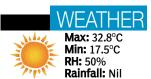
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2020



Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 32/19 °C

#### COVID-19 **C** WUNT

CASES **DEATHS** (+404)(+35,301)1,23,025 82,62,478

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+922)(+7)TS: 2,40,970 1,348 (+1,916)(+13)AP: 8,27,882 6,719

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



AREAS WITH CASES worldometers.info/ coronavirus

#### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Tadiya till 3.23 am (Wednesday) Star: Rohini till 2.28 am Varjyam: 5.35 pm to 7.21 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.35 am to 9.21 am; 10.44 pm to 11.34 pm **Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rabbi-ul Awwal 16, 1442 AH

> **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.14 am **Zohar:** 12.10 pm **Asar:** 4.09 pm Maghrib: 5.51 pm Isha: 6.59 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.15 AM **SUNSET TODAY 5.43 PM** 

**MOONSET 8.18 AM MOONRISE 7.45 PM** 



No more slip of the tongue They have tattooed the party's name on his hand!

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Maya's u-turn on backing BJP

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati asserted on Monday that her party would never enter into an alliance with the BJP in elections, highlighting that the ideology of the two parties were "opposite". Her clarification came amid speculation over her last week's statement that the BSP would vote for the BJP or any other party's candidate to ensure defeat of the

Samajwadi Party contenders in future elections, including those of the Uttar Pradesh legislative council and the Rajya Sabha. She alleged that the SP and the Congress were misusing her statement so that the Muslims distance themselves from the BSP.

## SC: Speed up

#### **Tablighi cases**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the trial courts to expedite hearing in the pending cases against foreign Tablighi Jamaat members for alleged visa violations. A bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna listed the pleas filed against blacklisting of foreign members of Tablighi Jamaat for attending the Nizamuddin Markaz congregation in the national capital for further hearing on November 20 and asked the lower courts to expeditiously deal with their cases.

# NATION 4

**SC stays EC action** on Kamal Nath



#### **BUSINESS** 7

**Tata Steel lets staff** work from anywhere

SPORTS 8

Sindhu scares fans with 'retire' tweet



Vol. 83 No. 304 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

## AP to get ₹2,300 crore for Polavaram without riders

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD. NOV. 2

In a major and immediate relief to the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh, the Union finance ministry on Monday agreed to release ₹2,300 crore for the ongoing Polavaram multipurpose irrigation project

without imposing riders. Earlier, the finance ministry insisted that the Jal Shakti ministry approve the project cost at ₹29,000 crore as estimated in the financial year 2013-2014 as against the revised estimate of ₹48,000 crore. The precondition for releasing the funds, if agreed by the Shakti ministry, would have put a heavy financial burden on the state government as it

• THE STATE government has also got a shotin-the-arm with the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) observing that the project could be completed only at the revised estimate.

differential amount. "We are happy to note that the Union finance

could have had to bear the

ministry has removed a conditional clause for releasing ₹2,300 crore and asked the Jal Shakti ministry to sort out the issue by the time the next instalment is due," a senior water resources official of Andhra Pradesh told Deccan Chronicle.

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government has also got a

shot-in-the-arm with the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), a nodal agency, observing that the project could be completed only at the revised esti-mate. The PPA met here on Monday under the chairmanship of Chandrasekhar Iver to discuss the finance ministry's proposal to the Jal Shakti ministry to approve the project cost to avail funds. Significantly, the PPA also fixed April 2022 as the

deadline for completing the project. An expert committee, which recently visited the project site, has prepared a monthly schedule of works to be completed to

Page 2: AP wants R&R included in project cost

meet the deadline.

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC** HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

A massive investigation is underway to probe "suspi-cious cyber activity" that hit Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's pet project — Dharani portal - causing the system to malfunction on the very first day of its launch on October 29.

Among the angles under investigation, experts are

**IN A DECADE** 

**MADHUSUDAN SAHOO** NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

With rising demand and output amidst Covid-19 disruptions, India's factory activity, measured by the Manufacturing

Purchasing Managers'

Index (PMI), expanded to

58.9 in October-- nearly a

13-year high and the

fastest pace in over a

decade. However, on the

employment front, the

numbers remain a con-

cern, as companies cut more jobs, a private survey showed on Monday.

Even though the econo-

my shrank at a record 23.9 per cent in the April-

June quarter, the latest

PMI survey shows that

Asia's third-largest econ-

omy is signalling a fast

pace of recovery with

several economic indica-

"Rising from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in

October, the PMI pointed

to the strongest improve-

ment in the health of the

sector in over a decade,

with companies raising

output to the greatest

extent in 13 years amid

robust sales growth. The

reading was the highest

since May 2010 and above

the 50-level separating

grow-th from contraction

■ Full report on Page 7

for the third month.

tors turning positive.

looking into a possible phishing attack or hack-

To make matters worse, technical experts in the government discovered at least four other apps on Google playstore that are similar to Dharani, which ended up causing huge confusion among the peo-

ple.
This promoted senior government officials to write to Google with a

request that those apps be removed immediately. The Chief Minister had launched the Dharani portal — the integrated land record management system — amid much fanfare at the tahsildar office in Mudu Chintalapalli village of Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Medchal-October 29.

> Page 2: CS burns midnight oil in his office

# **Dubbak to elect MLA in** hotly-contested bypoll

TRS remains firmly entrenched; Voting begins 7 am today S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 2 **DEVELOPMENT IS** 

#### The stage is set for polling on Tuesday in the Dubbak Assembly constituency which witnessed a highvoltage campaign ever since the bypoll was notified by the Election Commission.

The polling is scheduled to take place at 315 polling stations in the constituency from 7 am to 6 pm. The Election Commission has made all arrangements for the conduct of the bypoll in compliance with Covid-19 norms, besides taking tight security measures.

The byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting TRS MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy in August this year. The TRS has fielded his widow Solipeta Sujatha as its candidate. Though 23 candidates are in the fray, the main contest is among the candidates of the TRS, Congress and the BJP.

The Congress has given the ticket to TRS leader Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, who joined the party just of the bypoll, while the BJP has fielded M. Raghunandan Rao who lost the previous election in Dubbak. The results of

## BJP leaders in city under house arrest FOR TRS: KTR

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

The Telangana police have put under house arrest all key BJP leaders, including state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar following reports that they are planning protests at CM's Pragathi Bhavan, DGP office and ruling TRS party headquarters in Banjara Hills.

Security has been enhanced at Pragathi Bhavan

and DGP office. Some of the important leaders have been taken into preventive custody. The process of immobilising BJP leaders started late night on Sunday. Even leaders in districts

the byelection will be out on November 10.

Political observers believe that odds are in the favour of the ruling TRS and that it would certainly retain the seat. They claim

have been detained. While Sanjay Kumar remains confined to the

state party headquarters in Hyderabad, MLC N. Ramchander Rao, former ministers Mothkupalli Narasimhulu and D. K. Aruna, and ex-MLA N. V. S. S. Prabhakar are under BJP has charged that

TRS government is acting in the most undemocratic manner. MLC Ramchander Rao said the party has taken the issue to notice of the Election Commission.

Ex-MLA Prabhakar has demanded that Governor sack K. T. Rama Rao from the cabinet. He wanted DGP to book a case against attempts to divert police attention from bypoll.

that typically a majority of voters in the bypoll opt for the ruling party for the development programmes.

■ Page 2: Welfare policies to help TRS in bypolls

**ONLY AGENDA** 

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao said on Monday that development is the only agenda of his party, while the BJP and the Congress have 2,800 agendas for 28 states of the

Addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan on Monday on the occa-sion of several leaders led by BJP spokesperson Ravula Sridhar Reddy joining the ruling party, Rama Rao accused the BJP of trying to create a communal divide in the state. However, he said there is no place for communal agenda in Telangana, where secular-

ism is blended in its soil. He said efforts are being made to tarnish the image of Telangana only for the sake of political advan-

■ Page 2: Every time oppn says TRS will lose: KTR

#### Masks get fashionable **MFG SECTOR SEES FASTEST GROWTH**



Women wearing designer masks pose for photographs as they prepare to celebrate Karwa Chauth festival in Bhopal

# US poll campaign draws to a close

Washington, Nov. 2: The US Presidential campaign entered its final day on Monday with a last-minute scramble for votes by incumbent Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden, drawing to a close an extraordinary race that has put a pandemic-stricken country on

While campaigning will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday,

 WHILE CAMPAIGNING will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday, many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and legal challenges.

many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and possible legal challenges.

Those factors, along with an unprecedented convergence of social justice protests, coronavirus precautions and Trump's fear-mongering campaign, have led to apprehension over whether unrest could erupt. Taking no chances, businesses in some cities have boarded up windows, while across the country the harsh political climate has led to fierce debate.

As proof of how much

Americans have been galfrightened by the pandemic — a record of more than 93 million people have cast early ballots, according to the nonpartisan US nonpartisan Elections Project. As the hours count down

on Monday and with polls showing him behind, Trump and Biden continue their final rallies.

■ Full coverage on Page 5

## **APSRTC and TSRTC divide operating routes for their buses equally** Relief for Telugus as RTCs clinch a deal

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

There was respite for road commuters from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who have been facing tremendous problems, with their state-run transport corporations deciding to resume inter-state bus services.

Hours after arriving at the decision on Monday, buses were pushed into service by evening. As per Memorandum of erstanding (MoU) Understanding signed between the two,

TSRTC will operate across 1,61,258 km in AP with 826 buses and APSRTC will operate across 1,60,999 kmwith 638 buses Telangana.

On the Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 52,944 km with 273 buses in Andhra Pradesh and APSRTC will operate across 52,524 km 192 buses in

Telangana. On the Kurnool route and beyond, TSRTC will cover 43,456 km with 213 buses in AP while APSRTC will do so across 43,202 km with

On Piduguralla/Guntur route via Wadapally, TSRTC will operate across Wadapally, 19,044 km with 67 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 20,238 km with 88 buses in Telangana.

On the Macherla route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 14,158 km with 66 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 16.060 km with 61 buses in Telangana. On the Nuzvid, Tiruvur,

12,453 km with 48 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 14,026 km with 65 buses in Telangana. Khammam, the

Jeelugumilli, Jangareddygudem route and beyond, TSRTC will now operate across 9,140 km with 35 buses in Andhra Pradesh and APSRTC will operate across 11,541 km with 58 buses in Telangana.

On the Hyderabad-Srisailam route, TSRTC will continue operations across 1,904 km with 62 buses in AP and APSRTC

this route in Telangana. On the remaining routes such as Sathupally - Eluru (two routes), Bhadracha-

lam and Kunta via Kallugudem, Sathupally-Vijayawada and others, TSRTC will operate across 8,159 km with 62 buses in Andhra Pradesh, and APSRTC will operate across 3,408 km with 28 buses in Telangana.

However, all routes would not be available as the demand is low. The routes will be increased proportionate

## 57 teachers test positive as AP schools reopen THE FEAR of getting

DC CORRESPONDENTS TIRUPATI/VIJAYAWADA,

Even as the Covid infection continues to threaten, bringing students back to the classrooms appears to be unsafe as the first day of reopening since March, saw some teachers and students testing positive for coronavirus on Monday.

As per the data, six students, including three each from Nellore and Chittoor districts, tested positive when the medical department conducted random tests. Similarly, about 57 teachers in Chittoor and a watchman and a mid-day meals helper in Nellore district also tested positive.

It may be recalled that there was strong criticism from various sections on the decision to reopen the schools while the virus rages. Monday's incidents prove them right and this has created ripples among parents and officials. The education department officials have, however, said that it is possible the children or teachers were infected elsewhere. Meanwhile, the fear of

Covid-19 seems to have

infected with

impact on the turnout of students from Classes 9 and 10 and Intermediate second year in both government and private institutions. had its impact on the turnout of students from

infected with Covid-19

seems to have had its

Intermediate second year in both government and private institutions. As schools and colleges reopened on Monday after seven months closure, the turnout of students was poor on the first day.

Classes 9 and 10 and

While 43.65 per cent Class 10 students attended schools, only 39.65 per cent students from Class 9 turned out at the schools. In total, out of 10,04,989 students, the attendance registered was 42 percent.

Among the teachers, out a total strength of 98,723, 86,656 attended schools for an 87.88 per cent of attendance.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed officials to ensure that students are not subject to any undue pressure on catching up with academics in a bid to cover the

## SC won't extend ex-judge's security

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to extend the security of former special judge S.K. Yadav who had pronounced the verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case and acquitted all 32 accused, including BJP veterans L.K. Advani, M.M. Joshi and Uma Bharti.

A bench, headed by Justice R.F. Nariman and also comprising Justices

Murari, was considering the former judge's request to continue his security in view of the sensitivity of the case decided by him on his last day in office. "Having perused the letter, we don't consider it

Navin Sinha and Krishna

appropriate to provide security," the bench said. On September 30, the special court had acquitted all 32 accused in the

Bhadrachalam-Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across

will not operate buses on

SHORT TAKES

## **OPPN SAYS TRS WILL LOSE: KTR**

From Page 1

The BJP, which had promised to deposit ₹15 lakh in each person's account by bringing black money stashed in Swiss banks, brought black laws that divide the country, Rama Rao

"In every election, they campaign as if the TRS is on the verge of losing elections. But Telangana people have been blessing the party despite the misleading propaganda unleashed by the BJP and the Congress. The BJP, in particular, excels in campaigns but fails at the grassroots-level, Rama Rao observed.

The minister said the government is ready to share every detail of what the TRS has done for the state in the

past six years. Rama Rao pointed out that Telangana has contributed ₹2.72 lakh crore to the Centre's exchequer, while it has received only ₹1.29 lakh crore. "While we can keep on giving details like this, when you ask the BJP as to what they have done for the state, there is a big

#### **WELFARE POLICIES TO HELP TRS** IN BYPOLLS

From Page 1

They were also of the opinion that the state government's social security pensions, "Rythu Bandhu" investment support scheme for farmers, Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak, Double Bedroom Houses, sheep units distribution could influence the voters towards the TRS.

The Dubbak Assembly constituency is located in the midst of three constituencies which are led by top leaders of the ruling party — Gajwel is represented by Chief Minister

K. Chandrashekar Rao, Siricilla by IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao and Siddipet by finance minister T. Harish Rao. With these three Assembly constituencies witnessing a massive development, the observers feel the voters in Dubbak too could gravitate towards the ruling

Dubbak had more women voters than men. The total number of voters in the Dubbak Assembly constituency is 1,98,756, which includes 1,00,778 women and 97,978

In the 2014 elections, a majority of women had voted for the TRS and the observers believe that the same voting pattern could continue in the byelec-

During the 2018 election, Ramalinga Reddy won the seat with a majority of more than 60,000 votes against his nearest rival Congress candidate. The BJP stood in the third position.

As the TRS goes into the Dubbaka byelection with a good track-record of winning such exercises, the fight between the Congress and the BJP has appeared to be confined to the second position. The Congress, though claims to defeat the ruling party, is trying hard to retain its second place in view of the ensuing elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. If the Congress loses its second position, it would have to face a difficult situation in the GHMC polls, the observers noted. The Congress is banking on the goodwill of its candidate Srinivas Reddy''s late father Mutyam Reddy, a former min-

Though the Bharatiya BJP is trying hard to at least emerge as the main opposition for the TRS, the political observers feel that the seizure of huge cash from the relatives of the BJP candidate has marred the winning chances of its candi-

date. According to political observers, the contentious laws related to agriculture passed by Parliament, the Central government's decision to import maize and a cap on the MSP for paddy could adversely affect the BJP candidate in Dubbak as farmers make up the majority of voters in the segment.

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# Oppn furious over cash distribution to victims

#### TRS men illegally using CMRF money, allege Cong, BJP

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

Opposition parties are furious over the distribution of cash to the October flood victims, poor, slum-dwellers by TRS activists as the money being distributed is not from the TRS party fund. The parties termed the act as a brazen 'white-collar' robbery in the guise of cash distribution to the flood victims in the city.

"Why are TRS party men distributing the public money from the Chief asked Congress
Legislative Party (CLP)
leader Mallu Bhatti
Vikramarka.
For the congress Minister's Relief Fund?"

For the sake of transparency and accountability, he said the money from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) could be directly deposited into the bank account of flood victims, beneficiaries or any other the poor. "When the Union government can

**BODHAN CI, SI AND** 

**CONSTABLE** 

**SUSPENDED** 

directly deposit money into the bank accounts of beneficiaries in any nook corner of the country, why can't it be implemented in the city?," the CLP leader added.

The opposition parties called the TRS' distribution of cash to the flood victims a smart act because no political party would oppose it as it could potentially backfire in the upcoming Greater Municipal (GHMC) Hyderabad Corporation polls. Hence, they claim, the government has handed over the cash distribution work to the ruling party leaders and fear that the move would certainly

tern in the civic polls.

TRS minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, however, refuted the allegations made by the opposition parties and said it exhibits their mindsets.

influence the voting pat-

Mr Yadav said elected representatives were involved in the cash distrithe representatives of their division or Assembly constituency and clarified that the money is being distributed by the GHMC officials only. want to distribute, let the fight the election, win and then distribute to the victims of their respective constituency or division. They are just jealous of a noble programme taken

up by the TRS," he added. BJP state president BJP state president Bandi Sanjay said the real beneficiaries have not got the compensation amount since TRS elected representatives have been swindling the half amount. He also wondered if the compensation of ₹10,000 will serve any purpose when commodities, electronic goods and vehicles were damaged in the floods.

"The TRS is indulging in dirty politics even during the adverse situation in the city. We would wage a war on illegal distribution of cash compensation by

bution programme only as the TRS leaders and ensure the real beneficiaries would be benefitted. How can K.T. Ramarao hand over cash to corporators when he himself on several occasions called them to be corrupt?" Mr Sanjay added. spokesperson

Dasoju Sravan criticised Election State Commission for allowing the TRS men to distribute cash ahead of the civic polls in the city and sought the postponement of electoral roll preparation for GHMC polls till flood relief compensation distribution was complete He also alleged wide-

spread irregularities and discrimination in the distribution of compensation amounts for flood-affected families in Greater Hyderabad. "TRS leaders are committing a brazen 'white-collar' robbery of public money in the name of compensation distribution," said Dasoju Sravan.

# Dharani portal goes live

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, NOV. 2 Nizamabad range DIG N. Shivashankar Reddy issued suspension orders on Monday at 10.35 pm, of Bodhan police Monday. Chief secretary Somesh Kumar handed over the circle inspector, Palle Rakesh Goud, SI Mogulaiah and consta-

Bodhan CI Rakesh was caught red-handed by Anti-Corruption Bureau officials on October 31, while accepting ₹50,000 cash and ₹1.04 lakh worth cell phone as bribe from a realtor.

ble Gajanand in a graft

After departmental inquiry, the DIG issued suspension orders of the trio. ACB officials produced the circle inspector before the ACB court in Karimnagar.

CI RAKESH was caught red-handed by the ACB officials on October 31.

**2 HELD FOR FORGING** 

**DOCUMENTS TO AVAIL** 

KALYANA LAKSHMI

KCR government's flagship project "Dharani Portal", intended to pro-vide hassle and corruption-free land transactions online, has gone live across the state from

first registered copies to an individual who had made a gift deed on his wife's name at the tahsildar's office in Sham-shabad on Monday. On the occasion, Somesh Kumar said with this, registrations of agricultural properties through Dharani have successfully started all over the state.

The CS had visited the office at Shamshabad to oversee registrations of agricultural properties on Monday. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had launched the Dharani portal on October 29.

Somesh Kumar said 946 members had paid money registrations

 THE CS said 946 members had paid money towards registrations while 888 members have booked a slot today. He pointed out that slots can also be booked at Mee-Seva centres by paying ₹200. He said the state government will shortly

while 888 members have booked a slot today. He pointed out that slots can also be booked at Mee-Seva centres by paying ₹200. He said the state government will shortly take a decision on pending mutations.

take a decision on

pending mutations.

Explaining the salient features of Dharani, the chief secretary said, "It is the most easy, simple, transparent and corrupsystem. Registrations and mutations are not left to anyone's discretion and done by Aadhaar authentication of buyer, seller, wit-

He explained that there

any problem arises in taking of the fingerprint, then registration can be done through iris of the eyes. Slot booking can also be carried out through payment at banks.

He said based on reports

Chief Minister will announce a date for registration of non-agricultural lands. Special tribunals will be set up to deal with pending applications, he

nesses, all with biometric

are four types of registrations – sale deed, gift deed, succession and partition. which will be done under Dharani. Those with smart phones can also book their slots under Dharani.

Somesh Kumar said, "If

coming from districts, registrations have started at all the places. Computergenerated registration documents are being given to citizens. Any technical issues will be resolved by teams within 2–3 days. He informed that the

#### **TWO RTCs SPLIT ALL ROUTES EQUALLY**

From Page 1

On the Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 52,944 km with 273 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 52,524 km with 192 buses in Telangana.

On the Kurnool route and beyond, TSRTC will cover 43,456 km with 213 buses in AP while APSRTC will do so across 43,202 km with 146 buses in Telangana.

guralla/Guntur route via Wadapally, TSRTC operate 19,044 km with 67 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 20,238 km with 88 buses in Telangana.

On the Macherla route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 14,158 km with 66 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 16.060 km with 61 buses in Telangana.

On the Nuzvid, Tiruvur, Bhadrachalam Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 12,453 km with 48 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 14,026 km with 65 buses in Telangana.

On the Khammam, Jeelugumilli, Jangareddygudem route and beyond, TSRTC will now operate across 9,140 km with 35 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 11,541 km with 58 buses in Telangana.

On the Hyderabad-Srisailam route, TSRTC will continue operations across 1,904 km with 62 in AP and APSRTC will not operate buses on this route in

Telangana. On the remaining routes such Sathupally — Eluru (two routes), Bhadrachalam and Kunta via Kallugudem, Sath-upal-ly-Vijayawada and others, TSRTC will operate across 8,159 km with 62 buses in AP, and APSRTC will operate across 3,408 km with 28 buses in Telangana.

However, all routes would not be available as the demand is low. The routes will be increased proportionate to the demand.

ON THE Khammam, Jeelugumilli, Jangareddygudem route and beyond, TSRTC will now operate across 9,140 km with 35 buses in Andhra Pradesh and APSRTC will operate across 11,541 km with 58 buses

## **SEC** procures 25K ballot boxes for GHMC polls

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

Election Commission (SEC), as part of gearing up for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls, has (GHMC) polls, has already procured 25,000 ballot boxes and instructed senior officials to identify election staff for deployment Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts. SEC officials say they

have asked GHMC to set up over 9,000 polling stations in the 150 divisions within the corporation limits. Besides, SEC is planning to enhance polling stations by 20 percent depending on voters in all divisions.

The civic body has

already identified 1,987 sensitive, 867 hyper sensitive, 382 critical and 36 vulnerable polling stations within the city limits. Polling stations would be monitored through web casting, videography, 1,600 micro observers and deployment of large contingents of police personnel outside the respective polling booths.

Officials said due to polls being held at a short notice, they will not be able to procure voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines.

As such, SEC has opted to go for ballot papers, like in Bihar. Paper ballots will also add to safety during the ongoing pan-

As per directions issued by SEC, live webcast will be arranged at all polling stations in the 24 Assembly constituencies within GHMC limits in coordination with the IT wing. SEC held a review meeting on Monday with IT officials in this regard. Police authorities will also fix CCTV cameras at all critical polling stations.

Instructions have been given to civic authorities for identifying additional staff in I Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Malkajgiri Sangareddy as reserves for deployment during

## Elect candidates on merit: SEC

**BALU PULIPAKA | DC** HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

State Election Commission (SEC) has called on people living in the GHMC limits to elect candidates who are dedicated and efficient, as corporators for the civic body in the upcoming GHMC Council elections. The SEC reminded the

GHMC voters that it is the corporators who have the responsibility for ensuring cleanliness of streets, maintenance of roads, controlling of mosquito menace, control of dangers posed by street dogs to people, and ensuring proper drainage services are maintained in the city.

Calling elected representatives a part of everyday life of the citizens, the SEC said the coming elections for the GHMC provide excellent sional officers. opportunity to elect candidates who understand their needs and requirements and serve the peo-

THE SEC said the coming elections for the GHMC provide an excellent opportunity to elect candidates who understand their needs and requirements.

ple they represent. In this context, the SEC called on all eligible voters to check their enrollment in the voters lists at nvsp.in and if not included or corrections need to be made, submit Form 6 at the offices of their respective deputy municipal commissioner in Hyderabad. and Sangareddy district areas that fall under GHMC limits to the local revenue divisional officer and in Ranga Reddy district, to the Rajendranagar or Kandukuru revenue divi-

The draft voters lists will be published on November 7, the SEC

## Cong tells HC to probe flood relief fund misuse

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 2

Two persons were arrested by the Mahbubabad police on Monday, for making fake documents to help minor girls for the government's Kalyana Lakshmi

According to the Superintendent of Police N. Koti Reddy, the accused were Kolipaka Vijay and Shaik Shaijad, both resi-

dents of Dornakal.

The SP said, "Vijay promised the ₹1,00,116 provided by the state government under the scheme and would charge ₹40,000 as commission. He would apply for the scheme using fake documents and stamps, including fake Aadhaar card, fake study certificate and fake first marriage certificate. He also forged the signatures of gazetted officers and a doctor. To make the fake stamps, he sought the help of another person in Khammam."

The police busted the racket after the local MRO raised doubts over the authenticity of the documents and conducted an enquiry. Five persons, who paid Kolipaka Vijay to avail the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, were also booked.

■ THE POLICE busted the racket after the local MRO raised doubts over the authenticity of the documents and conducted an enquiry. Five persons, who paid Vijay to avail the scheme, were also booked.

THERE HAS been no HYDERABAD, NOV. 2 The Congress has urged the Telangana High Court to inquire into alleged "widespread irregularities, discrimination and

allotted towards compensation for flood-affected families in Hyderabad." Greater The All India Congress Committee spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan, on Monday also demanded that the Telangana State Commission Election (SEC) postpone electoral preparations for wearing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, until the flood relief compensa-

Speaking to reporters, Dr Sravan said while the TRS government promised ₹10,000 to each of the flood affected families in the GHMC limits, it had

tion distribution is com-

embezzlement of funds

official exercise to identify the beneficiaries and those who received the compensation were cherry picked by TRS leaders,

acted in a completely irresponsible and brazen manner with respect to compensation distribution. There has been no official exercise to identify the beneficiaries and those who received the compensation were cherry picked by TRS leaders who handed out cash their party

"Genuine victims have been left to fend for themselves. Have there been instances in the past where compensation was paid in cash instead of via cheques? How did money, which is supposed to be from the CMRF, get into the hands of ward level TRS leaders? Who are the

officials accountable for this money? Is there any official record of this he asked. money?' The distribution of

money from CMRF was being illegally used for political benefits by ruling TRS Government and seen as 'money making' and vote bank ploy, he said. "This is a new low in TRS loot under CM KCR's rule. Therefore, I have approached the High Court to order for an inquiry on the 'compensa-tion distribution for floodaffected families' and to ensure that money is reached directly to affected families instead of TRS leaders pockets," he said. He added that his party set up a Flood Relief Control Room at Gandhi Bhavan and asked people to complain about irregularities in compensation

## EC urged to update Urdu electoral rolls before polls

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

The Election Commission of India (EC) earlier used to publish voters list in Urdu for Hyderabad district and Nizamabad constituency. Today, there is a need to update it before

the GHMC elections. The EC under Rule 4 of Registration of Electors Rules normally publishes the electoral rolls in the official language of State or Union Territory apart from in English. However, in an Assembly constituency, where more than 20% of the electorate speaks a language other than the official one, the Commission will issue a direction that the list should be printed in that language also. In such constituencies, the ballot

paper will be multilingual. In the past, the EC had published electoral rolls in Jrdu for Hyderabad district and Nizamabad constituency. In Hyderabad district, Urdu electoral list prepared Musheerabad, Malakpet, Amberpet, Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Sanathnagar, Nampally, Karwan, Gosha Charminar, Mahal. Chandrayangutta,

utpura, Secunderabad and Secunderabad Cantonment constituencies Apart from Telangana, EC also publishes Urdu electoral rolls in the former state of Jammu and Kashmir and in certain constituencies of UP, MP,

Delhi, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. The EC had in the past prepared electoral rolls in for Jukkal

(Kamareddy district), Boath (Adilabad) and Mudhole (Nirmal). Likewise, EC publishes electoral rolls in Telugu in five constituencies of Odisha, four in TN and one in Pondicherry.

Social activist Ahmed Arshad Hussain said Urdu electoral roll was generated through a specially developed software by CDAC. However, there are several mistakes in the spellings of names and there is a need to improve it. He said in Telangana the Urdu electoral list is in Arabic script while in other places it has been published in Urdu script. No revision has been done since 2018. He said the state government had declared Urdu language as the second official language for

# Chief secy burns the midnight oil in his office

From Page 1

Confirming the developgovernment told *Deccan* ments, Chronicle that though the portal is back on track now, the servers went down within a few hours on the day of its launch causing the portal to malfunction for most part of the day. Top government functionaries, who were left perplexed, went into panic mode and huddled into a series of high-level meetings led by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar.

It is reliably learnt that Somesh Kumar remained in his office past midnight that day, trying to get the "glitches" rectified even as powers-that-be remained mighty upset over the developments and reportedly pulled up some of the officials.

Initially, experts within the Telangana State Technological Services were of the view that it could be a phishing attack even as they discussed the possibility of someone hacking into the system. A few other experts held the

view that it could just be connectivity issues but so far failed to point out what the issues could be.

distribution buy calling

the phone number 040-

24601254 between 10 am

With government functionaries at their wit's end, it was decided that the matter be investigated thoroughly by the cybersecurity experts in the police department. The officials of the Technological services lodged a formal complaint with the Hyderabad police which promptly registered

an FIR and took up investi-

"At the moment, it is dif-

ficult to say whether it was phishing or hacking and what could be the purpose of such breaches. So far, there is no proof to suggest whether any information has been stolen. Several experts of TS Technological services are working closely with the said. cybersecurity experts in the police department. On the face of it, there appears to be some suspicious activity," sources

said. While the system malfunction continues to give sleepless nights to the top bureaucracy, the technical experts discovered at least four other apps, which are similar to Dharani, which ended up creating massive confusion among the people. "It is unclear as to why no effort was made before the launch to sort out these issues," sources

A senior IAS officer has now written to Google requesting them to remove the similar-sounding apps immediately. It is also not known whether Google has replied to the government yet.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had said that Dharani was designed to provide transparent and hassle-free land transactions and will emerge as a trend-setter in the country.

the entire Telangana

The registration and mutation of agriculture lands across the state was stalled for almost a month for enacting the new Revenue Act. Sources said that mas-

sive efforts went into designing the portal, which took about three years to take shape.







#### OTHER STORIES **TASK FORCE POLICE SEIZE GUTKA WORTH ₹3 LAKHS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** NIZAMABAD, NOV. 2

Nizamabad police commissionerate Task Force police raided a house under the II-Town police station limits on Monday and seized gutka worth ₹3 lakhs. Task Force inspector Shakir

Ali and his team on receiving the information, conducted raids and seized the gutka and zarda. They also took into custody Abdul Gani, 45 of Nizamabad.

Following the directives of Nizamabad police commissioner Kartikeya, the seized material and the accused were handed over to the II-Town police station.

#### FREEDOM FIGHTER **TAKUR ESHWAR SINGH NO MORE**

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, NOV. 2

Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna paid rich tributes to freedom fighter Takur Eshwar Singh who passed away at his residence in Teachers colony on Monday.

Ramanna recalled his contribution as a freedom fighter and said that Takur Eshwar Singh will be remembered forever by the people of Adilabad.

#### TD LEADERS VISIT **COTTON FIELDS IN** CHANDA (T)

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, NOV.2

A team of Telugu Desam (TD) leaders led by erstwhile Adilabad district president Gullapelli Anand visited the cotton fields in Chanda (T) where pink bollworm attacked the cotton plants and interacted with the distressed farmers

on Monday. Mr Anand said cotton farmers have suffered huge losses this Kharif due to the pick bollworm and demanded that the state government pay compensation of ₹30,000 per acre and MSP for the cotton with moisture content up to

#### **SKILL TRAINING** PROGRAMME FOR **YOUTH HELD**

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, NOV. 2

Adilabad municipal chairman Premender tormany inaugurated a training programme for youth on Monday.

The programme is part of the skill development programme organised by the youth welfare department at the Youth Training Centre in Adilabad town.

Mr Jogu Premender said that 150 youth would receive training in fashion designing, computers, air condition repairs, cell phone repairing for three

months. On completion of the training, they will receive a certificate. As many as 30 students will receive training in each course. Adilabad is the third training centre in the state.

#### **WIFE, PARAMOUR HELD FOR MURDER** OF MAN

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, NOV. 2

Police arrested three persons, including a woman in a murder case and sent them to judi-

cial remand on Monday.

The arrested are Javvaji
Shirisha, 30, resident of
Navipet, staying at the All Radio Station in Nizamabad, Sorupaka Phanidra Prasad, 24 and his brother Sorupaka Mahendra Prasad, 20, of Hussainnagar in Sirikonda mandal, presently staying at Aryanagar. Phanidra Prasad and Mahendra Prasad are pursuing their studies in Nizamabad.

Phanidra was in an extramarital relationship with Shirisha. Javvaji Narayana, 41, husband of Sirisha noticed the intimacy between Phanidra and Shirisha. He tortured Shirisha mentally, and physically to mend her ways, but in vain.

To continue their relationship, Sirisha and Phanidra decided to eliminate

Narayana. On October 26, they stabbed Narayana, and on the same night, Phanidra with the help of Mahendra Prasad dumped the body in the Manchippa forest. During investigations, the accused confessed their crime, and the police registered



BJP leaders stage a silent protest outside the party office at Hunter Road in Warangal on Monday.

## BJP condemns arrests of its activists

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 2

BJP Warangal Urban district president Rao Padma along with other BJP leaders held prayers at the Bhadrakali temple in Warangal seeking the speedy recovery of the BJP activist Srinivas. He had attempted suicide, protesting the Telangana government's brutal treat-ment of BJP state presi-dent and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Ms Padma warned, "The KCR government is seeing its last days Telangana."

Later, at the district party office at Hunter the BJP leaders wore black badges and held a silent protest against the illegal deten-tion of BJP leaders by the TRS government.

She said, "The party strongly condemns the illegal arrests and harassment of BJP workers. How many more years of tears and misery should the people in the state of Telangana experience after achieving a separate state?" She called for a fight for a democratic Telangana.

"It would be a mistake to think that the opposition parties would not react to the actions of the ruling party just because they are in power. Sending BJP activists and leaders to jail in illegal cases and threats is being seen critically. We do not fear baton charges and arrests. The police in the state are guarding the Kalvakuntla family, but have no consideration towards the plight of the people," she said.

She added that if justice is to be done to the poor, the BJP will have to win in the coming elections.



The district unit BJP leaders stage a silent protest against the state government at Telangana Chowk in Karimnagar district on Monday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

## BJP's popularity is irking the TRS, says Krishna

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 2

leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of district unit president G. Krishna Reddy, staged a silent protest at the Telangana Chowk in Karimnagar district on Monday, against the state government for stifling the voices of the opposition. Mr Krishna Reddy con-

demned the comments made against the BJP by the TRS party working president K.T. Rama Rao that the BJP is trying to create law and order problems in the Mr Krishna Reddy said,

"Unable to tolerate the popularity that the BJP is getting, he made baseless comments against the party"
The BJP did not have any

THE BJP did not have any programme in Hyderabad. Yet, the government made a plot, that the BJP is organising a meeting in Hyderabad, and began arresting some BJP leaders and put few other leaders under house arrest from Sunday night onwards, G. Krishna Reddy

programme in Hyderabad. Yet, the government made a plot, that the BJP is organising a meeting in Hyderabad, and began arresting some BJP leaders and put few other leaders under house arrest from Sunday night

added.

onwards, he added. "The state government

itself is creating law and order problems and is try-ing to blame BJP for it," he alleged.

He said, "With the support of the police and by arrest-ing BJP leaders and partymen in Dubbaka, the state government is trying to create panic among the people. The TRS is ruling like the Nizam's. BJP leaders do not fear such cheap tricks.

However much the state government tries to suppress the BJP, we will bounce back and fight against the anti-people poli-

He added that K.T. Rama Rao and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao already sensed the defeat of the TRS in the Dubbaka by-elections and did not participate in the election campaign. The people are watching the TRS leaders, he warned.

# **Maoist fear has** netas skip meets

Combing ops along Pranahitha, Godavari 4 Maoist sympathisers SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, NOV. 2

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC

The Mulugu police arrest-

ed four Maoist sympathis-

ers at Tadvai on Monday.

They were travelling to

Chhattisgarh to meet top

Maoist leaders Haribhushan, Damodar, Rajireddy

According to Mulugu

Assistant Superintendent of Police, P. Sai Chaitan-

ya, the Maoist were wait-

ing for their vehicle on

the outskirts of the vil-

As soon as they saw the police, they tried to flee,

but were caught. Police say, "They were taking

information and revolu-

tionary literature for the

Mr Chaitanya said, "The

Maoists leaders.

and Mylarapu Adelu.

arrested in Mulugu

Following the incident, of a TRS leader killed by Maoists in old Warangal recently, political leaders are avoiding visiting and attending meetings in the interior areas in erstwhile Adilabad district.

Police have also requested political leaders, without informing them not to pay visits to the interior villages.

For the TRS MLAs and ministers who have to visit the interior villages in Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Adilabad district, police have increased their security.

These measures come after reports emerged about the movement of Maoists in the Tribal areas.

Combing operations along the river Pranahitha and the Godavari that share their borders with Maharashtra continue, following the recent encounter, in which two Maoist were killed near Kadamba in Kagaznagar mandal in

Asifabad district. Besides politicians, those into the real estate sector are also in fear.

There are several real

estate ventures underway in the agency areas. After killing the TRS leader in Mulugu district, the Maoists in the note left at the scene raised questions

four have been fascinated by the Maoist ideology for some time. Under the direction of Maoist leaders, they were collecting party funds, to bring a new democratic revolution against the democratic government, recruit new people into the party, and strengthen tribal and

student unions.' The arrested were identified as Dabbakatla Suman, Chanda Mahesh, Tati-pamula Ramesh, and Chidam Jangudev all residents of erstwhile Warangal district. The arrested four, also gave the names of several others prepared to

join the Maoist party.

Mulugu OSD Shobhan Kumar, Pasara CI Srinivas, RI Kiran Kumar Tadvai SI Venkateswara Rao were present.

on issues including the exploitation of the Adivasis by businessmen, money lenders, land grabtrict. bers, and contractors. In the past, there have been

incidents, when Maoists attacked contractors and political leaders on the charges of exploiting the Adivasis in erstwhile Adilabad district.

Police are leaving no

stone unturned to try and flush out the Maoists from erstwhile Adilabad dis-

Besides keeping a close watch on Maoists sympathisers and their movements, they are raising awareness among the and trying to dissuade

them from joining the

20-YEAR-OLD

## Man, wife held for murder

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, NOV. 2

Nizamabad police arrested a couple in a murder case and sent them to judicial remand on Monday.

The two arrested are Puri Umakanth and wife Puri Savitha of Aryanagar The accused murdered Solman Raiu, 26, of Chandrababunagar in Nagaram area on October 31. Nizamabad town circle

inspector Satyanarayana said that the deceased Solman Raju worked as a plumber and developed an extramari-tal relationship with Puri Savitha.

Noticing this, Puri Umakanth warned his wife. Later, with her help, they murdered Solman Raju with an iron rod at residence in agar. IV-Town their Aryanagar. police registered a case and investigation is on.

#### **ARRESTED FOR RAPING CALF** Hyderabad: A 20-yearold person was arrested

after he was booked under IPC Section 377 unnatural offences — for allegedly raping a calf in Chaitanyapuri area.
The accused, identified

as Sanjay Verma. "Nomula Siddhiraj, had tied his two cows and two calves along with three buffaloes in an open plot for the night, caught Sanjay sexually assaulting one of the calves," said the cops.

#### TCICET TSICET result announced

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 2

The results for the Telangana State Integrated Common Entrance Test (TSICET) for admission to MBA and MCA courses offered by Universities and its affiliated colleges of the state of Telangana was released by the chairman of the Board of

**90 GOVT VEHICLES** 

**TO BE SCRAPPED** 

DC CORRESPONDENT

The government has de-

cided to list unused vehi-

cles and vehicles of vari-

ous departments that

have crossed the fitness

The vehicle scrappage

policy applicable across

the country allows a

vehicle to ply for 15 yea-

rs. After which, every

five years a fitness cer-

tificate is given, extend-

ing for up to 10 years if

There are 90 vehicles to

be scrapped of various departments. Heads of

the various government

departments are hiring

vehicles paying rents as

per the norms.
Collector R.V. Karnan
has asked officials to list

these vehicles as per the

scrappage policy, as the

value of these vehicles

is reducing every year.

There is also a threat

In the past, burglars

have stolen parts of these scrapped vehicles

and sold them to iron

A district-level com-

mittee in consultation

with the road transport

authorities will decide

about the scrapping of

from burglars.

these vehicles

the vehicle is fit.

**IN KHAMMAM** 

KHAMMAM, NOV. 2

limit.

Higher Education Prof T. Papi Reddy and the registrar of Kakatiya University Prof K. Purushotham

on Monday.

Mr Reddy said that the admissions to MCA and MBA would begin soon. According to him, 58,392 candidates registered for the examination.

Out of those, 45,975 appeared 41,506 and

(90.28%) got qualified Out of the qualified, boys were 90.85 percent, girls were 89.71 percent and four transgenders.

The first rank was achieved by B. Subhasri of Hyderabad.

The complete details will be uploaded on the TSICET website and will remain available to the candidates," he said.

## Kallur division is a hotspot for Covid-19

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, NOV. 2

The Kallur division in Khammam district has turned out to be a hotspot for the spread of the Coronavirus.

The district medical and health officials, are worried

and are sending Covid-19 testing vehicles to remote villages adjacent to the Andhra Pradesh border. Nearly 50 to 70 Covid-19 cases are being exposed daily in the division, against the 20 cases recorded 15 days ago. The admin-

sion and another 1,000 tests in other mandals. District medical and health officer B. Malathi said, "We took the spread-ing of Covid-19 in Kallur division serious and increased testing there. The interaction with the villages in Andhra Pradesh

is one of the reasons for the

istration is doing 900 Covid-

19 tests daily in Kallur divi-

spread of Covid-19 there".
The Covid-19 cases crossed the 550-mark in August and September. On 25 August a total of 551 Covid-19 positive cases were registered, against the 2,513 tests, 532 cases on August 26, 480 cases on August 27, 512 cases on August 28, 532 cases on August 29 against the 2,377

NEARLY 50 TO 70 Covid-19 cases are being exposed daily in the division, against the 20 cases recorded 15 days ago. The administration is doing 900 Covid-19 tests daily in Kallur division

and 536 on August 31. In the first three days of September, the number of Covid-19 positive cases were 443 on September 1,

October and cases came down to 120 and 130 in the last week of October. Officials were happy, but it was shortlived as the virus began spreading at an alarming pace in Kallur division. B. Malathi said, "No

dengue case has been reported in Khammam since January and there is no other diseases in the district". She appealed to people not to take the Coronavirus lightly as it is still spreading. "Preventive measures like maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks and using sanitisers must be practiced,' she said.

tests, 326 cases on August 30

589 on September 2 and 511 on September 3. The trend decreased in

and another 1,000 tests in other mandals.

district to travel. District secretary of the



## Repair NH-563, or face wrath: CPI

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 2

Communist Party of India (CPI) under the district unit staged a dharna and road blockade on Monday, demanding the government to lay a new road between Karimnagar and

Hanamkonda.
The national highway number 563 is badly damaged, making it difficult for the people of Chenjerla village of Manakondur mandal in Karimnagar

CPI, Ponuganti Kedari alleged that the 70 km travel from Karimnagar to Hanamkonda is a nightmare for people as the road was washed away due to the incessant rains recently and has numerous potholes. Many people have got injured, while some even lost their lives on NH-563.

Farmers also use the Karimnagar-Hanamkonda national highway to transport their produce to the



Jammikunta and Enumamula agriculture markets, the biggest in

this region. Pregnant women find it difficult to reach the hospitals for their health check-up as they have to travel through this high-

On numerous occasions, the ruling party MLAs, MPs and ministers who travel on this potholefilled highway, made tall promises to sanction national highways for the

district, but have taken no initiative to repair or lay a new road of the existing

The CPI party leaders warned, "If the state and the Central governments will not take immediate steps to lay a new road on NH-563, then the CPI will lay siege to the houses of the MLAs, the MPs and the ministers.

There was a traffic jam on either side of the national highway. The people extended support

them, but Manakondur rushed to the spot and cleared the way for the vehicles.

Srujan

CPI party leaders K. Grujan Kumar, T. Sammaiah, M. Srinivas Reddy, B. Thirupathi, K. Rama Rao, Kasireddy, Surendar Manikanta Reddy, B. Ugendar, M. Komuraiah, Sadanandam, Srinivas, Murali, Bhumaiah and Mallaiah were present, along with others.

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **MAYA: BSP-BJP ALLIANCE NOT POSSIBLE**

Lucknow, Nov. 2: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati asserted on Monday that her party would never enter into an alliance with the BJP in the assembly or the Lok Sabha elections, highlighting that the ideology of the two

parties were "opposite". Her clarification came amid speculation over her last week's statement that the BSP would vote for the BJP or any other party's candidate to ensure defeat of the Samajwadi Party contenders in future elections, including those of the Uttar Pradesh legislative council and the Rajya

Mayawati alleged that the SP and the Congress were misusing her recent statement so that the Muslim community distances itself from the BSP.

"The alliance of the BJP with the BSP is not possible in any polls in the future. The BSP cannot contest with the communal party," she said in a media briefing.

"Our ideology is of *sarvajan sarva dharma hitay* (benefit of everyone and all religions) and is opposite to the BJP's ideology," she said. "The BSP cannot enter into an alliance with those having communal, casteist and capitalist ideolo-

Mayawati said she would rather take *sanyas* (retirement) from politics than ally with such parties.

#### **MODI LIKELY TO WIND UP BIHAR CAMPAIGN TODAY**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

As the battle for Bihar enters its final phase, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are all set to address rallies in the Seemanchal area of the state.

While the Prime Minister will be winding up his election tour of Bihar on Tuesday, Mr. Gandhi will carry on with his campaign and address another couple of rallies the next day

A senior leader of Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee said that in all likelihood Mr. Gandhi might conclude his election engagements by holding a joint press conference with RJD leader and Grand Alliance's CM face, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, on Wednesday.

The Congress leader will address two rallies at Bihariganj in Madhepura and

Araria on November 4.
Daughter of Sharad Yadav, ubhashini Kao, and sitting MLA Abidur Rahman are set to take on JD(U)'s Niranjan Kumar Mehta in Bihariganj and Sagufta Ajim in Araria seats respectively.

Bihar Congress leaders are also mobilising their resources to ensure that the rallies of the former Congress president at Korha in Katihar and Kisanganj on Tuesday are a grand success and work in favour of sitting MLA Poonam Paswan and Izharul Hussain, who are pitted against the BJP's Kavita Singh and Sweety Singh respectively.

#### **CRUCIAL CONTEST** IN MP AS VOTING **TO BE HELD TODAY**

Bhopal/Lucknow/Ahmedab ad, Nov. 2: Voting will be held on Tuesday for by-elections to 54 assembly constituencies in 10 states including 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh where the BJP is locked in a keenlyfought contest with the Congress to save its govern-

All eyes are riveted on Madhya Pradesh where the BJP which has 107 MLAs in the assembly, with an effective strength of 229, needs at least eight more MLAs for a simple

The stakes are high for the Congress too as it had sitting MLAs in 27 seats out of 28 in the state.

The saffron party is fielding 31 candidates in MP, Gujarat and Karnataka who had won from the Congress ticket but switched sides and resigned, necessitating the byelections in those seats.

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP, which has a comfortable majority in the Assembly, is locked in a battle of prestige on the seven seats six of which it had won in the last election

Samajwadi Party. In Gujarat, the bypolls are being held in eight seats after the Congress MLAs resigned ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in June this year. Five of them later joined the ruling BJP and are contesting again.



Security personal carrying VVPATs and EVMs leave for polling booths from a distribution centre ahead of the second phase of Bihar assembly

# **SC 'relief' for Kamal Nath** on star campaigner issue

#### SC issues notice to EC, CJI focuses on issue of the powers of poll panel

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Election Commission's order taking away the start campaigner status of the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for the Congress in the ongoing bypolls to the state assembly for which campaigning ended on Sunday.

The court issued notice Election of Kamal Nath. Commission.

Putting on hold the poll panel's decision denuding Kamal Nath of his status as star campaigner for the Congress in Madhya Pradesh bypolls, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde neading a bench also comprising Justice A. S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian on the larger issue of the sought reply from the poll

date or by the leader of a political party campaigning during election, the Chief Justice of India expressed his misgiving whether the poll panel had any such powers which it had exercised in the case

who will be the leader of a

party during electioneer-

ing. Referring to Section 77 of the Representation Act that deals with the

expenditure of a candi-

At the outset of the hearing, senior counsel Rakesh Dwivedi told the court that the petition by the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has become infructuous as campaigning has already ended and polling is on Tuesday

(November 3). However, the CJI focused powers of the poll panel to

panel while questioning take decision ousting a by terming state women its powers to decide as to star campaigner from electioneering.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Kamal Nath, asserted that Sibal. "no notice was issued to us" and the decision was arbitrary.

Kamal Nath has moved

the top court challenging the EC's decision to revoke his status as a star cam-

The BJP on Tuesday said the stay on election commission's order revoking former chief minister Kamal Nath's star campaigner status by supreme court, cannot be construed as relief to the Congress

spokesman Raineesh Agrawal said the order was merel did not give a clean chit to Mr Nath for his violation of model code of conduct minister Imarti Devi as an

Besides, the stay order is meaningless now considering that the campaigning for the assembly byelections in the state already came to close on Monday evening.

> Shivraj, Nath hit out at each other

Meanwhile, with barely 24 hours left for the crucial assembly by-elections in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Monday indulged in namecalling to show each other in poor light in public.

wnne mr Chounan nas a judicial process and it refused to withdraw the papi (sinner) tag given by him to Mr Nath, the latter literally called him a liar.

papi. Let him explain what sin I have committed? All his (Mr Chouhan's) assertions that I have not implemented farm loan waiver promises and also held back students' scholarships when I was chief minister are utter lies. Mr Chouhan is shamelessly dishing out lies", Mr Nath told reporters here.

He said crop loans of around 27 lakh farmers were written off when he was chief minister. His government was planning to waive farm loans of the rest of the beneficiaries in 2 phases, but it was pulled down. Mr Chouhan, however, stood by his remarks saying that Mr Nath has committed fraud on farmers by going back on his crop loans within ten days of coming to power in the

# HAM seeks probe into Paswan's death

Patna, Nov. 2: NDA ally HAM created a flutter on Monday with its leader Jitan Ram Manjhi demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan while pointing an accusing finger at Chirag Paswan, prompting the LJP chief to claim it was a "plot" by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to discredit him when elec-

tion was under way.
Chirag Paswan, in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former chief minister should ask Prime Minister Narendra

Modi about the issue.
Paswan jr. said Modi used to call him up every day to inquire after his late father when he was sick and hospitalised, sometimes to even inform him about the LJP founder's condition after talking to doctors attending to him.

'I request the prime minister to order a judicial probe into the death of Ram Vilas Paswan to unravel the dubious role of Chirag Paswan in the matter," Manjhi said.

HAM spokesman
Danish Rizwan also wrote
a letter to Modi backing the demand while citing a video of Chirag rehearsing before issuing a video message a day after the death of his father where he was purportedly seen joking with the people present and even talking about the texture of his

Chirag Paswan accused Nitish Kumar of "script-ing a plot to settle political scores with him" and instigating the HAM to rake up an emotional issue to blunt the LJP's campaign to prevent him from becoming the chief minister once again.

Manjhi wanted to know who ordered the hospital to not issue regular health bulletins of Paswan, who was "such a big leader". Manjhi also claimed

people were prevented from meeting the Dalit leader when he was hospitalised. Chirag had informed people about the death of his father through a tweet on October 8. Manjhi claimed it was being speculated that the LJP leader hards a tweet on Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, he claimed while there were smiles on the faces of LJP candihad died 2-3 days ago

 CHIRAG PASWAN. in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former chief minister should ask Prime Minister about the issue.

 BOTH THE HAM and the LJP draw strength from Dalit voters, and Manjhi was not on good terms with Ram Vilas Paswan when the two were partners in the NDA in the 2015 election.

neither called me again nor visited Papa in the hospital," Chirag Paswan told a press conference.

Ever since his return to the NDA, facilitated by Kumar, Manjhi and his party have been routinely targeting the LJP, which has walked out of the ruling alliance in Bihar and is going solo at the hus-tings. Chirag has also fre-quently launched vicious ttacks on the chief min-

Both the HAM and the LJP draw strength from Dalit voters, and Manjhi was not on good terms with Ram Vilas Paswan when the two were partners in the NDA in the 2015 assembly election.

"Kumar, who is now showing concern about my father's death, never telephoned me to know about his health leave alone visiting him in the hospital," the LJP president said.

"On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was kind enough and used to telephone me almost twice a day to inquire about Papa's health and sometimes even tell me what the doctors are saying about his medical condition." He recalled Modi had

told his first rally of the election in Sasaram that Paswan stood with him till his last breath.
"Indeed he (Modi) was

the only person who was sincerely bothered about him till he breathed his last," the 38-year-old LJP chief, who recently declared himself Modi's Hanuman, said.
Flanked by BJP and

JD(U) rebels like Rajendra Singh and Bhagwan Singh dates after the first phase "When he had telephoned me when my father was in hospital, I told him everything. He asserted. "Attached the first phase of polls, Kumar was glum. "Nitish will be sent packing after November 10," he asserted. — PTI

## Parties in Bihar field candidates with criminal cases: ADR

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 2

Bihar election watch (BEW), a wing Association Reforms Democratic (ADR) has released data which says that most of the political parties have fielded candidates with criminal cases for the ongoing assembly elections in Bihar.

The report released by the ADR shows that out of 3.722 candidates analysed 2.166 have declared crimi nal cases out of which 915 have serious criminal pending against them.

As per the data, in the first phase of polls, out of 1,066 candidates in the fray, 327 had declared criminal cases.

Data also reveals that 104 candidates did not inform the public about the pending cases against

In the second phase of polls scheduled on November 3, the percentage has gone up from 31 to 34 per cent. Political parties in this phase have fielded 891 candidates with criminal cases out of which 389 have serious criminal cases pending

against them. Similarly in the third phase, to be held on November 7, out of 1,204 candidates in the fray, 653 candidates have criminals cases out of which 282 have serious cases pending against themselves. The RJD which is

IN THE THIRD PHASE, to be held on November 7, out of 1,204 candidates in the fray, 653 candidates have criminals cases out of which 282 have serious cases pending against themselves.

ALL MAJOR PARTIES have given tickets to 37 per cent to 70 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

the main opposition party and a senior grand alliance partner in Bihar has topped the list followed by the BJP, the Congress, LJP and JD(U).

Data revealed that 115 candidates in the fray have declared cases related to crime against women.

Out of these, 12 candidates have rape charges pending against them. While 73 have murder charges pending against

The ADR in its report adds that the direction of the Supreme Court had no effect on the political parties in the selection of candidates as they have again followed their old practice of giving tickets to around 32 per cent candidates with criminal

All major parties have given tickets to 37 per cent to 70 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

#### fray as Bihar votes in 2nd phase today in Vaishali. There were Patna, Nov. 2: The stage is set for the second and, arguably, the most crucial

of the three phases of Bihar assembly elections in which over 2.85 crore voters are eligible to decide the fate of nearly candidates Tuesday.

Voting will take place on November 3 in 94 assembly segments, more than a third of the 243-strong assembly spread across 17 districts, all of which but three — Patna, Bhagalpur and Nalanda — are situated north of the Ganges.

Notable among the candidates is the RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, the oppo-sition Grand Alliance's Chief Ministerial candidate, who has been aggressively trying to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor against the Nitish

Kumar government. The 31-year-old is seekre-election from Raghopur in Vaishali district which he had wrested back for his party from the BJP's Satish Kumar in 2015. The BJP leader had defeated Yadav's mother Rabri Devi, a former chief minister, in 2010.

The BJP has retained its trust in Satish Kumar, hoping that the giant killer will be able to do a repeat of 2010 when, like this time, JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was with the NDA.

Tejashwi's elder brother

Tej Pratap Yadav is trying

his luck from Hasanpur in

Samastipur district, shift-

ing his base from Mahua

said to be fears in the RJD camp that Tej Pratap's bid to retain Mahua could be challenged by the NDA through his estranged wife Aishwarya as its trump card. She is already taking an active part in the campaign for her father Chandrika Roy in Parsa, which he has represented a number of times and is seeking to retain on

a JD(U) ticket this time. All the four assembly segments in the capital Patna Kumhrar, Bankipur and Digha are also going to polls in the second phase. All these are held by the BJP.

State minister Nand Kishore Yadav is in the fray trying to retain Patna Sahib for a seventh consecutive term.

MLA Multiple-term Nitin Nabin faces a challenge in Bankipur from Congress candidate Luv Sinha, who is the son of actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha, a twotime local MP who lost the seat when he entered the fray after quitting the BJP.

The BJP has retained as its candidates Arun Sinha and Sanjiv Chaurasia for Kumhrar and Digha respectively. Seven constituencies of

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar belongs, also go to polls in the second phase. Barring Hilsa, represented by the RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav, and Bihar Sharif, which two-term

Nalanda district, to which

MLA Sunil Kumar retained on a BJP ticket in 2015, all the remaining five were won by the JD(U). The assembly segment

Tejashwi, 4 ministers of Nitish govt in

named after the district is represented by state minister Shrawan Kumar who is seeking re-election from the seat. The JD(U) has suffered a setback in the reserved Rajgir seat where its sit-

ting MLA Ravi Jyoti, a for-

mer police inspector, is now the fray on a Congress ticket. Two other ministers Ram Sevak Singh (JDU) and Rana Randhir Singh (BJP) are trying their luck from Hathua and Madhuban in Gopalganj and East Champaran districts respectively. The

ministers are sitting

MLAs from the respective

seats. Many bahubalis or their wives, sons, brothers or other close relatives are also contesting a number of seats.

Of the 1,463 candidates in the fray on the 94 seats, nearly 10 per cent (146) are women. Among the 2.85 crore voters, fem account for 1.35 crore. females

Maharajganj has the maximum number of 27 candidates for any constituency while Darauli (04) has the lowest. The RJD is contesting 56

of the 94 seats while its ally Congress is contesting 24. The CPI and CPI(M), which joined the Grand Alliance recently, are fighting four seats each.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar addresses a gathering during an election rally, at Alamnagar in Madhepura district on Monday.

#### NITISH: WILL RJD DELAY SALARIES TO **FULFILL 10-LAKH JOBS PROMISE?**

Patna, Nov. 2: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said providing 10 lakh jobs, That is impossible, they RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's main poll promise, would cost the exchequer ₹1.44 lakh crore annually, and wondered if his rival would shelve other development works or delay salaries to imple-

ment his pledge. Addressing constituents in five assembly segments through a virtual rally 'Nishchay Samwad', Kumar also said his government has changed the state's industrial policy and that "we will be able to invite several industries".

Tejashwi has promised he would sanction 10 lakh government jobs in his

won't get the chance to govern," Kumar said. "But for what he (Tejashwi) has said, it will

cost the state exchequer ₹1.44 lakh crore annually... Should they shelve all other development work? He said earlier nobody used to get salaries in time and recalled that several teachers and university

professors had told the CM during his Vikas Yatra in 2005 that they did not get salaries in time. 'We fixed that. Now what do they want to do? Again

not paying salaries? Will there be no other (development) work?" Kumar said.





**HILLARY CLINTON @HILARYCLINTON** 

However you're turning out the vote for Biden-Harris over the next four days, thank you for doing it. Future generations will ask what we did to affect the outcome of this pivotal election.



BARACKE OBAMA @BARACKOBAMA

You could be the difference between someone making it out to the polls or staying home. And many states could be decided by a handful of votes. Join me and make some calls for Joe.



LADY GAGA (@LADYGAGA

HEY TIM HEY @realDonaldTrump SO HAPPY IM GLAD TO BE LIVING RENT FREE in your HEAD. #BidenHarris. Heeeey Donald... #WINNING (also, what is a fracking?

# US on edge as 77% fear violence

Last-minute scramble for votes by Trump and Biden; no clarity on timing of the result

#### **POLL LINGO: NAKED BALLOTS** TO A RED MIRAGE

WILMINGTON, Del. (Reuters) - Every U.S. presidential election has its own lingo, like the "hanging chads" on voting cards in Florida that led to a landmark court battle in 2000. Below is some of the jargon used in the days leading up to the Nov. 3 election pitting **President Donald Trump against his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.** 

#### **NAKED BALLOTS**

Sixteen states require voters to return mail ballots in a special "secrecy" envelope. Ballots that don't arrive in the envelope will be considered "naked" and might be disqualified. Celebrities including Naomi Campbell, Chris Rock and Sarah Silverman disrobed in a video to promote pr-

oper voting procedures, 'the least sexy thing a completely naked person can say." according to actor Josh Gad, who also stripped for the video by activist group Represent.Us, which has promoted anti-graft resolutions, says it does not endorse either candidate.

#### **RED MIRAGE/** BLUE SHIFT

Fearing crowded polling places amid the Coronavirus pandemic, a record number of Americans, particularly Democrats, cast mail-in ballots this year, and counting them could take days. As a result, initial results on Ele-ction Day may show Republicans, indicated by red on election maps, holding large leads in battleground states, which counts mailin ballots received three days after Nov. 3. As ballots are tallied in the ensuing days, that "red mirage' could fade, giving way to a "blue shift." Experts see a possible "blue mirage" and "red shift" in Florida and North Carolina.

#### **SPOILED BALLOTS**

Ballots that are improperly marked can be rejected as spoiled. Trump said in a tweet the phrase "can I change my vote" was trending on Google and urged Americans to submit a new ballot for him. Some states allow voters to request a new absentee ballot but first they have to request their original ballot be marked as spoiled.

#### **DUELLING ELECTORS**

The Electoral College allots electors to states based on population, and the candidate who wins the popular vote gets its electors. But legal experts say Trump could try to convince Republican lawmakers in closely contested states to approve the Republican slate of electors based on early vote tallies. As more ballots are counted, Biden might be certified as the winner. The result: Dueling electors and an outcome that could be

determined by Congress.

#### **COURT PACKING**

Republicans confirmed Amy Coney Barrett as a Supreme Court justice on Oct. 26 to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a hero to many for her advocacy for women's issues. Democrats had argued Ginsburg's seat should be filled after poll. Some have suggested that a Biden Administration could expand the court beyond its traditional nine justices. Biden has said he will establish a bipartisan comchanges to the court system, which he said is "getting out of whack."

#### **POLL WATCHERS**

The Republican National Committee is mobilizing thousands of supporters to monitor early voting sites and bal-lot drop boxes, looking for irregularities such as people dropping off multiple ballots in states where that generally is not allowed. This marks the first presidential election in nearly four decades in which the Republicans can engage in "ballot security" activities without prior review and approval from the Department of Justice.

Washington, Nov. 2: The US presidential campaign enters its final day Monday with a last-minute scramble for votes by Donald Trump and Joe Biden, drawing to a close an extraordinary race that has put a pandemicstricken country on edge.

But while campaigning will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday, many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and possible legal chal-

About three-quarters of Americans are concerned about riots and violence after election day, according to a new poll by JL Partners Independent.

Almost three out of four voters (72%) describe themselves as "very or very concerned about post-election violence", according to the survey. Concerns are greater among President Trump's supporters – 77% said they fear violence and unrest. Among former Vice President Biden's supporters, 73% described these concerns.

Those factors, along with an unprecedented convergence of social justice protests, Coronavirus precautions and President Trump's fear-mongering campaign, have led to apprehension over whether unrest could

erupt. Taking no chances, businesses in some cities have boarded up windows, while across the country the harsh political climate has led to fierce debate, in some cases

even dividing families.
As proof of how much Americans have been galvanized -- and perhaps fright-ened by the pandemic -- a record of more than 93 million people have cast early ballots, including in-person and mailed votes, according to the nonpartisan US Elections Project.



US President Donald Trump arrives for a Make America Great Again rally at Fayetteville Regional Airport in Fayetteville,

## Biden names 800 major fundraisers

**Washington, Nov. 2:** Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has released the names of major fundraisers, including Indian-Americans, who helped him raise at least \$100,000 for his

election campaign this year. The list, released on Sunday, contains the names of 800 major donors, including a few dozen Indian-

Americans.
Topping the list of Indian-Americans are well known Swadesh Chatterjee, Rameshk Kapoor, Shekar N. Narasimhan, R. Rangaswami, Ajay Jain Bhutoria and Frank Islam.

FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

have already

cast ballots

Among other prominent Indian-American bundlers who have raised more than \$100,000, the number of Indian-Americans in far are Neil Makhija, Rahu, Prakash, Deepak Raj, Raj less than those of former Shah, Rajan Shah, Radhika Shah, Jill and Raj Singh, presidents Barack Obama and Bil Clinton campaigns. Nidhi Thakar, Kiran Jain, Some of the traditional Indian-American Democra-tic donors like hotelier Sant Sony Kalsi and Bela Bajaria. Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has also been listed Chatwal are missing from the list. According to The Wall Street Journal, the list of "bundlers" includes the who's who of Democratic

11 precincts in New Orleons could

• 1,100 prominent members of the

Asian-American community endorse Joe Biden, Kamala Harris

300 lawsuits already have been filed

over the election in dozens of states

across the country

still be without power on Tuesday

Given that the list of bundlers includes all those

politics, including former and current governors, senators, Cabinet secretaries big names Hollywood. Film producer Jeffrey Katzenberg, writer and director Lee Daniels, LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman; media mogul Haim Saban and former US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker are on the list, the daily said.

#### **PROLONGED VOTE COUNT: DON READY** FOR LEGAL BATTLE

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: US President Donald Trump has denied that he is planning to prematurely declare victory after the presidential polls are over on Tuesday and hinted that he is gearing up for a legal battle against a vote count that stretched past Election Day. "No, no that was a false report," Trump told reporters on Sunday at the Charlotte airport in North Carolina amidst a news report that he is planning to prematurely declare victory on the election night.

Americans have rushed to vote early, already casting nearly 92 million mail-in ballots that could take days or weeks to be counted in some states - meaning a winner might not be declared in the hours after polls close on Tuesday. Trump indicated

that his team was gearing up for a legal battle. Trump lamented Supreme Court's rulings that allowed for Pennsylvania and North Carolina to count absentee ballots that are postmarked before Election Day but arrive shortly after Tuesday. "I think it is a terrible thing when ballots can be collected after an election. I think it is a terrible thing when people or states are allowed to tabu-late ballots for a long period of time after the election is

over because it can only lead to one thing," Trump said. "We are going in the night of — as soon as the election is over — we are going in with our lawyers," he said as he criticised the decision taken by the Supreme Court to allow ballots to be received after Election Day in several battleground states. -PTI

#### HARRIS SEEKS **DECISIVE MANDATE FROM AMERICANS**

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: Democratic Vice Presidentiai nominee Kamaia Harris has sought a decisive mandate from Americans so that no amount of legal battle can overturn the poll results.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that he is planning to prematurely declare victory after the presidential polls are over on Tuesday, but hinted that he is gearing up for a legal battle in the counting of mail and absentee votes post the election.

He criticised the decision taken by the Supreme Court to allow ballots to be received after Election Day in several battleground states.

'Well, first of all, we plan to decisively win this election so I don't, I don't think we're going to need to get to that point," 56-year-old Harris told reporters during a day of hectic campaigning with stops in this North Carolinian

city and in Georgia.

Over the past few days, polls indicate that the November 3 presidential election is getting tighter, even though Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden continues to maintain substantial lead over Republican incumbent President Donald

## Will host meet of democracies: Joe

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said that if elected, he will convene a global summit of democracies in the first year of his presidency to counter the "rising authori-

tarianism" in the world and address issues of election security and human rights. Biden accused President Donald Trump of "embracing" every autocrat in the world which he said has undermined America's credibility. "One of the things that have hurt us so badly, is that this president has embraced every thug and

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: autocrat in the world, in ways that have undermined our credibility," he said during a conference call.

"I'll energise the community of democracies to counter the rising authoritarianism we see in the world. In my first year, we're going to host a summit of the democracies to address election security, human rights, etc," Biden said.

Responding to questions on China, he said trade, human rights and security are the three main issues. Criticising President Trump's policies toward China, he said, "Trump caved to Chinese leaders every time. He let them off the hook, started a trade war, etc." "Trump gave them the green light to put millions

of Chinese Uighurs in concentration camps," he said. His campaign has termed the alleged HR violations Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang region as "genocide" and called for a global effort to make a united stand against the "oppression". — PTI



New York, Nov. 2: Dem-The 56-year-old California ocratic Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris senator, after being chosen has listed Idli with a "really good Sambar" and "any kind of Tikka" as her by Democratic Party's presidential candidate Joe Biden as his running mate favourite Indian dishes. in August, reflected on her Born to a Jamaican father proud Indian heritage durand an Indian mother, ing her maiden address to Harris, is the first Indian-origin and first Black woman to be picked by a the Indian-American commajor American political party for the top post. Harris, responding to a question on what her favourite Indian dishes are, "So South Indian, it would be Idli with... a real-

ly good Sambar, and then North Indian — probably munity and recalled how mother Shyamala Gopalan always wanted to instill in her a "love for good idli". She had taken a trip down the memory lane, mentioning her "long walks" in Madras (now Chennai)

ed on Twitter on Sunday, Harris answered some questions asked by Instagram users. On what she is doing to take care of her mental health on the campaign trail, she said that she works out every morning, speaks with her kids and loves to cook. Asked what her plan is to ensure a sustainable and eco-friendly future for the coming generations, Harris said Biden and she are prepared to make commitments with with her grandfather who would tell her about the emissions by 2050. — PTI

"heroes" responsible for the birth of the world's largest

democracy. In a video post-



with the annoying sound replacing clapping, cheers and even boos in election campaigns, in particularly the drive-in car rallies of Democratic pre-sidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris. Drive-in car rallies have become a signature election event of the Democratic Party which has taken Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden hugs his granddaughter Finnegan Biden during a canvassing kick-off event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Sunday. - AF

the innova-

by the party's top leadership as part of its efforts to maintain social distancing due to the Coronavirus.

Both Biden, 77, and Harris, 56, ask their supporters sitting in their cars to honk to express their sentiments. In fact, honking in the election rallies of the Democratic Party has replace all kinds of emotion in election rallies. In the election rallies of Republican incumbent President Donald Trump, thousands of his supporters cheer, clap and

in car rallies are very selective in nature and they are not publicised. In their rallies, it's all honking.

The level of honking reflects the sentiments, happiness and anger of their supporters. On Sunday at a drive-in rally attended by less than 100 cars, invited by the local campaign offi-cials, every time Harris' supporters got excited with her remarks, they honked. Every time she was critical of Trump, they honked. Every time she spoke about

"Black Lives Matter", they honked. It was once in a while that some of the supporters peeked out of their car windows. Those who were standing outside their cars ensured that they were maintaining social distancing as they clapped.

There were no cheers at all. Same was the case with shouting slogans. Unlike the Trump rallies, which are publicised locally much in advance and people are encouraged to participate, Biden and Harris are by



# **Chronicle**

## 'Love jihad' is a diversion, enforce rule of law in UP

f Uttar Pradesh with its 20.4 crore people were a country, it would have been the seventh-most populous in the world. It is number two among Indian states when it comes to ease of doing business but languishes at the bottom in terms of governance, based on a transparent Public Affairs Index-2020, prepared by a non-governmental organisation headed by former ISRO chairman K. Kasturirangan. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanadh came to power with the promise of maintaining rule of law but reports of him undermining administration of criminal justice through encounter killings are plenty; data says more than 125 persons have been killed in more than 6,476 encounters in the last three years of his rule. The gang-rape and murder of a teenager and the inhuman treatment meted out to the girl even after her death and to her family has earned the state administration universal condemnation.

Such stark realities and contradictions notwithstanding, Adityanath has discovered a new enemy of his state: 'love jihad', the derogative term used

The right to freely profess, practise and propagate one's religion is a fundamental right guaranteed by **India's Constitution** 

by the right wing for the marriage between Muslim men and Hindu women. The Chief Minister has even promised to bring in a law to fight such marriages. If that won't suffice, he has threatened those who "play with our sisters' respect: If you don't mend your ways your 'Ram naam satya' (chant associated with Hindu funerals) journey will begin." The Chief Minister has a judicial verdict to bank on: A single bench of Allahabad high court said conversion for the sake of marriage is not admissible before the law. The

Chief Minister of Haryana, a state which has the worst sex ratio betraying the poor rights women enjoy in the state, has joined hands with his Uttar Pradesh counterpart and is contemplating introducing a law to curb

The right to freely profess, practise and propagate one's religion is a fundamental right guaranteed by India's Constitution. Marriages in India are legalised by civil laws governing various communities and religions. Then there is the Special Marriage Act, 1954, that allows any two people to marry irrespective of their religious affiliations. Marriage, in the eye of the law, is a civil contract between two consenting adults and there are enough legal tools to punish fraudsters who enter into it with ulterior motives. The state has, and should have, very little role in what two adults do; it definitely has no business playing 'father' and 'brother' of damsels in distress

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is not only known for his hardline Hindutva ideology but also for his pro-business policies and actions. The state's ascent to the top in terms of ease of doing business is no accident. He has time and again talked about the importance of attracting investment, domestic and foreign. If he means business, then he would rather focus on creating an open and liberal environment that welcomes multinationals than plunging his state into the dark ages with its archaic mind-sets. It cannot afford to be a paradox any longer.

## Economy: Hope, with caution

he Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection for the month of October — one of the two festive months for the Hindu community — has been on expected lines with the GST Council reporting a gross collection of a little over ₹1 lakh crore. The fact that the gross GST collection in October this year at ₹1,05,155 crores was 10 per cent more than ₹95,379 crore collected in the same month last year is very heartening. Other ecomposite indicators much be the effective party of the property of the same month last year is very heartening. nomic indicators such as the sale of automobiles and industrial growth

**Corporation Limited,** India's power consumption rose by 13 per cent in October 2020 to 110.94 bil-

have been promising. Major carmakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motors have reported highest-ever monthly sales in October. The two-wheeler segment, which was considered to be badly affected by Covid-19 pandemic, appears to be wriggling out of comma, with Hero MotoCorp posting all-time high monthly sales in October.

Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which tracks the manufacturing sector in the counlion units (BU) try, reported a historically-sharp monthly expansion in production by companies in

October. This is the consecutive third month of expansion in industrial turing sector as the severity of Covid-19 infections begins to wane in the country. Data from power consumption too validate the reports of economic revival. According to Power System Operation Corporation Limited, India's power consumption rose by 13 per cent in October 2020 to 110.94 billion units (BU) compared to 97.84 billion units in October 2019.

While all economic indicators paint a rosy picture of India's economic revival, the government must not get complacent in its efforts to support the economy in getting on its feet. Since the spike in demand is still driven by retail consumption, it could as well be a pent-up demand being released during the festive season. The government must, therefore, remain cautious and hold its horses till it hopefully sees a similar growth curve in the non-festive months

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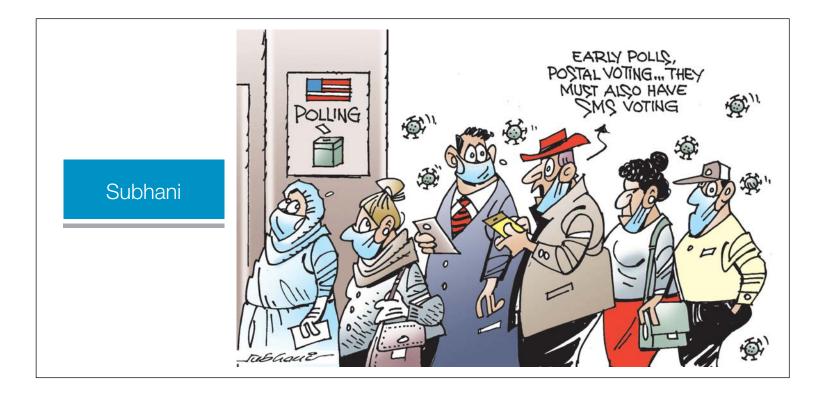
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# As US votes today, the world holds its breath



K.C Singh

states, the smaller units

negotiated checks on the

power of the larger states.

India's states, contrari-

wise, were carved out

from a unitary India,

while merging en masse quasi-independent states

rulers,

Independence. In fact, a

major reorganisation of

states occurred only after

1956 on a linguistic basis.

This process continued till last year when Jammu

and Kashmir was reor-

The US system worked

fine till the white working

and middle classes felt threatened by demo-

graphic changes, and per-

ceived loss of their way of

life, and economic stagna-

tion caused first by the oil

crisis of the 1970s and

then by globalisation the

deindustrialisation of

vast areas. These states,

now referred to as the

Rust Belt, are like Michigan, the old car manufacturing hub of the

US, or the steel industry

in Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-

vania, which produced

one-third of the national

steel output in the 1920s

but collapsed in the mid-

1980s. This caused a geo-

graphical bipartisan split

in national politics, creat-

ing a wall of so-called "red" (Republican) and "blue" (Democratic)

states, with more or less

pre-determined voting

preferences. For instance,

California, with the lar-

gest haul of 55 electoral

college votes, is home to

technology innovation

and a growing Latino pop-

ulation, swung to the

Democrats in 1992. It has

since voted for them in

increasing numbers in

each successive election.

Similarly, the states of the

Northeast, including glob-

al financial centre New

York, favours the Demo-

crats. Large parts of the Midwest and beyond, con-

stituting America's food

Thus, presidential elec-

tions really boil down to

bowl, vote Republican.

after

under

Tuesday afternoon India is when the United States begins voting to decide whether President Donald Trump gets a second term or, like in his episode ending line in serial Apprentice, people say "you are fired". The stakes are high both for America and the world as policy between Democrats and Republicans has never been wider in decades, on a slew of domestic and

global issues.

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt in How Democracies Die devise four core behavioural warning signs in politicians that endanger democracy. These are when ruling politicians (1) reject in words or (1) reject, in words or action, the democratic rules of the game; (2) deny the legitimacy of opponents; (3) tolerate or encourage violence; or (4) indicate a willingness to iberties of opponents, including the media. Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States, wrote in the Federalist Papers: "History will teach us, of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the great number have begun their career by paying obse-quious court to the people: commencing dema-gogues, and ending

President Trump has displayed all these symp-toms and with the Supreme Court now in his pocket, with a 6-3 majority of conservative judges, he is likely to unravel the liberal-compassionate socio-economic order evolved since the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt in late 1930s.

American Presidents are elected indirectly by an Electoral College, created with graded advantage for smaller states, disproportionate to their population. The US hav-

The US system worked fine till the white working and middle classes felt threatened by demographic changes, and perceived loss of their way of life ing been formed as a union of independent

the "swing states", which can tilt either way and impact the election result. In 2016, Mr Trump managed his 304 Electoral College votes, crossing the 270 required for a win, with 46.1 per cent of the popular vote. He did this carrying Michigan (16), Wisconsin (10) and Pennsylvania (20) by narrow margins, which in the past were pro-Democrat. In addition, he swept Florida (29) and North Carolina (15). But the election this time, conducted under the shadow of Covid-19, has seen almost 100 million people, nearly 70 per cent of the 2016 vote, do early voting. In-person early voting is fine but mailed votes have led to disparate rulings about their receipt deadlines. Emboldened by his sway over the higher courts, Mr Trump is preparing to tie up postal ballots in legal challenges he emerges ahead in votes cast in-person in

crucial states. Joe Biden needs to wrest one, or more, swing state early to stymie Mr Trump. Three states — North Carolina, Florida and Ohio — will be reporting early with their postal and in-person votes. A win in one of them can signal a change in the popular mood against the incumbent and the game is over. Three more states that Mr Trump carried in 2016 — Iowa, Arizona and Georgia — are in play this time as demographic changes are altering the electoral map in the socalled Sun Belt states in the South. That explains the Houston hoopla in September 2019 where the "Howdy Modi" rally saw President Trump's tango with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Texas has almost 125,000 Indian voters. However, a recent YouGov.com poll indicated that over 70 per cent were pro-Biden. The moral is that while the

diaspora may express nostalgic euphoria at essentially Indian political events on their soil, at election time they considbread-and-butter issues like immigration policies and inclusive pol-Mr Biden has led consis-

tently in national and crucial state pre-election polls, despite Mr Trump's aggressive attempt in two debates to kill the challenger's momentum. The race has narrowed in the last few weeks. Mr Trump's supporters may intimidate non-white voters on election day to supress voting. But due to the pandemic or intimidation fears, many Democratic voters may have already cast their votes, as shown by the huge early voting numbers. But if an exceptionally heavy turnout on Nov ember 3 swells the overall vote, the outcome is more difficult to guess, as independents' voting intent is less decipherable.

Interestingly, Bihar's second polling phase is the same day as the US election. Major department stores in metropolitan cities, including the iconic Bloomindale's in New York, are shuttering stores fearing possible violence if Mr Trump trails or prematurely claims victory. This is more reminiscent of Bihar's electoral past than expected in the world's most powerful democracy. For India, the outcome will be a mixed blessing. Mr Trump, in a second term, may look to moderate his China-baiting, cut deals with Russia over West Asia, increase pressure on Iran and bring trade back to the India-US table. Mr Biden resurrect alliances, maintain a positive engagement with India, but also adopt a less confrontational China policy. India may also find his focus on democracy, human rights and the freedom of the media irksome, unless the government here curbs its religio-cultural evangelism. For the next 24 hours, the entire world will be literally holding its breath.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

#### **HATS OFF**

A commendable job has been carried out by the security forces when they killed Saif-ul-Islam Mir ,the operational chief of Jammu and Kashmir's front line militant organisation Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar and his men are really brave who are trying hard to finish off such anti-India militants. All the best wishes to these security forces and hope they will succeed in future too and bring peace in Jammu and Kashmir

Vilas Penurkar Hyderabad

**MASKED KTR** It is good to see municipal administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao always wearing mask fully covering mouth and nose even while speaking. Rama Rao is the real role model for mask wearing and pre-venting himself from Covid-19, where as some of the state ministers and some Opposition leaders either don't wear mask at all or wear mask in a way that it does not cover nose and mouth. As Covid-19 is in the second phase and may show its full strength of spreading again leaders should wear mask compulsory fully covering mouth and nose like Rama Rao and set good examples so that citizens too

T. Kailash Ditya Hyderabad



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2 The Attorney-General, Mr. Niren De, argued in the Supreme Court today that the covenants and agreements between the Government of India and former rulers were an act of State which were political in nature and hence not enforceable in a court of law.

Resuming his arguments against the maintainability of the writ petitions moved by some for-mer rulers. Mr. De said the sanctions behind the covenants were political and not legal.

Any rights and obligations arising there from were not enforceable, he maintained.

Mr. De said the ex-rulers hand no legal right to continue to be recognised as rulers, to receive the privy purse or to enjoy the princely privileges.

# Aakar

Is PM ignoring reality about our economy & Covid handling?

rime Minister Narendra Modi has recently given an extraordinary interview to a leading business newspaper. It is confident in outlook, breezy in tone and out of place with our current reality.

He assumes he had done not only the right thing in managing the Covid-19 pandemic but done something other nations have not done. This, according to him, has saved lives in this country. He says: "I am no health expert, but my assessment is based on numbers. I think we should assess our coronavirus fight against the metric of how many lives we are able to save.

He did not provide any numbers, but he doesn't need to because they are public. India has the second most infections in the world and currently has the third highest number of fatalities.

The one other nation India is comparable with in terms of population, China, controlled the epidemic in one stroke. Its peak came on one day, February 12, and

then its spread was contained in some way

Our sister nations around us. like Bangladesh and Pakistan, culturally and geographically comparable, have fared more than twice as well as us both in terms of infections per lakh population and deaths. On what grounds can we assume that the Narendra Modi government has done comparatively well? He seems to think we should compare ourselves to Brazil, Italy and the United States. But why?

He makes the claim that India, the second most infected nation in the world, "is a world model of public participation without any coercive enforcement". India actually had the worst lockdown in the world, forced on it by the Union government which invoked the Disaster Management Act. People were punished and jailed by the State for going back home without work, food or shelter. People were run over by trains because they had walked on the tracks to avoid the

police on the highways. This is what coercive enforcement is. Perhaps the definition is different in Gujarat.

That unprepared, arbitrary lockdown did not save lives — there is no relation between the spread of infections and the weeks that India spent in forced hibernation — but it did help skewer the economy. The Prime Minister is confident that the August and September data shows that the economy is "back on track". Back on track to where?

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was in sequential decline for two years before the pandemic hit. It has been falling every quarter for 10 quarters since January 2018. Growth was three per cent before Covid-19 pandemic. What are we getting back on track to?

Also, if he seems to think that we will be back to where we were in February soon, he has the wrong advisers. One quarter of the GDP fell off between April and June. The best we can hope for in the July-

September quarter is that it doesn't decline further, but it will. Even if it doesn't, to recover the lost quarter of India's GDP will take two years. Meaning that, after two years, we may be back to where we were in February this year. That is

not "back on track".

The Prime Minister continues to speak of a \$5 trillion economy. On one hand, this is a banal thing. India's economy, at whatever pace, will reach there at some point (assuming no magical strokes like demonetisation or lockdowns are forthcoming to slow it down).

But to assume that it will happen in 2024, as Prime Minister Modi does, is to be unaware of what has happened in the past three years. He said in the interview: "Most people who are pessimistic remain in doubt. If you sit among them, you will hear only things of despair and

despondency."

No, it is called being in touch with reality and being able to read the

It is hard to tell whether the

Prime Minister is unable to confront the reality or whether he is so supremely confident in his abilities that he can convince the rest of us that the reality is different from our perception of it.

If we pretend that China hasn't occupied the lands that our Army was patrolling till February, then they haven't crossed the Line of Actual Control.

If we compare ourselves to Brazil and Italy and not China and Pakistan, our coronavirus numbers will look excellent. If we make up meaningless phrases like this one from the interview — "Atma Nirbhar Bharat is not just about competition but also about compe tence, it's not about dominance but about dependability, it's not about looking within but about looking out for the world" — then that is a substitute for trying to right an economy that has been in the doldrums for over 30 months.

> The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2020

Chronicle

# quick

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	39,757.58	0.36
Nifty 50	11,669.15	0.23
S&P 500*	3,309.28	1.20
Dollar (₹)	74.42	-0.42
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.79	-0.004
Euro (₹)	86.57	0.42
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,286▲103	0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	37.95	0.01
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.890	0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.838	-0.021
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

#### Singh to continue as NTPC chief till July 2025



The NTPC approved the extension of tenure of chairman and MD Gurdeep Singh till July

**Gurdeep Singh** Singh's extended term will start from February 4, 2021, Singh had taken over as the CMD of NTPC on February 4, 2016.

#### Aditya Puri to join Carlyle as senior advisor



Aditya Puri, who retired as HDFC Bank CEO and MD last week, will be guiding global private equity major Carlyle on investment opportunities across Asia as a senior advisor. Puri will advise the Carlyle team and provide guidance on the evolving market landscape and new investment opportuniiles, Carlyle said. He will also be advising Carlyle's investment professionals and portfolio management teams.

#### Tax payers generate 4.95 cr e-invoices: Govt

Tax payers generated 4.95 crore e-invoices in the first month of the launch of the service, the ministry of electronics and IT said. Besides e-invoices, 6.41 crore e-way bills were generated in October, which was highest in any month since the launch of the service. "According to NIC, within the first month of introduction itself, more than 495 lakh e-invoices were generated on the NIC portal by 27,400 taxpayers," the ministry said.

#### **Coromandel Intl** posts 17% rise in Q2 profit

**Coromandel International** reported a 17 per cent year-onyear rise in consolidated net profit after tax at Rs 589 crore for the September 2020 quarter. Total income was lower at Rs 4,620 crore against Rs 4,867 crore in the year-ago quarter. Standalone net profit after tax for the quarter rose to Rs 582 crore versus Rs 503 crore. Total income stood at Rs 4,605 crore against Rs 4,865 crore.



### ■PMI at a 13-year high of 58.9 in Oct.

# Mfg sees fastest pick-up in decade

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

With rising demand and output amidst Covid-19 disruptions, India's factory activity, measured by the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), expanded to 58.9 in October- nearly a 13-year high and the fastest pace in over a decade. However, on the employment front, the numbers remain a concern, as companies cut more jobs, a private survey showed on Monday.

Even though the economy shrank at a record 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, the latest PMI survey shows that Asia's third-largest economy is signalling a fast pace of recovery with several economic indicators turning positive.

"Rising from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October, the headline PMI pointed to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in over a decade, with companies raising output to the greatest extent in 13 years amid robust sales growth. The reading was the highest since May 2010 and above the 50-level separating growth from contraction for the third straight month. While firms purchased additional inputs for use in the production process, payroll numbers were lowered due to government guidelines related to the Covid-19," said the IHS Markit survey.

Commenting, Pollyanna

**♥** Contraction 2020 Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun July Aug Sep Oct PMI: Purchasing Managers Index Source: Nikkei. IHS Markit/KBK Infographics

De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said, "Levels of new orders and output at Indian manufacturers continued to recover from the Covid-19 induced contractions seen earlier in the year, with the PMI results for October highlighting historically sharp monthly rates of expan-sion. Companies were convinced that the resurgence in sales will be sustained in coming months, as indi-

cated by a strong upturn in input buying amid restocking efforts." confidence towards the year-ahead outlook for production improved as firms hoped that fewer Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other businesses could boost output growth. There was disappointing news on the employment front though, with October seeing another reduction in payroll numbers," said De

With input and output prices rising at a faster pace last month, overall retail inflation could see a spike. Inflation rose to an eight-month high of 7.34 per cent in September could remain above the RBI's medium-term target of 2-6 per cent in coming months.

In the survey, hopes of an end to Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other sectors in the economy underpinned positive sentiment towards the yearahead outlook for production. The level of confidence was at a 50-month

confidence "Also. towards the year-ahead outlook for production improved as firms hoped that fewer Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other businesses could boost output growth," Lima said.

#### **Reliance Cap** in bid to sell stake in arms to cut debt

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL), part of debt-ridden Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Group, has invited bids for sale its subsidiaries, including Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, to repay loans of about Rs 20,000

According to sources, the process for inviting expression of interest (EOI) for its key assets was launched on October 31, with a view to unlock value of its underlying businesses and targets to make RCL debt free.

EOIs invited for all or part of RCL's stake of subsidiaries Reliance General Insurance, Reli-Nippon Insurance Company Reliance Securities, Re-Company, liance Financial Limited and Reliance Asset Reconstruction Limited.

The monetisation process is run under the aegis of Committee of Debenture Holders and the Debenture Trustee Vistra ITCL India Ltd, which represents 93 per cent of outstanding debt of RCL, sources said.

The company proposes to exit from its wholly owned Reliance General Insurance Company Limited with paid up capital of Rs 252 crore as September sources said, adding that 51 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company is also for sale. -PTI

# Manipal to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals in India for ₹2,100 cr

Leading multi-specialty healthcare provider Manipal Hospitals on Monday said it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals in India. According to sources,

the acquisition will be for Rs 2,100 crore.

The company intends to acquire 100 per cent stake Columbia Hospitals (Columbia Asia). The transfer of ownership to Manipal Hospitals is expected to be completed post regulatory approvals, the healthcare providers said in a statement.

'We are very pleased to welcome Columbia Asia Hospitals to the Manipal family and proudly acknowledge their outstanding track record of healthcare delivery of a very high standard over the years," Manipal Education and Medical Manipal



Group (MEMG) chairman Ranjan Pai said.

"This is the start of an exceptional journey for us together Columbia Asia, we are now bigger, stronger and uniquely positioned to meet the growing expectations of the communities we serve across the country," he added.

Together, the combined entity will have a presence of 27 hospitals across 15 cities with over 7,300 beds and a pool of more than 4,000 doctors and over 10,000 employees, the statement said.

Hospitals commenced operations in India in 2005 in Hebbal, Bengaluru and currently operates 11 hospitals across the country,

"This combination of Columbia Asia and Manipal Hospitals is very exciting because of the strong cultural alignment between the two companies and the opportunity it provides for continued growth,' Columbia Pacific Management chairman Dan

Baty said. The acquisition of Columbia Asia offers a geographical and cultural fit, and provides Manipal Hospitals a larger national footprint, the statement

The advisor for Manipal Health Enterprise was Capital Columbia Pacific was advised by Stanley, it added. Morgan

## Centre transfers ₹6,000 cr to 16 states, 3 UTs

NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

In an effort to meet the goods and services tax (GST) revenue shortfall, the Centre on Monday transferred loans worth Rs 6,000 crore as the second tranche to 16 states and three Union territories (UTs) under a special borrowing window. With this amount, the government has already facilitated total loans of Rs 12,000 crore till date under the special window to states and UTs to

meet the shortfall in GST compensation cess collec-

"The finance ministry said the "amount was raised at a weighted average yield of 4.42 per cent. This amount will be passed on to the states/UTs at the same interest rate, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the states and UTs, thus benefitting

The 16 states and three UTs that received funds include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa,

Gujarat, Haryana, HP, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand and the UTs of Delhi, J&K and Puducherry.

Twenty-one states and three UTs have opted so far for the special window under Option 1 presented by the Union government. "The loans raised by government are released on a back-to-back states/UTs, in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases," the ministry siad.

**HDFC** profit

more than

halves in Q2

Mumbai, Nov. 2: Mort-

gage lender HDFC Ltd's

profit after tax declined by

more than half to Rs 4,600

crore on a consolidated

basis in the September

quarter. It had reported a

orofit after tax of Rs

It said during the quar-

10,389 crore in the year-

## PNB profit rises 22% to ₹621 cr

New Delhi, Nov. Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Monday reported a 22 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 620.81 crore for the second quarter.

The lender had posted a net profit of RS 507.05 crore during the corresponding quarter a year The bank's total income

during July-September rose to Rs 23,438.56 crore as against Rs 15,556.61 crore in the year-ago period, PNB said in a regulatory filing. Gross non-performing

assets accounted for 13.43 per cent of the gross advances at the end of September, lower than 16.76 per cent a year ago.

Net non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 4.75 per cent, compared with 7.65 per cent a year ago. However, provisions for

bad loans rose to Rs 3,811.17 crore in the quarter, against Rs 3,253.32 crore in July-September

Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India merged with PNB, effective April

TRADING HOURS FOR

**MARKETS EXTENDED** 

FC BANKING BUREAU

In view of the graded roll-

back of lockdown restric-

tions, the Reserve Bank of

India on Monday decided

to restore trading hours

for the bond and currency

market in a phased man-ner with effect from

The trading hours for for-

eign currency and rupee

market—including forex

derivatives, government

commercial

RUPEE, BOND

MUMBAI, NOV. 2

November 9.

securities.

## MSME emergency loans available up to Nov. 30

government on Monday extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs by one month till vovember 30, scheme has so far failed to meet the target of Rs 3 lakh crore.

The scheme was valid till October-end. It was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirusinduced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The scheme has been extended till November 30 or till such time that an amount of Rs 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier, the finance min-

istry said in a statement. The step has been taken in view of the opening up of various sectors in the economy and the expected increase in demand tive season.

"This extension will provide a further opportunity to such borrowers who have not availed of scneme obtain credit under the scheme," it said.

According to data uploaded by member lending institutions on the ECLGS portal, an amount of Rs 2.03 lakh crore has been sanctioned under the scheme to 60.67 lakh borrowers so far, while an amount of Rs 1.48 lakh crore has been disbursed.

Under the scheme, fully guaranteed and collater-al-free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, individual enterprises, loans for business purposes, and Mudra borrowers is provided to the extent of 20 per cent of their credit outstanding

as on February 29, 2020. Borrowers with a credit outstanding up to Rs 50 crore as on February 29, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs 250 crore are eligible under the scheme.

#### **Essel sells Devanahalli, Dichpally tollways** Mumbai, Nov. 2: The

National Investment and Infrastructure (NIIF) on Monday said it has acquired two assets— Dichpally and Devana-halli tollways—from Essel Group, marking its entry into the roads and high-

ways sector. The deal size was not disclosed by the fund.

The acquisition is done through the NIIF Master Fund, and the projects will be managed by Athaang Infrastructure, NIIF's proprietary roads platform backed by a team of professionals.

Subhash Chandra's debtladen Essel Group has



been in talks with NIIF to sell these assets since last year for an estimated Rs 1,500-1,800 crore.

Essel Dichpally Tollway is a 60-km four-lane toll road in Telangana and has been in operation for over seven years, connecting

Hyderabad and Nagpur.
Essel Devanahalli

Tollway is a strategic arteroad in Karnataka, connecting Bengaluru city and the airport and is a part of NH44 (erstwhile NH7). It has been in operation for over six years.

Vinod Giri, managing partner at NIIF, said this is the first investment that the fund has made in the roads sector

NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for international and domestic investors, anchored by the Centre and manages over \$4.3 billion of equity capital commitments across its three funds.

PS of power and offers 600

The high-revving M

engine is paired to an 8-speed M Steptronic trans-

mission and sends power

to all wheels with the M

xDrive powertrain. The

X3 M can clock 0-100 kmph

in 4.2 seconds and achieves a top speed of 250

kmph. It offers four driv-

ing modes that optimise

Nm of torque.

ago quarter.

ter ended September 30, 2019, Rs 8,000 crore pertained to profit on loss of control of a subsidiary, Gruh Finance. The stake sale of Gruh Finance by the housing finance player was to facilitate the merger of Gruh with Bandhan Bank. On a standalone basis,

its net profit dropped 27.56 per cent to Rs 2,870 crore in the September quarter as against Rs 3,962 crore in the previous year. It provided Rs 662 crore for tax in the reporting quar-

ter.
"In reality, profit (in Q2
FY21) is higher by as much as 27 per cent compared to last year after you remove dividend income, profit on sale of investments and expected credit loss (ECL) provisions," HDFC VC and CEO Keki Mistry said.

Its dividend income and profit on sale of invest-ments during the quarter stood at Rs 323 crore as against Rs 2,701 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

"In accordance with the directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, the Corporation has not received any dividend from its investments in banks and insurance companies during the current financial year so far, it

Provisioning, including provisioning for the impact of Covid-19, was Rs 436 crore compared to Rs 754 crore in the yearago quarter.

The net interest income (NII) for the quarter grew 21 per cent to Rs 3,647 crore compared to Rs 3,021 crore in the previous year. Net interest margin for the quarter stood at 3.3 per cent versus 3.2 per

HDFC shares ended at Rs 2,042.65 apiece, up 6.24 per cent on BSE. —*PTI* 

#### BMW LAUNCHES X3 M IN INDIA, PRICES START AT ₹99.9 L **MICHAEL GONSALVES** most powerful straight-six petrol engine in the entire M lineup. The engine manages to churn out 486

PUNE, NOV. 2

India's second biggest luxury carmaker, on Monday introduced the first-ever X3 M in India for Rs 99.90 lakh to cash in on the festive season.

The X3 M is the first midsize SUV with German BMW's M package in India which would be imported into the country. The X3 M has no direct rivals in India as there is

no mid-size SUV available

in India at this price point



with such performance in

The BMW X3 M is powered by a new 3.0-litre, 6cylinder M TwinPower

turbo engine, which is the

**AGILE MODEL** Company moves to trust and outcome-based working culture Work from anywhere, Tata Steel tells staff

performance.

and bust many of the myths around remote working, he said. The policy will ensure better work-life balance, will give more flexibility to choose where one lives as the daily work commute shifts out of consideration, provides working opportunities to new parents at their convenience, and ensures continuity of work for persons with disabili-

within an office environment

ties in their respective work enabled environment. "Flexible working provides greater freedom to choose locations and make essential life decisions such as supporting families, be it ageing parents or spouses with non-transferrable jobs. This will help in retaining and enriching our key talent from across the country and

#### New Delhi, Nov. 2: Domestic steel maker Tata Steel on Monday announced a new work model for its employees which allows them to work from home for up to 365 days a year. The new 'Agile Working Models' policy is effective from Sunday, Tata Steel said in a state-Tata Steel said that it is moving towards a "trust and outcomebased working culture" and to

give more flexibility to its employees Under the new models, effective November 1, even officers who are required to be based out of a particular location can now work from home for unlimited days in a year, it said. Once the pandemic situation

normalises, the policy will enable company's officers to

move to a location of choice, giv-

ing the employee the flexibility

to operate out of any location in the country, the company said adding the policy will be piloted for a year and based on adaptability and feedback, the policy will be reviewed after one year. Suresh Dutt Tripathi, vicepresident, human resource management, Tata Steel, said that

flexible working not only por-

trays an organisation's intent to create a workplace for the upcoming generations but also solidifies its intent to cater to the needs of its diversified workforce across geographies.

The pandemic has helped move away from the traditional thinking of productivity being contingent upon fixed hours of work

attract workforce for location agnostic roles," Tripathi added.

— PTI

per cent on BSE.







#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Watson set to**

retire from cricket

Dubai: Top Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has decided to call time on his competitive cricket career after Chennai Super Kings' exit from the . Indian Premier League. While Watson has not made any official announcement, it has been learnt that after CSK ended their IPL campaign on Sunday with a win over Kings XI Punjab, the senior player told his teammates about the decision to retire from all forms of

This season, he has scored 299 runs in 11 games. He was a star for Rajasthan Royals during the inaugural edition (472 runs and 17 wickets) and in 2018, his century in the final post his international retirement won it for CSK, who had just come back from a two-year ban. - PTI

## **Gagan's shooting**

range in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: India's emerging sporting hub, Odisha, on Monday made its foray into shooting as the state govern-ment joined hands with Olympic medallist Gagan Narang to set up a 10m and 50m range at the Kalinga

Stadium here. Also associated with the project is the Aditya Birla Group. The facility is called the Odisha Aditya Birla-Gagan Narang **Shooting High Performance** Centre, adding to the much acclaimed hockey and athletics infrastructure of the state. Further cementing Odisha's reputation as the sports capital of India and providing major boost to infrastructure in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated three state-of-the-art sports facilities in Hinjilicut, Chatrapur and

### **Shooter tests +ve**

Bhubaneswar.

but camp to go on New Delhi: An athlete training in the national capital's Dr Karni

Singh Shooting Range has tested positive for Covid-19, the Sports Authority of India said on Sunday but maintained that it will not hamper the ongoing national camp.

Last month, SAI had approved a two-month long coaching camp for the Olympic core group shooters from October 15 to December 14.

"An NCOE (National Centre of Excellence) athlete training at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in the 10 metre range has tested positive for the coronavirus. The athlete who last visited the range on October 28th in the second half of the day, intimat ed to his coach that his test result had come positive," SAI said in a statement. - PTI

#### **Legend Chariton** has dementia

London: Manchester United and **England great Bobby Charlton** 

has been diagnosed with "Everyone at Manchester

United is saddened that this terrible disease has afflicted Sir Bobby Charlton and we continue to offer our love and support to Sir Bobby and his family," United said in a statement on Sunday.

The announcement came two days after Nobby Stiles, who won the 1966 World Cup and 1968 European Cup as Charlton's teammate, died after his own battle with the illness. In July, Bobby's brother and fellow England World Cup winner

Jack also died after being diagnosed with dementia. The 83-year-old Charlton held England's goalscoring record of 49 until it was broken by Wayne Rooney. The striker also took his United record by eclipsing the 249 goals

Live on TV

Charlton scored for the club.

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Hobart Hurricanes vs Melbourne Renegades from 9 am on Sony Six

ATP Paris Masters: Day 2 action from 3.30 pm on Sony Six

**FOOTBALL** 

Champions League: Lokomotiv Moscow vs Atletico Madrid from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; RB Salzburg vs Bayern Munich from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Real Madrid vs Inter Milan from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2; Manchester City vs Olympiacos from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Atalanta vs Liverpool from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1

# WIN-WIN GAME MPL to sponsor Team India kit

## Delhi beat Bangalore but both teams make play-offs

Capitals qualified for the Indian Premier League play-offs at number two position with a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Monday. RCB also entered the play-offs after DC took more than 17.3 overs to complete their chase

complete their chase.

Invited to bat, Royal Challengers Bangalore scored 152 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs. Young Devdutt Padikkal top-scored with a 41-ball 50.

In reply, DC chased down the target with six balls to spare, courtesy calculative knocks from Shikhar Dhawan (54) and Ajinkya Rahane (60).

Earlier, Padikkal, who looked in good nick during his stay in the middle, smashed five fours and shared a 57-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli (29 off 24) for the third wicket.

The Capital pulled things back brilliantly in the middle overs.

Pacer Anrich Nortje (3/33) was the pick of the bowlers for Delhi Capitals, while Kagiso Rabada (2/30) picked up two wickets and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/18) took the important wicket of Kohli.

Padikkal and Josh Philippe (12) were circum-spect in the powerplay overs. Rabada provided the Capitals with the early breakthrough off his very first ball, claiming the wicket of the Australian in the fifth



Ajinkya Rahane of Delhi Capitals plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

#### **SCORECARD**

Royal Challengers Bangalore: J. Philippe c Shaw b Rabada 12, D Padikkal b Nortje 50, V. Kohli c Stoinis b Ashwin 29, AB de Villiers run out 35, C Morris c Pant b Nortje 0, S Dube c Rahane b Rabada 17, W Sundar not out 0, I Udana c Iyer b Nortje 4, S Ahmed not out 1. Extras (B-1, W-3)

4. Total (for 7 wkts in 20 overs) 152 .

FoW: 1-25, 2-82, 3-112, 4-112, 5-145, 6-146, 7-150.

Bowling: Daniel Sams 4-0-40-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-18-1, Anrich Nortje 4-0-33-3, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-30-2. Axar Patel 4-0-30-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** Prithvi Shaw b Mohammed Siraj 9, S. Dhawan c S. Dube b Shahbaz Ahmed 54, Ajinkya Rahane c S. Dube b Washington Sundar 60, Shreyas Iyer c Siraj b Shahbaz Ahmed, R. Pant not out 8, M. Stoinis not out 10. Extras: (LB-3, W-3) 6. Total (for 4 wkts in 19 overs) 154.

FoW: 1-19, 2-107, 3-130, 4-136. Bowling: Chris Morris 2-0-19-0, Mohammed Siraj 3-0-29-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-24-1, Isuru Udana 2-0-24-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-29-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 4-0-26-2.

IPL POINTS TABLE									
Teams		W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR			
Mumbai Indians	13	9	4	0	18	+1.296			
Delhi Capitals	14	8	6	0	16	-0.109			
Royal Challengers Bangalore	14	7	7	0	14	-0.172			
Kolkata Knight Riders	14	7	7	0	14	-0.214			
Sunrisers Hyderabad	13	6	7	0	12	+0.555			
Kings XI Punjab	14	6	8	0	12	-0.162			
Chennai Super Kings	14	6	8	0	12	-0.455			
Rajasthan Royals	14	6	8	0	12	-0.569			

#### Tabulated as Played, Won, Lost, No Result, Points, Net Run Rate

## **'SHORT RUN' CAME BACK** TO BITE US, SAYS RAHUL

per K L Rahul believes that the "short run' that played a part in their opening IPL loss to Delhi Capitals massively affected their chances despite a remarkable comeback in the second leg of the tourna-

KXIP finished on 12 points after losing their last game against Chennai Super Kings after winning five games on trot to raise visions of a play-off chance.

"It is disappointing. We had a lot of games in our pockets and we couldn't get over the line and we only have ourselves to blame. That short run game (against Ďelhi Capitals on September 20), looks like it has come back to bite us,"

**Abu Dhabi, Nov. 2:** Rahul said at the post-Kings XI Punjab skipmatch presentation ceremony.

Before that particular match went into Super Over, the TV footage showed that square leg umpire Menon had erred in calling Chris Jordan for a "short run" in the third ball of ''short the 19th over, bowled by Kagiso Rabada.

The TV replays showed that Jordan's bat was inside the crease when he completed the first run, starting from the nonstriker"s end.

However to KXIP's horror, Menon gestured that Jordan has not completed the run and only one run was added to Mayank Agarwal and the Punjab team's total.

On their loss against CSK, Rahul said that it was all about not batting too well. — *PTI* ting too well.

## Mumbai stand in between Sunrisers and play-off spot

Sharjah, Nov. 2: Riding high on momentum, resur gent Sunrisers Hyderabad will back themselves to topple the mighty Mumbai Indians and qualify for the IPL play-offs here on

Thanks to their healthy run-rate, a win against MIumbai Indians should be enough to send Sunrisers into the final-four.

After taking a tough call to leave out the dangerous Jonny Bairstow from the playing eleven, Sunrisers have managed to find out the "right" balance.

Wriddhiman Saha has made an instant impact as David Warner's opening partner and the inclusion of Jason Holder has given them an all-round option. Holder

Sharma were extremely impressive, both upfront and at the death, in the last game against RCB.

## **NUMBERS GAME**

**HEAD TO HEAD** 

Matches: 15 • Hyderabad: 7 • Mumbai: 7 • Tied: 1 (Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in Super Over after match ended in a tie)

MI beat SRH by 40 runs in Hyderabad. MI beat SRH via Super Over in Mumbai

MEETING IN 2020

 Mumbai beat Hyderabad by 34 runs in Sharjah. FOR THE RECORD

David Warner with 444 runs at an average of 37.00 in 13 innings of as many matches is the fourth highest run-getter in this Krunal Pandya, who has scored 986 runs at an average of 25.94

in 57 innings of 68 matches, needs 14 runs to become eighth batsman to complete 1,000 runs for MI in IPL. - S. PERVEZ QAISER

Add left-arm pacer T. put up another ruthless Natarajan and trump card Rashid Khan to their bowling attack, it makes up for a well rounded attack.

Already assured of the top spot in the points table, Mumbai will be expected to

in January.

show against Sunrisers. The nature of surface in Sharjah has changed drastically with low-scores replacing 200-plus totals, which was the norm at the start of the season. -PTI

## It is learnt that per cent of the

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Fantasy gaming platform Mobile Premier League's subsidiary arm 'MPL Sports Apparel and Accessories' is the new kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team for a period of three years.
A member of the Apex
Council confirmed the

development on Monday that BCCI has inked the apparel and merchandise deal with MPL, replacing

"Yes, Apex Council has passed the sponsorship deal for apparel of Indian team (men, women, A and U19).
"However the rate per

match will be ₹65 lakh per game instead of ₹88 lakh that Nike was giving," the senior official said on conditions of anonymity. It is learnt that BCCI will

also get 10 per cent of the royalty from the sale of merchandise. "MPL has formed an

apparel manufacturing company. They will also pay an amount for merchandise contract. The deal will end in November, 2023," the source added.

**BCCI** will also get 10 royalty from the sale of merchandise.

While Puma and Adidas had earlier picked up the bid papers for apparel sponsorship, they didn't fill the bid as they felt that the deal needed to be reduced to one third from the original bid.

Nike had a five year deal during which they paid ₹370 crore from 2016 to 2020

with a ₹30 crore royalty.
"No sporting apparel major was ready to pay that kind of money that Nike paid in current economic climate (due to Covid-19).
"One of the major rea-

"One of the major rea-sons being merchandise items being very costly for common public," the source said.

MPL is currently associ-ated with two IPL franchis-

es (Kolkata Knight Riders and RCB), one CPL franchise (TKR) and the cricket boards of Ireland and the

#### **New Beginning**



Telangana Minister for Information Technology, Industries and Municipal Administration K. T. Rama Rao and former shuttler Jwala Gutta (right) take a tour of The Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence at Sujatha School in Nagireddyguda in Moinabad Mandal near Hyderabad after its inauguration on Monday. Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud can be partially seen on the right.

## Ronaldo returns with double in Juve's win

Milan, Nov. 2: Cristiano Ronaldo came off the bench to score a brace on his return from coronavirus as Juventus got back to winning ways in Serie A with a 4-1 victory against promoted Spezia on Sunday.

The champions ended a run of three consecutive draws to move third in Serie A, four points behind leaders AC Milan, who beat Udinese 2-1 earlier in the day thanks to a spectacular late winner from Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Sassuolo overtook Juventus to reclaim second spot, two points behind Milan, after a 2-0 win over Napoli, their first ever success at the Stadio San Paolo. Ronaldo replaced Paulo Dybala in the 56th minute in Cesena with the match level after Tommaso Pobega had cancelled out Alvaro Morata's opener for

But the Portuguese striker put Juve in front just three minutes later.

Adrien Rabiot grabbed a third on 68 minutes, with Ronaldo scoring a second from the penalty spot with 15 minutes to go for his fifth goal in three league games this season.

'Cristiano is back. This is the important thing,' said Ronaldo, who had been furious at missing Juventus' Champions League 2-0 defeat in mid-Champions week by Lionel Messi's Barcelona.

#### **IBRAHIMOVIC STUNNER**

AC Milan extended their unbeaten streak Ibrahimovic scored an acrobatic late winner to seal a win over lowly Udinese. The 39-year-old has scored seven goals in four league games having missed the other two after contracting Covid-19.

# I retire: Sindhu drops shocker with twist

champion Ý V Sindhu created a stir on Monday by posting "I Retire" on social media only to follow it up with a lengthy state-ment declaring that she would actually be saying goodly to "the postivity goodbye to "the negativity, fear, and uncertainty" triggered by the Covid-19

pandemic.

The Olympic silvermedallist, who is currently in London to work on her nutrition and recovery needs at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, started her rather stunning post by saying that "Denmark Open was the final straw. I Retire".

She was referring to her pullout from the event last month due to the pandem-

"...I'm writing today to tell you that I'm done...Not

India in the Denmark Open was the last straw,' Sindhu's note on Twitter stated.

"Today, I choose to retire from this current sense of unrest. I retire from this negativity, the constant fear, uncertainty. I choose to retire from a complete lack of control over the unknown," she said.

"Most importantly, choose to retire from substandard hygiene standards and our lackadaisical attitude towards the The 25-year-old's post

Rijiju, who said he was stunned for a moment. "You actually gave a mini shock @Pvsindhu1 but I had unflinching faith in your power of determi-

drew a response from

sports minister Kiren



nation. I'm sure you have the strength and stamina to bring many more laurels for India," he tweeted. The star shuttler, who last competed at the All

England Championships

in March, is targetting a

return to action when the

This pandemic has been an eye-opener for me. I could train hard to fight the toughest opponents, tooth and nail, right till the final shot of the game. I have done it before, I can do it again.

"But how do I defeat this invisible virus that has the entire world in a fix? It has been months at home and we still question ourselves every  $\bar{t}$ ime we step out," she wrote.

Sindhu said the reason why she started the post with a shocker like 'I Retire' was to ensure that maximum people take note of the message she was trying to convey on dealing with the virus.

"I might have given you guys a mini heart attack; unprecedented

world tour comes to Asia requires unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up and take notice.' Sindhu said she will con-

tinue to fight the circumstances created by the virus and her opponents on the courts. being said, we must be hopeful about the light shinning at the end of the Yes, Denmark Open didn't happen but that won't stop me from training. When life comes at vou, one must comeback twice as hard.

"So will I for the Asia Open. I refuse to give up without putting a solid fight. I refuse to give up without conquering this fear.

"And will carry on doing so till we have a safer world," she concluded.

#### **BALE IS TOTTENHAM'S MATCH WINNER AGAIN**

London, Nov. 2: Gareth Bale soared into the air, connected with the ball and powered it into the net It's taken more than seven years but Bale was Tottenham's match-winner again. And they have only required three minutes on the field for the substitute to clinch a 2-1 victory over Brighton on Sunday.

A bit of relief and a lot of happiness, Bale said after being set up by Sergio Reguilon, who also switched

from Real Madrid in September.

"It's an incredible feeling, personally. Obviously you wish the fans were here to be able to celebrate," he said

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