

SHORT TAKES

‘India-US ties will continue to grow stronger’SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

With Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden on the verge of victory in the United States Presidential polls, India on Friday said the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between both nations has “very strong bi-partisan support” in the US, thereby hinting that bilateral ties would continue to grow stronger irrespective of the election outcome. New Delhi said it was awaiting the results of the US Presidential elections. At his weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also said that Indo-US bilateral ties “rest on strong foundations” and that this “encompasses cooperation in every possible sphere” ranging from strategic ties to the defence sector, trade and investment as well as people to people ties. He pointed out that successive administrations in the US have raised bilateral ties to a higher level. Observers point out that this may be a strong indication that New Delhi may well be gearing up already to do business with a new Democrat-led Administration in Washington, given the election trends that have already come in so far. According to reports till Friday evening IST, Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden continued to be within striking distance of getting the required number of votes in the electoral college to become President although the Republicans led by President Donald Trump have mounted legal challenges after alleging electoral discrepancies.

Biden on cusp of White House win

■ **Continued from Page 1** writing that “If last 24 hours have made anything clear, it’s that we need new election integrity laws NOW.”

Mr Trump’s campaign engaged in a flurry of legal activity to try to improve the President’s chances, saying it would seek a recount in Wisconsin and filing lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia.

Judges in Georgia and Michigan quickly dismissed the Trump campaign lawsuits there on Thursday, when Mr Trump still held a small edge in Georgia — though Mr Biden was gaining on him as votes continued to be counted.

Mr Trump’s campaign was lodging legal challenges in several states, though he faced long odds.

He will have to win multiple suits in multiple states to stop the vote counts, as more than one state was undeclared.

Some of the Trump team’s lawsuits only demand better access for campaign observers to locations where ballots are being processed and counted. A judge in Georgia dismissed the campaign’s suit there less than 12 hours after it was filed. And a Michigan judge dismissed a Trump lawsuit over whether enough GOP challengers had access to handling of absentee ballots.

Mr Biden’s attorney Bob Bauer said the suits were legally “meritless”.

Their only purpose, he said, “is to create an opportunity for them to message falsely about what’s taking place in the electoral process”. — *Agencies*

■ Beijing, Islamabad acting in collusion poses threat: Rawat CDS: China facing ‘unanticipated consequences’ for misadventurePAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat said on Friday that the Chinese Army is facing “unanticipated consequences of its misadventure in Ladakh” and possibility of border confrontations leading to a wider conflict can’t be ruled out. “The situation along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh remains tense and the PLA is facing unanticipated consequences of its misadventure in Ladakh because of the Indian defence forces firm and strong response,” said Gen. Rawat at the diamond jubilee webinar of the National Defence College. He said that India will not accept any shifting of the

In the overall security calculus, border confrontation, transgressions & unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted

— Gen. Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff



LAC. “In the overall security calculus, border confrontation, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted,” said the CDS. Gen. Rawat’s statement is the strongest direct attack on China by any high ranking Indian government official. Indian government ministers and official have mostly avoided naming China directly while

talking about Chinese aggression on the LAC.

In August, in a pre-emptive move, the Indian Army troops occupied strategic heights on the Kailash range which overlook entry points of the Spangur gap in the Chushul sector. This in a way choked Chinese army and they can’t move their troops forward in these position as entry points are under Indian army control. This has

irked PLA and it has been demanding India to vacate these positions. It made few failed attempts to forcefully occupy these points but such moves were foiled by the Indian Army. In a similar action, the Indian Army occupied heights at the North bank of Pangong Tso which overlooks Chinese positions on the ridgelines at the finger 4 area.

Gen. Rawat said that China and Pakistan acting in collusion poses a threat. “Constant friction with two of our nuclear armed neighbours, with whom India has fought wars, increasingly acting in collusion, poses an omnipresent danger of regional strategic instability with the potential for escalation,” he said.

With 47,638 new cases, Covid tally rises to 84.12 lakh

Delhi records highest 1-day spike of 7,178 cases

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India’s overall tally of novel coronavirus reached 84.12 lakh on Friday with 47,638 fresh cases — which is 5 per cent lower than previous day figures.

The death toll has reached 1.25 lakh after 670 new fatalities were recorded. However, the number of active cases are close to 5.21 lakh while 77.66 lakh people have recovered so far.

According to the Union health ministry, the active cases now comprise only 6.19 per cent of the total positive cases of the country.

In the last 24 hours, 54,157 persons were discharged from medical care taking India’s recovery rate to 92.32 per cent.

Kerala and Delhi are daily logging the highest number of cases in the country.

The Maharashtra government said the number of Covid-19 cases has been dropping steadily in

COVID WATCH
84.12 lakh
CASES ACROSS NATION
77.66 lakh
PEOPLE CURED SO FAR

the last few days and there has been a 63 per cent decrease in the number of active cases.

The national capital on Friday recorded over 7,000 new coronavirus cases for the first time since Covid-19 pandemic outbreak was reported in the country. The city recorded as many as 7,178 fresh coronavirus cases on Friday.

With this, the tally of Covid-19 cases in the state has reached over 4.23 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 6,833. Sixty-Four fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

N-E Delhi riots: AAP govt gives nod to prosecute Umar KhalidAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The police has received prosecution sanction from the Kejriwal government against Umar Khalid, a former JNU student leader, in connection with a case related to the February communal violence in Northeast Delhi, officials said on Friday.

“We have given prosecution sanction in all the Delhi riots related cases registered by the police. Now, it is up to the courts to see who are the accused,” a senior Delhi government functionary said.

The sanction has been



Umar Khalid

received against Khalid in the Delhi riots conspiracy case, in which he was booked under the stringent anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

A senior police officer said that the police has received prosecution sanction from both the

Delhi government and the Union home ministry against Khalid in connection with the Delhi riots conspiracy case.

“We have received prosecution sanction against Umar Khalid in connection with a case registered against him under the UAPA. We have received sanctions from both the Delhi government and the ministry of home affairs,” the officer said.

The officer said that the prosecution sanctions against Khalid were received a fortnight ago and added that the Delhi police can now name Khalid in their supplementary charge sheet.



People visit a firecrackers shop ahead of the Diwali festival near Jama Masjid in Delhi on Friday. The Delhi government has announced ban on firecrackers between November 7 and 30 in the view of rising air pollution.

— PTI

8 Tablighis allowed deportationAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

A Delhi court on Friday allowed the deportation of eight foreigners, discharged of charges of being negligent and attending Tablighi Jamaat congregation in March this year in violation of the government guidelines issued in wake of Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Additional sessions judge Sandeep Yadav allowed the foreigners’ plea seeking deportation to their countries and imposed certain conditions on them.

The court directed the investigating officer to facilitate expeditious closure of the lookout circulars (LoC) against them. It said if the pending revision petition filed by the police against the foreigners was allowed by the court, then they would have to come back to India to join the proceedings.

It further directed them to deposit a surety amount of ₹30,000 to the court and furnish their name, phone number, e-mail address and address to the investigating officer before leaving the country. The court further said they should respond to the IO as and when notified.

A magistrate court had on August 24 discharged them of all charges under which they were charge sheeted in the absence of any record or credible

‘India-Nepal problems to be resolved via dialogue’

PM Oli mentions good ties during meet with Gen. Naravane

Kathmandu, Nov. 6: Problems between Nepal and India would be resolved through dialogue, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli said on Friday during a meeting with Indian Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane who paid a courtesy call on him.

Gen. Naravane’s three-day visit to Nepal was largely aimed at resetting bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries. The meeting between Gen. Naravane and Mr Oli, who is also the defence minister of Nepal, took place at his official residence in Baluwatar, Nepal Army sources said.

Prime Minister Oli said that there has been good friendship between Nepal and India, according to



K.P. Sharma Oli Gen. M.M. Naravane

his foreign affairs adviser Rajan Bhattarai.

Mr Oli expressed hope that the problems between the two countries would be resolved through dialogue, Mr Bhattarai said in a tweet after the meet.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister mentioned the centuries-old special relations existing between Nepal and India, and the tradition of conferring Honorary General of Army on each other’s Army Chiefs, Mr Bhattarai said.

Gen. Naravane’s engagements in Nepal included a

visit to the headquarters of the Nepalese Army and attending a banquet hosted in his honour by chief of Nepalese Army Gen Purna Chandra Thapa. On Thursday, the two Army chiefs held talks and discussed ways to boost bilateral military cooperation.

The Chief of Army Staff, who arrived here on Wednesday, earlier in the day enjoyed a mountain flight during which he had a brief stopover at Syangboche airport, the gateway to the world’s highest peak Mount Everest, they said.

Gen. Naravane also addressed the middle-level student officers at the Army Command and Staff College at Shivapuri on the outskirts of Kathmandu. — *PTI*

People in the government fail to address the problems of the people and eradicate poverty — Mehbooba Mufti



Ex-CM, J&K

status of J&K and time will come when they will not only restore both Article 370 and Article 35A

but also ask the people of J&K what else they want”.

She reiterated that the government at the Centre “doesn’t follow the Constitution of the country but the agenda of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).”

“They (people in the government) are beating drums on abrogation of Article 370, but fail to address the problems faced by the people and eradicate poverty,” Ms Mufti said.

SC asks Centre to ensure no smog in Delhi-NCRPARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to ensure that there is no smog in Delhi and the National Capital Region even as court was informed that the commission for the air quality management in the national capital and the adjoining areas has started functioning.

The 15 member commission on air quality management is headed by former petroleum secretary Dr M.M. Kuttu as its full-time chairman.

Heading a bench, also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said: “There are already many commissions, many great brains working, we only want there should not be smog — a huge problem”.

Senior counsel Vikas Singh appearing for petitioner Aditya Dubey — a minor — said that it is a “situation of public health emergency something drastic has to be done”. The matter is listed for further hearing on December 8, 2020.

‘No Prez rule in Bengal’

■ **Continued from Page 1** —mitment to give citizenship to migrants here.”

Mr Shah also accused chief minister Mamata Banerjee of eyeing to create “dynastic rule” through her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, a Trinamul Congress MP in the Rajya Sabha.

“Her aim is to make her bhatije the next chief minister. The people of the state have to decide if they want dynasticism or progressivism. A new chapter on bad administration has opened under Ms Banerjee’s leadership here. She has absolutely and successfully politicised the administration, criminalised politics and institutionalised corruption. This has happened in no other state,” he alleged.

Mocking the Trinamul chief, Mr Shah said: “Appeasement has reached such a level that it has given birth to three laws — one for bhatije, the second for votebank, and the third for Bengalis in general.

“There is hardly any state in

the country where three such laws exist.” He also asked the Trinamul chief why her government has not sent crime data to the National Crime Records Bureau since 2018 to counter her campaign of a rise in crime in BJP-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh.

“What is (there) to hide and why? All want to know the law and order situation of Bengal. I want Ms Banerjee to come out with a white paper on political killings, in which Bengal tops the list of states,” Mr Shah added.

Attacking Ms Banerjee’s opposition to Central welfare projects, he told the state’s farmers that they would get their due amounts in their bank accounts through direct transfer after May next year because “the BJP will be in power here then”.

On elusive Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung’s support to the TMC, Mr Shah quipped: “He is fighting for the Gorkhas. We believed that yesterday. We still hold that.”

India-China talks

■ **Continued from Page 1** the face of unilateralism and aggression”.

“India is a peace-loving country. We believe that differences should not become disputes. We attach importance to the peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue. However, India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression, no matter what the sacrifice,” Mr Singh had said.

During the seventh round of corps commanders’ talks, India and China had on October 12 agreed not to turn differences into disputes and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas. Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication

through military and diplomatic channels and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for the disengagement as soon as possible.

While India is trying to peacefully resolve the six-month military standoff with China through negotiations, it is also forming strategic alliances with other nations. This was reflected by India’s invitation to Australia to participate in the Malabar naval exercises this year and signing the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (Beca) with the United States last week. This was also a clear signal to China that India will not bow to any pressure, even as it wants peace in the region.

2 militants killed

■ **Continued from Page 1** his injuries in hospital later. A statement by the J&K police here claimed the duo was hit after the militants fired “indiscriminately” and escaped from the place they were hiding in.

It said the militants were soon tracked again and given an opportunity to surrender.

“However, they again fired indiscriminately at the joint search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter,” the police said. The operation was suspended due to darkness to avoid collateral damage, but the entire area was put under a strict cordon.

A heavy exchange of fire took place between the two sides at first light on Friday but

before it the militants were again asked to surrender, a police spokesman said. He added one of the three militants, a local resident identified as Khawar Sultan Mir, responding to the appeal, laid down his arms and surrendered in an injured condition and was later evacuated to a hospital.

The officials said the two militants killed in the firefight appear to be Pakistani nationals. All of them were Lashkar members.

IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said Mir was the ninth militant to surrender so far this year, when over 200 militants were killed, including about a dozen senior commanders of terror outfits in clashes with the forces.

Opp. slams Nitish over remark

■ **Continued from Page 1** Thursday while addressing a public meeting in Dhamdaha, Purnea.

A section of political analysts feel that Mr Kumar, facing massive anti-incumbency, gave the statement to emotionally attract voters, especially backwards and Muslims, who have been with him since 2005.

Out of 78 seats going to polls on Saturday, the JD(U) has a presence in 23 seats. Many of these seats fall in

Seemanchal and Kosi region where EBCs, Muslims and Yadavs are the deciding factors.

EBCs and a section in the Muslim community have been JD(U)’s core voters. According to political analyst Prakash Piyush, “Nitish Kumar tried to strike an emotional chord with his vote bank to avert anti-incumbency against the grand alliance led by the RJD ahead of the last phase of polls”.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER			
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work:			
Name of the work with its location	Comprehensive Housekeeping and other allied works at HN2M Old & New Running Room for the period of two years.		
Approx. Tender Value	₹2,71,00,944/- (Excluding GST)	E.M.D.	₹2,85,500/-
Date and Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	15:00 hrs. on 04.12.2020		
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in		
Tender Notice No. : 230-Elect-RSO-08-HK Dated : 05.11.2020			2457/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

SHORT TAKES

India summons Pakistan diplomat

New Delhi: India on Friday evening said it had summoned Pakistan's Charge D'Affaires (CdA) in New Delhi to register a strong protest over Islamabad's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) — a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh community — to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body. The Pakistan CdA was summoned on Friday evening, a day after New Delhi had condemned Islamabad's move. Asking Islamabad to reverse its "arbitrary" decision, New Delhi had on Thursday said Pakistan's move "runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large", adding that it exposes the "tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities".

India protests attack on Hindus in B'desh

New Delhi: India on Friday said it had raised, through diplomatic channels with Bangladesh, an incident in which homes of Hindu families were attacked recently, reportedly in Bangladesh's Comilla district by radical elements. Confirming this, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka has taken up the matter with the Bangladesh government and that New Delhi is in touch with Dhaka on the matter. The MEA spokesperson added that the Bangladesh government is looking at the incident "very seriously". Bangladeshis understood to be probing the matter.

5 UP farmers climb atop water tank

Shahjahanpur: Five farmers climbed atop a water tank and threatened to jump off it on Friday, alleging that they were unable to sell their crop at a designated centre in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district, officials said. The farmers also overturned their trolley loaded with paddy in protest, they said. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Surendra Kumar said a case will be registered against the incharge of the paddy purchase centre, which refused to buy the crop. "There are 10 paddy purchase centres at Roza grain market. When the farmers' crop was not bought at a centre, they overturned their trolley full of paddy and climbed on top of a water tank, threatening to end their lives," the Sub-Divisional Magistrate said. — PTI

India and Italy hold virtual bilateral summit

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte held a "friendly and cordial" Virtual Bilateral Summit on Friday evening lasting more than an hour, with the two leaders adopting a bilateral "Action Plan for an enhanced Partnership" from 2020-24 to "build a strategic partnership" between the two countries that will also lead to "enhanced cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, security, cybersecurity and Defence". The Action Plan will be based on four pillars — political dialogue; economic engagement; a partnership in the field of science and technology; and cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. In all, 15 pacts were inked between the two countries (including between private entities) mostly in the economic sphere on Friday. The two countries are also working on inking a bilateral defence co-operation pact at the earliest as well as another pact for a "migration and mobility partnership". Ministry of external affairs (MEA) officials said the focus of the Summit was on strengthening economic ties. Italy is also understood to be keen on diversifying its supply chains particularly in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

Former Bihar chief minister has been convicted in 4 fodder scam cases
Lalu's bail hearing deferred to Nov. 27

Ranchi, Nov. 6: The Jharkhand High Court on Friday deferred till November 27 RJD chief Lalu Prasad's bail plea hearing in a fodder scam case related to Dumka treasury, after the CBI sought more time to file a written reply in the matter. The former Bihar CM, convicted in four fodder scam cases, would be able to walk out of the jail if he acquires bail in the case. He has already secured bail in three other cases. Prasad's family and party supporters were expecting his release Friday but now they have to wait for

more time. The RJD president is in jail in Ranchi since 2018 December.

Prasad's lawyer Kapil Sibal, who attended the court session virtually, said the ailing RJD chief, currently undergoing treatment at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi, has served more than half the sentence that was awarded to him in the case and urged the court to release him on bail. Sibal told the court that out of total seven years of jail term in the instant case, Prasad has already spent 42 months and 26 days in the judi-



Lalu Prasad Yadav

cial custody, more than half of the total sentence time. The hearing in the case was held virtually in view of Covid pandemic.

The CBI objected to Sibal's assertion and said that it would take some time to file a written reply on Prasad's health condition and his

incarceration in this case. Mr Sibal, however, claimed that the probe agency was "deliberately" delaying the matter.

Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, after taking all arguments into consideration, postponed hearing in the case till November 27. The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of ₹3.13 crore from Dumka treasury when Prasad was the chief minister of undivided Bihar.

The court which had sought details about treatment of Prasad and also those meeting him in RIMS, will also take it up on the next date of hear-

ing. Earlier, on October 9, the High Court had granted bail to the RJD president in the case related to alleged illegal withdrawal of money from the Chaibasa treasury, an offshoot of the ₹900 crore fodder scam case, on the same ground of spending more than half the duration of the jail term. Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) has submitted its report to the court on Prasad's treatment and so is the report from the jail department and the district administration on people meeting him there. — PTI

Niti Aayog's monitoring arm has over 60% vacant posts

ANIMESH SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

Even as the Centre is struggling to kickstart its ambitious National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project amid the Coronavirus pandemic, where it plans to provide world-class infrastructure by 2025, a key component of Prime Minister's Office's (PMO) think tank Niti Aayog — the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) — which performs the critical function of evaluating 125 Central sector schemes, is currently struggling to man-

age its daily functioning as more than 100 of its positions at different levels are lying vacant.

According to highly placed sources, out of DMEO's sanctioned strength of 157, more than 100 positions or 60 per cent of its total capacity, are lying vacant, which are acting as an impediment to its role of monitoring all central scheme, which also includes the flagship infrastructure programmes of the NDA government like the Smart City project among others.

Some of the important positions which are lying vacant include that of a

joint secretary, a director as well as an undersecretary and assistant section officers, among scores of others. The DMEO has approached the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) for the filling up these posts, through the Central Staffing Scheme and the Central Secretariat Services. However, the recruitment process is also getting hampered due to the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic.

Out of the sanctioned strength of 157 of DMEO, 53 are regular officials and 25 are contractual employees.



Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh along with other leaders participates in a protest against the recent farm reform bills in New Delhi on Wednesday. — PTI

Odisha woman accuses hubby of having 20 wives, files FIR

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 6

A woman from Jeypore town of Odisha's Koraput district on Friday registered a complaint at Town police station alleging that her husband alleging that he has as many as 20 wives. Sanjukta Patra from Christian Peta locality informed the police that her husband Prabhat Chetti threw her out of the house after bringing another woman in.

She further said that despite having two kids, her husband has been disloyal to her and has several relationships with other women.

Alleging that Prabhat has signed their house and property in the name of the woman he recently moved in with, a hapless Sanjukta requested the police to intervene into the matter. On the other hand, Prabhat lodged a counter case against Sanjukta. In his complaint, he accused his wife of bad behaviour and harassment.

After registering the complaints, the Town police booked Prabhat with charges under Sections 294, 303, 354, 506 and 34 of the IPC.

Modi betraying Army, says Cong

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Congress on Friday alleged that the Modi government has betrayed the defence forces by "snatching away" the pension of Army officers. It said the move reeked of "fake-nationalism".

"We demand that Prime Minister Modi comes forward and clarifies his stand on the issue and takes back its anti-Army decision of October 29," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told the media here.

According to the government's new proposal, only those officers who have spent more than 35 years in the armed forces shall

This Diwali, PM Modi exhorted the nation to light a diya for our soldiers, but has ensured darkness in their lives by attempting to reduce their pension by half. If this is not BJP's 'fake nationalism', then what is it

— Randeep Surjewala, Cong leader



be entitled to a 'full pension', which will demoralise the armed forces, he said. Mr Surjewala claimed that the reality

was that 90 per cent of Army officers retire before 35 years of service and in such a situation, the government is "hatching a conspiracy" to deny 90 per cent of Army officers their full pension. He alleged that the decision has hurt the morale of the armed forces.

The Modi government, he said, habitually seeks votes on the sacrifice of brave soldiers and on "fake nationalism", but is the first government in the country's history to "steal the pension" and alternate career choice of those officers who protect our motherland.

"This Diwali, Prime Minister Modi exhorted the nation to light a diya

for our soldiers, but has ensured darkness in their lives by attempting to reduce their pension by half. If this is not BJP's 'fake nationalism', then what is it," he questioned. "How can the government change the service condition and modify the terms of service of military officers with 'back-date'," he asked.

Mr Surjewala also accused the government of not serving the interests of the armed forces as it did not implement 'One Rank, One Pension', withdrew the much deserved 'Non-Functional Utility' (NFU) benefits and did not provide full protective gear to armed forces on the borders.

SC: Auction of coal mines are subject to further orders

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Supreme Court on Friday said that e-auction of 41 coal blocks, including 9 in Jharkhand, would be subject to its further order and till then there will be no mining activities.

Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde said that any action, including the award of coal mining leases, may be taken by the Centre "shall be subject to Court's orders."

The court further ordered that the Centre

"shall take care to inform any recipient of any benefit of any nature that the action is provisional in the sense that it will be subject to the orders that may be passed by Court."

While adjourning the matter, the court recalled that in the last hearing of the matter on November 4, the Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had said that even if mining leases are awarded no mining activity would commence as leaseholders have to obtain a series of clearances.

Top court issues showcause notice to Vilas Athawale

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

The Supreme Court on Friday showcaused Maharashtra Assembly's assistant secretary Vilas Athawale as to why contempt proceedings be not initiated against him for writing a letter to Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami questioning him for approaching the top court against a privilege notice issued to him by the

Assembly secretariat. Earlier, Mr Goswami had approached the top court seeking the stay of the notice issued to him in privilege proceedings for using strong language for chief minister Udhay Thackeray in his TV programme.

While issuing showcause notice for contempt of court, the court protected Mr Goswami from arrest in privilege proceedings initiated by the Maharashtra Assembly.

MP: 7 fossilised eggs of dinosaurs discovered

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, NOV. 6

In a significant development, a new dinosaur habitation has been discovered in Mandla, situated in Narmada river basin in Madhya Pradesh, with the recovery of 7 fossilised eggs of the now-extinct species belonging to the Cretaceous period (65 million years ago).

The huge dinosaur eggs weighing around 2.6 kg each have been unearthed in Mohantola area, nearly 4 km from district headquarters of Mandla, Prof P.K. Kathal,

department of Applied Geology, Dr H.S. Gaur University, Sagar, in Madhya Pradesh, told this newspaper on Friday. "The fossilised eggs have been authenticated as of dinosaurian affinity with use of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)", the professor of the Central University said.

"The rare find is a significant step in the study of extinct reptiles, dinosaurs, of Narmada valley. It appears the eggs belong to possibly a new species of beaked or sauropod dinosaurs, hitherto not known in India", he added.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Festival Season, Northern Railway will run following additional Festival Special Trains (Single Side) as per the program mentioned below :-

04302 Bareilly - Bettiah Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Bareilly	-	20:30
Bettiah	10:15	-

DAY OF RUN : 04302 Ex. Bareilly on 09.11.2020 (Monday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Gorakhpur & Narkatiaganj Jn. stations.

04304 Haridwar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Haridwar Jn.	-	20:15
Saharsa Jn.	22:00	-

DAY OF RUN : 04304 Ex. Haridwar Jn. on 10.11.2020 (Tuesday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Varanasi Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna Jn., Barauni Jn. & Khagaria Jn. stations.

04448 Anand Vihar (T.) - Saharsa Jn. Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Anand Vihar (T.)	-	23:55
Saharsa Jn.	19:45	-

DAY OF RUN: 04448 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on 12.11.2020 (Thursday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Danapur & Barauni Jn. station.

04306 Bareilly - Madhubani Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Bareilly	-	20:15
Madhubani	13:30	-

DAY OF RUN : 04306 Ex. Bareilly on 10.11.2020 (Tuesday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Samastipur Jn. & Darbhanga Jn. Stations.

04450 Anand Vihar (T.) - Sitamarhi Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Anand Vihar (T.)	-	23:45
Sitamarhi	18:45	-

DAY OF RUN : 04450 Ex. Anand Vihar (T.) on 10.11.2020 (Tuesday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki Jn., Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn Stations

04502 Saharanpur - Muzaffarpur Jn. Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Saharanpur	-	14:25
Muzaffarpur Jn.	09:30	-

DAY OF RUN : 04502 Ex. Saharanpur on 11.11.2020 (Wednesday).
Accommodation : 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Moradabad, Sitapur, Gorakhpur & Bapudm Motihari Stations.

04202 Lucknow - Sitamarhi Special Express		
STATIONS	Arrival	Departure
Lucknow	-	21:00
Sitamarhi	09:00	-

DAY OF RUN : 04202 Ex. Lucknow on 10.11.2020 (Tuesday).
Accommodation : 2 Tier Ac, 3 Tier Ac, Sleeper & Reserved IInd Class.
STOPPAGES: Barabanki Jn., Gorakhpur, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. Stations.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Shah meets Ajoy Chakrabarty amid search for a CM's face

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, NOV. 6

A day after setting a target of winning more than 200 seats in the Assembly elections next year in West Bengal, Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday met musical maestro Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty amid BJP's hunt for a favourable chief ministerial face with the clean image of a Bengali "bhadralok" (well-mannered person), known as an expert in any field, to fight the ruling Trinamul Congress.

A reputed vocalist of Indian classical music, Mr Chakrabarty, the recipient of Padma Shri, was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Narendra Modi government in January this



Home minister Amit Shah gives his blessings to Bengal BJP Mahila Morcha president Agnimitra Paul at Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Kolkata on Friday. — PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

year.

On the BJP's CM face, Mr Shah said, "The list is not about few, say two, names only. There are many. Our party presi-

dent and parliamentary board will decide the name."

Mr Shah's move came in the wake of BCCI president Sourav

Ganguly's polite refusal to the BJP to bat for them due to his preoccupation with cricket administration, according to party sources. Before his visit, Mr Chakrabarty told the media, "Amitji is coming to me as a musician. I am grateful that a person of his stature has considered visiting Kolkata for the cause of music because I am a musician and I do not know anything other than music."

Asked about details of the meeting, Mr Chakrabarty said, "He will listen to music. What else can he do? I do not know anything more than that. Neither I have the guts to invite him nor have I invited him. So as a famous person, he himself is coming to me as a guest.

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quick BITES

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

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Forex reserves up \$183 mn to record \$560.71 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose \$183 million to touch a record high of \$560.715 billion in the week ended October 30, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended Oct. 23, the reserves had jumped \$5.412 billion to \$560.532 billion. Foreign currency assets rose by \$815 million to \$518.339 billion. Gold reserves declined \$601 million in the reporting week to \$36.259 billion.

Gold bond scheme price fixed at 5,177 per gram



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

Thomas Cook, SOTC to hold holiday roadshows

Travel services firm Thomas Cook India and its group firm SOTC Travel announced the first physical holiday roadshows since the lockdown. The series of customer-centric roadshows in association with Accor and Marriott hotels will be held on Sunday across key source markets—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Pune, Kochi, Jaipur and Baroda, the travel firm said.

SEs will have to resolve investors' complaints in 15 days

Markets regulator Sebi said stock exchanges will have to ensure that investor grievances are resolved within 15 working days after receiving such complaints. The move is aimed at strengthening the investor grievance redressal mechanism, the Sebi said in a circular. The Sebi said that Investor Grievance Redressal Committee would not dispose the complaint citing lack of information or complexity of case.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

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

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) must be subjected to a higher degree of regulation and should be incentivised to either convert into commercial banks or scale down their operations to help make the financial sector sound and resilient, said Rajeshwar Rao, deputy governor in charge of banking regulation and risk monitoring at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Speaking at the Assoccham NBFC Summit, Rao batted for the principle of proportionality and recommended a graded regulatory framework for NBFCs calibrated in relation to their contribution to systemic significance.

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

"One can also argue that the design of prudential regulatory framework for such NBFCs can be comparable with banks so that



BANK CREDIT RISES 5.06%: RBI DATA

Mumbai, Nov. 6: Bank credit grew by 5.06 per cent to Rs 103.39 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 10.12 per cent to Rs 142.92 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 23, according to the RBI data. In the fortnight ended October 25, 2019, bank credit had stood at Rs 98.40 lakh crore, and the deposit was Rs 129.78 lakh crore.

In the previous fortnight ended October 9, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.66 per cent and deposits by 10.55 per cent.

Non-food bank credit growth decelerated to 5.8 per cent in September 2020 from 8.1 per cent in

the same month previous year.

Credit to industry recorded 'nil' growth in September 2020 compared to 2.7 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

Credit to agriculture and allied activities rose by 5.9 per cent during the reporting month as against a growth of 7 per cent a year ago.

Loan growth in the services sector rose to 9.1 per cent in September 2020 from 7.3 per cent a year ago.

Personal loans registered a growth of 9.2 per cent compared to 16.6 per cent a year ago. —PTI

beyond a point of criticality to systemic risks, such NBFC should have incentives either to convert into a commercial bank or scale down their network externalities within the financial system. This

rapidly, with a few of the large NBFCs becoming comparable in size to some of the private sector banks. Between March 31, 2009 and March 31, 2019, the total assets of NBFCs grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18.6 per cent, while the balance sheets of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) grew at a CAGR of 10.7 per cent.

Consequently, the aggregate balance sheet size of NBFCs increased from 9.3 per cent to 18.6 per cent of the aggregate balance sheet size of SCBs during the corresponding period.

In absolute terms, the asset size of NBFC sector (including HFCs), as on March 31, 2020, is Rs 51.47 lakh crore. As at end-March 2020, NBFCs have been the largest net borrowers of funds from the financial system, of which, more than half of the funds were from SCBs, followed by Asset Management Companies-Mutual Funds (AMC-MFs) and insurance companies.

In the aftermath of liquidity stress post IL&FS and DHFL events, the market funding conditions turned difficult for NBFCs. However the central bank acted in a swift and proactive manner to improve access to funding and liquidity by its monetary policy and liquidity measures and resultantly, the cost of funds for NBFCs and HFCs has reduced substantially for all rating categories said Rao.

would make the financial sector sound and resilient while allowing a majority of NBFCs to continue under the regulation-light structure," added Rao. Over the years, the NBFC segment has grown

LIC comfortable with unified regulator for financial sector

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 6

India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has supported the need for a unified regulator over and above all the existing financial regulators. However, integrating the different supervisory functions in all financial services sectors into a single agency is not an easy task. The insurer feels that the regulatory process in all these sectors need to be simplified before embarking on the long road to a unified command.

At present, different financial sectors like banking, capital markets, pension fund and insurance in India are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority



M R Kumar

(PFRDA) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), respectively. In April this year, the Centre has announced a unified regulator to regulate all financial services at the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT)-City in Gandhinagar. In line with this International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), there is also a clarification call for setting up a unified regulator to regulate and integrate the different supervisory functions into a single agency.

On the concept of having a unified regulator, LIC chairman M.R. Kumar has favoured the move. "In future, we may need that, as each financial sector regulator should have a better sense of the markets. We have a long road to go before we can think of having such a regulator," he said at a virtual conference.

According to Kumar, India has been evolving over the years and regulations are important to ensure that market participants act properly. "Still, the regulatory processes need to be simplified."

Many financial experts believe the concept of a unified regulator is a necessary change crucial for making India the next big hub in the ever dynamic global financial landscape. It has been observed that many countries are now moving towards having unified regulatory authorities.

Sensex, Nifty near all-time highs

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 6

With over 5 per cent gains during the week, the market is near to its all-time high, with five straight session of gains, buoyed by good second quarter earnings, positive domestic economic data and Joe Biden taking decisive lead over rival Donald Trump.

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

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

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

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

BSE's market capitalisation was back to pre-covid

days touching over Rs 163.60 lakh crore.

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

Pandemic blow to Adani's \$4 bn Mundra chemical complex plan

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 6

Global economic uncertainties unleashed by the pandemic have forced Adani Group, German chemical company BASF and two other partners, to put on hold setting up of an ambitious \$4 billion chemical complex near Adani Group's Mundra port facility with access to renewable energy sources, BASF said.

"The global economic uncertainties caused by the pandemic have led the partners to review the timing for undertaking this investment. Despite all attempts to optimise the scope and the configuration, the project has been put on hold," BASF said in a statement.

"The partners remain convinced about the strong fundamentals represented by the Indian market and agreed to periodically explore market conditions and discuss any opportunity that may arise over time," BASF added.

The stalled project was conceived in early 2019 during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit and was aimed at



reducing India's dependence on imported petrochemicals.

The other two partners are Borealis, a European company specialising in base chemicals, fertilisers and the mechanical recycling of plastics and the United Arab Emirates' Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), a diversified energy and petrochemicals groups.

A four-party memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on October 4, 2019 among Adani Group, BASF, Adnoc and Borealis AG and they had recently completed a joint feasibility study for a chemical complex in Mundra.

"BASF has large exposure in Germany and China, they wanted to move to India from China but due to the pandemic it

is put on hold. Also, they had shut down a plant in Germany which has been restarted now, so they have delayed the India project, but they will come back," said Kishore P. Ostwal, chairman, CNI Research.

BASF had earlier in May end 2020 kicked off the piling work of \$10 billion investment project in Zhanjiang, Guangdong, China, to produce engineering plastics and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) to serve the increasing needs of various growth industries in the southern China market and throughout Asia.

Adani Enterprises shares closed 0.26 per cent down at Rs 351.75 on the BSE on Friday while Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone gained 0.64 per cent. BASF India shares closed 0.48 per cent up at Rs 1491.75.

PERFORMANCE STREET

BHEL REPORTS ₹552 CR CONSOLIDATED LOSS

BHEL reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 552.38 crore in the September quarter, due to lower revenues, against a consolidated net profit of Rs 120.95 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell to Rs 3,793.13 crore from Rs 6,359.68 crore.

VEDANTA Q2 PROFIT SLUMPS 62% TO ₹824 CR

Vedanta reported 61.8 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 824 crore for the September quarter against Rs 2,158 crore in the year-ago period. Income declined to Rs 21,744 crore from Rs 22,814 crore.

MRF REPORTS 79% RISE IN PROFIT AT ₹411 CR

MRF Ltd reported a 79 per cent jump in consolidated profit from continuing operations at Rs 410.92 crore for Q2FY21 against Rs 228.96 crore in Q2FY20. Consolidated revenue stood at Rs 4,244.43 crore against Rs 4,007.63 crore.

VOLTAS Q2 PROFIT FALLS 26% AT ₹80 CRORE

Volta reported a 25.74 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 79.66 crore for September quarter against Rs 107.28 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income at Rs 1,650.80 crore was up 10.45 per cent versus Rs 1,494.56 crore.

ADITYA BIRLA FASHION LOSS WIDENS TO ₹188 CR

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail's consolidated net loss widened to Rs 188.25 crore in the second quarter compared to a net loss of Rs 2.35 crore in July-September 2019. Total income declined 49.60 per cent to Rs 1,171.32 crore from Rs 2,324.35 crore.

VIDEO | NATION

Only growing market among top 3 globally; Xiaomi numero uno

India leaps ahead in smartphone market

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 6

Despite all the Covid blues, smartphone sales grew 17 per cent in the September quarter, making India the only growing market among the top 3. Xiaomi remained the top seller in the Indian market, though other phone-makers reported double-digit growth during the quarter.

As a record 54.3 million units were shipped during the quarter, the smartphone market grew 16.50 per cent against 46.6 million units in the same quarter last year. India was the only smartphone market in the top 3 to report a growth, as both Chinese and the US sales

declined in the quarter, according to IDC.

The reopening of the country with fewer restrictions, pent-up demand in July-August and channel stocking in September to meet the upcoming Diwali quarter demand helped smartphone sales.

Online sales share reached an all-time high of 48 per cent, growing by a healthy 24 per cent. In contrast, offline channels registered a moderate 11 per cent growth. IDC expects growth to continue for the online channel, driven by affordability initiatives and pricing aggression during the festive months, even as supply starts to normalise for the offline channels.



The average selling price declined 2 per cent during the quarter, with 84 per cent of shipments falling in the sub-\$200 range. Most sales in this category were driven by e-learning requirements. Though the mid-range segment of phones valued between \$200 and \$500 declined, the premium segment witnessed a strong growth of 91 per cent.

"IDC expects the low-end

and mid-range segment to continue being the volume driver. As consumer sentiment improves in the next few quarters, upgrades and affordable 5G offerings in the \$200-\$500 segment is expected to drive growth," said Upasana Joshi, associate research manager, client devices, IDC India.

Xiaomi continued to lead for over three years, shipping 13.5 million units in the September quarter. Xiaomi witnessed a growth of 7 per cent and ended the quarter with a market share of 27.1 per cent. Xiaomi's Redmi 8A Dual, Redmi 8, and Redmi Note 9 were the top three selling models.

Clocking a growth of 38 per cent to 12.1 million

units, Samsung held 18.8 per cent market share. Vivo stood at the third position, with a market share of 15.2 per cent and shipments of 9 million units, growing by 27 per cent. Realme and Oppo too witnessed 19 per cent and 11 per cent growth, respectively.

Feature phone sales dipped 30 per cent to 25 million units. This brought down overall mobile phone shipment by 4 per cent.

According to IDC, the healthy growth in shipments is expected to continue through October and early November during the festive months. However, with a weak first half, IDC expects 2020 to see a low single-digit decline in sales.

THE ASIAN AGE

7 NOVEMBER 2020

Don't stretch CBI, put onus on police instead

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

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

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

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

the Union government to harass leaders who are in camps ideologically opposed to the National Democratic Alliance.

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

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

Scientific shout-out

Close on the heels of a record number of women — Andrea Ghez (in physics), and Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier (in chemistry) — winning the 2020 Nobel Prize in the pure sciences — comes another significant accomplishment closer home — this year, women form exactly one-third of the IIT Delhi's PhD graduates. Seen in the light of the dystopic "social facts" of a skewed sex ratio, low literacy numbers among women (at 65 per cent compared to men's 82 per cent) and a high dropout rate, this is an important stride and cause for cheer, especially for egalitarians and votaries of women's contribution.

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

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

THE ASIAN AGE

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Printer & Publisher: K. SUBHAKAR

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Subhani



A divided America is battling for its 'soul'



Farrukh Dhondy

Cabbages & Kings

"So raise a glass to the losers —
In life that's all of us!
Those who think they are winners
Will inherit Destiny's cuss.
Time, they say, doesn't hang about
The years and millennia pass
O Bachchoo if all the world's a stage
We're all acting out a farce."

— From *The Son-in-Law Also Rises*, by Bachchoo

The world awaits the results of the presidential election in the United States of America. I resort to the television, radio, or the news app on my phone to check if any more states have declared a result and whether —Ahura Mazda be praised — Joe Biden has finally crossed the 270 collegiate-votes finishing line.

As I write this, and perhaps even by the time it's in print, the likelihood of a decisive result is remote. The clown prince, President Donald Trump, has already threatened, even as the election and the count is in progress, to question, dishonour and even disobey the result if it goes against him. His gang of lawyers are waiting to challenge the results announced in the "battleground" states in the courts.

The idiot Trump, unfamiliar with the Constitution's provisions or the procedures and rules of American elections, says he'll go to the Supreme Court. His lawyers and Democratic spokespersons will have told him, I hope, that that's not the first step

in any electoral challenge. The states of America each have their detailed procedures for electoral challenges and these will have to be pursued in the courts of that particular state.

Donald Trump's tantrumic determination to throw the toys out of the democratic pram has made him tweet several demands to even stop the counting of ballots. He has been authoritatively informed that that won't happen. Every last vote, personal or postal, will be counted and if legal, it will be honoured.

In the 2000 presidential contest, Al Gore lost to George W. Bush by a margin of a few hundred votes. I remember that election night and the news bulletins of the following days. The decision, finally made by a Republican-manipulated Supreme Court after several lesser courts had ordered recounts in the last-to-decisively-declare state of Florida, hung on an examination of the machine-printed ballots. The TV bulletins showed the vote counters looking at pieces of paper through large magnifying glasses, presumably to determine where and against whose name the equivalent of the handwritten cross was marked. These pieces of paper were labelled the "hanging chads". I haven't heard that noun used subsequently. The ones which were unclear were declared spoilt ballots and they gave the victory to George W. (or "Dubya" — as he called himself, to distinguish himself from his father, former President George H.W. Bush.

The present election may hang in a similar

balance with similar challenges but, gentle reader, this election is certainly different from the one back in 2000. The Gore-Bush election demonstrated a nation with a divided vote. The Trump-Biden election is the drama of a nation with a divided soul. In preparation for it, barbed wire fences and fortifications have already been built around the White House. One can be sure that President Trump may have ordered a Mexican-border-style wall to be built around it but was vetoed by his restless staff. The shops and streets of the big cities, including the American capital have been severely boarded up, against the possibility of riots, arson and mayhem. There is talk of rival pseudo militia clashing.

The surveys on TV tell us that the three main issues dividing the nation with the shadow of violence threatening like a dark cloud, are the economy — meaning employment and a wage to earn, racial equality and then the exploding Covid-19 numbers. Donald Trump boasts that he has raised employment and put food on the table of households, but after the Covid-19 pandemic swept the planet, that boast is questionable. Joe Biden's economic plans, as he is the candidate whose party is taking the coronavirus and

its effect on the economy seriously and scientifically, may do even more for putting food on the table and supporting economic activity with subsidies which the arch free enterprisers of the Republican Party won't do.

On racial equality, it is clear that Mr Trump has supported the far-right groups and attacked and insulted the Latino population. Despite which, there are groups called Mexicans for Trump and Blacks for Trump and, of course, the famous group Turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The United States is not alone in its battle for its soul, by which I mean what sort of country, with progressive modern freedoms for all its citizens, do populations want to live in? If the Democrats in the United States have a majority in the Senate (though that seems unlikely at this juncture), they will not do the sort of trade deal with Brexit Britain which Donald Trump seemed to promise but never made any plans to deliver.

Post-Brexit Britain will then fall back, says the free-marketeering UK chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak on the free port, providing in Britain the tax-dodgers of the world, money-launderers and drug dealers a safe haven. Then he probably will propose a bill in the House of Commons to change the nation's name to Bringapore. It won't do much for food on the table or the employable dignity of very many Brits who voted for Brexit. But Rishi's hedge-fund pals will no doubt use their expanded loot to buy properties in Europe.

The United States is not the only country which is battling for its soul. Ironically, it is democratic processes which expose this battle in so many nations.

Gentle reader, democracy requires you to choose your side!

LETTERS

DON'T LOSE HIS TRAIL

During his interaction with British home secretary Priti Patel and UK Foreign Office minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, in London, Indian foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla raised the issue of extradition of Indian economic offenders former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi to face the Indian judicial system. All legal process related to their extradition are said to have been completed. New Delhi needs to keep hammering the issue with the UK till the wanted economic offenders are back in India.

M.C. Joshi
Lucknow

NO EXCUSE

THERE IS NO EXCUSE for the Delhi government to fail to implement the court's ban on firecrackers till November 30. Earlier, it blamed Delhi police for any lapses. But now the Epidemic Act is in force. Moreover, the lieutenant governor has already issued a circular on June 19 that all officers must report to the district magistrate. The Delhi police commissioner, too, has issued a similar circular.

D.B. Madan
New Delhi

NOT IN HIS NAME

PROPHET MUHAMMAD, peace be upon Him, never cursed His enemies even though many abused Him. They stoned him, too, and His shoes would be soaked in blood. Even after receiving such treatment, He wished peace upon them. How weak are his purported followers who are shedding innocent blood at misconstrued slights. If one really loves the Prophet, they must learn patience, involve oneself in education and try to help those in need. The Prophet's message is meant not just for one community but for the entire mankind.

Syed Abdul Monim
Navi Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.



SHORT TAKES

BELGIUM SEIZES
11.5 TONNES OF
COCAINE IN SCRAP

Brussels, Nov. 6: Belgian police seized 11.5 tonnes of pure cocaine hidden in a scrap metal container in the country's single biggest-ever haul, prosecutors said on Thursday.

The find was made October 27 in the port of Antwerp when five scrap metal containers from South America were given a thorough inspection, a statement said.

The haul had an estimated value of 450 million euros (\$525 million) in its pure form, it said. Once cut with other products and sold to consumers, the street value would have been double that.

Antwerp is Europe's second largest goods port after Rotterdam, but is the number one gateway for cocaine to the continent, thanks to its close trade links with South America.

Investigators said the containers initially landed in the Belgian port of Zeebrugge and were then transferred by barge to the port of Antwerp.

The cocaine was concealed in a big steel container that was itself fitted inside a larger freight container which had some scrap metal parts thrown in as an attempt to disguise the load.

NZ'S ARDERN
SWORN IN FOR
SECOND TERM

Wellington, Nov. 6: New Zealand and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was sworn in for a second term on Friday, as final election results showed her landslide victory was even bigger than previously thought.

The charismatic leader and her ministers made their oaths of office in English and Maori during a ceremony at Wellington's Government House.

"I would say simply that sitting at this table is Aotearoa New Zealand," Ardern said, gesturing to her gathered team, in which women and Maori are strongly represented.

"They collectively represent a range of different perspectives, huge talent, enormous experience and, as you would expect in any time of crisis, a huge commitment to serving this country." Ardern, 40, leveraged her success battling Covid-19 into an unprecedented majority at the October 17 election, leading her centre-left Labour Party to its biggest win since World War II.

Final results released Friday showed Ardern won 50.0 per cent of the vote, up from 49.0 on election night, giving her 65 seats in the 120-strong parliament, rather than 64.

The main opposition National Party saw its seats reduced from 35 to 33, prompting campaign director Gerry Brownlee to step down as deputy party leader.

Ardern said she had a clear mandate for reform, although her priorities were containing Covid-19 and rebuilding the virus-damaged economy.

VEGANISM NOT
REQUIRED TO FIX
CLIMATE CHANGE

New York, Nov. 6: The world likely can't keep global warming to a relatively safe minimum unless we change how we grow, eat and throw away our food, but we don't need to all go vegan, a new study says.

Researchers looked at five types of broad fixes to the food system and calculated how much they fight warming. They found that sampling a buffet of partial fixes for all five, instead of just diving into the salad bar, can get the job done, according to a study published in Thursday's journal Science.

If the world food system keeps on current trajectories, it will produce near 1.5 trillion tons of greenhouse gases over the next 80 years, the study found. That's coming from belching cows, fertiliser, mismanaged soil and food waste. That much emissions – even if the globe stops burning fossil fuels which produce twice as much carbon pollution as food – is enough to likely warm Earth by more than the goals set in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

"The whole world doesn't have to give up meat for us to meet our climate goals," said study co-author Jason Hill, a biosystems engineering professor at the University of Minnesota. "We can eat better, healthier foods. We can improve how we grow foods. And we can waste less food."

The researchers from the United States and the United Kingdom found: — A nearly complete switch to a plant-rich diet around the world could slash almost 720 billion tons of greenhouse gases.

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

President was making unfounded accusations on polls being stolen from him

New York, Nov. 6: ABC, CBS and NBC all cut away from President Donald Trump as he spoke from the White House to make an unfounded accusation that the presidential election was being stolen from him. Trump on Thursday tried to commandeer the nation's airwaves at a time when the evening newscasts are shown on the East Coast, after a day when the slow drip of vote counting revealed his leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia dwindling. MSNBC's Brian Williams also interrupted the president.

Fox News Channel and CNN aired the president's full address, after which CNN's Anderson Cooper said Trump was "like an obese turtle on his back, flailing in the hot sun realising his time was over". Network personalities had sharply criticised Trump after his angry, middle-of-the-night speech following Election Day but aired that talk in full.

Trump was more subdued on Thursday, yet offered a litany of complaints about "suppression" polls, mail-in voting and fraud that he never specified. "We have to interrupt here, because the president has made a number of false statements, including the notion that there has been fraudulent voting," said NBC's Lester Holt. "There has been no evidence of that." CBS' Norah O'Donnell broke in to ask correspondent Nancy Cordes to fact-check Trump's assertion that if "legal votes" were counted, he would easily win the election.

Cordes said there is no indication of a substantive number of illegal votes cast, and said Trump's reference to votes arriving late was "another falsehood." MSNBC cut away from Trump to anchor Brian Williams. "Here we are again in the unusual position of not only interrupting the president of the United States but correcting the president of the United States," he said. — AP

STORM ETA
KILLS OVER 50
IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Nov. 6: Scores of people, including 50 in Guatemala, have died as the remnants of Hurricane Eta on Thursday unleashed floods and triggered landslides on its deadly march across Central America. Eta struck the Caribbean coast of northern Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on Tuesday, tearing through impoverished coastal areas and sweeping away whole villages.

Two days later it exited Honduras as a tropical depression, although weather forecasters warned it could again strengthen into a tropical storm as it heads towards Cuba.

The storm brought heavy rain that caused deadly flooding in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama.

More than 50 people in Guatemala were killed in landslides unleashed by Eta, President Alejandro Giammattei said Thursday. — AFP

8 held for Vienna
hit had prior cases

Vienna, Nov. 6: Eight of those detained following Monday night's terrorist attack in Vienna had previous convictions, including for terror offences, the Austrian interior minister said Thursday, as the investigation extended to Switzerland and a second, unnamed country.

In the wake of the attack in which an Austrian-born man shot and killed four people in a popular nightlife area of central Vienna on Monday night, police arrested a total of 16 men.

Four of them had been convicted for terrorism-related offences, two for



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

GRETA RECYCLES
TRUMP JIBE, ASKS
HIM TO 'CHILL'

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

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

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

DNA might replace barcodes to
tag art, voter ballots: Study

Paris, Nov. 6: Easy-to-remove barcodes and QR codes used to tag everything from T-shirts to car engines may soon be replaced by a tagging system based on DNA and invisible to the naked eye, scientists said Thursday.

The DNA-based system could help anti-forgery efforts, according to researchers who said thieves struggle to find or tamper with a transparent splash of DNA on valuable or vulnerable items, such as election ballots, works of art, or secret documents.

In an article published in Nature Communications, researchers at the University of Washington and Microsoft said that the molecular tagging system, called Porcupine, is — unlike most alternatives — cost-effective.

"Using DNA for tagging objects has been out of reach in the past because it is expensive and time consuming to write and read, and requires expen-

sive lab equipment," lead author and a Washington University doctoral student Katie Doroschak said. Porcupine gets around this by prefabricating fragments of DNA that users can mix together arbitrarily to create new tags, the researchers said. "Instead of radio waves

or printed lines, the Porcupine tagging scheme relies on a set of distinct DNA strands called molecular bits, or 'molbits' for short," the University of Washington said in a statement.

"To encode an ID, we pair each digital bit with a molbit," explained Doroschak. "If the digital bit is 1, we add its molbit to the tag, and if it's 0 we leave it out. Then we can dry it until it's ready to be decoded later," said Doroschak.

Once the item has been tagged, it can then be shipped or stored. When someone wants to read the tag, water is added to rehydrate the molecular tag, which is read by a nanopore sequencer — a DNA-reading device smaller than an iPhone.

The name Porcupine comes from a play on words (PORE-cupine, as in nanopore) and the idea that porcupines can 'tag' objects, and critters that dare to get too close," the

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

Donald Trump Jr., the eldest, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election.

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

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



Donald Trump Jr.

● **DONALD TRUMP JR., the eldest son, called on his father in a tweet to wage "total war" against the cheating that he believes is tainting the presidential election.**

too long," Don Jr. wrote on his Twitter account, where he regularly retweets conspiracy theories.

He did not provide any evidence of the cheating he alleged was going on.

"It's time to clean up this mess & stop looking like a

FACEBOOK SHUTS
DOWN 'STOP THE
STEAL' GROUP

San Francisco, Nov. 6: Facebook on Thursday shut down a pro-Trump group organising protests against vote-counting, saying it was being used to delegitimise the election process and included "worrying" calls for violence.

The group, called "Stop the Steal," was just days old but had topped 3,00,000 members by the time it was removed for violating Facebook policies.

— AFP

US registers new
Covid record with
1.2 lakh +ve cases

Washington, Nov. 6: More than 1,20,000 Coronavirus cases were reported in the US in the past 24 hours, smashing a daily record set the day before, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The country reported 1,23,085 new infections between 8:30 pm Wednesday and 8:30 pm Thursday (0130 GMT), and 1,226 more deaths, the tally by the Baltimore-based school showed.

On Wednesday, 99,660 new cases of the virus were reported. Thursday's tally shatters that record by 23,425 cases. While deaths remain lower than their worst levels in the spring, Thursday was also the third day in a row that fatalities were above 1,000. The last time people were dying at that rate of Covid-19 in the US was early September.

More than 9.6 million people have been infected and 2,34,000 have died in the United States so far during the pandemic, by far the highest tolls in absolute terms globally.

The new record comes as US President Donald Trump, who survived a bout with Covid-19 in October and insists the virus will "disappear," was fighting for his political life on Thursday with vote-counting from Tuesday's presidential election still ongoing.

His Democratic election rival Joe Biden has sought to turn the vote into a referendum on Trump's handling of the crisis, and vowed to listen to scientific recommendations on handling the pandemic should he take the White House.

With Coronavirus cases surging across the country since mid-October, more than 100 million voters cast their ballot by mail or in person before Election Day — the highest number of early voters ever — as many Americans sought to avoid crowded polling booths.

— AFP

BORIS APPEALS
FOR UNITY AS
ENGLAND LOCKS

London, Nov. 6: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday called for a united effort to tackle spiking coronavirus infection rates, as 56 million people in England went into a second lockdown but with the public weary of restrictions and fearing for their jobs and livelihoods.

Renewed stay-at-home restrictions and closures are set to last for four weeks yet have been met with scepticism that they can halt the worst death toll from the virus in Europe.

"While it pains me to have to ask once again for so many to give up so much, I know that, together, we can get through this," Johnson, whose government sets health policy in England.

— AFP

CHINA BANS
ARRIVALS FROM
FRANCE

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

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

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

— AFP

Pressure on WHO to
invite Taiwan to meet

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

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

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

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

territory.

But critics say this does not make sense.

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

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

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

"We believe it is both cynical and counterproductive to continue excluding the health representatives from Taiwan from participating in the World Health Assembly

— AFP

COLLECTOR'S DELIGHT Auctioneer finds memorabilia pristine in sealed packaging

Couple find Star Wars toys worth \$5.25 L

London, Nov. 6: A British couple have thanked their lucky stars after a garage full of bin bags they inherited from a dead neighbour yielded a trove of Star Wars toys worth £400,000 (\$525,000).

The couple, from Stourbridge in central England, were initially unsure what to make of the jumble of dolls and spacecraft their neighbour had spent decades collecting. The *Times* newspaper reported Thursday.

Their son called in an auctioneer, who found a treasure trove of Star Wars memorabilia including action figures still pristine in their sealed



A British couple have thanked their lucky stars after a garage full of bin bags left to them by a neighbour yielded a trove of Star Wars toys worth £400,000.

packaging. "A lot of them were a bit damp because of how they've been stored but generally it's the best Star Wars collection I've ever seen," Chris Aston of Aston's Auctioneers, told *The Times*.

"We had a huge amount

of interest from all over the world and were always expecting the sale to do very well," Aston said of the auction.

Going under the hammer was a Star Destroyer Commander, one of only two known examples still to be in its original packaging, which sold for £32,500 (\$42,000) including fees, the *Times* said.

A Palitoy Jawa still in its packaging — and believed to be one of only 10 in existence — fetched £27,280 with fees.

A set of eight figures from "Return of the Jedi" that cost only £1.59 each when they were bought new in the 1980s, went

for £1,400.

From Storm Trooper helmets to R2D2's eye, memorabilia from one of the world's biggest movie franchises can fetch eye-watering sums at auctions.

In 2015, a Luke Skywalker doll, which hit the market in 1978 as a children's toy, sold for \$25,000 at an auction organised by Sotheby's and eBay.

Aston said the Stourbridge couple would be "thrilled" with the unexpected windfall.

"I don't know if they have any specific plans but it must feel like they've won the lottery," he said.

— AFP

SHORT TAKES

Covid at home, Gambhir isolated

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

The 39-year-old represented India in 58 Tests, 147 ODIs and 37 T20 Internationals. He made his foray into politics ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 by joining the Bhartiya Janata Party. Delhi recorded over 6,700 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, pushing the infection tally in the city to over 4.16 lakh with 66 more fatalities, the highest in around four months. — PTI

Ailing Maradona still in hospital

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

Ningombam is Hockey India prez

New Delhi: Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was on Friday elected unopposed as the Hockey India (HI) president, taking over from Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad who was asked to demit office by the sports ministry for violating the National Sports Code's tenure guidelines. Ahmad, however, remains in the federation after being elected unopposed for the senior vice-president's post at HI's Congress and Elections here. Access to the meeting through video conferencing facility was made available for member units which were unable to travel due to the restrictions imposed by their respective state governments to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. On being elected unopposed, Ningombam becomes the first President from the North East region to head HI. — PTI

Nadal make Paris Masters quarters

Paris: Rafael Nadal battled past Australian Jordan Thompson in straight sets to reach the Paris Masters quarterfinals on Thursday, as Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of securing an ATP Tour Finals debut. Top seed Nadal got the better of Thompson 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) to set up a last-eight clash with fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta. World number 61 Thompson missed a set point to force a decider in his first meeting with the 20-time Grand Slam champion. Nadal is bidding for a first Paris indoors triumph which would draw him level with Novak Djokovic on a record 36 Masters titles. — AFP

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

FOOTBALL

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

Italian League: Cagliari vs Sampdoria from 7.30 pm; Benevento vs Spezia from 10.30 pm; Parma vs Fiorentina from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. And Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C-9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301. Editor - T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94, Price in Nepal - Nep. Rs. 20.00 per copy.

Williamstuns RCB

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

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 6: Former captain Kane Williamson led from the front as Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets in the IPL Eliminator here on Friday.

Chasing RCB's lowly total of 131 for 7, the team from Hyderabad were in trouble at 67 for 4 in the 12th over when Williamson and Jason Holder got together to put on an unbroken stand of 65 runs to see the side home.

Williamson was unbeaten on 50 that came off 44 balls and comprised two fours and two sixes while Holder remained 24 not out off 20 balls. He hit three boundaries, including two in the last over to finish the game.

Earlier, SRH produced a brilliant bowling effort to restrict a batting-heavy RCB. Holder led SRH's attack with impressive figures of 3 for 25 and was ably supported by T. Natarajan (2/33) as Virat Kohli's side found the going difficult from the beginning.

AB de Villiers (56 off 43) scored a timely half-century to somewhat rescue RCB from a horrible start and take the team past the 120-run mark.

RCB witnessed a horrendous start to their innings as they lost two wickets for 15 runs inside four overs after being sent into bat. Skipper Kohli (6), who opened the innings along side Devdutt Padikkal (1), was the first to depart, nicking one on the leg side to injured Wriddhiman Saha's replacement Sreevats Goswami off Holder. An over later, Holder picked up his second victim when Padikkal pulled one to Priyam Garg inside the circle as RCB slumped to 15 for 2.

Aaron Finch (32 off 30), who replaced Josh Philippe, and de Villiers then tried to stabilise the innings with a 41-run third wicket stand. But twin blows in the 11th over put paid to RCB's effort. First, Finch depart-



Kane Williamson of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore during the IPL Eliminator match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

— BCCI

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Virat Kohli c Shreevats Goswami b Jason Holder 6, D. Padikkal c Garg b Jason Holder 1, Aaron Finch c Samad b Shahbaz Nadeem 32, AB de Villiers b Natarajan 56, Moeen Ali run out 0, S Dube c Warner b Holder 8, Washington Sundar c Samad b Natarajan 5, N Saini not out 9, M Siraj not out 10. Extras (NB-1, W-3) 4. **Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 131.**

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

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

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

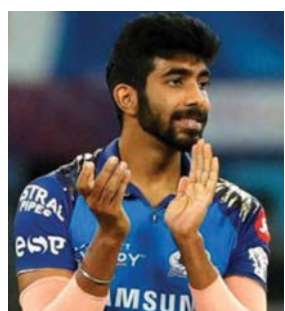
Bumrah prefers Trophy to wickets

Dubai, Nov. 6: Mumbai Indians pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah says he is reaping the reward for not worrying about results and just focusing on executing the role assigned to him by the team.

Bumrah was adjudged the 'Player of the Match' for returning with figures of 4-1-14-4 as four-time champions MI reached yet another IPL final with a 57-run win over Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier here on Thursday.

"I am okay with not getting wickets and winning the tournament, I have been given a role so I just want to execute that role," Bumrah, who regained the purple cap with a tally of 27 wickets, said in the post-match presentation.

"I am always ready when the captain wants me to bowl. I don't focus on the



Jasprit Bumrah

end result. When I have done that it's always gone downhill," he said.

Bumrah had delivered a perfect yorker to get rid of in-form Shikhar Dhawan (0) for his first wicket.

"Opening yorker was really important. I decided I will do that early in the game and when it comes off it's always nice," Bumrah added.

Rohit all praise for team

Dubai, Nov. 6: A jubilant Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said his team produced an "absolutely perfect" performance to make the IPL finals with a 57-run decimation of Delhi Capitals in the first Qualifier here.

Mumbai posted a massive 200/5 on the board, courtesy half-centuries by Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and some late hitting by Hardik Pandya. They then restricted Delhi to 143/8 with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (4/14) wreaking havoc along with Trent Boult (2/9).

"You have got to give credit to our guys, the way they turned up at the game, putting runs on the board, and getting those early breakthroughs was so much important," Rohit said, lauding his teammates after they beat Delhi Capitals.

"Our bowling has been

RAINING SIXES

ISHAN KISHAN SLAMS 700TH SIX OF IPL-13:

● Mumbai Indians' Ishan Kishan smashed the 700th six in the 13th edition of Indian Premier League. The third six off pacer Anrich Nortje during his unbeaten 55-run knock against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier at Dubai on Thursday night (November 5) was the 700th in 113th innings of 57th match in this tournament

● Rajasthan Royals' Jos Buttler smashed the 700th six in the 11th edition of Indian Premier League, against Kolkata Knight Riders at Kolkata on May 15. This was also the fastest 700 sixes in the history of IPL.

● As far as teams are concerned Mumbai Indians have hit the most of total sixes that the tournament has seen thus far, eight players from the Mumbai Indians franchise have contributed 130 sixes of the 706 sixes in IPL 2020.

● Forty four Indian batsmen hit 379 sixes while 34 overseas batsmen smashed 327 sixes in a total of 706.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

terrific through the tournament; they have put pressure on the opposition right from the beginning. It was good to see the overall performance of the team, the way we played today was absolutely perfect," the skipper added.

He praised Yadav, saying whenever Mumbai have lost an early wicket, he has taken the pressure away from the team.

"Surya has been in terrific form and is a very crucial player for us at number three," Rohit further added. — AFP

Supernovas in a must-win game

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

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

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

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

Mandhana will be hoping that the bowlers continue the good work against a

strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur.

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

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

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

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

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

S. AFRICAN PACER MORKEL IN BIG BASH AS AN AUSSIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Playing too long in bubble tough

Dubai, Nov. 6: India skipper Virat Kohli feels the "repetitive" nature of being in a bio-bubble can be mentally tough on cricketers and length of tours will have to be considered accordingly if playing in a protected environment becomes a norm in a world scarred by Covid-19.

The Indian team departs on a long tour of Australia right after the IPL which is currently on in the United Arab Emirates, moving into one bio-bubble from another.

"It's repetitive, it's not as tough when the group of guys is amazing, which we have. But it does get difficult at times because it is repetitive," Kohli said.

Most squad members are part of the IPL and have been in the UAE since August. The Australia tour will stretch to the new year, leaving the players on the road for more than four months, that too with little connection to the outside world.

Crickets is only being organised in bio-bubbles amid the pandemic and the situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

These things will have to be considered. Like what length of the tournament or series one is going to play and what impact it will have on players mentally to stay in a similar environment for 80 days and not do anything different.

— VIRAT KOHLI on playing regularly in bio-bubble

Kohli said the scheduling has to factor in mental fatigue a bio-bubble can cause to the players.

"These things will have to be considered. Like what length of the tournament or series one is going to play and what impact it will have on players mentally to stay in a similar environment for 80 days and not do anything different.

"Or have space to just go and see family or small things like that. These things have to be thought about seriously. At the end of the day, you want the players to be in the best state mentally," Kohli added. — PTI



Arsenal's Eddie Nketiah (second from right) and Nicolas Pepe (right) watch as the ball goes into the net after Molde's Sheriff Sinyan (second from left) scored an own goal during their UEFA Europa League Group 'B' match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Thursday. Arsenal won 4-1.

— AFP

Kane shines for Tottenham; Arsenal are all guns blazing

Paris, Nov. 6: Harry Kane scored his 200th goal for Tottenham Hotspur on Thursday as he helped fire Spurs to a 3-1 Europa League win at Ludogorets, while 10-man Benfica came back from two goals down to snatch a last-gasp 3-3 draw with Rangers.

England captain Kane opened the scoring for Jose Mourinho's side with just 12 minutes on the clock when he headed home Lucas Moura's corner to bring up his double century of Tottenham goals in his 300th match for the club.

Kane then turned provider for Moura in the 32nd minute when he flashed a perfect low cross for the Brazilian to tap home before being substituted at half-time.

Claudiu Keseru pulled one back for the Bulgarians five minutes after the break but Giovanni Lo Celso made sure of

the win to draw Spurs level on six points with Group 'J' leaders Royal Antwerp ahead of their match with LASK later on Thursday.

Lille's Yusuf Yazici brought AC Milan and Zlatan Ibrahimovic down to earth with a bump on Thursday with all three goals in a 3-0 Europa League win over the seven-time European champions.

Yazici's goals put Lille, who are unbeaten in all competitions this season, one point ahead of Milan who lost for the first time since football returned from the first coronavirus lockdown.

Arsenal also maintained their 100 per cent record with a 4-1 win over Molde of Norway.

Nicolas Pepe and Joe Willock found the back of the net for Arsenal after Haugen and Sheriff scored own goals that dug the grave for Molde and

gave the Gunners an early lead with much toiling.

Rangers were poised to make it three wins from three in Group 'D' thanks to an Diogo Goncalves own goal and further strikes from Glen Kamara and Alfredo Morelos which put Steven Gerrard's side 3-1 ahead.

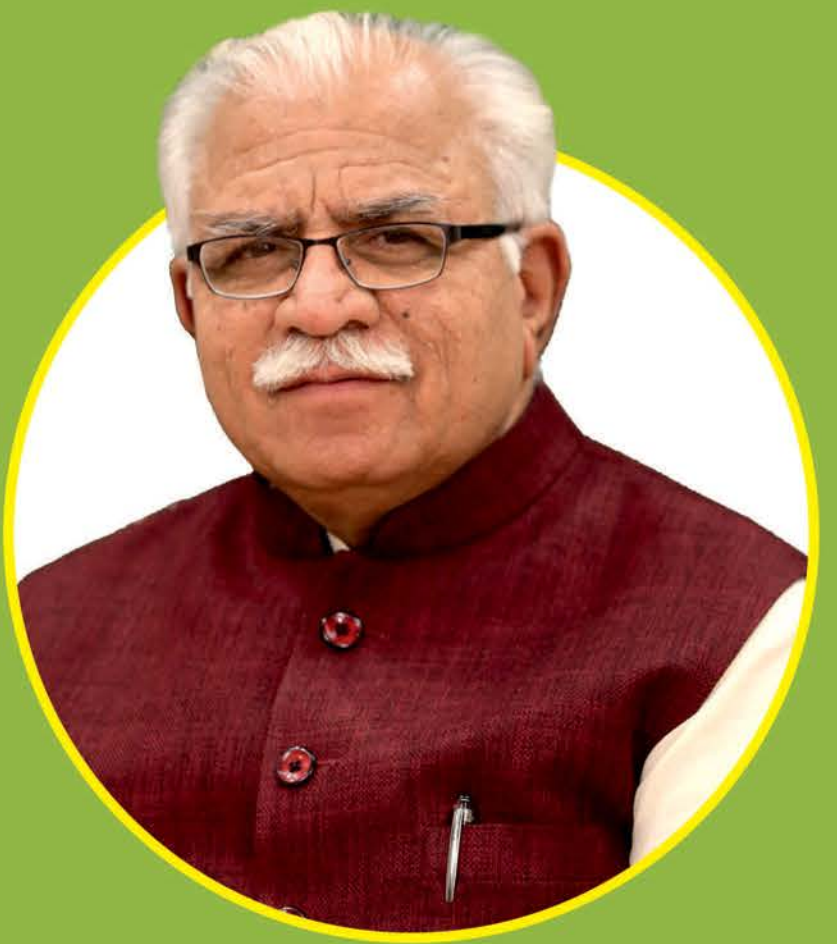
But despite losing Nicolas Otamendi to a straight red card with less than 20 minutes gone, two-time European champions Benfica fought back and in added time levelled when Darwin Nunez raced through and slotted home past Allan McGregor.

Meanwhile, Roma took control of Group A with a thumping 5-0 win over Cluj that put them three points clear of the Romanians ahead of the later match between Young Boys and CSKA Sofia.

— AFP



**Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal
Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal**



Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

**Haryana is the
First State
of the Country to
Purchase
Highest Number of
Crops on MSP**

We care for Farmers' Welfare

**Agriculture Budget of Rs.5,474.25 Crore set for Financial Year 2020-21
which is 23.92% more than the Previous Financial Year**



Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

An amount of
Rs. 1,816 crore given
to farmers in their
bank accounts



Government Purchase of Crops at Maximum Prices

First time in the history of
Haryana, Government purchased
Rabi crops 2019-20 at maximum price
Rs.17,000 crore disbursed
in the farmers' accounts

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

In the last 6 years an amount
of Rs. 2,943 crore disbursed
as claim to 12.08 lakh farmers,
while amount of Rs.913 crore
paid as insurance premium.



Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Low-Cost Electricity Supply

Provision of subsidy of
Rs. 6,040 crore on
electricity for farmers
in 2020-21



Mukhya Mantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jiwan Suraksha Yojana

Compensation amount on
death due to Covid-19
raised to Rs.10 lakh



Atal Kisan-Mazdoor Canteen

Canteen started for farmers
and labourers in 12 districts
to provide them food at
concessional rate at
Rs. 10 per plate

Reduced Stamp Fee

Stamp fee on farmers'
transactions from banks
reduced from Rs.2,000
to Rs.100



Meri Fasal- Mera Byora

In Kharif-2020
8.78 lakh farmers registered
48.72 lakh hectare of land



Pragatishil Kisan Samman Yojana

Scheme started for award
of Rs.50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh to
108 progressive farmers
of the State



Bhawantar Bharpayee Yojana

Under this Scheme,
15 more horticultural
crops added, now this scheme
includes total 19
horticultural crops

Pashudhan Kisan Credit Card Scheme

Under this scheme, 6 lakh cattle
owners registered and credit
limit on card is Rs.1.60 lakh,
Pashudhan Kisan Credit Cards
given to 51,156 cattle owners



Mera Pani- Meri Virasat

Provision of incentive of
Rs.7,000 per acre to farmers
for promoting less water
consuming crops instead of paddy



Relief from Crop Loan
Under One Time
Settlement scheme, the
amount of Rs.1,001 crore
waived off till January 2020

Sugarcane price
increased up to Rs.340 per
quintal, which is highest
in the whole country



Sanitization



Mask



Social Distancing



**Information, Public Relations
and Languages Department, Haryana**

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