BCCI mandarins take considering that physio Nitin Patel's medical reports have of late come under scanner due to divergent views of the IPL franchises.

Saha had stretched his groin while batting against Delhi Capitals in the second

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

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

However, the degree of the tear is still not clear.

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

Pollard credits his bond with Pandya brothers for success

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

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

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



Kieron Pollard

Twitter handle.

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

According to Pollard, being confident and back-

ing himself are the similar qualities he shares with Hardik. Both are known for their six-hitting prowess.

"They (Pandya brothers) are more open and loud, but they are not like that just off the field, when they go on to the cricket field, the flair that they show, Hardik especially, that aspect of it, he goes out, backs himself, he is confident. So these are some of the things that we share in common," said Pollard.

Pollard praised Hardik, who has scored 278 runs and plundered 25 sixes this season, for his confidence.

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

WOMEN'S T20 | CHALLENGE

Harmanpreet & Co target third crown

Sharjah, Nov. 8: The momentum is with defending champions Supernovas as they eye a third straight Women's T20 Challenge title, with a determined Trailblazers standing in their way in the final here on Monday.

In the winners-take-all T20 final, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will have momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti Mandhana and company in the last round-robin game on Saturday.

Supernovas, champions in 2018 and 2019, just about managed to ward off their rivals in a last-over thriller.

The two-run win enabled the Supernovas to enter the final, while knocking the Mithali-Raj led Velocity out of the competition. For the defending champions, opener Chamari Atapattu (111 runs) has been in brilliant form. The Sri Lankan veteran is the top scorer for Supernovas this season. Against the Trailblazers, she played an aggressive innings (67 off 48-balls) to notch up the first fifty of the tournament.

Skipper Harmanpreet, who had scored two half-centuries including in the final last year, has been dismissed for 31 in both the matches and the big-hitting Indian T20 captain

● **In the winners-take-all T20 final, Harmanpreet Kaur-led Supernovas will have the momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti Mandhana's Trailblazers in the last round-robin game on Saturday.**

will look to get back to her destructive best in the final.

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

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

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

Deepti worked on her game after lockdown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

— BCCI

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

Milan, Nov. 8: Cagliari's Joao Pedro scored for the fifth consecutive Serie A match to equal a 52-year-old club record set by Italy legend Gigi Riva in a 2-0 victory over 10-man Sampdoria on Saturday.

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

Sampdoria had to play over half the match a man down after Tommaso Augello was sent off for bringing down Nahitan Nandez five minutes before the break.

Brazilian Pedro opened the scoring two minutes into the second half before Leroy Sane grabbed the

win when he scored in 42 games and also Cagliari's with 164 goals in 315 league games, celebrated his 76th birthday on Saturday.

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win when he scored a penalty kick after colliding with Lorenzo Tonelli.

LEWANDOWSKI SCORES AS BAYERN LEAD TABLE

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

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

Atleti go top, Messi rescues Barca

Madrid, Nov. 8: Atletico Madrid jumped to the top of La Liga on Saturday with a 4-0 thrashing of Cadiz after Lionel Messi came on at half-time to rescue Barcelona against Real Betis.

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

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

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

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



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

— AP

ues to struggle in the shadow of Messi at Camp Nou.

Messi had been rested by Ronald Koeman but was thrown on with the game in the balance after Griezmann missed a penalty, before Betis' Antonio Sanabria cancelled out

Ousmane Dembele's opener.

Within four minutes of his introduction, Messi gave Griezmann an open goal with a superb dummy and then scored twice himself, before Betis' Antonio Sanabria cancelled out

off for a handball on the line.

DI MARIA BRACE IN RENNES STROLL

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

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

Rennes stay third on 18 points — but can be overtaken by Nice should they beat Monaco on Sunday — while Montpellier are a further point back in sixth after their 2-0 win at Bordeaux.

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