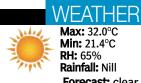
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA **NELLORE | WEDNESDAY | 11 NOVEMBER 2020**



Forecast: clear. Max/Min temp. 32/21 ºC



CASES (+587)(+49,010)1,27,581 86,34,341

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+ 1,267)	(+4)
TS: 2,52,455	1,385
(+1,886)	(+12)
AP: 846 245	6 814

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



216 worldometers.info/

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Ekadasi till 12.37 am (Thursday) Star: Purvaphalguni till 6.27 am (Wednesday); Uttaraphalguni till 4.23 am (Thursday) Varjyam: 1.02 pm to 2.29 pm Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.22 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rabbi-ul Awwal 24, 1442 AH

Fajar: 5.31 am **Zohar:** 12.26 pm Asar: 4.28 pm Maghrib: 6.05 pm **Isha:** 7.21 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.17 AM SUNSET TODAY 5.49 PM MOONSET 1.14 PM **MOONRISE 7.38 AM**



The vaccine is more effective in polls than in clinical trials!

SHORT TAKE

2 J&K AL-BADR MILITANTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Srinagar: Two Al-Badr militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Kutpora area of Shopian in south Kashmir, During the search operation as the presence of the militants got ascertained, they were given the opportunity to surrender. However, the militants fired upon the search party. prompting retaliation by the security forces, he said.

WORLD 5

Kamala ready to reshape US history

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BUSINESS 7

Promote RuPay cards only, FM tells banks

SPORTS 8

Tokyo plans test events for Olympics



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Modi magic wins Bihar

Nitish's JD(U) slips to third; RJD single largest party, Owaisi's MIM wins 5 seats

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY with agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

The BJP-JD(U)'s National Democratic Alliance inched towards hitting the majority mark in the Bihar Assembly and forming the government after a hard-fought election in which 31-year-old Tejashwi Yadav's Rasht-riya Janata Dal emerged as the single-largest party with

76 seats on Tuesday. At the time of going to press, the final results were not out, but the trends foretold the fate of many. The NDA was leading in 123 seats, one more than the magic mark in the 243-member Assembly. The BJP seemed to be the gainer in the alliance with a lead in 72 seats, while the JD(U), which was leading in just 43 seats, was down from its 71-seat position in 2015.

While the Mahagathbandhan had a total tally of 113, the Congress was leading in just 19 seats, while the Left parties looked set for a resurgence with a lead in 11 seats. The RJD contested 144 seats, the Congress 70, and Left par-ties 29. In the NDA, the JD(U) contested 115 seats and the BJP 110. The AIMIM won four and was

leading in one.
The day saw many seesaws with trends flipping several times during the day as the Election Commission began the counting of votes which went past midnight Tuesday.

Late in the evening, the RJD shared a purported list of winning candidates from as many as 119 seats, claiming the returning officers had already congratulated its candidates on their win, but the **Election Commission was** now refusing to issue certificates claiming they've lost. A delegation of RJD and Congress leaders visited the EC office and demanded a recount.

•	_	
BIHAR TALLY Party Leads+Won		
GRAND	ALLIANCE 110	
RJD Cong CPI(ML) CPI CPI(M)	75 19 12 2 2	
NDA	125	
BJP JD(U) HAM VIP	74 43 4 4	
OTHERS	8	
AIMIM LJP BSP Ind	5 1 1 1	

BJP DEFEATS TRS, WINS TS **DUBBAK SEAT**

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The BJP's M. Raghunandan Rao stunned the fancied TRS at Dubbaka in a manner much suited for a T20 cricket match, snatching the bypoll by a narrow margin in the last rounds of counting.

The TRS, which was discussing its margin of victory, lost by about 1,470 votes, one of the rare times the party has lost a byelection. To place things in perspective, the TRS had won the seat in 2018 with a 67,000-vote margin. The BJP's tally goes up

to two in the Assembly with this win. It was a sweet comeback for Raghunandan Rao, once a TRS politburo member, who had stood third in the 2014 and 2018 Assembly elec-Cheruku Srinivas Ředdy was a distant third. The BJP won 38.47 per cent of the votes, the TRS 37.82 and the Congress INC 13.48 per cent.



Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay with party workers celebrate the victory of the party candidate Raghunandan Rao in the Dubbak bypolls on Tuesday.

Scindia decimates Cong; **BJP** wins 19 seats in MP

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV.

The BJP on Tuesday won by elections in 11 states, heading for victory in 40 of the 56 Assembly seats that went to the polls, with new BJP entrant Jyotiraditya Scindia ensuring the party remains in power in Madhya Pradesh, where it won 19 of 28 seats. These seats had fallen vacant after Mr Scindia quit the Congress and joined the BJP with his followers, that led to the fall of the Kamal Nath government in the state.

Mr Scindia tweeted his congratulations to his "winners", with the contest in MP turning into a prestige fight between Kamal Nath and himself. The Congress had to win 27 of the 28 seats if ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS 8 BJP Gujarat 2 BJP Karnataka Telangana 1 BJP 19 BJP; 9 Cong Manipur 4 BJP; 1 Ind 6 BJP; 1 SP Chhattisgarh 1 Cong Haryana 1 Cong Jharkhand Nagaland 1 Ind; 1 NDPP

it had to displace the BJP and return to power in the state, which it could not. Of the seven Uttar Pradesh Assembly seats for which counting continued Tuesday, the BJP managed to retain six while one went to the Samajwadi Party. Jharkhand and Chhattis-

garh brought some cheer to the Congress and its allies. The two seats in Jharkhand were won by the Congress and its ally JMM, while the lone Chhattisgarh seat went to the Congress. In Hary-ana's Baroda seat, the Congress' Indu Raj Narwal defeated the BJP's Yogeshwar Dutt by 12,300 votes. This was a prestige battle for former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda. In Karnataka too, both

Bengaluru's Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Sira in Tumakuru district were won by the BJP, with the party winning in Sira for the first time. In Gujarat, the BJP made a clean sweep in the bypolls, necessitated after many Congress MLAs resigned during the Rajya Sabha earlier. The BJP won all eight seats.

Modi's appeal to rural poor helped Nitish

YOJNA GUSAI | DC

Plagued by "anti-incumbency" sentiment against incumbent chief minister Nitish Kumar, the BJP strategised its election campaign heavily around its star campaigner Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity. The 'Modi vote-bank' helped the BJP to tide over the "antiincumbency" mood against the Bihar government and also overshadowed 'big brother' JD(U) by bagging more seats.

Mr Modi, according to

BJP poll strategists, help-

ed in changing the narrative of the Bihar polls in NDA's favour. BJP poll strategists relied heavily on the 'Modi vote-bank,' which includes beneficiaries of the Modi government's flagship schemes — cash transfer in Jan Dhan accounts, Garib Kalyan scheme, free LPG under Ujjwala, DBT schemes — and most impor-tantly free ration during and post-Covid-19 lockdown. Women and youth constitute a sizable chunk of this vote-bank.

BJP poll managers give credit to the Modi vote bank for the party's stun-ning performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The Prime Minister himself addressed a dozen rallies, including those where Nitish Kumar shared dais with him, and wrote an open letter to the people of Bihar seeking votes for

the incumbent CM. Initial feedback reaching the BJP had indicated that there was a simmering anger against the sushashan babu, over various issues including the Covid-19 lockdown and recent flood, prompting the BJP to focus its cam-

paign around the PM and Central schemes. "In the caste-riddled Bihar, Narendra Modi created another caste of the poor and marginalised which transcended the limits of caste and community. It is a silent votebank but is the most vocal supporter of Modi," said

MP Rakesh Sinha.
In the state where the JD(U) is considered as the 'big brother', the BJP out-performed it both in terms of strike rate and number of seats won. While the JD(U) contested on 115, the BJP contested on 110 seats.

According to the BJP poll strategists, on some seats, mainly in the rural belt, the "Modi vote-bank" voted for the JD(U) because of his appeal for the "double engine government" despite the "anti-incumbency" against Nitish Kumar.

This is the first Assembly polls during the Covid-19 pandemic and Bihar However, Modi's decision to issue free ration, DBT schemes, Jan Dhan in women accounts have strengthened Modi's appeal, said an election strategist.

AIR TRAFFIC IN TIRUPATI RISES ONCE AGAIN

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, NOV. 10

Domestic air passenger traffic at Tirupati International Airport is showwith passenger footfalls increasing from 6,811 in June to 22.322 in September. The figure, however, indicates a decline of 64 per cent on a year-onyear basis owing to Covid-19 pandemic. The number of flights has increased to 310 in September from 168 in June.

Full story on Page 2

Anjanadri to get TTD's limelight

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, NOV. 10

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is planning to develop and popularise Anjanadri Hills atop Tirumala, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, as Hanuman Janmabhoomi and make it a tourist attraction.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, TTD executive officer (EO) K. S. Jawahar Reddy referred to several Puranas, which establish fact that Lord Hanuman was born on Anjanadri Hills near

to Kishkindha.

Jawahar Reddy explai-"Ancient Hindu scriptures sav Lord Hanuman, during His childhood, used to play vigorously at the gardens on Anjanadri Hills; in the process damaging those gardens.

"On one such occasion, his mother got angry, handcuffed Lord Anjaneya and ordered him to stand at one place until she returned," he said.

Page 2: More places claim to be Hanuman's birthplace

More services under Aarogyasri

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

The YSR Congress govern-

ment, which earlier limited 2,434 medical procedures to seven districts. has now expanded them to throughout the state. The expansion became effective with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy presiding over a programme in this regard at the CM's camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister pointed out that earlier only 1,059 medical procewere available dures under Aarogyasri.

The YSRC government increased them to 2,434 to

PATIENTS WANT AROGYASRI TO FUND **KIDNEY DONOR'S HEALTHCARE**

VADERU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, NOV. 10

Requests are being received from poor and middleclass patients undergoing transplantation that treatment of organ donors too be included within the ambit of Dr.

YSR Aarogyasri Scheme. Aarogyasri covers expenses incurred on transplanting a kidney into

However, post transplantation; donors also require medical treatment for a period of six months. But Aarogyasri doesn't provide for treatment of donors. Patients say that it will be unfair on their part to ask donors to pay for treatment themselves.

patients from donors

Page 2: Donor's healthcare costs ₹2 lakh

provide extra medical care to people of seven districts on a pilot basis. But now,

these 2,434 procedures will the state with the remaining six districts – Srikak-ulam, East Godavari, Krishna, Nellore, Chittoor and Anantapur - being added to the list.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said now, all treatments under listed 2,434 ailments costing more than ₹1,000 would be free.

"Perhaps, Andhra Pradesh is the only state, which has even brought Covid and post-Covid care under Aarogyasri,' Mohan Reddy remarked.

The Chief Minister underlined that the state government is keen on strengthening the public healthcare system.

Page 2: Health infra was worst under TD rule: CM

No nod for bathing at Tunga pushkaram

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, NOV. 10

In a surprise decision, Kurnool collector G. Veerapandian has announced that bathing in the Tungabhadra River will not be allowed during the pushkaram. People will be allowed to only perform pujas on the

banks of the river. The decision has stunned devout Hindus who are hoping to perform Karmakandas for their ancestors and propitiate their souls on the auspicious occasion of pushkaram that come only once in 12

years. Pushkaram is scheduled to start from November 20 and will end on December 1. Shower baths will, however, be provided near the Pushkar ghats, so that the devout can bathe before participating in the rituals.

Ramnath, a resident of Venkataramana colony, said the district collector had initially announced that due to Covied-19, entry of children below 12 years of age and adults above 50 years of age will be banned at the ghats.

■ Page 3: TD says govt is playing with Hindu sentiments

Five star show



Players of the Mumbai Indians team pose with the IPL trophy at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium after winning the title for the fifth time on Tuesday. Mumbai beat Delhi by five wickets in a one-sided final. $-BCCI extbf{ extbf{Full report on Page 8}}$

Modi gives an earful to Xi on other's sovereignty

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

In a veiled message directed at China and Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said connectivity can be strength-ened only if nations respect each other's sovereignty and territorial

"India believes that to deepen connectivity, it is important to move forward by respecting each other's sovereignty and

territorial integrity," PM The Prime Minister

delivered the message in Hindi in the presence of President Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during a meeting of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State. The meeting was held in the virtual format. Modi shared screen space with the Chinese President and Pakistani Prime Minister

during the summit that was chaired by Russia President Vladimir Putin. It was the first time Modi came face to face with the Chinese President, albeit in virtual mode, since Sino-Indian military tensions began this summer. In another oblique mes-

sage aimed at Pakistan, Modi said it was unfortuthat attempts are being made to unnecessarily drag bilateral issues into the SCO agenda which violated the grouping's charter.

SHORT TAKES

SCR SAYS NO FIRECRACKERS IN TRAINS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

South Central Railway issued a travel advisory to all the rail passengers in view of Diwali festival not to carry inflammable/explosive materials and firecrackers in trains endangering the safety of passengers and also the railway

In a release issued on Tuesday, the SCR said that transport of dangerous and offensive goods was prohibited under section 67 and also punishable under sections 164 and 165 of Railways Act, 1989.

PROGRAMME BY APSSDC ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

State Development Corporation launched industry customised training and placement programme for unemployed youth at Remalle of Bapulapadu Mandal in Krishna district on Tuesday. APSSDC chief general manager A.V.S. Krishna Mohan said that APSSDC with the collaboration of Mohan Spintex India started the training pro-gramme under which training is offered to Class X to degree aspirants as weaving operator and to below Class X as spin-

TD DEMANDS CBI PROBE IN MUSLIM **FAMILY SUICIDE**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10:

Telugu Desam demanded handing over of Abdul Salaam family's suicide case to CBI, setting of a special court at Nandyal and dismissal of officials from services responsible

for the family suicide.

TD chief N. Chandrababu
Naidu on Tuesday addressing
a meeting of the party presidents of 25 Lok Sabha constituencies on Tuesday blamed the YSRC government's continued harassment for the joint suicide of Abdul Salaam family in Nandyal in Kurnool district.

INTERNAL **SOUABBLES IN** TD RESURFACE

DC CORRESPONDENT RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, NOV.

Internal disputes in the Telugu Desam have suddenly surfaced in Rajamahendravaram as the senior TD leader, Rajamahendravarm Rural MLA. Also, TD politburo member Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary announced his brother G. Santharam's son Dr Raviram Kiran as his political heir. He also said that Dr Raviram Kiran would see the Rajamahendravaram urban and Greater Rajamahendravaram politics and he can

solve the party cadre and people's problems.

It is said that a proxy war is going on between Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary and the former MLC Adireddy Appa Rao's family. Adireddy Appa Rao's son Adireddy Vasu was appointed as the TDP Organising Secretary and Vasu's wife Adireddy Bhavni is the MLA of Rajamahendravaram Urban assembly constituency. There was a big debate going on in the TD circles and also other political circles with the announcement of Mr Buchaiah Chowdary. Mr Buchaiah Chowdary was elected as Rajamahendravaram City for four times and two times form Rajamahen-dravaram Rural, which is a stronghold of Mr Buchaiah Chowdary. In 2014 elections, the TDP Chief N. the TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu had given

Rajamahendravaram Rural ticket to Mr Buchaiah Chowdary Rajamahendravaram urban constituency was allocated to BJP in alliance. However, in 2019 elections also, the Rural constituency ticket was given to Mr Buchaiah Chowdary and Rajamahendravaram urban ticket was given to Adireddy Bhavani as Adireddy Appa Rao joined TD again after quit-

ting the YSRC party.
"The party does not belong to one family. Some of the leaders in Rajamahendravaram are insulting me and my fol-lowers and the TD cadre," said Mr Buchaiah Chowdary.

Victory dance



BJP leaders and activists burst firecrackers after sharing sweets at state office after winning Dubbaka byelection in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh - C. NARAYANA RAO byelections, and Bihar elections, in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Domestic traffic picking up at Tirupati int'l airport

Passenger footfalls increasing from 6,811 in June to 22,322 in Sept.

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

Domestic air passenger traffic at Tirupati International Airport is showing gradual recovery, with passenger footfalls increasing from 6,811 in June to 22,322 in September. The figure, however, indicates an overall decline of 64 per cent on a year-on-year basis owing to Covid-19 pandemic.

The number of flights operating has increased to 310 in September from 168 in June. This too indicates a year-on-year decline of however, had resumed in

about 59 per cent. According to a report of Airports Authority of India (AAI), domestic air passenger traffic showed a

gradual recovery in September, registering a growth of 23.3 per cent over August, while the aircraft movement marginally increased to 11.5 per

Incidentally, flights in India had remained grounded for about two months between March and May, as part of Government of India's measures to curb the spread of Coronavirus. Domestic air services,

late May, with flights operating with only third of their total capacity, which subsequently increased in

a phased manner.

Number of flights operated from Tirupati Airport in May stood at 18, with only 916 passengers. Air traffic gradually increased during the subsequent months.

June saw 168 aircrafts landing with 6,811 passengers, followed by 228 aircrafts and 11,040 footfalls in July, 278 aircrafts and 18,108 passengers in August and 310 aircrafts and 22,341 footfalls in September.

April and September 2020 had been 1,002, significantly lower than departures of 5,502 during the same period last year, showing a year-on-year decline of 81.8 per cent.

Similarly, the number of passengers from April to September 2020 was 59,216, as against 4,39,362 passengers during the same period last year, the Y-o-Y decline being 86.5 per cent. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Tirupati Airport director S. Suresh said passenger footfalls at Tirupati Airport has been

rising consistently since the government lifted between curbs on air travel, fol-

lowed by resumption of darshan for devotees at

"Though the growth is very limited compared to the same period last year, we feel it is a good improvement while the pandemic is still around. AAI is taking all Covid-19 precautions at all airports. Airlines on their part are giving masks and sanitisers to every passenger, especially PPE kits to nonfamily middle seat passengers. This has helped airlines gain the trust of passengers. As a result, passenger traffic has been ris-

Health infra worst under TD rule: CM

FROM PAGE 1

He went on to assure that one nursing college and a teaching hospital will be set up in every parliamentary constituency.
The Chief Minister pointed to the poor state

of medical care under the previous Telugu Desam dispensation, including inadequate infrastruc-ture facilities from primary health centres to district hospitals, surgeries under cellphone lights, death of a newborn due to rodent bite, non-payment of dues to Aarogyasri hospitals, poor state of 104 and 108 vehicles and zero health-care facilities at villages. The current government is determined to change the scenario and make public healthcare services vibrant," he asserted.

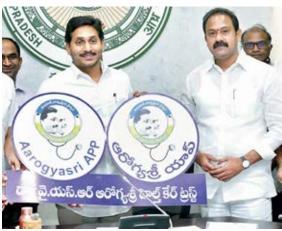
Mr Reddy pointed out that Aarogyasri of AP

will be available even outside AP at 130 super-speciality hospitals in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai cities. Under Aarogya Asara, patients who undergo surgeries are being given financial aid of up to ₹5,000 per month during their recuperating period. Special pensions of ₹10,000 per month are being given to those suffering from chronic ailments like tha-lassemia, cancer and kidney disorders. In addition, 510 medicines approved by World Health Organisation (WHO) are and other officials being made available in present at the event.

 Chief Minister pointed to the poor state of medical care under the previous Telugu Desam dispensation, including inadequate infrastructure facilities from primary health centres to district hospitals, surgeries under cellphone lights, death of a newborn due to rodent bite, non-payment of dues to Aarogyasri hospitals, poor state of 104 and 108 vehicles and zero healthcare facilities at villages.

all hospitals.
Mr Reddy directed officials to pay special atten-tion to implementation of Aarogyasri scheme and ensure that Aarogya Asara is made available without fail to patients. He asked authorities to involve Aarogya Mitras at Aarogyasri-empanelled December 10 for creating

awareness among public. On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the Aarogyasri App in both English and Telugu languages. Deputy chief minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, minister Botsa Satyanarayana, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, principal (Health) secretary Anil Kumar Singhal, commis-sioner for Health and Family Welfare Katamaneni Bhasker, Aarogyasri CEO Mallikarjun, and other officials were



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launches newly covered 2,434 medical procedures in 6 districts under the Aarogyasri scheme from camp office on Tuesday.

Donor's healthcare costs ₹1.5 to ₹2 lakh

FROM PAGE 1

Says M. Tripura of Kakinada, "As is, it is very difficult to get a kidney donor. The medical bill for providing diseases from their pockbill for providing medicare to donor itself ranges from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh, spread over a period of six months. Many patients, who belong to below poverty line and middle class, are unable to bear expenses for the donor. Thus, the government should cover under Aarogyasri medical expenses incurred on donors also," Tripura stated.

There are also pleas patients that Aarogyasri should cover multi-diseases when a a patient goes in for cardiac-related surgery, s/he may face other complications, such as renal issues.

In such cases, hospitals not cover authorities maintain that Aarogyasri.

cardiac issues will come under Aarogyasri. Patients will have to pay for the treatment of other et. Such patients too have appealed to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to extend Aarogyasri to cover multi-diseases within an individual when he undergoes treatment for a particular ailment.

expenses related only to

Dr YSR Aarogyasri officials maintain that under the scheme, patients with only 138 diseases can avail coverage for post-operative treatment and follow-up medicines. The same is not applicable for other diseases. For instance, if a person sufpatient undergoes treat-ment. For example, when fers a fracture, s/he can-not get post-operative medical care.

Officials clarified that when it comes to kidney transplantations, medical treatment of donors is not covered under

Bone marrow, liver transplants included Aarogyasri scheme DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

AP has included the expensive bone marrow and liver transplant procedures in Aarogyasri, providing a ray of hope to needy patients.
The inclusion is on

orders issued by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during a review meeting on YSR Aarogyasri scheme held here on Tuesday.

He asked officials to

identify hospitals where these procedures can be efficiently taken up, thereby providing a new lease of life to bone marrow and liver transplant

patients.
The Chief Minister directed authorities to ensure that all Aarogyasri network hospitals are accredited with the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals. He instructed officials to monitor services of Aarogyasri empanelled

food and transport facility to the patient from hospital to home after dis-

With regard to ANMs, Mr Jagan asked officials to train them in medical procedures generally required at the village level. He said ANMs should be able to receive patients and guide them to a doctor based on their ailments through telemedicine. He instructed officials to be vigilant and strengthen telemedicine call centre in the state. Doctors should be available round the clock for telemedicine services. They must be able to attend whenever a patient or ANM calls.

Officials explained to the Chief Minister implementation of Aarogyasri scheme in the state. They informed him that so far, 1.35 crore smart health cards have been issued and 716 medical procedures are also being made

available at 130 hospitals hospitals to ensure that in Hyderabad, Bengaluru they provide nutritious and Chennai.

Missing woman case

solved after 2 years DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

The Guntur urban police resolved the mystery behind the missing woman after two years by arresting her lover for her merciless murder, cutting the body into parts with electric floor/tile cutter and burning those parts. Addressing a press meet, Guntur urban SP R.N. Ammi Reddy said that 28-

missing from her home on May 25, 2018 and her mother Meerabi lodged a complaint with the police but the investigation was pending. Recently the case was reopened and the police cracked the mystery behind the missing case.

The police during reinvestigation found Nazima and Sk. Karim alias Nagur were classmates during polytechnic.

More places claim to be Hanuman's birthplace FROM PAGE 1 There are also claims Jawahar Reddy said, "We are currently work-

"Accordingly, that place is now called as Bedi (hand-cuffed) Anjaneya Swamy Temple, which is located exactly opposite the Tirumala Temple. It is for this reason that the idol of Lord Hanuman in the temple is seen in the unique form of both hands being handcuffed," the EO underlined.

Further, he said, Lord Anjaneya's mother Anjana Devi later sent her son to stay with his maternal uncle Sugriva at Kishkindha Hills. "Till going to Sugriva's place, Lord Hanuman spent his entire childhood Anjanadri Hills," emphasised.

The TTD EO maintained that when this and several other historical references are supporting Hanuman Janmabhoomi

that the birthplace of Lord Hanuman is Anjaneyadri Hill in Hampi, which lies in the centre of Anegondi area in Karnataka. Further, Anjaneri Hills at Triambakeshwar near

Nashik in Maharashtra is also considered the birthplace of Lord Hanuman.

According to TTD, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman is right in AP at Anjanadri Hills

being in Tirumala, such a historical place of Hindu worship needs to be pro-moted in a big way. Thus, the Devasthanams want to develop Anjanadri Hills near Akasaganga Teertham into a major near destination for spiritual

horticulture deputy direc-

tor Mr Subbarao said that

horticulture crops in 2,035

hectares had been dam-

aged in the district due to

Hanuman mote Janmabhoomi in a big way. Our officials and experts have been asked to thoroughly deliberate for taking the concept forward, as it is an important initiative, which is part of Hindu Dharma Prachara." Incidentally, there are also claims that the birth-

ing out modalities to pro-

place of Lord Hanuman is Anjaneyadri Hill in Hampi, which lies in the centre of Anegondi area in Karnataka. Further, Anjaneri Hills at Triambakeshwar near Nashik in Maharashtra is also considered the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. However, according to TTD, the birthplace of Lord Hanuman is right in AP at Anjanadri Hills on

FLOOD | DAMAGE | East Godavari district incurred a loss of ₹2,442cr: Collector

Central teams visit Godavari districts

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 10

Inter-Ministerial Central Teams toured in East and West Godavari districts to assess the damage caused by the recent floods and heavy rains. The members of the team visited many areas in the districts and interacted with the offi-cials, farmers and the vic-

tims. They said that they would submit the report on the damage to the Central government.

In West Godavari, the central team members, the deputy director of Power O.P. Suman, Agriculture, Cooperation,

Director K. Ponnusamy, Minister of Jalshakti Director P. Devendra Rao than 10 days in the fields. Roads and Building Department officials said and others visited West Godavari district. They visited Nandamuru vil-lage of Tadepalligudem that Madhavaram-Kamsalipalem bridge collapsed due to flooding of Yerrakaluva. and observed the paddy fields which were affected

The team members told the media that paddy and by breaching of Yerrakaluva. The joint col-lector of west Godavari K. also other crops had been damaged due to the calamities, and it was observed that the paddy Venkatarami Reddy said that the paddy fields were fields were in stagnated damaged and there will be no yield for the crop in this Kharif season. The

He said that the officials in the West Godavari district cleared their doubts and the farmers also explained their problems to them. They said that they visited Polavaram

and observed Godavari bund, which was dam-The West Godavari dis-

trict collector Revu Muthyala Raju felicitated the central team members. In East Godavari district, the Union home affairs

and fisheries joint secretary Sourav Ray, rural development assistant commissioner Ayush Punia, road transport, highway minister superintendent Mr Sravan Kumar Singh and financial consultant R.B. Koul visited the district. They toured Podagatlapalli, nakkapet, Komarajula-nka, Badugu Vani Lanka, Kandrakota, Jonnada and

other villages and observed the agriculture and horticulture fields, damaged roads, bridges

and others.
Giving a PowerPoint presentation on the losses during the floods and rains in August, September and October, East Godavari collector D. Muralidhar Reddy said that the district incurred a loss of ₹2,442 crore, including ₹422.6 crore for agriculture and horticulture, ₹2,019 crore for infra-structure facilities and others. He said that the ₹2,000 for each victim had been given as financial assistance through village volunteers

OTHER STORIES TD SAYS GOVT IS **PLAYING WITH** HINDU SENTIMENTS

FROM PAGE 1

He then announced that there will be an E-ticketing system as in TTD to monitor those having bath at the Pushkar ghats. But now, the bath has now been entirely banned.

TDP district president Somisetty Venkateswarlu said by not allowing people to have a dip in Tungabhadra, YSRCP government is playing with sentiments of Hindus. He said about 50 lakh people

are expected to have a dip in Tungabhadra during the 12day pushkaram.

The decision not to allow bath in the river is insensitive on the part of the government, particularly when ₹200 crore have been sanctioned for the pushkarams and works taken

NEWARE IS NEW HEAD FOR NAVAL ARMAMENT DEPOT

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 10

P.J. Neware, a 1988 batch of Indian Naval Armament Service Officer from Maharashtra, has taken over as Chief General Manager of the Naval Armament Depot, Visakhapatnam. He replaced P. Upadhyay, who is moving to NAD, Mumbai.

Mr Neware is an electrical engineering graduate from Shivaji University, Kolhapur. He has got expertise on the maintenance of all kinds of armament and ammunition. He was serving as the GM of NAD, Visakhapatnam since January this year.

Covid sero watch includes Women told to join ministers and legislators

The study is to understand spread of Covid-19 infection

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, NOV. 10

Politicians, including ministers, legislators, public figures and senior officials, are being screened in the fourth round of Sero prevalence study in Andhra Pradesh. The study, currently under progress in Nellore district. is to estimate the spread of Covid-19 infection and plan its management.

Sero studies estimate antibody levels against infectious diseases in tested persons. They are considered a gold standard for measuring immunity within the population.Around 4,500 samples are being collected in each district of Andhra Pradesh from various categories of people. They include people living in rural and urban areas, containment and noncontainment zones, inter-state and inter-district indi-viduals, doctors and paramedics working in Covid hospitals, apart from persons cured from Coronavirus and their family members.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Nellore district collector K. V. N. Chakradhar Babu underlined that samples are also being collected from villages with zero cases to check immunity levels among their inhabitants.

He pointed out that percentage of people with good immunity levels should double every month for development of the anticipated herd immunity among people for natural containment of Covid. According to the collector,

AP to touch 8.50 lakh mark of total Covid-19 cases soon

AP CONDUCTED

Covid-19 tests on

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

AP is heading to touch 8.50 lakh cumulative Covid-19 positive cases shortly.

The state health authorities issued Covid-19 bulletin on Tuesday reporting that out of 67,910 samples tested, 1,886 individuals were found infected with Covid-19 rising the tally to 8,46,245. Twelve patients infected with Covid-19 died, rising toll to 6,814 in the last 24 hours.

Out of a total 87,92,935 samples tested so far in the state, 8,18,473 patients recovered while 20,958 patients are still active with the virus.

Among the daily cases of Covid-19, Chittoor recorded the highest of 291 followed 282 in West Godavari, 275 in Guntur, 269 in Krishna, 227 in East Godavari, 111 in Prakasam, 97 in Visakhapatnam, 79 in Nellore, 67 in Kadapa, 62 in Vizianagaram, 60 in Anantapur and 33 each in Kurnool and Srikakulam. East Godavari was worst

affected with highest numtwo rounds of Sero surveillance studies have already been conducted by ICMR in

the past. The state govern-

ment itself has already car-

ried out one Sero survey and

1,64,662 samples per one million population and recorded Covid-19 positive rate at 9.62 while Maharashtra conducted 75,924 tests with the positive rate at 18.17 and TS conducted 1,18124 tested with the positive rate at 5.41

ber of cumulative confirmed Covid-19 cases of 1,19,157 fol-lowed by 89,201 in West Godavari, 81,162 in Chittoor, 69,987 in Guntur, 65,722 in Anantapur, 60,665 in Prakasam, 60,519 in Nellore, 59,791 in Kurnool, 56,914 in Visak-hapatnam, 53,281 in Kadapa, 44,761 in Srikakulam, 42,148 in Krishna, 40,042 in Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 434 from

other countries.

The rate of recovery of Covid-19 infected patients was found to be steady with

is currently undertaking the second round. Samples collected will be

tested by the CLIA (Clinical Improvement s) Diagnostic Amendments)

1,13,840 in East Godavari followed by 86,177 in West Godavari, 78,702 in Chittoor, 66,737 in Guntur, 64,279 in Anantapur, 59,301 in Nellore, 59,197 in Prakasam, 59,026 in Kurnool, 54,827 in Visakhapatnam, 52,033 in Kadapa, 43,578 in Srikakulam, 39,470 in Vizianagaram, 38,411 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other

countries.

Among daily cases of death of Covid-19 infected patients, Chittoor and Krishna recorded three each followed by one each in Anantapur, East Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari.

Chittoor recorded the highest number of cumulative deaths of Covid-19 patients with 799 followed by 633 in Guntur, 621 in East Godavari, 597 in Krishna, 575 in Prakasam, 574 in Anantapur, 519 in Visakhapatnam, 508 in West Godavari, 488 in Nellore, 482 in Kurnool, 444 in Kadapa, 344 in Srikakulam and 230 in Vizianagaram.

testing method. This will help health care providers screen and monitor specific diseases and devise clinical measures for patient care, Mr Chakradhar Babu added

circles and light the

traditional lamps whenever their turn

Dr Anilkumar told

the police authorities

to depute more women police point-ing to the women

devotees outnumber-

ing the men and also

post traffic consta-

bles to ensure free

flow of vehicles. He instructed the

Corporation officials

sanitary workers and

the Electricity Depa-

rtment has been asked to improve illu-

post additiona

comes.

milk cooperatives

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 10

Following an under-standing between the government of AP and dairy giant Amul, Milk producers in Prakasam district have been asked to improve the quality of milk to meet the standards of Amul.

Addressing the milk producers at Ongole on Tuesday, collector Pola Bhaskar said that the state government is associated with Amul to enhance the output of milk products in Prakasam, Kadapa and Chittoor districts on pilot basis. ernment for economic development of women, he said the government joined hands with Amul to provide

and market the milk and related products. Referring to the taskforce committees formed at district, mandal and village levels to assist Amul in milk procurement, he told the committees to function under Rythu Bharosa centres. He advised the

committees to enlight-

en the women on the

a roadmap to women

depending on the dairy sector to procure

Pointing to the advantages of quality efforts of the state gov-milk production to bag milk production to bag remunerative price. Mr Bhaskar directed

the committees to already involved in dairy activities and join them in milk cooperative societies.

The collector called for sincere efforts from village level officials including animal husbandry staff to motivate the women to enter into the dairy field to become financially strong.

Joint collector (Secretariats and Development) T.S. Chethan was present among

Chitravathi reservoir full

CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 10

Chitravathi Balancing Reservoir has reached its full capacity of 10 TMC water for first time after its construction. The project meets the irrigaect meets the hing tion and drinking water needs of Anantapur and Water needs of Anantapur and Kadapa districts, including the home turf of Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy. Chitravathi, the interstate river coming to AP from Karnataka, used to be hardly of use for drought hit parts of Anatapur district. It has, however, now turned out to be an effective source of irrigation and drinking water for Anantapur and Kadapa districts after Krishna water started being diverted to it through GNSS (Galeru Nagari Sujala Shravanthi) since the past cou-

ple of vears. The river originates at Chikkaballapur in Karnataka, Anantapur district, joins Pennar at Gandikota in Kadapa district, and

through

Hindupur, Putta-parthi, Tadipatri and Kadiri areas. The seasonal river

could not get water from upstream Karnataka following construction of a dam by that state near Paragodu in Bagepalli taluka.
Following this, the C h i t r a v a t h i Balancing Reservoir

across Chitravathi River near Parnapalli village in Lingala mandal of Kadapa district with a storage capacity of 10 TMC in 2009. Presently, foreshore water Srisailam has been

the major source for filling the reservoir. Gandikota CBR Lift Scheme provides irrigation facilities to an extent of 12,000 acres by lifting water from Gandikota Reservoir to Chitravathi Balancing Reservoir. Besides, it stabilises the ayacut under CBR, Lingala canal

ndula branch canal in Kadapa and Anantapur districts. Five lift stages have been set up to raise water from Gandikota Reservoir to Chitravathi

Balancing reservoir.

system, and Pulive-

BANGLA SHIP TO BE PULLED OUT ON NOV. 14

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 10

The Bangladesh commercial vessel MV Maa which ran aground on October 14 due to a depression near Tenneti Park, will be pulled out on November 14 during the high tide.

A US-based company Resolve Marine Pvt Ltd having its branch office in Mumbai has been entrusted the job of salvage operations. A representative told this correspondent that the sea will have high tide for three days beginning November 14, a convenient time for pulling out operations. The height of the high tide on November 14 late night would be 1.55 metres, November 15 1.82 metres, November 16 1.832 metres and November 17

1.77 metres. The Resolve Marine brought all its equipment for the salvage and began its work at the site. The tug which would pull the ship, will arrive on November 13,

the representative said. Sources said the hull of the vessel had no damages as it landed on the rocks. The salvage operation might take two to three days, they added.

They had a meeting with the VPT authorities, Coast Guard and Indian Navy to brief about their plans.

Bail cancellation plea of CI posted for Nov. 12

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Nandyal police filed a bail cancellation petition before the Additional District Court Judges on Tuesday in the sensational arrest of Circle Inspector and Head Constable, the accused in the mass suicide of a family of four by throwing themselves before a running train on November 3. The accused were charged under IPC 324, 306 sections for aiding and abetting the suicide of the deceased.

widespread was resentment when the accused were released on bail on the same day of their

Nandyal in charge of DSP Pothuraj said the bail cancellation petition was admitted and the notices were marked for serving to the respondents. The next hearing is on November 12, he

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mmohan Reddy was keenly pursuing the case as it affected the right to life of

Good response to Jalakala scheme

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 10

The YSRC Jalakala scheme has received a good response from farmers in Anantapur district, who depend on groundwater through borewells in most parts. Borewells are drilled even

at a depth of 1,000 ft in Madakasira area due to the depletion of groundwater. 'Majority of the farmers' suicides from Anantapur

district reveal that farmers are investing huge sums of money to drill borewells to save crops," said collector Gandham Chandrudu. The YSR Jalakala pro-

gramme was launched in Devarapalli in Pamidi mandal in the district on Tuesday. Collector Chandrudu, accompanied by Guntakal MLA Venkatrami Reddy and ADCC bank chairman P. Veeranjineyulu, offered puja before drilling a borewell in the land of

DC CORRESPONDENT

Even before the news of

Abdul Salam's suicide has

died down, another minority

family from Nandyal com-

plain of harassment by political leaders.

They threaten to commit

suicide if no justice is done

KURNOOL, NOV. 10

MANY FARMERS incur huge losses and high debts due to the failure of borewells.

farmer S. Sanjanna. Many farmers incur huge losses and high debts due to the

failure of borewells. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, during his padayatra in the district, noticed farmers suffering huge losses and committing suicides due to the failure of borewells and decided to drill free bore wells.

Another farmer Nallappa expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for introducing a scheme to drill borewells free of cost.

"We need to invest at least ₹1.50 lakh for a borewell," he said. The district administration plans to drill 60,000 borewells in the district. In the Guntakal assembly segment, 1,427 applications were received so far.

IIT-Tirupati to develop N95 equivalent face masks

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | TIRUPATI, NOV. 10

The Indian Institute Technology, Tirupati on Tuesday signed an MoU with Amara Raja Group to jointly develop reusable N95 equivalent face masks to facilitate the growing need for personal protective equipment (PPE) with the

19 pandemic. The IIT team has designed and develthe reusable

advent of the Covid-

N95 equivalent face mask prototype, which consists of a flexible, reusable body using 3D printing technology, and the replaceable N95 filter is developed using electrospinning technology.

After every usage, the N95 filter is replaced, in reusable body with a new filter. The Amara Raja team will carry out large scale manufacturing of the reusable N95 equivalent masks using the technology transfer provided by IIT-Tirupati. As a part of an MoU, Amara Raja provides financial support to IIT-Tirupati for technology develequipment required in the face mask development process. Prof. K.N. Satyana-

rayana, Director IIT Tirupati and S. Vijayanand and CEO of Amara Raja Batteries Limited (ARBL), signed the MoU in the presence of Dr Ramachandra Galla, the founder chairman of Amara

PUBLIC HEARING FOR KRISHNAPATNAM HELD

and Imple-

Nellore: The environmental public hearing, for the development of Krishnapatnam North Industrial Node, was held at Tamminapatnam village in Chillakur mandal of SPSR Nellore district on

National Industrial

ment

mentation Trust are developing the Node in 11,095 acres. The land is situated at Tamminapatnam, Ballavolu, Vellapalem, Thoorpu Kanupuru and Momidi villages in Chilllakur mandal apart from

Karlapudi, Kottapat-

nam and Siddavaram

villages in Kota mandal. The public hearing, to elicit public opinion, was held peauspice of the AP Pollution Control Board. Joint collector Harendira Prasad, EE of Pollution Control Board Pramod Kumar Reddy and others were present.

DISTRIBUTION OF BOOK ON AZAD TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

Seemandhra Welfare Muslim Association would distribute Moulana Abul Kalam Azad book for free of cost to students and youth on November 11 in various places of AP and Telangana states on the occasion of Azad's 132 birth anniversary.

Author of the book Syed Naseer Ahmad said that the book described the life of Azad thoroughly and sought the students to read the book to know Azad who asserted on the need of education for development.

Mr Ahmad said Azad's contribution to establishing the education foundation in India is recognised by celebrating his birthday as National Education Day across India. Mr Ahmad said that more than 100 NGOs in AP and TS would distribute the book for free of cost to students Wednesday.

Lies being spread about Red Cross, Nellore: Panel

People enjoy a cable car ride on the ropeway towards Kailasagiri Hill Park

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 10

in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

Declaring that the allegations against the Indian Red Cross Society, Nellore over irregularities in the utility of Plasma are blatant lies, the threemember committee which probed into the complaints recommended action against those who levelled false charges.

A member in the three-member committee and revenue divisional officer of Nellore, S.K. Hussein Saheb told the media on Tuesday that they have submitted the enquiry report to the collector.

"We appealed to the collector to recommend to the disciplinary committee take action against those who spread false



A MEMBER in

the three-member committee and revenue divisional officer of Nellore, S.K. Hussein Saheb told the media on Tuesday that they have submitted the enquiry report to the collector.

allegations damaging the reputation of the RDO said.

Red Cross Society," the Switching over to the ban imposed by several states against the

bursting of crackers

during the Diwali fes-tival, he appealed to the people of Nellore to refrain from using crackers, citing orders of the collector against sale and use of crackers.
"By now everyone knows that Covid dam-

ages the lungs, similarly pollution from bursting of crackers also affects the lungs hence the ban order, Mr Hussein said. He urged the people to light the traditional

lamps to celebrate Diwali instead of bursting crackers and polluting the environ-

Functionaries of Indian Red Cross Societies of Ongole and Vijayawada, P. Prakash Babu and Dr Reddy were present among others.

Suraj, son of Munaf, said they won an electricity billing contract work and suicide. was given work order to start, but the political interference made them lose the

Nandyal minority youth

allege discrimination

He said he acquired 65

YSRC leaders in Nandyal favoured another contractor from Ongole.

He said that he moved the high court which passed the order in his favour, but the electricity officials are not honouring the work orders. He said that his family had no other source of livelihood and threatened to commit

billing machines by spend-

ing ₹7 lakh and was ready to

start his work, but the local

Congress party district president Ahmed Ali Khan said there is no protection to Andhra Pradesh

PANEL SET UP TO **PLAN ACTIVITIES** FOR VACCINATION

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

government constituted a state-level steering committee for planning and implementation of various activities for taking up vacci-

nation for Covid-19. The state government issued GO Rt No. 682 on Monday constituting a state-level 18-member steering committee with chief secretary as chairperson; principal secretary, health, medical and family welfare as member convenor and sever al senior government officials from various departments as members.

and implementation, the panel will ensure interdepartmental coordination with all line departments and also takes up mobilisation resources and other related activities. The member convenor will arrange a meeting of the

Apart from planning

panel once in a month.

As the Centre has started preparations for introduction of Covid-19 vaccine, the state gov-

Devotees asked to follow Covid protocol

Referring to

ment of holy

cluding on

minister

December 14,

the commence-

Kartheeka Mas-

ber 15 and con-

am from Novem-

Anilkumar Yadav

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 10

Devotees thronging temples during the ensuing auspicious have been asked to wear masks and maintain social distance without fail.

Circles have been painted on the floor ancient Sri Moolasthaneswara shrine in Nellore for social distancing among the devout coming to the shrine for lighting the traditional lamps, which is an age-old tradition. During a review with the temple officials over creating basic infrastructure

and amenities to the devotees and handle the rush here on Tuesday, water resources minister Dr P. Anilkumar Yadav directed the officials to pay special attention to implement Covid-19 guidelines. Referring to the commencement of

called for special arrangements during six festivals dotted during the month.

bulation in the temple has been suspend-

Kartheeka Masam (month) from November 15 and concluding on December 14, he called for special arrangements during six festivals dotted during the month. He said circumam-

ed this year because of Covid restrictions while appealing the devotees to cooperate the temple with administration. He requested them

mination in the premises of the shrine apart from ensuring uninterrupted power. YSRC Youth wing leader P. Roopkumar Yadav, temple chairman Lokireddy Venkateswar Reddy, former Deputy Mayor of Nellore Mukkala Nellore Mukkala Dwarakanath and former Corporator Nune Mallikarjuna Yadav were present with the minister.

LEFT STRIKE RATE BETTER THAN CONGRESS'

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

If any single block has gained phenomenally in the battle for Bihar it is undoubtedly the three Left parties — the CPI(Marxist), CPI and CPI-ML (Liberation).

The three parties fought as part of the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan, but their strike-rate was far better than the other alliance partner, Congress, which fought 70 and its parties which strike and the control of the strike results of the strike was the strike with the strike was is on its way to winning only

According to the Election Commission, the Left parties were leading in 18 of the 29 seats they contested in the Bihar Assembly election.

Out of this, the major gainer was the CPI-ML (Liberation) which was leading in or had won 13 seats out of the 19 it fought. The CPI(M) was ahead in two out of the four it contested and the CPI in three out

The RJD had stuck its neck out and gave the Left 29 seats despite objections from other alliance partners. Some of the seats contested by the Left had been won by the RJD in the

last Assembly polls. In 2015, the CPI-ML (Liberation) had grabbed three seats while the other two Left parties drew a blank. Only the CPI-ML (Liberation) had an understanding with the RJD in 2015, and not the other two Left

According to Dipankar Bhattacharya, general-secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, "The leads so far are on expected lines and we hope to catch up in three more seats. This was a different kind of election. This was more a people's movement. We banked on young candidates, student leaders, candidates who were part of farmer struggles, work-

ing class people. That seems to have worked".

The Left parties fielded candidates from Agiaon, Arrah, Arwal, Balrampur, Bibhutipur, Darauli Daraundha Daraundha, Daraunda, Dumraon, Ghosi, Karakat, Manjhi, Matihani, Paliganj, Tarari, Ziradei, Bachhwara, Bakhri, among other places.

According to CPI, general-secretary D. Raja, while the alliance with the two parties has helped in vote conversion, what has also led to the good performance is the cadre base of the three parties that helped spread the reach of the Mahagathbandhan.

NITISH WILL GET POST BECAUSE OF US: SHIV SENA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has said that Nitish Kumar should thank the Uddhav Thackeray-led party chief minister again.

Commenting on the results of Bihar assembly polls senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said, "If Nitish Kumar becomes the CM again with the BJP's support despite securing less number of seats. he should give credit to Shiv Sena, which has shown in Maharashtra what happens when you break your prom-

In Bihar, Mr Kumar's Janata Dal United (JDU) party has been relegated to a third position. Though the BJP leadership has made it clear that Nitish will be the CM again, the local leaders have demanded that the saffron party should stake its claim on the

Mr Raut said, "The BJP has to give the chief minister's post to Nitish Kumar, as the tricks of breaking the word will not happen in Bihar. Because of the counter blow given by the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, the BJP cannot afford to repeat its game in

Last year, the Shiv Sena broke its alliance with the BJP after the Vidhan Sabha polls over a dispute on the Chief Minister's post and joined hands with the NCP and Congress to form the MVA government headed by Mr Thackeray. According to Sena, the BJP had promised to share the CM post before the polls,

but later backtracked.
Mr Raut also said actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death had no impact on polls. "I don't think, the case in Maharashtra would have helped any party in Bihar. The election was fought on issues like development, unemployment, health, education etc and the credit for it goes to Tejashwi Yadav,'

Nitish, NDA apple cart upset by Chirag

Chirag Paswan's negative campaign against Nitish Kumar reduced the NDA's tally in Bihar elections

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 10

Chief Chirag Paswan's aggressive campaign against Chief affected the JD(U)'s tally during the assembly elections. The results show that the JD(U) has slipped to number three position in the state after BJP and RJD. The situation also raises questions about Nitish Kumar's role in the NDA after the results.

The BJP, however, met Nitish Kumar in the evening to discuss future strategies. When asked whether the BJP comfortable in accepting Nitish Kumar as its Chief Ministerial face despite its falling tally MoS Home Nityanand Rai said, "the party extends its thanks to the people who voted for the NDA during the assembly elections. NDA is intact and there is no problem with our leadership issue

The BJP emerged as a single largest party in the state with 74 seats while its partner JD(U) managed to win 43 seats. NDA partners Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP) also managed to win 4 seats each during the polls. Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM had fielded candidates on 7 seats and Mukesh Sahani's VIP was given 11 seats from the BJP quota.

However, Paswan who Chirag paigned aggressively against Nitish Kumar's party JD(U) failed to open an account in the state. "In the current scenario, the BJP would be needing JD(U)'s support to form a government in the state comfortably. It is also clear now that the NDA's tally would have been better if Chirag Paswan had not fielded candidates against the JD(U)", political observers said.

Reports suggest that the JD(U) has urged the BJP central leadership to act against the LJP "for creating confusion by launching a negative campaign against Nitish Kumar and his party".

A day after quitting the NDA citing ideological differences with Nitish Kumar. Chirag Paswan had written an open letter urging people "not to waste a single vote" for the JD(U) nominee. Ahead of the polls, uted symbols and tickets to sitting BJP MLAs who seats had gone to the JD(U).

The BJP in face-saving tactics had later issued a letter condemning the act and expelled its leaders for abandoning the party for joining hands with LJP ahead of polls. Despite initiating

action against its leaders, the move was seen as BJP's tactics to create an alternative against Nitish Kumar who has been facing massive anti-incumbency.

Political experts said that "the BJP tried to create an alternative in the state as it was aware against Nitish Kumar. The saffron party feared that the voters may towards the grand alliance".



RJD chief Lalu Yadav, who is serving a jail term in a fodder scam case and undergoing treatment at RIMS, speaks on the phone during counting day of Bihar Assembly polls in Ranchi on Tuesday



Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters flash victory sign during counting of votes for the Bihar Assembly polls, in

Tejashwi Yadav emerges as a formidable player in Bihar politics

NAYEAK AZAD I DU PATNA, NOV. 10

The NDA on Tuesday emerged as a winner after the closely contested Bihar Assembly elections the first amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Political analysts said that it was Tejashwi Yadav's "ten lakh job promise" and aggressive campaign against the NDA which made the contest tough during the Bihar assembly elec-

This was also probably the first time in four decades when RJD chief Lalu Yadav did not campaign for Bihar elections.

While talking about the assembly election results, RJD leaders in Patna said that, "it was Tejashwi Yadav's leadership and his effort that made the contest tough for the NDA. A leader like Nitish Kumar who has been ruling in Bihar for 15 years has slipped to the third position only due to him and despite grand alliance los-



ing the polls, we are sure that Tejashwi Yadav will prove his worth in the state assembly as well".

Experts assessing the political scenario after the results on Tuesday were of the opinion that Tejashwi Yadav has come out of the shadow of a mass leader like Lalu Yadav and has proved that he is ready to lead the party in his

Lalu Yadav is currently serving a jail term in fod-

out of the shadow of a mass leader like Lalu Yaday and has proved that he is ready to lead the party in his absence.

DURING THE polls, he had also managed to mobilize youths and did not pull back while being attacked by the NDA during polls campaigns.

EXPERTS ASSESSING

the political scenario after

the results on Tuesday

were of the opinion that

Tejashwi Yadav has come

grand alliance", political analysts said. During the polls, he had also managed to mobilize

youths and did not pull back while being attacked by the NDA during polls

campaigns.
They said that "when he was called the Yuvraj of the jungle he handled the situation well and urged the NDA to talk about employment, industrial-ization and special status

to wane when he jumped ship from the NDA to the

Mahagathbandhan in the

2015 election and then

With Bihar show, Cong's relevance to allies dwindles

ASHHAR KHAN | DC

The political capital of the Congress suffered a major dent after it managed to win just about 25 per cent of the seats allotted to it in the alliance with the RJD. This will have serious repercussions for the former party chief, Rahul Gandhi, who is also battling strong resistance from within his party for his leader-ship bid. Mr Gandhi is seen as the architect of the alliance. Many in the party and the RJD feel that had the Congress improved its strike-rate, the outcome of the Bihar elections would have been completely different.

A senior leader from Bihar Congress who did not wish to be identified told this newspaper, There were leaders from outside the state running the show who had no idea about Bihar. Several candidates were dropped from the top who had little resonance on the ground." He said that the Congress had more Central observers than the number of seats the party has won.

In the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2017, the Congress was in alliance with the Samajwadi Party. It contested 105 seats and won only seven, thus ensuring that the alliance lost miserably.

Now questions are being raised about the Congress being a burden on its alliance partners in states. Many feel that after the Bihar result it will be difficult for the Congress to get a good deal from the DMK in the upcoming Assembly elec-tions of Tamil Nadu where the two parties are slated to contest in alliance.

Even in West Bengal, where the Congress is looking at Left parties for potential alliance, the Congress will be on the back-foot in seat-sharing negotiations.

The dismal performance of the party in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat by-polls also sug-gests that the leadership was not geared up to take the challenge to the BJP.

Though there is no dearth of issues, including farm laws, rising prices, unemployment, the party is unable to connect with the people. In Madhya Pradesh, the

Congress could just manage to win eight seats out of the 28 it fought, while in Gujarat it lost all the eight seats. In Uttar Pradesh, where the Congress staged two massive protests over migrant labourer crisis and the Hathras rape incident, the party lost all seven seats.

Just two months back, 23 leaders of the Congress — young and old included — had written to the Congress president, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, demanding several changes, including elections to the working committee and the post of Congress president. Many saw this as a challenge to Mr Gandhi who is in line to take over from his mother in due course. With the disastrous results in Bihar and bypolls, the chasm within the party is only going to

grow and create more troubles for Mr Gandhi. Insiders feel that many more leaders may speak about the functioning of

Bihar win to help BJP in Bengal elections

SANJAY BASAK | DC

The outcome of the Bihar elections sounds an alarming bell for the Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee. Bihar results will be a tailwind for the BJP which has already moved

which has already hoved into a campaign mode in West Bengal. "Bihar victory again proves Modi magic still works and will also work in Bengal. Bihar victory will influence the Bengal voters and will certainly have a major impact on Hindi speaking community in the state," said the vice president of Bengal BJP's minority morcha. Mr Charles Nandi.

Moreover, similar to Bihar, anti-incumbency is riding high in Bengal. The BJP leaders are working overtime to talk about distributions of ration and relief material post-cyclone Amphan and the home ministry, Amit Shah who recently promised a "Sonar Bangla" also targeted the TMC regime for "shoddy handling of the Covid crisis and distribution of relief materials.

Polarizing the vote bank will remain BJP's main weapon against the TMC ruled Bengal. To counter Mamata Banerjee's hold over the minority community, the strategists intends to divide the Muslim vote bank.

In 2016 of the 294 assembly seats, TMC had won 211. According to statistics in nearly 100 of these Muslim votes played the decisive factor.

The BJP is already working to select candidates, who could make a dent in the TMC's armour in these seats.

Speculations are rife that Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMM along with an

influential Muslim cleric could field candidates in Muslim dominated constituencies and this could divide the Muslim votes and benefit the BJP. And the BJP is waiting for such an alliance to happen. Party's vice president, Jay Prakash Majumder had gone on record saying that "the Banerjee will start when a influential Muslim group in alliance with Owaisi will contest dominated Muslim seats...Mamata's Muslim vote share will be under

serious stress."
In 2019, BJP managed to bag nearly 30 percent of vote share in north Bengal.

Incidentally from 2016 assembly polls, BJP's vote share which was only 10.2 per cent went up by 30.1 per cent during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It clearly showed that

the besides Hindi speaking community, Hindu Bengalis were moving towards the BJP.

The BJP is also consolidating its support among the Matua community, the Namasudras which constitute nearly 17.4 per cent of the total SC population in the state. During the Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi kicked off his election campaign by seeking blessings from Boro Ma Binapani Devi, the matriarch of the

Matua community.
The BJP fielded her grandson and won Bongaon by-poll seat for

The BJP is also going to play the CAA card aggressively and try win over the Bengali Muslims in

the rural Bengal. The minority morcha of the BJP intends to induct nearly 20 lakh Muslims

by the end of this year.

'Nitish butchered like Abhimanyu' Kumar's popularity began

SANJAY BASAK | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

If there's a major loser in the keenly fought Bihar elections, it is Nitish Kumar. Bihar's wily old fox, who always came out on top, was ambushed by the BJP, which used Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan as its Shikhandi" to cut Nitish

Kumar to size. While top BJP leaders, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to home minister Amit Shah, maintained a stoic silence Shah, over Chirag's decision to go it alone and take on Nitish Kumar, the lone voice which stood by the chief minister was his "old friend", deputy chief minister Sushil Modi. He was the only one who

called Chirag Paswan a "vote katua" (one who cuts votes). The LJP did not merely field candidates against the JD(U), but Chirag Paswan unleashed vitriolic campaign against Nitish Kumar. The top BJP leaders watched silently. The damage was palpable. Mr Kumar went down by nearly 40 seats. Psephologist Yogendra

Yadav, analysing the elections, found the BJP's gameplan to "use Chirag Paswan against its chief ministerial candidate a dangerous gamble". But the gamble seems to have paid off. A BJP leader remarked, "Nitish was surrounded and butchered like Abhimanyu." He went on to add, "While the saffron army pulled back, Nitish was left on his own

to ward off attacks from the LJP and the the LJP and the Mahagathbandhan." Battling 15 years' anti-incumbency, he was already on weaker ground. As the JD(U) kept hurtling down the elec-

toral tally, senior leader K.C. Tyagi made the K.C. Tyagi made the party's feelings against Chirag Paswan amply clear, "We are hurt." As Mr Kumar tried to woo his minority vote-

bank by openly opposing the CAA and NRC, BJP Hindutva face and UP minister Yogi Adityanath carried on with a tirade against the minorities, saying the "infiltrators will be thrown out". Mr Kumar's humiliation continued as the Prime Minister joined in, "These people don't

like to hear Jai Shri Ram. The opponents of Bharat Mata have got united and are seeking votes"

der scam cases and his

bail petition is to be heard

of good governance of

Nitish Kumar versus 15

years of jungle raj' narra-

tive against the RJD he

managed to turn the tally

in his party's favour.

However, our assessment

is that few political parties

like RLSP and AIMIM cut

his party's votes during the third phase of polls which led to the loss of the

'Despite NDA's '15 years

on November 27.

Also, during the entire campaign, Mr Modi remained outside the prism of any attack. The Opposition focused its attack on Mr Kumar and avoided targeting the PM, fearing it could be counterproductive. Chirag was all praise for the PM and targeted only Mr Kumar. Nitish has always been the senior partner in the

coalition, but the results have ensured that from now the BJP would take over as the "big brother". Even if the BJP keeps its pre-poll promise to keep Nitish as chief minister, "at best he would be a pup-pet king", a senior JD(U) leader said. Some feel Mr

The BJP apparently used the alliance to build its votebank. As the election progressed, BJP workers began to be given clear sigit would be because of Nitish and if it wins it'll be because of Modi". Already, BJP leaders have begun to credit Modiji for the results. Before the elections, Mr Kumar declared this would be his last election.

After the results it is clear that whatever may be the final outcome, Mr Kumar has lost, or as someone said, he is "finished - thanks to BJP".



IN BRIEF PALESTINIAN **SPOKESMAN EREKAT DEAD**

Jerusalem, Nov. 10: Saeb Crekat, a veteran peace negotiator and prominent international spokesman for the Palestinians for more than three decades, died Tuesday, weeks after being infected by the Coronavirus. He was 65.

The American-educated Erekat was involved in nearly every round of peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians going back to the landmark Madrid conference in 1991, when he famously showed up draped in a black-and-white checkered keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian nationalism. Over the next few decades Erekat was a constant presence in Western media, where he tirelessly advocated for a negotiated two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, defended the Palestinian leadership and blamed Israel for the failure to reach an agreement. His Fatah party announced his death in a statement. A relative and a Palestinian

official confirmed he passed

Erekat is survived by his wife, two sons, twin daughters and eight grandchildren.

ANTI-GOVT PROTESTS: IRAN PARDONS 157

Tehran, Nov. 10: Iran pardoned 157 people held on charges stemming from their alleged participation in antigovernment protests, the country's judiciary announced on Tuesday, the biggest such release of those swept up in the harsh crackdowns.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili told reporters that the people freed had been imprisoned for "spreading propaganda against the system" and taking part in several waves of protests that challenged the government over the last three years. The amnesty was part of a customary clemency order by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, issued a decree pardoning 3,780 prisoners last week.
As the Coronavirus pandemic

ravaged Iran, propelling its death toll to highest in the Middle East, the government released over 100,000 prisoners to keep the virus from spreading behind bars. Economic grievances in Iran have repeattriggered nationwide political unrest in recent years.

In November 2019, security forces smothered protests that were prompted by a sharp increase in gasoline arresting over 1,000 and killing hundreds, according to rights watchdog Amnesty International. The cases of those caught in crackdowns have drawn international outrage.

In September, Iran executed a 27-year-old wrestler accused of stabbing a water supply company employee.

CHASTISED **CARDINAL HOSPITALISED**

Warsaw (Poland), Nov. 10: A prominent Polish cardinal who was recently sanctioned by the Vatican over sex scandal cases has been hospitalised since last week and remains unconscious, Polish media said Tuesday.

Retired Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz was sanctioned by the Vatican last week after the 97-year-old was accused of sexually abusing a seminarian and of covering up abuse in another case.

The Vatican's embassy in Poland said Friday that Gulbinowicz, the former archbishop of Wroclaw, has been forbidden from using his bishop's insignia and participating in any religious celebrations or public events.

The once well-respected car dinal, who supported Poland's pro-democracy Solidarity movement in the 1980s, has also been denied the right to have a cathedral burial service or to be buried in a cathedral. Professor Wojciech Witkiewicz, head of the hospital in Wrocław, told Radio Wrocław Tuesday that Gulbinowicz is in a very serious condition and unconscious.

daily Wrocławska said Gulbinowicz was hospitalized Wednesday. A few days earlier, Vatican envoys had informed him about the sanctions. Recently, that Gulbinowicz was an informer for the communist-

era secret security. Gulbinowicz is the latest Polish prelate to be sanctioned after a Vatican-mandated investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct.

Ready to write next chapter: Harris

Will build an economy that works for working families, the V-P elect says in a tweet Washington, Nov. 10: fought November 3 president-elect dential election - billed as Kamala Harris has said one of the most divisive in office. According to the SC weighs future of Obamacare

that she and President-elect Joe Biden are ready to write the "next chapter" in American history and from day one they would start building an economy that benefits the working families. Tackling Covid-19 pandemic, economic recovery, racial equality and climate change are the four top priorities the Biden team listed on its website on Sunday, a day after the Democrat leaders won the bitter and closelyrecent American history.
"Biden and I are ready to write the next chapter in our nation's history,"

Harris said in a tweet on Monday. "On day one, we're going to get to work building an economy that works for working families," she said, listing out the priorities of the Biden-Harris administration. As Biden's vice president, Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman 0151

Economic Recovery of the Transition, President-Transition, elect Biden believes to his core that there's no greater economic engine in the world than the hard work

and ingenuity of the American people.
"Nobody has more respect for the working women and men who get up every day to build and sustain this country, or more confidence that they can meet the challenges

weighs the fate of "Obamacare," arguments will revolve around arcane points of law like severability — whether the justices can surgically snip out part of the law and

leave the rest. But what's at stake has real-world consequences for just about every American, as well as the health care industry, a

Washington, Nov. 10: major source of jobs and remaining uninsured. When the Supreme Court tax revenues. Whether the Affordable Care Act stays, goes, or is significantly changed, will affect the way life is lived in the US The argument against the law from the Trump administration and conservative states is that the 10-year-old statute was rendered unconstitutional in its entirety when Congress dialled down to

zero a penalty on those

The court has shifted solidly to the political right under President Donald Trump. Here's a look at some of what's at stake if the opponents of the law prevail: COVID-19 A NEW PRE-EXISTING CONDITION Before the ACA, insurers could turn a person down for an indi-vidual policy, or charge them more, based on their

Harsh Vardhan Shringla **FS DISCUSSES WAYS TO BOOST TIES WITH MALE**

Male, Nov. 10: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Tuesday held a series of meetings with the Maldivian leadership and the Opposition and discussed ways to further strengthen India's relations with the island nation, and reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects under the \$1.3 billion bilateral package. Shringla, who was on a two-day visit to the Maldives, held a joint meeting with Minister for Planning, Housing

Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Economic Development Fayyaz Ismail and Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer. On Monday, Shringla also called on President of Maldives Ibrahim

Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Speaker of the People's Speaker of the People's Majlis Mohamed Nasheed. "FS@harshvshringla held a joint-meeting with Minister for National Planning, Housing & Infra Dvpt @AslamAslamtey Minister of Economic Dvpt@faya_i& Minister of Finance@jameerur they assessed @iameeru; they assessed progress in 8 infrastructure projects part of the \$1.3 billion bilateral pack-

the Maldives tweeted. India is carrying out a wide-range of infrastructure projects in the Maldives, including Grea-ter Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) and other projects such as port, roads and reclamation, expansion of airports, building of a new Cricket Stadium and cancer hospital and development of fisheries. Shringla also met Maldivian Home Minister and leader of the Adaalath Party Imran Abdulla and sought the

age," the High Commission of India in

bilateral relations. The religious conservative Adaalath party is part of the Maldivian Democratic Party-led ruling coalition. "Foreign Secretary @harshys Secretary hringla @HarshShringla met Home Minister & leader of the Adaalath Party @ShimranAb; FS sought continuing cooperation of the Adaalath Party in ensuring the success of #IndiaMaldives relations," it said. — PTI

party's cooperation in fur-

ther strengthening the



People wave the national flag and hold portraits of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev as they celebrate in the streets of the capital Baku on Tuesday, after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed a ceasefire.

Russian peacekeepers head for Nagorno-Karabakh as war ends

planes filed with Russian peacekeepers headed for Nagorno-Karabakh on more fighting since it Tuesday, hours after came into force. It came Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to halt fighting over the separatist region and amid signs this cease-fire would hold where others had been separated as a separatist and separatist and separation and separatist and separatists.

The truce came after significant advances by Azerbaijani forces that the Nagorno-Karabakh leader said made it impossible for their side to carry on but angered many Armenians, who stormed huildings government overnight, demanding the

Parliament invalidate the agreement. Dozens of protesters gathered again Tuesday morning in front of the parliament building in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh for decades. The region lies within Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994

Heavy fighting erupted in late September — the biggest escalation of the conflict in a quarter-century — and has left hundreds, possibly thousands, dead. Several cease-fires announced over the past six weeks crumbled almost immediately, but the Ministry said that 12

Moscow, Nov. 10: A dozen current agreement appearlanes filed with Russian red to be holding, with neither side reporting any days after Azerbaijan pressed its offensive deep-er into the region and took control of the city of Shushi, which is strategically positioned on heights overlooking the reg-ional capital of Stepana-kert. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian said on Facebook that calling an end to the fight was "extremely painful for me personally and for our people." But on Tuesday he explained that he was left with no choice, saying the army had told him it was necessary. "We found ourselves in a situation when there was no alternative to signing the agreement," Pashinian was quoted by Russia's Interfax news agency as saying.

Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist leader Arayik Harutyunyan echoed Pashinian's sentiment. He said: "Had the hostilities continued at the same pace, we would have lost all of Artsakh (an Armenian name for Nagorno-Karabakh) within days." Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev referred to the agreement as a "glori-ous victory" on Twitter, and Azerbaijanis flooded their capital city to celebrate. Russia's Defence

• THE TRUCE came after significant advances by Azerbaijani forces that the Nagorno-Karabakh leader said made it impossible for their side to carry on

- but angered many Armenians, who stormed government buildings overnight, demanding the Parliament invalidate the agreement. HEAVY FIGHTING eru-

itea in late September the biggest escalation of the conflict in a quartercentury – and has left hundreds, possibly thousands, dead. Several ceasefires announced over the past six weeks crumbled almost immediately, but the current agreement appeared to be holding, with neither side reporting any more fighting since it came into force.

planes carrying peace-keepers and military equipment_departed for the region Tuesday. A total of 1.960 Russian peacekeepers are to be deployed Nagorno-Karabakh under a five-year mandate.

The pact calls for Armenian forces to turn over control of some areas it held outside the borders Nagorno-Karabakh, including the Lachin ly key oregion, where the main Sunday.

road leading from Nag-orno-Karabakh to Armenia passes through. The agreement calls for the road, the so-called Lachin Corridor, to remain open and be protected by Rus-sian peacekeepers. The agreement also calls for transport links to be established through Armenia linking Azerbaijan and its western exclave of Nakhchivan, which is surro-unded by Armenia, Iran ana Turkey

Nagorno-Karabakh military have reported over 1,200 troops killed in the six weeks of fighting. Azerbaijan hasn't disclosed its military losses. Scores of civilians have also been killed and wounded on both sides. Nagorno-Karabakh has been under the control of

ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a 1994 truce ended a separatist war in which an estimated 30,000 people died. Sporadic clashes occurred since then, and full-scale fighting began on Sept. 27. Several ceasefires had been called but were almost immediately violated. However, the agreement announced early Tuesday appeared more likely to take hold because Azerbaijan has made significant advances, including taking control of the strategically key city of Shushi on

Boris cautiously welcomes bugle of virus vaccine

London, Nov. 10: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cautiously welcomed the promising results from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and warned people not to rely on this news as a solution as it is still "very, very

early days".

Addressing a briefing from 10 Downing Street here on Monday, Johnson urged the British public not to "slacken" their resolve as it is still "very, very early days", even as he confirmed that the UK had pre-ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine — enough for vaccine - enough for about a third of the UK population, taking into account that two doses

each are required.
"The Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine has been tested on over 40,000 volunteers and interim results suggest it is proving 90 per cent effective at protecting people against the virus. But we haven't yet seen the full safety data, and these findings also need to be peer-reviewed," said Johnson.
"We have talked for a

long time, or I have, about the distant bugle of the scientific cavalry coming over the brow of the hill, and tonight that toot of the bugle is louder. But it is still some way off. And we absolutely cannot rely on this as a solution," he said. He reiterated that it is "crucial" not to overdo things and follow the iockaown ruies strictly until December 2, after which England is set to revert to a tiered lock-

down system. 'We cannot let our enthusiasm (about a vaccine) run away with us. It is more vital now than ever that we follow the basics," said the prime

REGULATOR HALTS BRAZIL VACCINE TRIALS

Sao Paulo, Nov. 10:

Brazil's health regulator has halted clinical trials of the potential Coronavirus vaccine CoronaVac, citing an "adverse, serious event." The decision posted on Anvisa's website Monday night website Monday night elicited immediate surprise from parties involved in producing the vaccine. The potential vaccine is being developed by Chin-

biopharmaceutical firm Sinovac and in Brazil would be mostly produced by Sao Paulo's state-run Butantan Institute. Sao Paulo state's government said in a statement it "regrets being informed by the press and not directly by Anvisa, as normally occurs in clinical trials of this nature.'

Butantan said in a statement that it was surprised by Anvisa's decision and that it would hold a news conference Tuesday. The CoronaVac shot has already stirred controversy in Brazil.

minister. England's deputy chief medical officer Prof Jonathan Van-Tam, who joined Johnson at the briefing, said he was "hopeful" that the first vaccine could be seen by Christmas after Pfizer's announcement earlier on Monday that its vaccine candidate has proven 90 per cent effective in a large trial. "This is a very important scientific breakthrough," said Prof Van-

Covid triggers OCD

London, Nov. 10: Children and young people with obsessive thoughts and compulsions may experience their OCD, anxiety, and depressive symptoms worsen during a crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a new study.

While previous research had shown that trauma and stress can trigger or worsen obsessive-compulsive disorder, or OCD, the current study, published

in the journal BMC Psychiatry, assessed how children and young people with the condition experience the ongoing pandemic. In the study scientists. including those from Aarhus University in Denmark, sent a questionnaire to two groups of children and young people between the ages of seven and 21.

been diagnosed with OCD in a specialised section at

They said one group had

the Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and all had been in contact with a therapist at the hospital.

The other group consist-ed mostly of children and young people who had been diagnosed years ago, identified through the Danish OCD Association. According to the study, a total of 102 children responded to the question-

SPIRITUAL OASIS

Master plan in the video shows a massive amphitheatre overlooking the shrine Images of Abu Dhabi's 1st Hindu temple released

majestic stone façade of of the UAE's largest single the first Hindu temple coming up in Abu Dhabi will be adorned with scenes from Hindu epics, scriptures and ancient stories from India, as well as motifs popular in the Gulf countries, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The temple management the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi has released the first images of the final design of the traditional stone temple and the hand-carved stone pillars that have been taking shape in India, the Gulf News reported. The visuals of the final design of the temple have been released through a video chronicles progress of the temple right from the inception of

Dubai, Nov. 10: The its concept till the pouring pouring of fly ash concrete for the raft foundation of the temple.

The foundation stone of the temple was laid in April last year and work started from December. Dubbed a spiritual oasis for global harmony, the temple's final master plan revealed in the video shows a massive amphitheatre overlooking the shrine, the daily reported. A library, a classroom, a majlis and a community centre have also been featured within the compound in Abu Mureikhah area. Waterfalls flanking the steps to the entrance of the shrine, and water bodies circling the temple complex can also be seen

in the video.

plan was completed in early 2020, and optimised engineered during the slowdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a

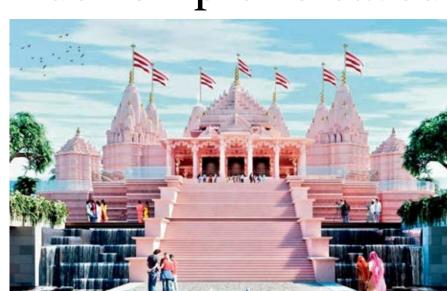
spokesperson of the temple told the Gulf News. "This is the first time the visuals of the final design have been released through the video," said Ashok Kotecha, BAPS Hindu

Mandir spokesperson. "The work on the historic temple is progressing with the support of the community and guidance from the leadership in India and the UAE. While navigating the challenges produced by COVID-19 and adhering to local best practices during the pandemic, stone work has continued in India," Kotecha said.

Kotecha said key values

The design of the master and tales of universal wis dom, and the authentic ancient art and architecture would be revived through the stone carvings used for the temple. "The stories and carv-

ings include diverse portions of India's geography and Hindu belief systems. This would include [epics] Mahabharata and Ramayana as well as the Puranas and regional histories. In fact, this Mandir will be uniquely identified by its intricate mandovar [façade] which will share many traditional value tales from throughout India as well as unique designs of the Gulf," he said. The intricate carvings of the temple range from figurines only a few inches tall to statues of many metres.



The temple management of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi has released the first images of the final design of the traditional stone temple.



Chronicle 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Act responsibly, heed NGT ban on crackers

he decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to impose a total ban on all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region from November 9 to 30, and extend it to all cities and towns where the average of ambient air quality is "poor" is welcome. The NGT has mandated that only green crackers that pollute less will be allowed in cities and towns where air quality is "moderate" or below. In other towns and cities, the state governments are given the freedom to impose more stringent restrictions. The duration for bursting of crackers has been limited to two hours during festivals.

The NGT decision comes in the wake of the extreme poor air quality reported in the national capital and elsewhere in the country in the winter season and the renewed threat the Coronavirus has been posing of late to the lives of people.

comes in the wake of the extreme poor air quality reported in the national capital and elsewhere in the country and the renewed threat the coronavirus has been posing of late to the lives of people

With fog and crackers, the air quality is sure to go down further, inconveniencing even healthy citizens. That **The NGT decision** apart, the ban on crackers will have a salutary effect on the fight against Covid-19 as the pandemic is resurfacing as a wave in Delhi and some other states.

Cracker bursting is a community activity in most places and can turn into a superspreader event. It can be fatal for some people who are suffering from the disease, which impairs, among others, the lungs most. The ban would, thus, help the nation

save precious lives.

But the purpose will be served fully only if the state governments and more importantly, the people, took it seriously and implemented it wholeheartedly. It is natural for

governments to be hesitant in pouring cold water on the festive spirit and invite the wrath of the people, though some states such as Rajasthan and Odisha have already banned crackers. The procrastinators have a ruse now in the form of the order of the NGT, and can go all out and ensure that the order is implemented in its spirit.

But there is only so much the governments can do on public health; it

should primarily be the concern of the public.

They must come forward and understand why the tribunal and governments have been forced to come out with such restrictive orders. Reports from the ground suggest that there is little progress in the way Indians grasp the enormousness of the threat the pandemic is, and that they go ahead with their lives and manners throwing caution to the wind. They swarm markets, shops, malls, public places and places of worship as if the

virus either did not exist or has vanished. Since neither is true, it is incumbent upon them to restrict themselves and keep the virus at bay.

The Union government should intensify the Jan Andolan awareness campaign but is for the people to pick the right lessons from the nation's experiences and protect themselves. Celebrations and festivals are a yearly phenomenon; life is but a once-in-a-lifetime offer. It's important that we live on to celebrate them.

Hope across sectors

aluations on the Indian equity markets soared on Tuesday after a report jointly issued by drug makers — Pfizer from the United V States and BioNTech from Germany — announced a significant success in the development of a vaccine for the most infectious Covid-19 disease. While the broader Indian markets were mirroring euphoria witnessed around the world, India's benchmark index BSE Sensex hit an alltime high on Tuesday.

The vaccine may not be available immediately. However, it gives hope to businesses across sectors like aviation, travel and hospitality, tourism, movies among others that were shut because of the highly human contact nature of their operations. It will reopen a significant part of the economy which is either shut or severely underperforming. The rise in the Sensex and the Nifty was primarily driven by bank stocks, which indicate an optimistic assessment of the economy by investors.

This assessment goes against claims made by several analysts that the Indian economy would take a year or two to crawl back to its size in March However the hullishness of investors who look at future earni before taking investment decisions, should keep us optimistic about the return of normalcy in the economy.

Another factor that has been driving the growth in equity markets across the world, including India, is the victory of Democratic candidate Joe Biden in the US Presidential elections. Investors were happy about the election result because they expected global trade would return to normalcy under the Biden administration. However, with incumbent US President Donald Trump preparing for protracted legal challenges to invalidate mail-in votes that predominantly favoured Mr Biden and several grey areas existing in the US electoral system, the field is still open in Washington. It would be ideal for Indian investors to be cautious and watchful about the unfolding events in US politics.

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India-US ties might be stronger under Biden



Vishnu Prakash

was difficult to believe one's eyes when the so-called leader of the free world stood before the cameras to announce that his opponent was trying to "steal" the justconcluded American presidential elections, which he claimed he had already won, with barely half the votes tabulated. In the supercharged atmosphere, such an incendiary assertion was bound to spark protests and violence across the nation. Unfortunately, it

India may not be a perfect democracy, but it has a fairly enviable record of peaceful transition of power, notwithstanding the heated rhetoric. Even Mrs Indira Gandhi, having imposed an ill-advised Emergency in 1975, bowed out of office gracefully upon losing at the hustings in 1977. Every credit goes to India's Election lously organising the gigantic parliamentary elections involving a 850-million

strong electorate. Curiously, the United States doesn't have a Electoral Commission. Each of the 50 states and Washington D.C. is responsible for holding the elections and framing procedural/policy guidelines, even without judicial oversight. As such, there is a wide variation in practices. Some states allow early voting by all, some don't. Some use EVMs, while others have only paper ballots. Some undertake simultaneous or early ballot counting, while the others do so only after the polls have closed.

Even more unique is the institution of an "Electoral College" which actually elects the President and vice-president. An eligible voter votes for the President and the Veep, but also for the elector. Both the popular and the Electoral College votes are tallied, but the latter takes precedence. At least five times in US history has a candidate won the popular vote while his rival has taken office by virtue of garnering a majority in the Electoral College.
The Electoral College is a historical legacy.

America's 1787 constitutional convention was not ready to bestow universal franchise and was bitterly divided over allowing semi-literate or underprivileged individuals to choose the President. That is when a compromise was struck. Political parties could nominate their representatives to contest for the Electoral College. Towards the end of the 18th century only property-owning white American men were enfranchised, who comprised just six per cent of the population. Women got the right to vote only in 1920. Surprisingly, the system has worked extremely well till now. However, not even

founding America's fathers could have foreseen and insulated the electoral architecture against an iconoclast and narcissist like Donald Trump, for whom the ends justify the means. As of November 9, he continues to claim victory and vows to wage a futile legal battle to get the results annulled or the ballots recounted, essentially on frivolous grounds.

All the same, much to the relief of the world and a majority of the American people, former vice-president Joe Biden is all but certain to be the next occupant of the White House. His running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, half black and half Indian, will become the first woman and the first non-white person to become the vice-presi-

dent of the United States. The question that is uppermost in the minds of most Indians is about Mr Biden's disposition

towards India and China. Some analysts contend that he would be soft towards China and Pakistan. It would be recalled that in October 2008, Islamabad had conferred the "Hilal-i-Pakistan" (Crescent of Pakistan), its highest civilian honour, on him "in recognition of... consistent support for Pakistan". That said, the geostrategic scenario has undergone a sea change in the past five years, and Pakistan has been totally exposed. Its utility for the US has diminished, and it is now firmly in the Chinese camp, which makes it a bigger suspect.

At the same time, China has grievously erred by overtly stepping up its efforts to America as displace efforts regional hegemon. It challenged the might of the US by flexing its military muscle with most maritime neighbours, some of whom, like Japan and Philippines, are under the US security umbrella. It also aims to wrest the crown as world leader in innovation, infotech and biotech. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is expanding its economic and strategic footprint across the globe. As these directly hreaten America's pri macy, no US President, not even an internationalist like Joe Biden, can afford to turn a Nelson's

On the other hand, Mr Biden has stayed invested in India-US relations for decades. He has visited India several times and officially once while he was vice-president in 2013. He has been an admirer of India's democratic moorings and pluralism. As a senator, he voted in favour of Indiaspecific motions at least six times. He backed the civil nuclear agreement with India as well as India's permanent membership of the UN

There is a growing convergence in our regional and global outlook. We particularly view Chinese aggression, ambition and threats from a similar prism.

Security Council.
Earlier this year he assured the Indian American community: "I'll continue to believe and continue... standing with India and con-fronting the threats it faces in its own region along its borders." In any event, leaders

are guided by national interests in cultivating ties with other countries. India and the US have over 60 dialogue mechanisms in addition to the 2+2" ministerial consultations encompassing a wide range of subjects, including the economy, trade, education, energy, science and technology, security and defence, outer space, counterterrorism and cyber security, in addition to regional and international issues. It is natural for the world's largest and (soon to be) third largest economies to enhance

their synergies. There is a growing convergence in our regional and global outlook. We particularly Chinese aggression, ambition and threats from a similar prism. It is said that "where you stand in the world has a good deal to do with where you sit". And there are a handful of matters where our interests do diverge, such as India's ties with Iran and Russia. This is primarily due to our geographical and security imperatives.

It is reasonable to expect, therefore, a continued emphasis and attention on infusing greater momentum in bilateral ties. America's interest in the "Indo-Pacific concept" or the 'Quad" should remain undiminished. Given the trajectory that China is following, it is not incon-ceivable for India to opt for an enhanced partnership with the US. "If the US and India became closer friends and partners, then the world will be a safer place", Mr Biden had observed 15 years ago. It's time to make that happen together!

The writer is a foreign affairs analyst and a former Indian high commissioner to Canada and ambassador to South Korea

BIHAR POLLS

Whether the Bihar voter may or may not get the promised Coronavirus vaccine free as was being promised, the BJP has got a booster dose in the form of popular mandate, which gives it immunity from regional party dominance. The BJP emerging as the single largest party in Bihar Assembly is phenomenal. The 40-yearlong regional party dominance there has ended this time, giving way to the BJP's juggernaut. Though it cannot form government on its own, it will have a big brother's role among its partners over political and administrative issues. The ultimate loser seems to be JD(U)

Dr D.V.G. Sankararao Vizianagaram

TTD DARSHAN

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) authorities are not allowing senior citizens and children for darshan of Lord Venkateswara. As per reports a decision is yet to be taken. But they are allowing VIPs, swamijis with their kith and kin, and the authorities posing photos with the temple as background with them. Is there is no threat of virus from VIPs. Since buses and train services are yet to be restored people owning cars only can go to Tirumala. Are the blessings of God are limited to few people?
P. Ramakrishna



COLOMBEY-LES-DEUX-EGLISES, Nov. 10 General De Gaulle, towering figure of modern French history, died suddenly in his country home here last night and will be buried in the simple country churchyard of this east French

village. His death, at the age of 79, shocked France and the world, leading President Georges Pompidou to declare "General De Gaulle is dead. France is a widow."

The General's death appears to have stemmed from a condition often linked to a hardening of the arteries. It came as a complete suprise as there had been no previous report that the General had suffered any ill-health since his resignation as President in April,

Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



Gehlot denied his choice of chief secretary

".K. Arya, the new chief secretary of Rajasthan, is not the first choice of chief minister Ashok Gehlot for the position. Until the last moment, the last working day of outgoing chief secretary Rajeev Swarup, the Gehlot government hoped to push for a tenure extension for Mr Swarup. But the Centre denied its consent and Mr Arya was drafted in, superseding eight IAS officers in the process. He was additional chief secretary for finance. Besides appointing Mr Arya, the government also effected a major reshuffle involving 21 senior IAS officers.

The drama was building for some time. Sources say that Mr Gehlot had worked hard to ensure Mr Swarup was appointed chief secretary in early July this year and then pushed for his extension. It is said that to appoint Mr Swarup to the state's top post, the chief minister reportedly "struck a deal"

with the previous chief secretary D.B. Gupta who was slated to retire in September. Under this supposed deal, Mr Gupta resigned in July and was immediately appointed advisor to the CM for a year and Mr Swarup stepped in as his successor.

The babu grapevine has it that Mr Swarup endeared himself to the chief minister during the Gehlot-Sachin Pilot standoff, which may not have gone down well with the Centre.

HAVE 'COOLING-OFF' PERIOD FOR BABUS, SAYS EC

The Election Commission (EC) is now likely to recommend to the Centre a "cooling off" period for IAS, IPS and other officers who join politics soon after retirement or after resigning the service. Sources say that the poll panel was jolted into this line of thinking after former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey resigned from the IPS in September and promptly joined a political party barely weeks before the Bihar Assembly elections. His resignation was accepted immediately, even though government regulations stipulate that an officer who wishes to join private employment after service needs to wait a year after retirement or resigning from

Though the demand for a cooling-off period is not a new one and is usually raised around election time when babus who have political ambitions often quit to join a political party. The government has so far rejected it, arguing that barring former babus from joining politics immediately after leaving service can be interpreted as an infringement of their right to

But the poll panel is now keen to ensure that the government insists on a cooling-off period for AIS officers seeking to join poli-

tics, just as it does for those seeking corporate jobs. The commission is yet to work out the modalities of how long this cooling-off period should be, but sources say it could be at least two years.

FOREST TRANSFERS IN UTTARAKHAND: A U-TURN

forest department Uttarakhand and the state government seem to be at odds with each other. The government recently cancelled all the transfers of forest department officials done between September and October for violating an order that prohibited transfer of any official during 2020-21. Apparently, the department has done around a dozen such transfers without first seeking clearance from the state gov-

Earlier, in July, sources say, the government had revoked the transfer order of 11 deputy conservator of forests (DCFs) within 48

hours of the issuing of the orders. At the time, Anand Bardhan, principal secretary, forest department, had issued a terse statement saying that it was a government order "and we are simply following it".

However, according to sources, several Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers say that the order was revoked since the transfer list contained several names that were not presented before the civil service board for transfers. Further, some officers on deputation were given additional charge, which is apparently against the rules. According to a Supreme Court ruling, no transfer can be done without the approval of the civil services board. So why was this being done? That's a mystery.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

quick

INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	43,277.65	1.60
Nifty 50	12,631.10	1.37
S&P 500*	3,543.39	-0.20
Dollar (₹)	74.18	-0.03
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.27	-0.96
Euro (₹)	87.57	0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,338▲662	1.31
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.14	0.74
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.916	0.040
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.961	0.003
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

States may cut capital outlay on infra by 40%: Icra

Impacted by the pandemic, states are likely to cut capital outlay on infrastructure by up to 40 per cent, Icra said. States account for 37-40 per cent of the total infrastructure capital expenditure. Major states together had a budgeted capital outlay of over Rs 5.7 lakh crore for 2020-21 against Rs 5.1 lakh crore in 2019-20. "The capital outlay on infrastructure by states could decline 10-40 per cent in FY2021," Icra said.

WhatsApp adds shopping button to push catalogue



WhatsApp said it has added a new shopping button on its app to make it easier for people to discover a business catalogue to get details about the goods and services offered by a firm. More than 175 million people message a WhatsApp Business account every day. Previously, people had to click into the business' logue. Now, the shopping button, resembling a storefront icon, will lead to catalogue.

SBI board nod for divesting UTI Trustee stake

SBI said its board has approved divestment of over 8.5 per cent holdings in UTI Trustee Company. It said the nod from the executive committee of the central board is for divesting 8,510 equity shares constituting 8.51 per cent of the bank's stake in UTI Trustee Company Pvt Ltd. As per Sebi regulation, no sponsor of a MF, its associate or group firm can have 10 per cent shareholding or voting rights in another mutual fund.

Crompton promoters sell ₹1,630 cr shares

Macritchie Investments Pte Ltd and Amalfiaco Ltd, promoters of Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd, offloaded the firm's shares worth over Rs 1.631 crore through open market transactions. Macritchie sold over 1.89 crore scrips at an average price of Rs 296.54 per scrip, valuing the deal at Rs 561.23 crore, as per bulk deal data on NSE. Amalfiaco offloaded over 3.6 crore shares at Rs 296.57 apiece.



Pandemic helps nearly 80% schools to adopt tech

CHENNAL NOV. 10

Covid-19 has helped faster technology adoption by schools. While only 15 per cent of the schools in India had working computers prior to Covid-19, now almost 80 per cent of them have made some level of technology adoption.

Covid-19 has disrupted the education sector and forced them to adopt tech-

nology faster. Prior to the pandemic, out of the 15 lakh schools in the country, only 2.6 lakh or 14 per cent had working computers. This includes 35 per cent private aided schools. 30 per cent private unaided schools, 9.8 per cent government schools and 7 per cent other schools.

However, in the case of higher education, about 85 per cent of the 55,000 colleges had working computer facilities, as per a study by Bengaluru-based RedSeer Consulting and Mumbai-based Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI.)

"Schools and other education institutes were caught off guard after the onset of Covid and lockdowns. However, despite low technology maturity, both in terms of device/ infrastructure readiness and teacher's technological remarkably resilient in adjusting to the "new normal"," said Anil Kumar, founder, Consulting.

In the past six months, technology adoption has been at different levels across schools. Less than five per cent schools use dedicated/advanced tech solutions like teacher-centric tools and administration management. Almost

20 to 30 per cent schools are using live tuitions, sharing digital content through shared cloud, e-mail and the like. Another 45 to 55 per cent schools have basic digital communication through Whats-App and similar platforms and they share pre-recorded digital content. However, 15 to 25 per cent schools have shut down, with no tech adop-

Further, 75 per cent of

the surveyed school students are making use of live lectures to connect with the teachers, which used to be under 10 per cent before the lockdown an eight-fold jump. Private schools performed above average with 90 per cent students and parents making use of technology to join live classes, while this was 60 per cent for government schools. However, not a significant difference in

bigger cities and smaller cities.

In the case of colleges, 80 per cent students are making use of live lectures to connect with the teachers, which earlier would be close to 30 per cent, a 2.5 times jump. Engineering colleges were equipped with technology requirements. But non-engineering colleges were also able to catch up fast.

■ Banks say it's a money losing proposition

Promote only RuPay card, FM tells banks

FALAKNAAZ SYED

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked banks to promote only RuPay cards and ensure that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) becomes a brand-India product. But bankers argue that with no MDR charges on transactions, RuPay cards give zero revenue and they lose money on it. Besides, the card is not as competitive for customers as MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards.

Addressing the 73rd annual general meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) virtually, Sitharaman said, "I would not think it is necessary today in India when RuPay is becoming global, for Indians to be given any other cards first

than RuPay itself. So, promote Rupay cards. Make becomes a brand-India product, which can be pro-moted elsewhere in the globe and NPCI therefore should be a priority."

"Whoever needs the card, RuPay will be the only card you will promote," she said.

MDR, or merchant dis-

count rate, usually 1 to 3 per cent of a transaction, is the fee charged to a merchant by payment processors for debit and credit card services. After the government

revoking merchant charges on digital pay-ments, Rupay debit cards seem to have lost their popularity with the banks, which are choosing Visa and MasterCard. An IIT-Bombay study authored by Prof. Ashish Das has revealed that

tial treatment in the pricing structure. The study found that fewer RuPay debit cards were being issued by banks from September 2019 to August 2020. The study also revealed that only 65 lakh debit cards were issued in August 2020, compared with 4.6 crore cards in the same period of 2019.

A senior banker said, "RuPay is India's own card. There is no MDR on RuPay card, but banks generally lose money when MDR is not there, as there is a cost involved. So banks are happy to promote Visa and MasterCard. Even the RBI's Pathak committee had suggested not to make MDR zero. So the government has to relook at its decision.'

"Secondly, MasterCard and Visa are already established international RuPay is facing differencompanies. The transac-

tion experience is seam less and they burn money to attract and retain customers with so many offers such as free lounge access at airports, campaigns, etc. On the other hand, the transaction drops are high with UPI transactions. The government should have a reasonable MDR to help us recover expenses on RuPay," added the banker.

Sitharaman also gave lenders a deadline up to March 31, 2021 to link all bank accounts with Aadhaar.

"I want Aadhaar cardseeded accounts." "... by March 31, 2021, every account should have a PAN where needed and where applicable, and Aadhaar in every one of your accounts," she said.

She also said banks should discourage non-digital payments and pro-mote digital transactions.

Gold loan market grew 1,400% in last decade

SANGEETHA G

The overall gold loan market has grown 1400 per cent in the past ten years from Rs 60,000 crore in FY10 to Rs 9 lakh crore in FY20. Greater use of technology will see the organised gold loan outstanding growing 17 per cent this year to touch Rs 4 lakh crore and further to Rs 4.6 lakh crore

in FY22. At a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 31.1 per cent over the last decade, the gold loan market has touched Rs 9 lakh crore. The market consists of organised players like banks, NBFCs and Nidhi companies as well as unorganised players like pawnbrokers and moneylend-

According to the World Gold Council, organised gold loan outstanding is expected to hit Rs 4 lakh crore in FY 21 from Rs 3.4 lakh crore in FY20, thanks to the expansion in branch networks by gold loan NBFCs and greater use of

The organised gold loan

market has the opportunity to grow with collateralised gold holdings of 1,280 tonnes, equivalent to about 5 per cent of the total outstanding gold stocks in

Technology has also become a key enabler for the organised players in spreading the reach of gold loan business. The digital offerings in the form of online gold loan schemes have become popular.

Further, the 28.8 per cent rally in domestic gold price this year has led to increased demand for gold loans. Borrowers have benefited from higher loan value for the same collateral while lenders have benefited from lower loan-tovalue (LTV) ratios on their existing loans and higher demand.

"The gold loan industry has traditionally been a pillar of support for small businesses and households in need of emergency short-term assistance.. Covid-19 has boosted demand for gold loans through banks and nonbanking financial compa-nies. The recent rise was

seen some time since July 2019 when prices started moving up sharply. A 28.8 per cent rally in domestic gold price this year and the need for quick credit among small businesses will further spur gold loans' growth post-Covid," said Somasundaram P.R., managing director, India, World Gold Council.

It was believed that Covid-19 would induce higher gold recycling from consumers. However, consumers used their gold holdings as collateral to obtain their financing needs rather than outright

The demand for gold loans during the pandemic has been strong for both NBFCs and banks. Banks have aggressively promoted and launched gold loan schemes since the out-break. The assets under management (AUM) of Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance rose by 15 per cent and 33.4 per cent, respectively in the April-June quarter. Federal Bank reported 36 per cent increase in gold

MS LAUNCHES **NEXT-GEN XBOX GAMING CONSOLES**

SUPANTHA MUKHERJEE & SAM NUSSEY STOCKHOLM/TOKYO,

Corp Microsoft Tuesday launched two models of its Xbox gaming console, seven years after the debut of the previous version, to capture a pandemic-driven boom in consumer spending on games.

The Xbox Series X which the company has described as the "world's most powerful console" will retail for \$499.99 and a lower-priced Xbox Series S will sell for \$299.99.

The strategy offers consumers greater choice but the compact Series S faces criticism for being less powerful than the Series X, with less storage capacity and lacking advanced "ray tracing" graphics for titles like Capcom's "Devil May

Xbox will compete with Sony Corp's 6758.T PlayStation 5, scheduled to launch on Thursday. PS5 is widely viewed as leading the console race due to its bigger fan base and a broader range of exclusive gaming titles available at

INDIA-BOUND NEW **LAND ROVER DISCOVERY REVEALED**

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV 10

The Jaguar Land Rover, the Tata Motors-owned British marquee, which took the covers off the new Land Rover Discovery in the UK is all set to enter the Indian luxury car market next vear.

The updated 2021 model the fifth generation Discovery SUV is aimed at rejuvenating sales of what was formerly one of its best-selling models. It will be introduced in the Indian market next year.



Sensex in 43K zone

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV.10

The bulls were unstoppable for the seventh consecutive session, as the global market rallied on hopes of a coronavirus vaccine hitting drug stores soon. fresh cases in India falling to 38,000 and the NDA seemed taking a comfortable lead in Bihar elections.

The Sensex closed above the 43,000-mark for the first time at 43,277.65, gaining 680.22 points and the Nifty -50 closed at 12,631.10, up 170 points. However, underperfor-

mance and profit taking in the broader market shows the market rally is getting stretched now and could see some profit taking before Diwali. The BSE



Mid-cap Index fell 0.10 per cent while the Small-cap fell 0.48 per cent against Sensex's rise of 1.60 per

The volatility index, NSE's India VIX, rose 7.28 per cent to 21.58.

Foreign portfolio investors pumped another Rs 5,627.32 crore into equities, as per the provisional data, making it Rs 20,340.45 crore investment in the last four sessions post-the US presidential

elections. FPIs have net invested Rs 15,874 crore in November so far. The domestic institutions, meanwhile, have been booking profit and

were net sellers by Rs 2,309.19 crore on Tuesday. Devarsh Vakil, deputy lead of retail research HDFC Securities, said, "Indian markets shot up on positive overnight cues from global markets and Asian peers opening high-

Banking stocks continued to outperform, as the Nifty Bank Index gained a massive 3.89 per cent. At the same time IT and pharmaceuticals stocks corrected while beaten down stocks such as those tied to travel and leisure, movie theaters, and theme park moved up.

Blockchain-based platform launched for crop trading

JUSTINA VASQUEZ

Cerealia SA launched its blockchain-based physical agriculture trading platform for commercial use. allowing companies to trade wheat, sorghum and other commodities.

The launch followed a series of pilot transactions beginning in 2018. Firms from Japan, Dubai, Ukraine, Turkey, Algeria and Brazil participated in a pre-launch period before the platform was released on Tuesday to the general community, according to a company statement. Transaction volumes range as large as 20,000 tonnes of grain.

based company said it's the first to combine the need in the international Russian wheat market for a fast trading platform with a more thoroughly traceable execution programme. Russia is the world's top wheat producer. Transactions span wheat as well as corn, barley and other grains and vegetable oil markets.

Traders can now be 100 per cent certain they really did the trade, versus traditional over-the-phone brokerage," Andrei Grigorov, Cerealia's chief executive officer, said in the statement. "Instantly, they have digitally signed contracts and blockchain-

Agricultural commodity blockchain trading platforms have been projects among both startups and neavyweights in years. Prime Shipping Foundation piloted bulk commodities payments via blockchain, shipping wheat from Russia to Turkey. Covantis SA was announced in 2018 after the world's largest agricultural commodities traders--Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., Bunge Ltd., Cargill, Cofco Group, Louis Dreyfus Co. and the agriculture arm of Glencore Plc -- teamed up to streamline trading.

-Bloomberg

Premji most generous **Indian in FY20: Hurun**

Mumbai, **Mumbai, Nov. 10:** Wipro's Azim Premji donated Rs 22 crore a day, or Rs 7,904 crore, in a year to emerge as the most generous Indian in FY20 and topped a list of philanthro-

Premji pipped HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, who had earlier topped the list collated by Hurun Report India and Edelgive Foundation, by a wide margin. Nadar's donations stood at Rs 795 crore for FY20 against Rs 826 crore in prior year. Premji had donated Rs 426 crore in the previous fiscal.

Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries retained the third spot among the list of givers by donating Rs 458 crore against Rs 402 crore a year ago, it said.

The pandemic had the corporate honchos repurposing their donations to fight Covid infections, and the top giver on this turned out to be Tata Sons with a Rs 1,500- crore commitment, followed by Premji at Rs 1,125 crore and Ambani's Rs 510 crore. A bulk of the corporate

commitments seemed to

have gone to the PM-CARES Fund, with Reliance Industries com-



mitting Rs 500 crore, and Aditya Birla Group donating Rs 400 crore.

The Tatas' commitment also includes a Rs 500 crore donation to the newly created fund. Premji's generosity pulled the total donations

up by 175 per cent to Rs 12,050 crore in FY20, the list said. Azim Premji Endowment Fund owns 13.6 per cent of the promoter's shareholding in Wipro

and has the right to receive all money earned from promoter shares. Individuals who have donated more than Rs 10 crore numbered 78 against 72 a year ago.

With a donation of Rs 27 crore, Amit and Archana Chandra of ATE Chandra Foundation are the only professional managers to ever enter the list. —PTI

EV era: Oil bill to dip by ₹1 L-cr; govts to lose ₹1 L-cr revenue

India can save Rs 1 lakh crore on crude oil imports annually if electric vehicles (EVs) were to garner 30 per cent share of new vehicle sales by 2030, says a study. Meeting the 30 per cent

EV penetration target in 2030 will also have several environmental benefits, including a 17 per cent decrease each in primary particulate matter and nitrogen oxide and dioxide (NOx) emissions, 18 per cent reduction in carbon monoxide emissions, and a 4 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the business as usual scenario, found a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a New Delhibased think-tank.

The higher EV penetration would also mean 19 per cent fewer jobs in the oil sector and the internal combustion enginemaking sector combined. Further, the annual value-add loss in the oil and automobile sectors **WIN SOME, LOSE SOME**

If 30% of new vehicles sold are electric by 2030:

Crude import bill down by ₹1 L cr ■₹2 L cr market for power-train. battery, public chargers added ■120,000 new jobs generated

■19% fewer jobs in oil & engine-making sectors ■₹2 L cr annual valueadd loss for oil and auto sectors ■₹1 L cr tax revenue loss on fuel tax to Centre & states



could amount to about Rs 2 lakh crore. In addition, the central and state governments would lose over Rs 1 lakh crore in tax revenue annually from reduced sale of petrol and diesel.

However, the increase in EV penetration could also increase the combined market size of power-train, battery and public chargers to over Rs 2 lakh crore in addition to creating 120,000 new jobs in this sector. Further, a substantial number of new jobs are likely to be created in emerging areas such as battery recycling, telematics, and allied construction and services.

"As India recovers from the pandemic, a focus on developing India's domestic EV manufacturing sector and increasing the penetration of electric vehicles in road transport would help deliver on jobs, growth and sustainability. This would require creating a robust and comprehensive transition plan for electric mobility that capitalises on the opportunities creimprovement in balance of payments, new mar-kets, and jobs generated," said Abhinav Soman, one of the authors of the study and a researcher at

MAHINDRA BIDS **ADIEU TO PLANE MANUFACTURING**

Mumbai, Nov. 10: Mahindra Group on Tuesday said it has closed down its aircraft manufacturing business in Australia and is scouting for a buyer, more than a decade after venturing into high-cost plane-making business.

The decision also comes little over a year after one of the planes, manufactured at the Australian crashed in Sweden killing nine persons. In 2009, Mahindra Group acquired 75.1 per

cent stake each in two Australian aerospace Gippsland Aeronautics Aero) and Aerostaff Australia, for Rs 175 crore as part of its plans to manufacture aircraft and allied components to service global market. "We have shut down our Gipps Aero busi-

ness, which was into the manufacturing of 8- and 10-seater planes in Australia," Mahindra & Mahindra deputy managing director and group CFO Anish Shah told reporters in a postearnings call. -PTI







SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Marcus

Stoinis c de Kock b Boult O, Shikhar Dhawan b

Jayant 15, Ajinkya Rahane

c de Kock b Boult 2,

Shreyas Iyer (not out) 65, Rishabh Pant c Hardik b Coulter-Nile 56, Shimron

Hetmyer c Coulter-Nile b

Boult 5, Axar Patel c sub b Coulter-Nile 9, Kagiso

Rabada (run out) 0. Extras (lb-1 w-3) 4. **Total**

(for 7 wkts, in 20 overs)

FoW: 1-0, 2-16, 3-22, 4-

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-30-3, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-28-0, Jayant Yadav 4-0-

25-1, Nathan Coulter-Nile

4-0-29-2, Krunal Pandya 3-0-30-0, Kieron Pollard

Sharma c sub (Lalit Yadav) b Nortje 68, Q de

Kock c Pant b Stoinis 20,

S. Yadav run out (Dubey/Pant) 19, Ishan

Kishan (not out) 33, K. Pollard b Rabada 9, H.

Pandya c Rahane b Nortje

3, K. Pandya (not out) 1. Extras (lb 4) 4. Total (for 5 wkts, in 18.4 overs) 157. FoW: 1-45, 2-90, 3-137, 4-

Bowling: R. Ashwin 4-0-

28-0, K. Rabada 3-0-32-1,

A. Nortje 2.4-0-25-2, M.

Stoinis 2-0-23-1, A. Patel

4-0-16-0, P. Dubey 3-0-

Indians: R.

1-0-13-0.

Mumbai

147, 5-156.

118, 5-137, 6-149, 7-156.

SHORT TAKES

Alia first female director in PCB

Islamabad: The Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed a female director for the first

Human resources executive Alia Zafar has been included among four new PCB directors. The others are finance executive Javed Kurieshi, economist Asim Wajid Jawad and corporate executive Arif Saeed. Zafar and Jawad were appointed for two-year terms.

The PCB's new constitution makes it mandatory to include at least one woman among four independent directors on its board of governors.

I welcome the newly-appointed independent members, especially Ms Alia Zafar, the first female independent member, which is a giant step forward in enhancing the PCB's governance structure, PCB chairman Ehsan Mani said. - AP

Bangla captain tests positive

Dhaka: Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque has tested posi-tive for Covid-19 and he is undergoing home isolation, according to a report here. Haque's coronavirus positive result came close on the heels of another senior player Mahmudullah Riyad contracting the virus which forced him to miss the Pakistan Super League

Bangladesh Cricket Board chief physician Dr Debashish Chowdhury confirmed Haque's test result to local news website. Haque, on his part, said that he had mild fever and got himself tested. "I only came to know yesterday that I have tested positive for Covid-19. I had fever for the last two days. Even I am running temperature today. But otherwise, there aren't any other symptoms,"

Bairstow to make

Haque said. - PTI

Big Bash debut Sydney: England wicketkeeperbatsman Jonny Bairstow will

make his Big Bash League debut this year after signing for the Melbourne Stars. The 10th edition of Australia's Twenty20 tournament begins on December 10, although the 31-year-old will not be available until after Christmas.

"I've always watched the BBL no matter where I've been in the world and it will be nice to finally be a part of it," said Bairstow late Monday. "I know the Stars are one of the competition's profile clubs and have a track record of being in

contention in finals. Bairstow will join forces with the likes of Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa at the Stars. "His experience and versatility will be a valuable addition to our batting line-up, and we've got several 'keeping options in the squad as well," said Melbourne coach David Hussev. - AFP

Pak whitewash Zimbabwe in T20

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Leg spinner Usman Qadir grabbed four wickets to guide Pakistan to a 3-0 whitewash of Zimbabwe with an eight-wicket victory in the third Twenty20here on Tuesday

The 27-year-old Qadir — son of the late star spinner Abdul Qadir - finished with 4-13 from four mesmerising overs to restrict Zimbabwe to a paltry 129-9 in 20 overs.

That proved a walk in the park for the home team, which cruised to victory in 15.2 overs losing just two wickets.
Pakistan lost Fakhar Zaman (21)
and Haider Ali (27) but debutant Abdullah Shafique top-

scored with 41 and saw Pakistan home with Khushdil Shah (36 not out). - AFP Brief scores: Zimbabwe 129/9 (Chibhabha 31, Qadir 4/13, Wasim 2/27) lost to Pakistan 130/2 (Shafique 41, Khushdil 36*)

Live on TV

Women's Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Sydney Sixers from 9 am: Brisbane Heat vs Sydney Thunder from 1.35 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

International Friendlies: Norway vs Israel from 10.30 pm on Sony Six; Turkey vs Croatia from 11.15 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Belgium vs Switzerland from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1: Germany vs Czech Republic from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; Netherlands vs Spain from 1.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2: France (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3

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

MUMB-HIGH FIVE!

Rohit & Co. hammer Delhi by 5 wickets to take fifth IPL title

Dubai, Nov. 10: A peerless Rohit Sharma led defending champions Mumbai Indians to their fifth IPL title with a onesided demolition of Delhi Capitals here on Tuesday, closing an immensely successful tournament that had to be played in a controlled environment amid the raging Covid-19

pandemic.
If last year's one-run win over Chennai Super Kings was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit's aristocratic 68 off 50 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4

Five IPL titles are certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe.

He has played way better knocks than this in the past and will play a few more special ones in the future.

But he might never play a more significant one considering the little whirlpool of controversy that his "once damaged and now on the mend hamstring" created.
The 'Hit-Man' has given

an altogether new meaning to what has one known till now about crushing pain barriers.

A hamstring injury can be very painful but the manner in which India's regular white-ball skip-per exploded inside the 'Ring of Fire' at the Dubai International Stadium, he was fighting a battle of his own.

The cover drive was about his class, the whiplash behind square was his swagger and the so very familiar "Rohit Sharma pull shot" was an assurance to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly that "All Is Well".

And to prove a point, he fetched those doubles, tap and run singles including a misjudged one that saw Suryakumar Yadav (19) sacrificing his wicket for his skipper and rightly The carron ball bowled by Ashwin was deposited to point fence with a cracking square cut and the straight six ii leg spinner Praveen Dubey was "Boss Man'

written all over it. There has never been an edition where a team has



Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma (left) and team celebrate their win over Delhi Capitals in the final of IPL Season 13 in Dubai on Tuesday.

If last year's one-run win over Chennai Super Kings was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit's aristocratic 68 off 50 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4

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looked in a different six finals it has played. league compared to seven

As Rohit had said earlier, it's not rocket science but investing in pure match-winners that has given Mumbai Indians such a menacing Rome wasn't built in a

day and neither a champion outfit that has now won five titles out of the

If Jasprit Bumrah wreaked havoc in the Qualifier one, Trent Boult (3/30) decided that final was his turn to inflict the damage and he did it with a first ball beauty that Marcus Stoinis remember for years to

Nathan Coulter-Nile looked like a weak-link but got the dangerous Rishabh Pant (56 off 38 balls) at the nick of time to put the brakes.

Rohit's batting only finished what looked inevitable but it was his captaincy that set it up.
Only 45 runs conceded

in the last five overs during the DC innings was a game-changer as Shreyas Iyer (65 no off 50 balls) literally struggled during the end overs.

That was the time when save for Bumrah (0/28 in 4overs), Boult and Coulter-Nile took the pace off the deliveries with slow bouncers and cutters making it difficult to hit. And the decision to have off-spinner Jayant Yadav replace leg-spinner Rahul Chahar also proved to be

a success.

New Delhi, Nov. 10: Kings XI Punjab are likely to continue with the captain and coach combine of K.L.

> a closely-contested 2020 Indian Premier League.
> A team source said that the owners want Rahul and Kumble take the team forward in the 2021 edition,

Rahul and Anil Kumble

even after finishing sixth in

scheduled in less than six months. Rahul, who captained the team for the first team this season, had another stellar season with the bat, amassing 670 runs at an average

of 55.83. It was Kumble's first season with the fran-KXIP, who have never had a settled unit, have finally can be built. That group includes Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mohammad Shami, Chris Gayle and youngsters like Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh.

KXIP LIKELY TO RETAIN RAHUL-KUMBLE

The management wants to plug the gaps in the middle order and bowling found a core group of playdepartment, which has been an issue for a number ers around whom a team

of years. "The owners are happy with captain and coach. Rahul was exceptional with the bat and team scripted a remarkable comeback in the second half of the season. Had that snort run not being called in the first game (against DC), the team would have been in play-offs" the source said.

Waugh sad about Virat pullout

Australian great Steve Waugh said on Tuesday he was surprised and disappointed that India captain Virat Kohli will miss three Tests to be at the birth of his first child, with his absence detracting from the blockbuster The 32-year-old and his

Bollywood star wife Anushka Sharma are expecting a child in January, and Kohli has been given permission by the Indian cricket board to return home after the first Test in Adelaide, which begins December 17.

While the absence of the superstar batsman could improve Australia's chances of regaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy, it is a blow to broadcasters and cricket chiefs already feeling the effects of a pandemic-affected

"I'm a little bit disappointed he's not going to



be there — and a bit sur-

prised," former skipper Waugh, who played 168 Tests, said. "This was really shap-

ing up as one the key series of his whole career after he's achieved just about everything. But obviously family comes

India are due leave this week for Australia, where they will spend two weeks in quarantine in Svdnev before the first one-day international November 27.

Kohli will lead India in three ODIs, three T20 and the first Test — a day-night match in Adelaide - before heading home. The second Test starts

Melbourne December 26 followed by matches in Sydney on January 7 and Brisbane on January 15, all played under strict bio-security

DRUMS BEAT FOR PUCOVSKI

Australia's selectors were under pressure on Tuesday to pick Will Pucovski as an opening batsman for the Test series against India after the young prodigy smacked back-to-back double centuries.

The 22-year-old hit an

unbeaten 255 for Victoria in the Sheffield Shield last week, sharing in a record opening stand of 486 runs with Marcus Harris against South Australia. He followed it with 202

against Western Australia on Monday which saw former Australia captains add their weight to calls for him to open alongside David Warner, at the expense of incumbent Joe Burns.

"It's against a good team, India, but this kid's ready... Now is his time,"

former skipper Michael Clarke told reporters.

"Got to pick him. The fact this series is in Australia is a great way to get him into that Test team as well. He is playing in conditions he is accustomed to.'

Fellow former captains Ian Chappell and Kim Hughes expressed similar sentiments, as did Mark Waugh.

"I would definitely be picking him for the first Test against India," Waugh told Fox Sports. "He should be picked as an opening batsman."

"Joe Burns has got a decent enough record, but his start to the season hasn't been ideal and he just hasn't nailed that spot down.

Selectors are finalising the squad for the first of four Tests against India in Adelaide on December

BCCI INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SELECTORS

New Delhi, Nov. 10: The BCCI on Tuesday invited applications for replacing three outgoing selectors in the senior men's committee. The deadline for sending applications is Sunday, November 15, with an age-cap of 60 years and a minimum eligibility criteria of 30 firstclass matches. However, it goes without

saying that international experience (7 Tests or a combination of 10 ODIs and 20 first-class matches) will be given preference.

The three outgoing selectors are Devang Gandhi (East Zone), Sarandeep Singh (North Zone) and Jat Paranjape (West Zone).

While the BCCI has done away with the zonal policy officially, the convention has been to replace the candidate from the same zone as Sunil Joshi (South) replaced MSK Prasad, who was the chairman of the last committee.

Similarly, Rajasthan's Gagan Khoda was replaced by Railways' Harvinder Singh. -PTI

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CA chief reveals Kohli missing Tests was on cards be a huge amount to play for ... it will be fascinating

Melbourne, Nov. 10: Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley is not surprised by Virat Kohli's withdrawal from three Test matches here as he prepares for fatherhood in January, taking solace from the fact that the superstar will be there for across formats. a major part of the eager-

Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma are expecting their first child in January. The BCCI has granted Kohli a paternity

leave and he will return to India after the opening scheduled December 17 in Adelaide.

Hockley, who is CA's interim chief executive, said that Kohli missing a major part of the Test series was expected but he is glad that the stylish batter will be available for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs starting November 27.

"When they announced their pregnancy earlier, I think it was always on the cards,' Hockley told

We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs, three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child.

NICK HOCKLEY Cricket Australia chief executive

Sydney radio station SEN. "We're thrilled Virat is coming out for three ODIs,



three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to



respect the fact he wants to be there for the birth of his first child. Clearly, (he is) one of the game's absolute superstars. We're looking forward to seeing him here for seven out of the 10 matches," he said. Hockley said both teams have enough stars to

ensure that cricket fans will be hooked to the series. "You've got a good number of players from both sides who played the last series in Australia which India won. There'll

series. Hockley said it looks

highly unlikely that Kohli could get back to Australia to play the latter part of the series.

"I think it's pretty challenged (for him to return). Obviously a mandatory 14day quarantine period," he said.

"Logistically it's very much more complicated and being brutal it's much harder than normal.