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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 11 NOVEMBER 2020


WORLD | 11
 Kamala ready to reshape US history

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 Tokyo plans test events for Olympics

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Vol. 83 No. 313 Established 1938 | 24 PAGES | ₹6.00

WEATHER

Max: 29.6°C
Min: 12.8°C
RH: 34%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 30/14 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+49,010)	(+587)
86,34,341	1,27,581
covid19india.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,267)	(+4)
TS: 2,52,455	1,385
(+1,886)	(+12)
AP: 8,46,245	6,814

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,15,37,959	DEATHS
12,73,806	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	216
worldometers.info/coronavirus	

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana	
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuha Bahula Ekadashi till 12.37 am (Thursday)	
Star: Purvaphalguni till 6.27 am (Wednesday); Uttaraphalguni till 4.23 am (Thursday)	
Varijyam: 1.02 pm to 2.29 pm	
Durmuhurtam: 11.37 am to 12.22 pm	
Rahuakalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm	
HIJRI CALENDAR	
Rabbi-ul Awval 24, 1442 AH	
PRAYERS	
Fajr: 5.16 am	
Zohar: 12.10 pm	
Asar: 4.06 pm	
Maghrib: 5.47 pm	
Isha: 6.57 pm	
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.19 AM	
SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM	
MOONSET 2.52 PM	
MOONRISE 2.07 AM	

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

SHORT TAKE
TEMPERATURE IN CITY 6° C BELOW NORMAL

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Cool winds, the Northeastlies, flowing over the state are resulting in the sudden dip in temperature. In Hyderabad, the minimum temperature on Tuesday plunged to 12.8°C Celsius. This is 6°C below normal for this time of the year. Even colder temperatures were recorded elsewhere in TS – 7.1°C at Kohir in Sangareddy

■ Full report on Page 3


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Modi magic wins Bihar

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

BJP defeats TRS, wins Dubbak

Modi's appeal to rural poor helped Nitish

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 Tejaswi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal emerged as the single-largest party with 76 seats on Tuesday.

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 by-election. 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, the other MLA being T. Raja Singh.

It was a sweet comeback for Raghunandan Rao, once a TRS politburo member, who had stood third in the 2014 and 2018 Assembly elections, and capped one of the most aggressive BJP campaigns in recent times headed by TS unit president Bandi Sanjay. Raghunandan Rao described the victory as a referendum on the rule of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

The Congress' Cheruku Srinivas Reddy 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.

The shock for the TRS began in the early rounds when Raghunandan Rao established a slim lead. TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha recovered some lost ground and even surged to the lead. In the last rounds, however, Raghunandan Rao clawed back and never let go.

According to the Election Commission, the BJP secured 62,772 votes, TRS 61,302 and the Congress 21,819.

A majority of the exit polls had on Saturday projected that the Mahagathbandhan will have an edge over the NDA. It seemed that the pollsters got the Bihar results wrong once again.

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 because of a staggering increase in the number of EVMs on account of the Covid pandemic.

■ Page 4: Seizure of cash spurred BJP campaign

■ Page 3: RJD, Left seek recount in many seats

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The electoral victory at Dubbak will rejuvenate the BJP ahead of a slew of urban local body polls, with state unit president Bandi Sanjay taking an aggressive line against the state government and highlighting the Hindu agenda.

The BJP will fancy its chances in the elections to the Hyderabad and Warangal municipal corporations as well as at Siddipet, the bailiwick of T. Harish Rao. The Dubbak win is also being seen as the first step towards the 2023 Assembly polls which the BJP believes it can win: Sanjay said after Tuesday's victory that the BJP will hoist the saffron flag on the Golconda fort.

The Dubbak victory will also make the BJP a more attractive option for the disgruntled leaders in the TRS and other parties.

Though the result will have no impact on TRS' dominance in the Assembly, it will give hope of dethroning the party.

■ Page 2: BJP to become prime oppn in GHMC polls

HARISH TAKES BLAME; KTR TO COURSE CORRECT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 10



Finance minister T. Harish Rao said he took complete responsibility for the TRS' loss in the Dubbak by-election. He had led the campaign for the ruling party.

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao said the Dubbak verdict would serve as an eye-opener for the party. "It has alerted us to be more cautious in the coming days," Rama Rao said.

Stating that the party accepts the verdict, Rama Rao said, "In the coming days, we will analyse the reasons for the party's failure and take corrective measures."

■ Full reports on Page 4

ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV. 10

Gujarat 8 BJP
Karnataka 2 BJP
Telangana 1 BJP
MP 19 BJP; 9 Cong
Manipur 4 BJP; 1 Ind
UP 6 BJP; 1 SP

Chhattisgarh 1 Cong
Haryana 1 Cong
Jharkhand 1 Cong; 1 JMM
Nagaland 1 Ind; 1 NDPP
Odisha 2 BJD

into a prestige fight between Kamal Nath and himself. The Congress had to win 27 of the 28 seats if 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 Chhattisgarh 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 Haryana'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 Rajarajeswari 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 RS polls.

congratulations to his party's "winners", with the contest in MP turning

Mr Scindia tweeted his

■ Page 3: RJD, Left seek recount in many seats

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV. 10

The Congress' 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 Rajarajeswari 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 RS polls.

Chhattisgarh seat went to the Congress. In Haryana'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 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 vote-bank 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 outperformed 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.

BJD EMERGES INVINCIBLE IN ODISHA POLLS

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOI | DC BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 10

Odisha's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) proved that it was invincible as it won the two Assembly seats that went to elections following the death of two incumbent lawmakers.

The party headed by CM Naveen Patnaik wrested the Balasore Sadar seat which was represented by the BJP and retained the Tirtol seat.

■ Full report on Page 8

■ Page 3: RJD, Left seek recount in many seats

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV. 10

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■ Page 3: RJD, Left seek recount in many seats

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, NOV. 10

The Congress' Bar

SHORT TAKES
COLLECTOR OF ASIFABAD TRANSFERRED

DC CORRESPONDENT
 KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, NOV. 10

Komaram Bheem and Asifabad district collector, Sandeep Kumar Jha who held office for nine months, is transferred. P.S. Rahul Raj is posted as the new collector of Asifabad.

Among political circles, the news is that the TRS MLA's and other TRS district leaders were behind his transfer. It is a message to officials who refuse to endorse their unlawful and illegal activities, of the power they hold.

On numerous occasions, differences between the collector and the TRS leaders on various issues came to the fore. The TRS leaders had gone to the extent of pressurising the collector to get their things done but, Sandeep Kumar Jha did not bow to the pressure.

Even government officials from some departments had differences with the collector. Some employees staged a protest, alleging that the collector behaved rudely with them, increased their work burden and did not give them leaves.

RJD, LEFT SEEK RECOUNT IN MANY SEATS

From Page 1

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 including RJD and Congress leaders visited the Election Commission office in Patna and demanded a recount in many constituencies.

The CPI(M-L) too sought a recount in three seats. The Left parties, which were leading in 19 seats for most part of the day, were down to 11 in the evening.

In a letter to the Election Commission, the CPI(M-L) demanded a recount of votes in Bhorey, Arrah and Daraundha Assembly constituencies citing "dubious counting practices".

The letter said that the CPI(M-L) candidates "have been shown to be defeated in very narrow margins, following some worrying violations of counting norms".

The letter alleged that in Bhorey, JD(U) candidate Sunil Kumar, a former additional director general of police, "commands a lot of clout in the administration" and that a local JD(U) leader "was seen entering the counting hall — which is illegal and prohibited".

The Election Commission, which held three press briefings on Tuesday and was likely to hold another one late at night to declare the final results, responded to the RJD's allegations saying that according to an order dated May 2019, "in places where the margin of victory is less than the total number of postal ballots rejected as invalid, it is mandatory to verify rejected ballots. The reverification should be mandatorily videographed." A majority of the exit polls had on Saturday projected that the Tejaswi Yadav-led Mahagathbandhan will have an edge over the NDA. It seemed that the pollsters got the Bihar results wrong once again.

The results threw up many interesting turns in state politics with a weakened Nitish Kumar and a strengthened BJP. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Kumar, who is seeking a fourth term as chief minister, heads the next government in Bihar.

The massive drop in the JD(U)'s seats and vote-share could largely be attributed to the Chirag Paswan-led LJP which was, late in the evening, leading in one seat. The party, which had walked out of the NDA in Bihar just ahead of the polls, has dented the JD(U)'s chances by putting up candidates against it and not the BJP.

If the NDA manages to maintain its majority, then there is no question of any post-poll formation.

However, in case it fails to reach the magic mark, then the field is open and the Mahagathbandhan is likely to approach Mr. Owaisi's AIMIM for support.

In such a scenario, it would be difficult for AIMIM as it cannot be openly seen to be aligning with the NDA and would have to either support the Grand Alliance or abstain in case of a show of strength on the floor of the Assembly.

Raghu: Byelection was a referendum on KCR rule

Sarcastically 'thanks' police for aiding in his Dubbak victory

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

M. Ragunandan Rao, winner of the Dubbak bypoll, mockingly dedicated his victory to Siddipet police commissioner Joel Davis on Tuesday. The official had led the raid on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate's relatives' houses midway through the campaign, and reportedly unearthed hidden cash.

Speaking to the media at the counting centre at Siddipet after his victory, Ragunandan Rao sarcastically thanked the Hyderabad and Cyberabad commissioners for their help in his victory.



M. Ragunandan Rao.

The Hyderabad and Cyberabad police had seized money allegedly belonging

to the BJP candidate's aides and relatives.

Striking a more serious note, Ragunandan Rao said the victory was not his alone. Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy, BJP vice-president D.K. Aruna, TS party president Bandi Sanjay, MPs D. Arvind and Soyam Bapu Rao, former MLA Babu Mohan and other leaders who campaigned for him had all contributed to the victory.

He said that he would develop Dubbak and serve the people in good faith.

Ragunandan Rao described the victory as a referendum on the rule of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

The Dubbak result was a

lesson to the Chief Minister, he said. He recounted how the TRS had harassed him and his family and said the election outcome was the best reply he could give them.

Responding to the taunting question — "where is the BJP" — often posed by TRS leaders during the campaign, Ragunandan Rao said: "The BJP a kilometre from Gajwel (The CM's constituency), 2 km from Sircilla (represented by K.T. Rama Rao) and 1 km from Siddipet (T. Harish Rao's Assembly seat).

"With the boost received in Dubbak, the BJP will work hard to win power in the 2023 Assembly elections," Ragunandan Rao said.

BJP winner was in TRS politburo, got Asad bail

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Madhavanan Raghunandan Rao, 52, who dealt a rare defeat to the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) in the Dubbak byelection on Tuesday, has a more interesting background than many politicians.

He started his career as a news contributor to a vernacular daily but also rose to be in the politburo of the Telangana Rashtra Sabha and also represented MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi in court.

In 2001, Raghunandan Rao ventured into politics by joining the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) which had just been formed. He took active

part in the Telangana statehood movement under the leadership of TRS president K. Chandrashekhar Rao and was selected to the TRS politburo.

Raghunandan Rao was suspended from the TRS on allegations of meeting Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu in May 2013. He joined the BJP and contested the Assembly elections from Dubbak in 2014 and 2018 as well as the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Medak.

Raghunandan Rao born in March 1968 in the erstwhile Medak district and did his BSc from Siddipet Degree College. He later completed his LLB from Osmania University and began practicing law. The bail was in a case pending against Asaduddin Owaisi, his brother Asaduddin and 20 others for their alleged involvement in obstructing the collector and other officers who were allegedly demolishing a mosque at Muttangi. Raghunandan Rao succeeded in getting bail for the MIM chief. The case later ended in acquittal.

Interestingly, Raghunandan Rao in 2013, when he was TRS Medak district president, moved the district Principal and Sessions Court seeking bail for Owaisi. This move of Rao at that time was significant as the TRS has been strongly opposing the MIM for its stand against Telangana statehood.

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IT minister K.T. Rama Rao speaks to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday. — S. SURENDRA REDDY

Dubbak bypoll defeat an eye-opener: KTR

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

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday said the Dubbak verdict would serve as an eye-opener for the party. "It has alerted us to be more cautious in the coming days."

Stating that the party accepts the verdict in favour of the BJP in Dubbak, Rama Rao said minutes after it became clear that the TRS had lost: "In the coming days, we will analyse the reasons for the party's failure at the hustings and take corrective measures."

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said: "We have emerged victorious in several elections and byelections with renewed vigour."

Maintaining that the aim of any party contesting the election is to

HARISH RAO, WHO LED CAMPAIGN FOR BYELECTION, OWNS UP LOSS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Finance minister T. Harish Rao said that he took complete responsibility for the TRS's loss in the Dubbak byelection. He had led the campaign for the ruling party.

He told the media, that despite losing the byelec-

tion, the TRS government and he himself would continue to serve the people of the Dubbak constituency and play a key role in its development.

The minister thanked the people who voted for the TRS as well as party activists who strove for victory during the campaign.

we win, we don't get overwhelmed, and when we lose we will not be disillusioned."

He declared that the TRS government will continue with its welfare and developmental programmes with renewed vigour.

Maintaining that the aim of any party contesting the election is to

win, Rama Rao said, "We did the same, but the public sentiment was in favour of BJP."

Rama Rao thanked the voters who had voted for the party and finance minister T. Harish Rao, who led the Dubbak campaign, party cadres, MPs, MLAs and MLCs for their hard work.

Party workers get new zeal

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
 KHAMMAM, NOV. 10

The rank and file of the BJP are on cloud nine after party candidate, Ragunandan Rao won the Dubbak bypoll. Though the BJP is weak in Khammam district, Dubbak win gives the voters, and the ego of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

The party leaders in Khammam Municipal Corporation will use the win in the coming corporation elections. BJP Khammam district president, Galla Satyanarayana said, "Dubbak elections was between the self-pride of the voters, and the ego of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in Dubbak."

VOTER DISSATISFACTION PAVED WAY FOR BJP WIN

NARENDER PULLORU | DC
 NIZAMABAD, NOV. 10

The surprising victory of the BJP in the Dubbak bypoll has boosted the morale of party cadres across Telangana state, especially in undivided Nizamabad district.

Party leaders are in a jubilant mood and are hoping for victory in

the coming Assembly elections in 2023. Nizamabad district is always an experimental lab for the BJP as its candidates won the MP, MLA and the municipal chairperson's posts from here.

"We observed dissatisfaction among the voters for the TRS in the Dubbaka byelection campaign", he said.

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ESTATE DEPARTMENT, HYDERABAD - 500 004

www.rbi.org.in

e-Tender: RFID Tag- Fixed Asset Management System (FAMS)

Reserve Bank of India invites quotation for the work of Radio Frequency Identification based Asset management system for its office at Hyderabad. The estimated cost of the work is Rs.9.80 lakh. The interested vendor may visit MSTC portal (<https://www.mstccommerce.com>) for detailed information.

Further for downloading the tender document/detailed procedures for submitting the quotation through MSTC Portal and for all further clarifications/information, please visit our website www.rbi.org.in under 'Tenders Column'. The tender documents will be available from 11:00 Hrs. on November 06, 2020. E-Tenders may be submitted only through MSTC portal (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/>) after registering with them. The tenders shall be submitted on the MSTC e-procurement portal before 15:00 Hrs on November 27, 2020.

K. NIHILIA
 November 06, 2020
 Regional Director, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana

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IN BRIEF

Auto driver held for burglary

Hyderabad: The Chandrayan-gutta police arrested an autorickshaw driver who was involved in a burglary reported earlier this month.

The accused, Mohd Zameer, 23, of Noorinagar at

Chandrayan-gutta, had decamped with gold and silver ornaments and cash from a house at Jahangirabad when the house owner was away.

Zameer was nabbed on Tuesday. "He was questioned on suspicion, during which he admitted to committing the crime. He was produced before a court and remained in judicial custody," said the police.

HC ASKS WAKF TO EXPLAIN INACTION ON LAND GRAB

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The Telangana High Court summoned the Wakf Board Chief Executive Officer on November 16 to explain the inability of the board in protecting Wakf properties, mainly land belonging to graveyards.

Despite several warnings from the court that the Wakf Board authorities would face severe action for delaying protecting properties, officials had failed to lodge cases against encroachers.

According to a report, there were 723 graveyards in the GHMC area of which 86 had been encroached upon. The Wakf Board could only issue five FIRs against the encroachers. The books of Wakf records also do not clearly show how many notices were issued to the trespassers. It was unclear what was the outcome of the issuance of notices.

POLICE EXCHANGE FIRE WITH MAOISTS

Hyderabad, Nov. 10: In exchange of fire took place between a group of Maoists and police personnel in a forest area of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Tuesday, police said.

According to a senior police official, based on information on presence of Maoists in the Peddampet forests, police parties began combing the region. Members of the banned Maoists opened fire on the personnel, who retaliated. Following the firing, the Maoists escaped, the official said, adding no casualties occurred on both sides. Police searched the area following information that Maoists with an intention to create law and order problems and extort money from businessmen and contractors, were moving in the forest area, the official said.

Police seized a .303 rifle, eight kit bags, kitchen items and other articles from the scene. As many as 20 police parties were searching for the escaped Maoists. The region has seen an increase in Maoist activity in recent times.

— PTI

Seizure of cash by cops spurred BJP campaign

From Page 1

The byelection was a triangular contest till the police seized cash from a close relative of BJP nominee Raghunandan Rao. The BJP sharply ramped up its campaign, taking on the TRS and ultimately winning.

The arrest of Sanjay by the Siddipet police and his subsequent protest at Karimnagar further intensified the war between both parties and is believed to have put the challenger ahead.

● **THE TRS** accused the BJP of creating law and order issues and using unaccounted money. The BJP had targeted the TRS over development and jobs and strongly highlighted that it was the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre that was funding some of the state's vaunted welfare schemes.

Sanjay Rao who was the lead campaigner for the TRS. The Chief Minister held two official meetings in districts adjacent to Siddipet, where Dubbakk is located, to send a message to voters, observers said.

The byelection held on November 3 was necessitated by the death of TRS MLA Sripeta Ramalinga Reddy, the husband of Sujatha, in August. Around 82 per cent voter turnout was recorded. There were 23 candidates in the fray.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD NOV. 10

The Cyberabad traffic police, which witnessed two fatal accidents in the last two days, will be focusing on 'black spots' to catch drunk drivers. Officials said that the drunk driving checks will be stricter and those who are caught will get their driving license suspended for six months. Second time offenders will have their license revoked.

This latest rule of cancelling driving licences for repeat offenders came into effect on October 1 and is only being implemented in drunk driving cases, said Vijay Kumar, DCP, Cyberabad traffic police. The Cyberabad commissionerate has 124 black spots or accident-prone areas.

Act. It is up to the law enforcement agencies to decide the scale of implementation. As of now, it's only for drunk driving cases," said the official. Due to Covid restrictions, checks against drunk driving were halted. Speaking about the checks now, the DCP said that they were paying attention to errant drivers for overspeeding, jumping signals and driving in opposite lanes. "We are unable to conduct the

drives like before due to the pandemic. For now, we are targeting suspicious people, who flout traffic rules and stopping them to check their blood alcohol count," added the official.

Hyderabad traffic police officials said that they were preparing standard operating procedures to be adhered to during the checking. "Once done, our personnel will be briefed and sensitised about the SOPs and the checks will resume shortly," said the official, adding that the traffic police will be studying the SOPs adopted by their counterparts in other states before finalising.

"Several issues have to be taken care of like setting the ambush, safety of the traffic police personnel, avoid gathering of motorists, confiscating and detaining the vehicles etc., added the official.

● **PREVIOUSLY,** there was no particular procedure prescribed for the fixation of the mutation fee in the gram panchayats, according to the orders.

Focus on 'black spots' to catch drunk drivers

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD NOV. 10

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Owaisi elated at victory in Bihar, eyes W. Bengal polls

Refutes allegations of helping BJP win by contesting in Bihar elections

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Delighted with the outcome of the Bihar Assembly elections, MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi indicated that his party will enter the electoral fray in West Bengal next year. The MIM won five seats in Bihar, according to the latest data on the Election Commission website.

Asked if the MIM would join hands with the RJD to form government in Bihar, Owaisi said that the decision will be taken only after final results are declared. "Our fight is for the development of Seemanchal (eastern Bihar) which is one of the most

backward regions of India. I wish to thank the people of Seemanchal and will get justice for India's most backward region. There are no educational institutions and the area is always affected by floods. Our MLAs will try to solve these problems. I would like to thank my allies Upendra Kushwaha and Mayawati," he said. He said he would go to the places where the MIM did not succeed and try to find out what went wrong. "I addressed 65 gatherings for candidates of Kushwaha Sahab's party, for BSP, and for my

party too. Though we fielded Kushwaha Sahab as our CM candidate, we have exceeded our expectations."

Contrary to criticism that the MIM candidates divide Opposition votes and help the BJP, the MIM defeated NDA candidates — one each from the BJP and JDU and Vikashin Insaan Party — apart from two RJD nominees.

In other seats where the MIM fielded candidates, it did not halt the winning chances of other secular parties except at Raniganj. This showed that the presence of the

MIM does not benefit the BJP and its allies, sources said.

The MIM, which had won Kishanganj in a bypoll last year, won from Amour, Kochadhaman, Jokihat, Baisi and Bahadurganj, where it had fielded Akhtarul Iman, Muhammed Izhar Asfi, Shahmawaz Alam, Syed Ruknuddin and Anzar Nayemi, respectively. However, Kishanganj MLA Qamrul Hoda lost the election.

MIM workers celebrated the party's victory outside Owaisi residence in Shastripuram and burst firecrackers.

SPECIAL COURT TO HEAR JAGAN'S PLEA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

A special court dealing with Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases against AP Chief Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding investments into the Jagath Group, on Tuesday said it would hear all the accused before it took a decision on the matter of trial.

The court has to decide if it should hear the cases filed by the CBI and the ED simultaneously or separately. Jagan Mohan Reddy has requested the court to hear the ED cases after the verdict is given in the CBI cases. ED counsel opposed the argument and submitted that the court should hear the cases simultaneously. On the other hand, V. Vijayasai Reddy, auditor and member of Parliament, through his counsel sought discharge as an accused in the FIRs filed by the CBI in the Jagath Group cases. He submitted that the auditor is not liable for the acts of companies.

MUTATION FEE SET FOR LAND IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

Hyderabad, Nov. 10: The government issued orders setting 0.1 per cent of the registration value of the transferred property or ₹800, whichever is greater than the mutation fee, for non-agricultural properties. This brings uniformity in the collection of mutation fee in all gram panchayats. The decision was taken to facilitate the immediate mutation of non-agricultural assets through the Dharani portal.

There was no particular procedure prescribed for the fixation of the mutation fee in the gram panchayats, according to the orders. As per the current practice, each gram panchayat fixes its own mutation rates which vary between villages. Through the Dharani portal, the instant mutation of a non-agricultural property will be carried out in the gram panchayat records automatically along with registration of the said property.

Elsewhere, minister K.T. Rama Rao said that the government was committed to granting ownership rights to all deserving low and middle income groups without charging any fee.

He said ownership rights had been given to the residents in 15 to 16 colonies in Uppal.

The minister assured the 40,000 inhabitants of Jawaharnagar and surrounding areas that the government would issue pattas. A special programme will be organised and the pattas would be released by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, he said.

● **PREVIOUSLY,** there was no particular procedure prescribed for the fixation of the mutation fee in the gram panchayats, according to the orders.

Grandson of 7th Nizam wants fair share of funds

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

lion (₹307 crore) by the time the judgment was delivered last year.

Najaf Ali Khan contends that the judgment by the court in UK was based on an invalidated certificate that was presented by Mukarram Jah which recognised the latter as the eighth Nizam of Hyderabad. Khan contends that the certificate of the Indian Constitution by two other grandsons of the Nizam, Mukarram and Muffakam Jah.

It may be recalled that last year, the High Court of England and Wales ruled in favour of India and Mukarram and Muffakam Jah in the case relating to whom the money belongs to. The case relates to the deposit of ₹1 million belonging to the Nizam in 1948 in the National Westminster Bank. The bank subsequently froze the funds following an objection from the Nizam to the transfer of the money by Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung, the then finance minister, to Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola, the then high commissioner of Pakistan in the United Kingdom.

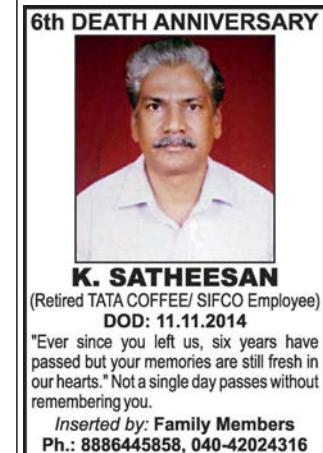
India, Pakistan, and the two grandsons of the Nizam lay claim to the funds which increased in value to ₹35 million.

Khan says he was unaware until July this year that the invalid certificate was presented in the UK courts and by presenting it, Mukarram and Muffakam Jah, violated the Indian Constitution. The Centre should take action and defend the Constitution, he said, and hoped that this would cause the UK court verdict to be reopened and that justice will be done to him and other descendants of the Nizam who are fighting for their legal share of the vast inheritance.

BADANGPET CCTV INAUGURATED

Hyderabad: Education minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Rachakonda police commissioner, Mahesh Bhagwat inaugurated 100 CCTV cameras in three colonies of Badangpet Corporation as part of the expansion of the Group CCTV network. At a cost of ₹14.5 lakh, the network at Gayatri Hills community hall, Badangpet limits was created.

— INN



K. SATHEESAN

(Retired TATA COFFEE/ SIFCO Employee)

DOB: 11.11.2014

"Ever since you left us, six years have passed but your memories are still fresh in our hearts." Not a single day passes without remembering you.

Inserted by: Family Members

Ph: 886445858, 040-42024316

OBITUARY



Neil Raghunath

DOB: 11.05.1986 - DOD: 04.11.2020

Funeral At: Mettuguda Cemetery

at 3.00 PM

In loving memory of my husband Neil

With grief From wife Karen and family.

Contact-910037393



INDURI SUJATHA

DOB: 13-08-1947 DOD: 31-10-2020

We miss you every moment your presence continues.

Inserted by: INDURI FAMILY

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

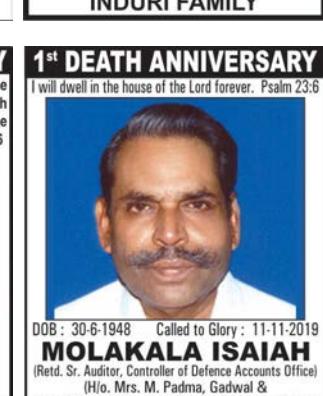


Mrs. BOTUMANCHI KANCHANARAJ

D.O.B: 23-07-1954 D.O.D: 11-11-2015

"You are always in our memories and hearts"

Inserted by: Family Members



MOLAKALA ISAIAH

(Retd. Sr. Auditor, Controller of Defense Accounts Office)

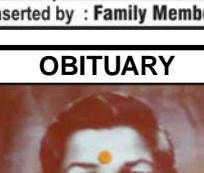
(H/o: Mrs. M. Padma, Gadwal & Elder Sis. Late Mr. M. Timothy & Goramite Esther)

WE MISS YOU BEYOND MEASURE

Inserted by: Wife, Daughter, Son & Family Members

Ph: 84650 23862, 7416584658

9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



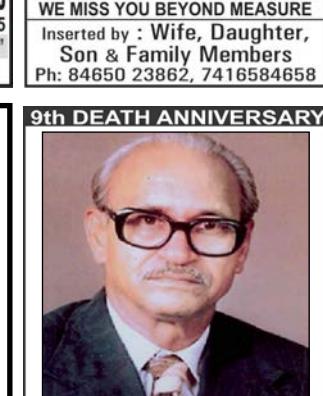
M. KRISHNA

D.O.D: 11.11.1982

Inserted by:

M. Ranappa, M. Ganesh

(B/2021/D00080)



Dr. RAGULA JEEVARATNAM

DOB: 26.01.1921 DOD: 11.11.2021

We still cherish your memories

Inserted by:

Wife: Mrs. R. Padma Jeevaratnam

Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

SHORT TAKES

WOMAN KILLS 3 DAUGHTERS, ENDS LIFE BY SUICIDE

Hyderabad, Nov. 10: A 32-year-old woman allegedly killed her three daughters by throwing them into a lake in Jogulamba Gadwal district on Tuesday and then ended her life, police said.

The incident happened in Mallapur village of KT Doddi mandal at around 2 pm, police said adding the girls were aged 10 years, three years and 11 months.

Based on preliminary investigation, a police official said the woman, who was "addicted" to alcohol, initially pushed her elder and second daughter into the lake after tying them with a towel to their waist and later jumped into it along with her 11-month-old baby.

All the four bodies were retrieved and the exact reasons behind the incident were still not known, police said. The woman's husband was working in a nearby field at the time of the incident, the official said. A case was registered. —PTI

BAN ON BATHING IN TUNGABHADRA 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 Covid-19, entry of children below 12 years of age and adults above 50 years of age will be banned at the Pushkar ghats. 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 12-day 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 up accordingly.

DOMESTIC TRAFFIC PICKING UP AT TIRUPATI AIRPORT

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, NOV. 10

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 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 cent.

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, however, had resumed in 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.

Jawaharnagar gets WtE plant

KTR says biggest plant in South India will generate 19.8 megawatts

T.S.SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

There would be minimal or no stench spreading from the Jawaharnagar dump yard from now on, said minister K.T. Rama Rao.

Garbage at the dump yard would be incinerated to generate power, while the legacy trash would be covered up. The minister was speaking after inaugurating the 19.8 MW WtE plant at the dump yard.

Another 15 MW WtE plant is coming up at Dundigul, he told the audience at Jawaharnagar.

For the future, the government plans to decentralise waste management. For doing so it has identified two sites, at Lakdaram and Pyareagar, far away from the city, Rama Rao said.



Minister K.T. Rama Rao inaugurates the 19.8 mw waste-to-energy plant at Jawaharnagar in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

KCR assures ₹50L for slain jawan's family

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Tuesday announced financial assistance of ₹50 lakh to the family of an Army jawan from Nizamabad district who was killed in an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The jawan, Ryada Mahesh, was killed along with three other Army personnel, including an officer, and three militants at the Line of Control in Machil sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

In an official release, Rao said one member of Mahesh's family would be offered a government job, based on the qualification, besides a house site to the kin.

Earlier, expressing shock over the death of Mahesh, Chandrasekhar Rao said he would be remembered in history as the one who sacrificed his life for the country and the state government would stand by and support the family.

The body of Mahesh was later received at Hyderabad. Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and TRS MLC K. Kavitha among others paid tribute to



(Top) Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and (Below) TRS MLC K. Kavitha pay floral tributes to the martyred jawan Ryada Maheshwar at the Air Force Station, Begumpet, on Tuesday.

Play safe with fire crackers, advise doctors

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

need to be cautious while they are burning crackers."

Doctors of the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute have advised people bursting crackers during the Diwali festival to adequately protect their eyes from being damaged due to stray crackers.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa senior cornea consultant at L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, said, "We see many cases of damage to eyes due to fire crackers. People

● IN 18 MONTHS, the government is looking to inaugurate another 28MW WtE plant at the dump yard.

erate power. As for the existing waste in the area, the government would spend ₹148 crore to take up capping works," said Rama Rao.

In 18 months, the government is looking to inaugurate the 19.8 MW WtE plant at the dump yard. Another 15 MW WtE plant is coming up at Dundigul, he told the audience at Jawaharnagar.

For the future, the government plans to decentralise waste management. For doing so it has identified two sites, at Lakdaram and Pyareagar, far away from the city, Rama Rao said.

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SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

With Diwali just round the corner, animal rights activists and pet owners are a worried lot. The loud sound of firecrackers is enough to give repeated nervous breakdowns to dogs and cats, while birds and even cattle feel the after effects of the festival that fills the city with noisy celebrations with the bursting of firecrackers. The worst-hit are the strays, mostly dogs as well as cats that normally prowl the city's streets.

Anupama Tirumalasetty, an animal lover, is worried about her community dogs (strays) during this upcoming festival. She takes care of about a dozen dogs in Engineers Colony in Yellareddyguda, where she lives. "Dogs panic, they hide under the parked cars or find some hideouts. They stop eating food. The bursting of crackers scare them the most."

Anupama added: "The hearing of dogs is far more than humans and when crackers are set off, even my heart misses a beat. Just imagine what these poor creatures go through."

"Diwali is the most traumatic period for animals. While we cannot provide shelter and safety for all animals, we can at least spread awareness and appeal to the people to celebrate this Festival of Lights with lights and not with firecrackers. We can celebrate it by lighting lamps and respect the lives of the animals," according to Gowri Vandana from the Association for Animal Shelter and Rescue Aid. She added: "There are some people who tie crackers to stray dogs set them off causing burn wounds on the dogs and practically scare them to death. We see incidents of such cruelty every year."

According to Dr Madhusudhan, assistant director of the animal husbandry department, firecrackers are stuff of nightmares for animals and birds. "The sudden rise in pollution affects birds as do bright lights. Cows and buffaloes are also among the animals that

receive before they graduate to actually become a 'police dog'. Many dogs are also trained to sniff for explosives.

Meanwhile, the Lake Police, who keep an eagle eye on the goings-on in and around Hussainsagar during weekends, said their mounted police gets to take a break for three days during the Diwali celebrations.

The Lake Police station house officer B. Dhanalaxmi said that the horses of the Mounted Police wing, get jittery during Diwali as the animals are skittish around explosions.

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SCR: Do not carry crackers in trains

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 10

dangerous material in trains or at stations to enable the railway authorities to initiate action.

The Railway Protection Force have formed quick reaction teams with plain-clothes personnel at important stations to keep watch on passengers carrying suspicious parcels. Sniffer dogs have also been pressed into service for the purpose. The railway authorities intensified CCTV monitoring.

The security personnel will take up checks to prevent transport of firecrackers and explosive materials in trains and at railway premises. SCR sought cooperation from all the rail passengers to ensure safe and hassle free travel.

—

get severely disturbed by the bursting fire crackers. Typically, during the Diwali period, their milk output falls, we also notice gastrointestinal problems among cattle. Sometimes, pregnant cattle also suffer sudden abortions because of the stress induced by

fireworks," Dr Madhusudhan said.

Mohd Isaq and his sister are worried about their Saint Bernard dog and Persian cat. "Both the pets will be scared of the crackers. They hide under the cot and they stop eating," Isaq said.

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POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH,
POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ATAL NAGAR , NAVA RAIPUR
Notice Inviting Tender

No. PHO/Sec.-10/Prove-1/01/4636/2020 Raipur, Dated : 06/11/2020
Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from original equipment manufacturers (OEM) Or authorized by manufacturer (only one) for the following items.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Qty (Nos.)	EMD in Rs.
1	Bullet Resistant Jacket (ICW configuration)	601	18,03,000/-
2	Bullet Resistant Jacket (Stand-alone Configuration)	1000	30,00,000/-

The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below -

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

- Address for submission of Tender Document:- AIG of Police (P&P), Block No 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
- Last Date and Time of Submission on Bids:- 10/12/2020 till 03:00 pm, Block No 03, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
- Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid:- Block No 03, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur. 10/12/2020 at 4:00 pm
- Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid:- Shall be intimated later.
- Date till which the Bid to remain valid:- 120 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid.

Note:-
1. In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.
2. Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.cgpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of document tender fee Rs. 3000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/ Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts), Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur Or State Govt. Challan of Rs. 3000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c 0055-Police 800- other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition.
3. Modification/ Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised on the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only.

4. If any bidder sends tender documents through Courier/ Speed post, the tender documents will be accepted till 03:00 pm on 10/12/2020 at Block No. 03, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents in any other address at PHQ on stipulated date and time, will not be accepted.

Sd/- A.I.G of Police (P&P)
For - Director General of Police

G-84835/2

Salar Jung museum reopens for visitors

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Dr Nagender Reddy said that Tuesday saw more than 400 visitors arrive for a day at the museum. "Though this is much less than the normal turnout, we hope that after Diwali the number of visitors will increase. On normal days, more than 2,000 visitors used to arrive while on holidays the number used to jump to 3,000 and on weekends it used to be up to 5,000," Dr Nagender Reddy said.

Museum director Dr A. Nagender Reddy said, "We have taken all possible precautionary measures to contain the Coronavirus. Visitors will not be allowed inside without masks and they have to maintain distance while viewing the exhibits and artefacts. Visitors were asked to maintain distances while sitting on the benches. In the canteen, food items and tea are being served in disposables."

He said that he expected the footfall to increase when more people begin travelling and full train services resume that will bring more visitors to the city and its attractions.

Dr Nagender Reddy also said that visitors who arrive without masks can purchase one at the ticket counters. He appealed to the visitors to maintain distance and use masks.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.S. LIMITED

Tender Notice No.02/2020-21 (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders are invited from various contractors having experience for (Spec.No.03) Electrical works related to Erection of 5MVA PTR along with 1No. 33KV breaker, 1No. 11KV LV VCB & 2No. 11KV Feeder B's at 33/11KV Parvathapur SS in Peerbadiya Section in Ghatsi Sub Division in Keesara division of Habsiguda Circle (Reserved for General Category). For further details, please visit www.tsspdcl.com/

DIPR No.: 1122-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- (E.S. SUCHENDERATH) Divisional Engineer, Construction, Habsiguda Circle.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Panchayat Raj Engineering Department

e-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No.RO/PD/RED/IR45-7/2020-21 dt. 10.11.2020 No. of works (27) Name of the works: Laying of the Metalling and Bit Road from Gollaram to Pilliguda of Shankarpalli (M) in Rangareddy District, C/o of GP Building at Dhobipet (Mahalapet gram) (V) of Rangareddy (M) in Rangareddy Dist. and other areas in undivided TOTAL ECR - 6.64 Crores. Tender can download the tender schedule from DL: 16.11.2020 onwards and Last date is 23.11.2020 from e-market place bearing NIT No. Further details can be seen at procuremnetmarketplace.com/ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Regional Officer, PRED, Rangareddy.

KARIMNAGAR SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED Karimnagar, Telangana

KSCCL intends to convene an Industry Consultation for Operation and Maintenance of the following projects under Smart Cities Mission in the website www.karimnagarcorporation.telangana.gov.in 18/KSCCL/2020-21 dt. 10.11.2020

(I) Commercial Complex in D.B.R.Ambekar Sports Complex S.No. Description Date

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SHORT TAKES

FORUM WANTS HAJ TAKEN OFF TAX FILING RULE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The Forum of Muslim Chartered Accountants has urged home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali to persuade the Centre to extend exemption from filing income-tax returns (ITR) to the Haj pilgrimage.

In a representation to the minister, the forum said the Centre had introduced a provision in the Income-Tax Act that mandates every person undertaking foreign travel, where expenses on travel exceed ₹2 lakh, to file the ITR even if his or her income is below the exemption limit.

The Forum said every year about 2 lakh Muslims perform Haj, which require travelling Saudi Arabia and costs more than ₹2 lakh. It was in 1997, that the then finance minister introduced this provision but the government had provided an exemption for Haj pilgrims.

When this law was re-introduced by the NDA government, it did not provide an exemption to Haj journeys to Saudi Arabia.

Mahmood Ali spoke to Union minister of minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and informed him about the apprehensions of intending Haj pilgrims and requested him to sort out the issue with the ministry concerned. Mahmood Ali said that if necessary, the state government would address a letter to the Centre on the matter.

AAROGYASRI COVER SOUGHT FOR KIDNEY DONORS

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, NOV. 10

Requests are being received from poor and middle-class patients undergoing kidney 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 patients from donors. However, post transplantation, donors also require medical treatment for a period of six months. Aarogyasri does not provide for treatment of donors. Middle class and poor patients maintain that it will be unfair on their part to ask donors to pay for treatment themselves, that too when they have come forward to donate a vital organ.

Says M. Tripura of Kakinada, "As it is very difficult to get a kidney donor. The medical bill 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 from patients that Aarogyasri should cover multi-diseases when a patient undergoes treatment. For example, when a patient goes in for cardiac-related surgery, s/he may face other complications, such as renal issues. In such cases, hospitals authorities maintain that expenses related only to cardiac issues will come under Aarogyasri. Patients will have to pay for treatment of other diseases from their pocket. 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.

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.

Nip in air triggers respiratory woes

Those suffering from respiratory problems, diabetics, cardiovascular are worried

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The sudden dip in temperature has been found to increase and aggravate underlying respiratory disorders and pre-existing lung diseases like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and bronchitis, according to experts.

The minimum temperature has dropped below 13° Celsius in some places, against the norm of 17° C. In 2018 the temperature had fallen to 13.7°C and in 2016, 12.4°C.

This early reduction in temperature has raised concerns for those suffering from respiratory disorders, diabetics and cardiovascular and skin diseases. Due to the cold outside and wind movement, many people keep doors and windows at home tightly shut. They do not open them even during the afternoon. This leads to poor ventilation leading to allergic diseases due to the dust. Indoor pollution also rises due to this reason.

It has been noted that the influenza group of viruses get a longer time to stay inside homes in case of poor ventilation systems. Dr A. Raghu Kanth, senior consultant pulmonologist at Medicover Hospitals, said, "Extreme temperatures allow the viruses to stay suspended in the air for a longer time. Droplets of moisture make the virus light-weight and there is more deposition in the lungs. If the person has the pre-existing condition of a disease, the damage to the lungs is found to more."

Those suffering from cardiovascular diseases need to take extra care, as walking outside in the chilly early mornings is not possible for many. Many people are found to exercise less but eat more in winter, which causes a rise in obesity conditions. There is also an increase in heart attacks, said Dr J. Anish Anand of Apollo Hospitals. "Due to the cold weather, arteries become constricted which makes it difficult for the heart to pump blood. The chances of stroke also increase as the ability of the blood to coagulate increases and leads to clots," Dr Anand said.

The elderly, those suffering from co-morbid conditions and children have to take extra care in winters.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED:

- Extra care must be taken for the elderly, children, pregnant women, those suffering from disabilities both physical and mental.
- Keep homes adequately ventilated and avoid dust.
- Exercise at home if possible, at least 5 days a week.
- Flu shots are advised according to the doctor's recommendation.
- Keep yourself hydrated, sleep well and maintain hygiene.

TS registers 1,267 fresh Covid cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

declared recovered from the disease – 1,831 – on Monday took the total recovered cases to 2,32,489. The department said there were 18,581 active cases of whom 16,499 were in home and other isolation centres.

The Greater Hyderabad area continued to retain its stranglehold on being on top in the state with respect to the daily number of new Covid-19 cases, reporting 201 infections on Monday. The neighbouring districts of Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy, continued their trend of reporting cases in the triple digits at 109 and 104 new Covid-19 cases respectively.

The number of people

which makes it difficult for the heart to pump blood. The chances of stroke also increase as the ability of the blood to coagulate increases and leads to clots," Dr Anand said.

Masks need to be washed in cold water once a week. The types of masks used by people have clear-cut instructions of how long it can

Virus norms during fests are important

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

Festivals are for celebrating and a time to rejoice but with the threat of Covid-19 around, experts say that maintaining social distance, hygiene and masks is important to stay safe.

Many people who are venturing out for shopping have to take extra care and experts have recommended the use of double-layered masks. Wearing a surgical mask first and a fabric mask on top of that is being suggested for those who come in contact with more people.

Scientists and doctors have time and again pointed out that masks are the best vaccine against Covid-19. Wearing masks properly especially in public places is most important.

Sanjeev Swamy, inventor and founder of Livinguard AG, who has designed scientifically approved masks, says, "Studies have shown that wearing certified masks guarantees protection. When people move out and there will be interaction with people, wearing research-proven masks is important."

With different qualities and types of masks in the market, people are being asked to check on the safety and certification aspects for better and higher protection.

Masks need to be washed in cold water once a week. The types of masks used by people have clear-cut instructions of how long it can

WITH DIFFERENT

qualities and types of masks in the market, people are being asked to check on the safety and certification aspects for better and higher protection.

Cool winds, the Northeasters, flowing over the state are resulting in the sudden dip in temperature. In Hyderabad, the minimum temperature on Tuesday plunged to 12.8° Celsius. This is 6° Celsius below normal for this time of the year.

Even colder temperatures were recorded elsewhere in the state – 7.1°C at Kohir in Sangareddy, 7.3°C at Marpalie in Vikarabad and 8°C at Bheempoor in Adilabad – according to the TS State Development Planning Society.

"There are cold winds originating in the north and from the northeast. These winds are causing the minimum temperature to drop. Winter will set only in the first week of December," A. Sravani, meteorologist with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) here, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

She said that there are chances of light rainfall in some parts of the state in the next two-three days. It was unlikely that the city would experience these rains.

Tuesday's minimum temperatures were way lower than the lowest temperature recorded this month last year: on November 24, 2019, 11.2°C

was recorded in Shabat of Ranga Reddy district, according to data recorded by the TS Development Planning Society.

Helpline set up for forest fire threats

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

people have been given rights to work in forest areas under the Record of Forest Rights Act.

Tuesday's meeting discussed the preparedness for prevention of forest fires and readiness of the field staff to tackle high and medium vulnerable fire-prone areas after receiving fire alerts from Forest Survey of India.

Officials were told to take up fire prevention activities like creation and maintenance of fire lines, removal of fire hazardous material, intensive patrolling by staff and base camp watchers and also involve local villagers to keep the forests safe from fires.

R. Shobha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, who chaired the meeting, released a new dedicated helpline, No. 9803338666, to receive information relating to fires and illegal activities that are noticed by people in the forests.

This number, she said, will function as an addition to the regular crime control toll-free help No. 1800425364. Lokesh Jaiswal, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Additional PCCF's Swargam Srinivas and M.C. Pargal were among the officials who attended the meeting.

Swachh roads



Huge pothole created as a result of continuous showers in Kukatpally main road poses threat to motorists, — R. PAVAN

HC wants clarity on sada bainamas of pre-'14

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

The Telangana High Court directed Advocate General B.S. Prasad to get instructions from the state government on a PIL challenging GO 112 of October 12, 2020, which mandates reg-

ularisation of sale of agricultural land parcels through sada bainama (white paper agreements) which took place before June 2, 2014.

A division bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy gave the directions on the

PIL of Shinde Devidas, a farmer from Kuntala mandal of Nirmal district.

He explained that revenue authorities had been vested with the power to regularise and validate the transactions through the GO issued under the Telangana Rights in Lands and Pattadar Passbooks

Rules, 1989 and Pattadar Passbooks Act, 1971.

But these were repealed by the Telangana Rights in Lands and Pattadar Passbooks Act, 2020, the petitioner said. In the new legislation, no authority has been given to tanks or any other revenue authority to decide on the

ownership or change records based on their discretion or by field inquiry.

The petitioner asked that when the new Act had come into force, how could the government issue GO 112 based on the repealed legislation. The court adjourned the hearing to Wednesday.

MOBILE RISK

Student had returned to Canada after lockdown in Oct.; Friends start online effort to raise funding to send body home

Hyd student on cellphone call slips to death from 24th floor in Toronto

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

A 19-year-old student from Vanasthalipuram fell to his death from the 27th floor of his residence in Toronto, Canada, after he slipped while talking on the phone in his balcony on November 8. He had returned to Canada last month to continue his hotel management course.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, his family members said that Panyam Akhil has been pursuing



Panyam Akhil

the course in Canada for one and a half years. He had returned home in March after the Covid-19 outbreak and had left in October.

Akhil's friends in Toronto informed his parents about his death. He had spoken to his parents a day before the incident, said Babji, Akhil's uncle. The details of who Akhil was talking to when he slipped were not known, he said.

The Crescent Town Community in Ontario, where Akhil was residing, has marked off the area and

his friends on a social media post. Local police said it would take 10 days to release Akhil's body to his family in India. "Everyday must be heartbreaking for them. The Toronto Police Service and Indian embassy should try their best to expedite the process," his friends in Canada said and offered to help out.

Akhil's family has appealed to minister K.T. Rama Rao to help in bringing the body to Hyderabad. Babji had sent a Tweet tag-

ging Rama Rao for help

saying, "We are clueless how to go about bringing the body to Hyderabad. Request help in bringing the body to Hyderabad. Kindly help us in this moment of grief, sir (sic)," Babji wrote.

The minister assured help. "Sorry for your loss brother. Will do our best," he wrote.

The Indian Consulate General in Toronto has informed the student's family that all efforts were being made to expedite the process. "The Indian

Consulate in Toronto is in touch with all concerned and efforts are on for the expeditious return of mortal remains," tweeted the consulate general.

"We are waiting for the body to reach here. The consulate has assured us that the process is up to speed to facilitate the travel," added Babji.

A GoFundme page set up

by Indian in Ontario has collected \$15,194 as of Tuesday night to pay to transport Akhil's body home.



Memorial held for Panyam Akhil at Crescent Town Community in Ontario.

GENERAL HOLIDAYS - 2021

OCCASION/FESTIVAL	DATE
New Year Day	01-01-2021
Bhogi	13-01-2021
Sankranti/Pongal	14-01-2021
Republic Day	26-01-2021
Maha Shivaratri	11-03-2021
Holi 29-03-2021	
Good Friday	02-04-2021
Babu Jagjivan	05-04-2021
Ugadi	13-04-2021
Dr BR Ambedkar's Birthday	14-04-2021
Sri Rama Navami	21-04-2021
Eid Ul Fitr (Ramzan)	14-05-2021
Following day of (Ramzan)	15-05-2021
Eidul Azha (Bakrid)	21-07-2021
Bonalu	02-08-2021
Independence Day	15-08-2021
Shahadar Imam Hussain (R.A) 10th Moharram	19-08-2021
Sri Krishna Astami (as per Srivalshva Agamam)	31-08-2021
Vinayaka Chavithi	10-09-2021
Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi	02-10-2021
Bathukamma Starting Day	06-10-2021
Vijaya Dasami	15-10-2021
Following Day of Vijaya Dasami	16-10-2021
Eid Miladun Nabi	19-10-2021
Deepavali	04-11-2021
Kartika Purnima /Guru Nanak Birthday	19-11-2021
Christmas	25-12-2021
Boxing Day	26-12-2021

Note:- 13th February, 2021 (Second Saturday) is working day in lieu of public holiday declared on 1st January, 2021

OPTIONAL HOLIDAYS-2021

OCCASION/FESTIVAL	DATE
</tbl_info

IN BRIEF
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 is on its way to winning only 20.

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 of six.

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 parties.

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, working-class people. That seems to have worked."

The Left parties fielded candidates from Agaon, Arrah, Arwal, Balsampur, Bibhutipur, Darauli, Daraundha, Dumraon, Ghosi, Karakat, Manjhi, Matihani, Paliganj, Tarai, 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
 MUMBAI, NOV. 10

Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has said that Nitish Kumar should thank the Uddhav Thackeray-led party should he become the Bihar 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 promise."

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 top post.

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 Bihar."

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," he said.

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

LJP Chief Chirag Paswan's aggressive campaign against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar 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 was 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 in Bihar".

The BJP emerged as a single largest party in the state with 74 seats while its partner JD(U) managed to win 43 seats. Two 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, Chirag Paswan who campaigned 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, Chirag had also distributed 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 of the anti-incumbency against Nitish Kumar. 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-



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. - PTI



Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters flash victory sign during counting of votes for the Bihar Assembly polls, in Patna on Tuesday. - PTI

Tejashwi Yadav emerges as a formidable player in Bihar politics

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
 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 elections.

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 absence.

Lalu Yadav is currently serving a jail term in fod-

der scam cases and his bail petition is to be heard on November 27.

"Despite NDA's 15 years of good governance of Nitish Kumar versus 15 years of jungle raj' narrative 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

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, industrialization and special status for the state."

'Nitish butchered like Abhimanyu'

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 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 a 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 Mahagathbandhan."

Battling 15 years' anti-incumbency, he was already on weaker ground. As the JD(U) kept hurtling down the electoral tally, senior leader 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 chief 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".

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 puppet king", a senior JD(U) leader said. Some feel Mr

Kumar's popularity began to wane when he jumped ship from the NDA to the Mahagathbandhan in the 2015 election and then back to the NDA in 2017. The BJP apparently used the alliance to build its votebank. As the election progressed, BJP workers began to be given clear signals that "if the NDA loses it 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".

With Bihar show, Cong's relevance to allies dwindles

ASHHAR KHAN | DC
 NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

where the two parties are slated to contest in alliance.

Even in West Bengal, where 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 leadership bid. Mr Gandhi is seen as the architect of the alliance. Many in the party feel that 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.

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 elections of Tamil Nadu.

Insiders feel that many more leaders may speak up in the coming days about the functioning of the party.

Bihar win to help BJP in Bengal elections

SANJAY BASAK | DC
 NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

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 trouble for Mamata Banerjee will start when a influential Muslim group in alliance with Owaisi will contest Muslim dominated 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 bypoll seat for the first time.

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.

SHORT TAKES

LESS THAN 40K NEW COVID-19 CASES REPORTED

New Delhi, Nov. 10: The number of new Coronavirus infections reported in India in a span of 24 hours dropped below 40,000 for the second time this month, as India's Covid-19 caseload rose to 85.91 lakh while the total number of recoveries neared 80 lakh, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The Covid-19 caseload increased to 85,91,730 with 38,073 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,27,059 with 448 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 79,59,406 pushing the national recovery rate to 92.64 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.48 per cent.

The number of active cases remained below six lakh for the twelfth consecutive day. There are 5,05,265 active cases of Coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprise 5.88 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5.

It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

PUNJAB REVOVES 'GENERAL CONSENT' TO CBI

Chandigarh, Nov. 10: The Congress-led government in Punjab has revoked its general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for probing cases in the state, joining several other non-BJP ruled states that have carried out a similar move.

The states such as West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh had already withdrawn the "general consent" to the CBI.

According to the state government notification issued on November 8, a prior consent of the Punjab government will be required by the CBI, which comes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, to investigate any case in the state.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Central Act No 25 of 1946), the government of Punjab hereby withdraws the general consent accorded to the members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment, anytime herein before, as per the notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary, department of home affairs and justice. In view of revocation of all previous general consents issued earlier, prior consent of the government of Punjab shall be required, hereinafter, on a case-to-case basis for investigation of any offence or class of offences under section 3 of the aforementioned Act, by the Delhi Special Police Establishment, it further said. The Punjab government had earlier withdrawn consent from the CBI for investigating the 2015 sacrilege incidents there after the state assembly had passed a resolution in this regard in 2018.

SC TO HEAR ARNAB PLEA FOR INTERIM BAIL

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 10

The Supreme Court will hear on Wednesday the Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's plea for interim bail in an alleged abetment to suicide case involving an interior designer and his mother.

Goswami on Tuesday knocked the doors of the top court challenging Bombay High Court's order not granting him an interim bail in the alleged abetment to suicide case and instead asking him to seek regular bail from the Sessions Court in Alibaug.

Arnab Goswami's plea for interim bail is listed before a vacation bench comprising Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Indira Banerjee.

Goswami is accused of alleged abetment to suicide by interior designer Arvay Naik and his mother Kumud Naik in 2018.

The High Court by its November 9 order while refusing to grant interim bail had said that Goswami had an "alternate and efficacious" remedy under the code of criminal procedure to approach the session's court for regular bail.

— PTI

Shivraj's charisma saves the day for BJP

MP CM successfully crushed the rebellion in the party and led from the front in the Assembly bypolls

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 10

● SHIVRAJ SINGH Chouhan had also succeeded in generating sympathy for him among the electorates by playing victim when Congress leaders including Nath launched personal attack on him by calling him names such as 'nayalayak' (good for nothing), 'kameena' (mean) and 'bhoochha-nanga' (extremely poor), thus helping the party in the polls.

Nath to fulfill promises given by him to the farmers to waive their crop loans.

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"The by-elections turned out to be the most challenging elections faced by us in Madhya Pradesh so far since the core BJP cadres and local leaders were up in arms against the 25 BJP candidates who have joined our party from Congress barely 8 months ago. It was an emotional, social and political issue with the core cadre and leaders of the party who were apprehensive of being politically eclipsed due to the party's decision to give ticket to the newly induced party men in the by-elections", BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal told this newspaper.

"We won half the battle when the party leadership nipped in bud a brewing rebellion in the party by pacifying the aggrieved party cadres and synchronising them with the new entrants in the party at the booth level", he added.

Chouhan took charge of the affairs when the 'Gaddar' narrative by Congress to put BJP in 25 Assembly constituencies on defensive had appeared to be catching imagination of the people by aggressively projecting failure by the former chief minister Kamal Nath.

"We were visible on social media, but not on the ground. That has caused the party's debacle in the by-polls", the Congress leader said.

"However, the 74-year-old Nath had failed to take the senior leaders of his party along with him in the by-elections", a senior Congress leader said unwilling to be quoted.

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IN BRIEF
**PALESTINIAN
SPOKESMAN
EREKAT DEAD**

Jerusalem, Nov. 10: Saeb Erekat, 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 away.

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 Gholamhosseini Esmaeli 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 repeatedly triggered nationwide political unrest in recent years.

In November 2019, security forces smothered protests that were prompted by a sharp increase in gasoline prices, 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 cardinal, 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 Wroclaw, told Radio Wroclaw Tuesday that Gulbinowicz is in a very serious condition and unconscious.

Local daily Gazeta Wroclawska said Gulbinowicz was hospitalized Wednesday. A few days earlier, Vatican envoys had informed him about the sanctions. Recently, allegations were also made 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

SC weighs future of Obamacare

Washington, Nov. 10: Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said 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 of the Biden-Harris administration. As Biden's vice president, Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman 0151

fought November 3 presidential election - billed as one of the most divisive in recent 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

and the first woman of colour - to occupy the office. According to the Economic Recovery of the Transition, President-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 we face." — PTI

Washington, Nov. 10:

When the Supreme Court weighs the fate of "Obamacare," arguments will revolve around several 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

major source of jobs and 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

remaining uninsured.

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 individual policy, or charge them more, based on their medical history. — AP



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 National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Economic Development Fayaz Ismail and Minister of Finance Ibrahim Ameer.

On Monday, Shringla also called on President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Speaker of the People's Majlis Mohamed Nasheed. "FS@harshvshringla held a joint-meeting with Minister for National Planning, Housing & Infra Dpty @AslamAslamtey Minister of Economic Dpty@faya i& Minister of Finance @ameeru; they assessed progress in 8 infrastructure projects part of the \$1.3 billion bilateral package," the High Commission of India in the Maldives tweeted.

India is carrying out a wide-range of infrastructure projects in the Maldives, including Greater 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 party's cooperation in further strengthening the bilateral relations.

The religious conservative Adaalath party is part of the Maldivian Democratic Party-led ruling coalition. "Foreign Secretary @harshvshringla @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

Boris cautiously welcomes bugle of virus vaccine

REGULATOR HALTS BRAZIL VACCINE TRIALS

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 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 lockdown rules strictly until December 2, after which England is set to revert to a tiered lockdown 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 minister.

— AP

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-Tam.

Covid triggers OCD in kids

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 has 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.

They said one group had been diagnosed with OCD in a specialised section at

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

The other group consisted 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 questionnaire.

— PTI

SPIRITUAL | OASIS

Master plan in the video shows a massive amphitheatre overlooking the shrine

Images of Abu Dhabi's 1st Hindu temple released

Dubai, Nov. 10: The majestic stone facade of 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.

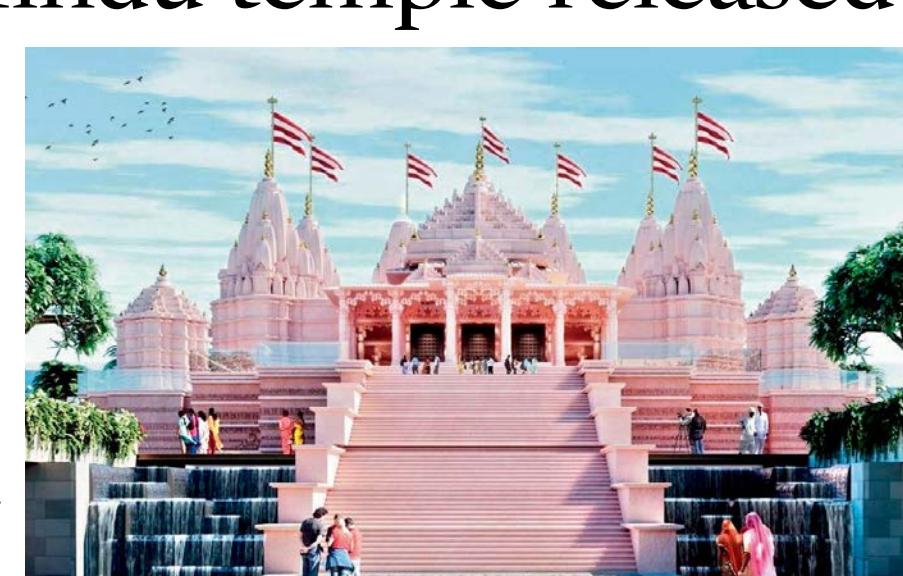
The temple management of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi has released the first images of the final design of the traditional stone temple and the hand-carved stone pillars that have been taking shape in India, the Gulf News reported. The visuals of the final design of the temple have been released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

its concept till the pouring of the UAE's largest single 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 Mureikha 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. Kotecha said key values

and tales of universal wisdom, and the authentic ancient art and architecture would be revived through the stone carvings used for the temple.

"The stories and carvings 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 mandorla [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. — PTI



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.

DECCAN Chronicle

11 NOVEMBER 2020

Act responsibly, heed NGT ban on crackers

The 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 NCT decision 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 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 super-spreader 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 enormity 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

Valuations on the Indian equity markets soared on Tuesday after a report jointly issued by drug makers — Pfizer from the United 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 all-time 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 2020. However, the bullishness of investors, who look at future earnings 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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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Gehlot denied his choice of chief secretary

N.K. Arya, the new chief secretary of Rajasthan, is not the first choice of state 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 service.

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

politics, 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

The forest department of 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 government.

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

Subhani



India-US ties might be stronger under Biden

Vishnu Prakash

It 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 just-concluded 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 did.

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 Commission for meticulously organising the gigantic parliamentary elections last year, involving a 850-million strong electorate.

Curiously, the United States doesn't have a Federal 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 Vice, 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 America's founding fathers could have foreseen and insulated the electoral architecture against an iconoclast 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-president 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 displace America as 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 threaten America's primacy, no US President, not even an internationalist like Joe Biden, can afford to turn a Nelson's eye.

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 India-specific motions at least six times. He backed the civil nuclear agreement with India as well as India's permanent membership of the UN.

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 conceivable 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!

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

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

LETTERS

FIGHT PANDEMIC

Most of the people are not wearing masks and not maintaining physical distance. Police should take stringent action including imprisonment if necessary, to force people to wear masks. People should cooperate with the police and the government in the fight against Covid-19.

P. Samuel Suresh
Hyderabad

FIRECRACKERS

It is sad that Hyderabadi can pollute during Diwali (NGT's ban not applicable). Hyd can burst crackers. DC, Nov. 10. Whether green or not, all crackers emit fumes, gases and particulate matter. The large-scale bursting of crackers nullifies the advantage of green crackers. Diwali is the victory of good over evil which can be celebrated as a festival of lights without polluting the environment. We must realise that when Diwali celebrations started in ancient times there were no crackers and present scientific temper is against it.

Dr O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

EXIT POLLS FAIL

The results of Bihar proved to be a big failure of exit polls in the country. This trend clearly indicates that exit polls are always not trustworthy and reliable. Analysts slip at some point in assessing the pulse of the voter. However, a big salute to those who displayed their choice cleverly and silently in exercising their franchise.

Lalitheswara Raju Valluri
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Gen. De Gaulle passes away

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 surprise as there had been no previous report that the General had suffered any ill-health since his resignation as President in April, 1969.

hours of the issuing of the orders. At the time, Anand Bhardhan, 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 (IFS) 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.

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IN BRIEF

CHINA WILDLIFE CRIMES GO UP AFTER COVID

Shanghai, Nov. 10: China prosecuted more than 15,000 people for wildlife-related crimes in the first nine months of the year, up 66% from 2019, state prosecutors said, as authorities moved to enforce a trafficking ban imposed after the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Supreme People's Procuratorate said in a statement published on its website on Monday that nearly 7,000 of the total arrests involved the violation of fishing restrictions. Around 4,000 people were prosecuted for illegal hunting and 3,000 for illegally purchasing, transporting and selling endangered wild animal products.

The procuratorate warned that a large proportion of the illegal wildlife business had shifted online, with traders using e-commerce platforms to sell prohibited wild animals. The 'exotic pet' trade was also a rising challenge, it added.

China's lucrative and poorly regulated wildlife trade came under the spotlight in January after the first outbreaks of COVID-19 in the city of Wuhan was traced to a market selling wildlife products.

Scientists believe the novel coronavirus originated in horseshoe bats and could have infected humans via an intermediary species.

CARBON MARKET MUST GROW TO MEET PARIS GOAL

London, Nov. 10: Global voluntary carbon credit markets must grow 15 fold by 2030 to enable companies and organisations to meet goals set under the Paris climate agreement, a private sector task force said on Tuesday.

Many global companies such as oil majors Shell RDSa.L and BP BPL, and e-commerce giant Amazon AMZN.O have pledged to reach net zero emissions but will need to buy or generate carbon credits to offset the emissions they are unable to cut from their operations.

"To facilitate this global decarbonisation there is a need for a transparent, verifiable and robust voluntary carbon market," a consultation document by the Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets said on Tuesday.

The Taskforce is made up of around 50 members from companies such as Shell and BP, Tata Steel and airline Etihad and is sponsored by global finance association the Institute of International Finance.

The voluntary carbon market will need to grow more than 15 fold to around 2 billion tonnes of carbon credits a year by 2030 to enable this to happen, the document said.

The Taskforce identified several areas of work including establishing principles to ensure market integrity.

IEA: RECORD NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY

London, Nov. 10: Record levels of new renewable energy capacity are set to come on stream this year and next, while fossil fuel capacity will fall due to an economic slump and the Covid-19 crisis, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a report.

In its annual renewables outlook, the IEA said new additions of renewables capacity worldwide would increase by 4% from last year to a record 198 gigawatts (GW) this year.

This means renewables will account for almost 90% of the increase in total power capacity worldwide this year.

Supply chain disruptions and construction delays slowed the progress of renewable energy projects in the first six months of this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

However, the construction of plants and manufacturing activity has ramped up again, and logistical challenges have been mostly resolved, the IEA said.

Electricity generated by renewables will increase by 7% globally this year, despite a 5% annual drop in global energy demand, the largest since World War II.

Next year, renewable capacity additions are on track for a rise of almost 10%, which would be the fastest growth since 2015.

"Renewable power is defying the difficulties caused by the pandemic, showing robust growth while others fuels struggle," said Dr Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director.

Policymakers need to support the strong momentum behind renewables growth and if policy uncertainties are addressed, renewable energy capacity additions could reach 271 GW in 2022, the IEA said.



A woman crosses through floodwaters in the Melrose Place neighbourhood in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

— AP

Florida mop up after deluge**Tropical Storm Eta moves into the Gulf of Mexico with winds of 50 mph**

SUBTROPICAL STORM Theta, the 29th named storm of the season, has formed over the open northeast Atlantic Ocean and is expected to strengthen during the next 12 to 24 hours, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The system is located about 995 miles (1,600 km) southwest of the Azores, packing maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour (85 km per hour), the NHC added.

It was the 28th named storm in a busy hurricane season, and the first to make landfall in Florida. This year tied the record with 2005, when Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma struck the Gulf Coast. But that was before Theta formed late Monday night over the northeast Atlantic, becoming the basin's 29th named storm to eclipse the 2005 record.

After striking Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane and killing nearly 70 people from Mexico to Panama, Eta swept over South Florida, then moved Monday into the Gulf of Mexico near where the Everglades meet the sea, with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph). Broward County, which includes Fort Lauderdale, was among the harder hit areas. "It's very bad. In the last 20 years, I've never seen anything like that," said Tito Carvalho, who owns a car stereo business in Fort Lauderdale and estimated the water was 3 feet (less than a metre) deep in some places.

Some items in his business were damaged from the flooding, he added. Firefighters pulled a person from a car that had driven into a canal Sunday night in Lauderhill, north of Miami. The patient was hospitalised in critical condition, authorities said. "It was far worse

centimetres) of water. "It took us 20 minutes to navigate out of our neighborhood due to the heavy flooding in our area," Walker added.

Floodwaters also submerged half of his sister's car. As much as 16 inches (40.6 centimetres) of rain damaged one of the state's largest Covid-19 testing sites, at Miami-Dade County's Hard Rock Stadium, officials said. Throughout the pandemic, it has been one of the busiest places for people to get a coronavirus diagnosis.

The site was expected to be closed until Wednesday or Thursday. All of the testing sites in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties managed by the state government closed on Sunday and Monday due to the storm.

At least seven testing sites were to remain closed Tuesday. Eta hit land late Sunday as it blew over Lower Matecumbe, in the middle of the chain of small islands that form the Keys.

Forecasters said Eta's system is likely to weaken as it slowly moves up the southwest Gulf Coast, but some models show it strengthening into a larger storm. It is just far enough offshore to maintain a bit of strength while dumping vast amounts of water across the lower third of the Florida peninsula. It did show signs of weakening Monday afternoon, but forecasts beyond 72 hours were unclear.

In Key Biscayne, an island off Miami, some streets were flooded and tree branches knocked down.

— AP

Wind energy set for record growth

London, Nov. 10: Wind energy will achieve record growth globally over the next five years, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) trade association said on Thursday, as the impact of Covid-19 has only been to delay, not cancel, projects.

"While some project completion dates have been pushed into 2021 due to the pandemic, next year is expected to be a record year for the wind industry with 78 GW (gigawatts) of new wind capacity forecast to be installed in 2021," GWEC said in an outlook report.

In total some 348 GW of new onshore and offshore capacity are expected by the end of 2024, which would take cumulative wind power capacity to almost 1,000 GW, GWEC said.

"Over 50% of the onshore wind capacity added between 2020 to 2024 will be installed in China and the U.S., led by installation rushes to meet subsidy deadlines," it added.

The costs of wind energy have fallen rapidly over the last few years and are expected to continue to decrease. Governments are also under pressure to cut carbon emissions, which is helping to shift investment away from fossil fuel and into renewable energy, such as wind.

— Reuters

**DANGER LURKS****Cold can freeze equipment and Earth's magnetic field disrupts compasses****Routes open: Arctic headache for ship insurers**

The cold can freeze equipment and the earth's magnetic field disrupts compasses. If anything goes wrong, "you are so far away from help," said Whatley, 31, who sails through Arctic and Antarctic waters for the British Antarctic Survey.

As climate change opens new sea routes, experienced polar captains like Whatley are coveted for Arctic voyages that can save money on the run between Europe and Asia. But as activity in the

Arctic's waters picks up, insurance companies are grappling with a fundamental question: If something goes wrong, who pays? So far, it's unclear that the cost of a major accident would be completely covered by insurance.

Damages from a ship spilling oil, hitting an iceberg or becoming marooned can run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

"It's all very much new territory," said Helle Hammer, chair of the policy

forum with the International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI), the leading association for the global marine insurance market. Without years worth of data on the number of casualties, accidents, collisions or oil spills, she said, "it's impossible to do the risk modelling."

More than 10 insurance companies or brokers interviewed by Reuters said they still had too little knowledge of the region to resolve all questions about liability.

In the past few years, marine insurers in general have been paying out more for ship damage than they collected in premiums, according to IUMI data. Brokers say some are pulling out of the market completely. So the appetite to underwrite risks in the Arctic market is not high.

It's "not like the rest of the world, with tried and tested shipping routes and known risks," said Michael Kingston, an Arctic marine consultant and adviser to the Arctic

Oz scientists find healthy coral reef off northern coast

Sydney, Nov. 10: Australian scientists found a detached coral reef on the Great Barrier Reef that exceeds the height of the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower, the Schmidt Ocean Institute said this week, the first such discovery in over 100 years.

The "blade-like" reef is nearly 500 metres tall and 1.5 kilometres wide, said the institute founded by ex-Google boss Eric Schmidt and his wife Wendy. It lies 40 metres below the ocean surface and about six kilometres from the edge of Great Barrier Reef.

A team of scientists from James Cook University, led by Dr. Robin Beaman, were mapping the northern section of the Great Barrier Reef on board the institute's research vessel Falkor when they found the reef on Oct. 20.

"We are surprised and elated by what we have found," said Beaman. He said it was the first detached reef of that size to be discovered in over 120 years and that it was thriving with a "blizzard of fish" in a healthy ecosystem.

The discovery comes after a study earlier this month found the Great Barrier Reef had lost more than half its coral in the last three decades.

Using the underwater robot known as SuBastian, the scientists filmed their exploration of the new reef, collecting marine samples on the way, which will be archived and placed in the Queensland Museum and the Museum of Tropical Queensland.

"To not only 3D map the reef in detail, but also visually see this discovery with SuBastian is incredible," Beaman added.

Although the northern section of the Great Barrier Reef suffered from bleaching in 2016, Beaman said this detached reef didn't display any evidence of damage.

Bleaching occurs when the water is too warm, forcing coral to expel living algae and causing it to calcify and turn white.

The Great Barrier Reef runs 2,300 km (1,429 miles) down Australia's northeast coast spanning an area half the size of Texas. It was world heritage listed in 1981 by UNESCO as the most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem on the planet.

**MAURITIUS OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP BY JANUARY**

Tokyo, Nov. 10: (Reuters) - The clean-up of a massive oil spill in August from a vessel off Mauritius will likely be mostly completed by January, the bulk carrier's owner, Japan's Nagashiki Shipping, said on Thursday.

Of the roughly 1,000 tonnes that spilled from the Panamanian-flagged MV Wakashio, all of the oil that had been floating in the ocean had been recovered, Nagashiki Shipping said in a statement.

Work to remove the oil along approximately 30 km (18.6 miles) of coastline was proceeding smoothly and would likely be completed by January, it said.

The vessel, chartered by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd, ran aground on a reef in Mauritius on July 25 and began leaking oil on Aug. 6.

The spill had spread over a vast area of endangered corals, affecting fish and other marine life in what some scientists have called the Indian Ocean island's worst ecological disaster.

Nagashiki Shipping also said the planned removal of the rear portion of the vessel would begin in late December and last several months. The front part was scuttled in August as instructed by local authorities.

— Reuters

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,277.65
Nifty 50	12,631.10
S&P 500*	3,543.39
Dollar (₹)	74.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.27
Euro (₹)	87.57
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,338▲662
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	43.14
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.916
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.961
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	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' profile to see if it had a catalogue. 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.

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Pandemic helps nearly 80% schools to adopt tech

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, 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 comput-

er 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

readiness, schools were remarkably resilient in adjusting to the 'new normal'," said Anil Kumar, founder, RedSeer 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 WhatsApp and similar platforms and they share pre-recorded digital content. However, 15 to 25 per cent schools have shut down, with no tech adop-

tion.

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

pattern was observed 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
MUMBAI, NOV. 10

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, which can be promoted 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 discount 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.

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 sure that the NPCI becomes a brand-India product, which can be promoted 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 discount 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 revoked merchant charges on digital payments, 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 RuPay is facing differ-

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 companies. The transac-

tion experience is seamless 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 card seeded 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 promote digital transactions.

Gold loan market grew 1,400% in last decade

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

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 moneylenders.

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 FY 20, thanks to the expansion in branch networks by gold loan NBFCs and greater use of technology.

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 India.

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-to-value (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 non-banking financial companies. 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 PR., 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 sale.

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 outbreak. 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 loan AUM.

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, underperformance 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 cent.

The volatility index, NSE's India VIX, rose 7.28 per cent to 21.51.

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 head of retail research, HDFC Securities, said, "Indian markets shot up on positive overnight cues from global markets and Asian peers opening higher."

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

Transaction volumes range as large as 20,000 tonnes of grain.

Premji most generous Indian in FY20: Hurun

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 philanthropists.

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 Cry 5."

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 launch.

—Reuters



Azim Premji

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 17 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 Premji at Rs 1,125 crore.

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

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 10

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 usual scenario, found a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a New Delhi-based think-tank.

The higher EV penetration could also increase the combined market size of power-train, battery, public chargers added 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, telecommunications, and allied construction and services.

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

SHORT TAKES

Alia first female director in PCB

Islamabad: The Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed a female director for the first time. 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. — PTI

Bangla captain tests positive

Dhaka: Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque has tested positive 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 play-offs. Bangladesh Cricket Board chief physician Dr Debasish 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," Haque said. — PTI

Bairstow to make Big Bash debut

Sydney: England wicketkeeper-batsman 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 Stoines 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 Hussey. — 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 Twenty20 here 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

CRICKET
Women's Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Sydney Sixers from 9 am; Brisbane Heat vs Sydney Thunder from 1.30 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 1.35 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 vs Finland from 1.40 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3

WWE
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 one-sided 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 overs.

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 skipper 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 so. The carrom ball bowled by Ashwin was deposited to point fence with a cracking square cut and the straight six off 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. — BCCI

● 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 overs.

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looked in a different league compared to seven others.

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

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither a champion outfit that has now won five titles out of the

six finals it has played.

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 Stoines will remember for years to come.

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 off 50 balls) literally struggled during the end overs.

That was the time when save for Bumrah (0/28 in 4 overs), 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. — PTI

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SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Marcus Stoines c de Kock b Boult 0, 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, Shrimon 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) 156. FoW: 1-0, 2-16, 3-22, 4-118, 5-137, 6-149, 7-156.

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 1-0-13-0.

Mumbai Indians: R. Sharma c c de Kock b Boult (Lalit Yadav) b Nortje 68, Q de Kock c Pant b Stoines 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) 1. Total (for 5 wkts, in 18.4 overs) 157. FoW: 1-45, 2-90, 3-137, 4-147, 5-156.

Bowling: R. Ashwin 4-0-28-0, K. Rabada 3-0-32-1, A. Nortje 2-4-0-25-2, M. Stoines 2-0-23-1, A. Patel 4-0-16-0, P. Dubey 3-0-29-0.

KXIP LIKELY TO RETAIN RAHUL-KUMBLE



New Delhi, Nov. 10: Kings XI Punjab are likely to continue with the captain and coach combine of K.L. Rahul and Anil Kumble even after finishing sixth in 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, 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 franchise.

KXIP, who have never had a settled unit, have finally found a core group of players around whom a team

can be built. That group includes Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mohammad Shami, Chris Gayle and youngsters like Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh.

The management wants to plug the gaps in the middle order and bowling department, which has been an issue for a number

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 first-class 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 Jatin Paranjape (West Zone).

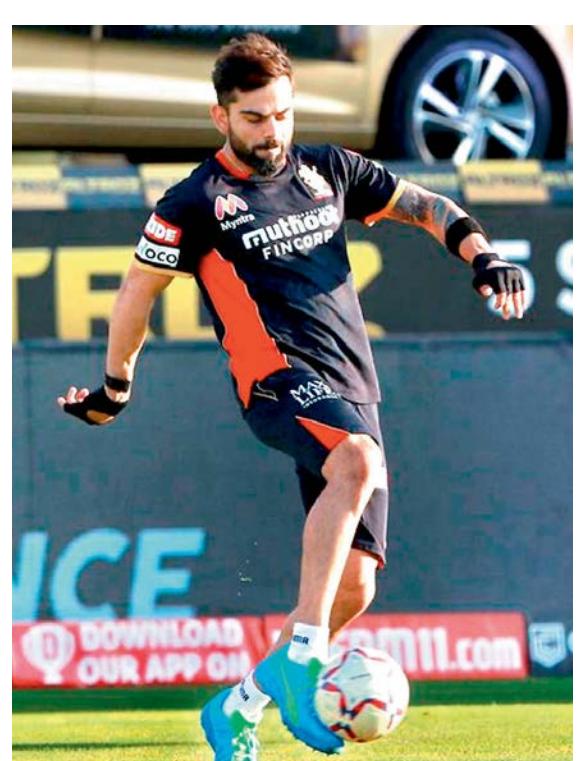
While the BCCI has done away with the zonal policy officially, the convention has been to replace the candidate from the same zone as Sunil Joshi (South) replaced MSK Prasad, who was the chairman of the last committee.

Similarly, Rajasthan's Gagan Khoda was replaced by Railways' Harvinder Singh as the central zone selector last February.

It is expected that the applications of all those who had applied during the last phase, such as Mumbai's Ajit Agarkar and Delhi's Maninder Singh, will remain valid.

The job of the senior selection committee includes picking coaches for India, India A, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy, Challenger Trophy teams & Rest of India. — PTI

Waugh sad about Virat pullout



Sydney, Nov. 10: 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 series.

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 on 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 year.

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

be there — and a bit surprised," former skipper Waugh, who played 168 Tests, said.

"This was really shaping up as one the key series of his whole career after he's achieved just about everything. But obviously family comes first."

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

Kohli will lead India in three ODIs, three T20s, and the first Test — a day-night match in Adelaide — before heading home.

The second Test starts in Melbourne on December 26 followed by matches in Sydney on January 7 and Brisbane on January 15, all played under strict bio-security protocols. — AFP

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SHORT TAKES

Maradona doing well post surgery

Olivos, Argentina: Argentine football great Diego Maradona is progressing well after brain surgery on a blood clot and could be discharged this week, his doctor said Monday. Maradona, 60, underwent surgery last Tuesday to remove a clot lodged between his brain and skull.

"Diego is in the mood to leave, and we are evaluating the discharge that could be tomorrow or probably Wednesday, we have to see the clinical parameters, but the progress is very good," Leopoldo Luque told reporters. Maradona, who went into isolation two weeks ago after one of his bodyguards displayed coronavirus symptoms, had looked unwell during a brief appearance on October 30 at his 60th birthday celebration at the stadium of Gimnasia y Esgrima, the Argentine Primera Division team he coaches. He seemed to have difficulty walking and did not hang around to watch his side's match. The following Monday, he was taken to hospital in La Plata, where the club is based, suffering from symptoms of anaemia and dehydration. Tests revealed the blood clot, after which Maradona was transferred to a specialist clinic in the capital. Since his surgery, he has progressed well, although Luque had revealed on Thursday that Maradona was receiving intensive treatment and sedatives for withdrawal symptoms. — AFP

NBA season to begin on Dec. 22

Washington: It's official: The NBA is coming back December 22. The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association announced on Monday night that they've struck a deal on rules for this coming season, setting the stage for what will be a frenzied few weeks before games resume.

Teams will play a 72-game schedule, which will be revealed in the coming weeks. The league said a new system will be used to ensure that the split of basketball-related income continues, one of the many details that had to be collectively bargained with the union because the current agreement between the sides had a great deal of language that needed reworking because of the coronavirus pandemic. Negotiations with free agents will be allowed to begin at 6 pm on November 20, with signings permitted starting at 12:01 pm on November 22 an extraordinarily fast window for the NBA, which typically has about a week spanning the start of talks and the beginning of signings. But with training camps this year beginning December 1, both sides evidently feel there isn't a need to draw out the process any longer than necessary. Many rosters could be considerably reshaped by then, with trades likely to be permissible again in the coming days. — AP

Dope rider gets four-year ban

Lausanne: Italian MotoGP rider Andrea Iannone was suspended four years for an anti-doping violation on Tuesday, after the Court of Arbitration for Sport extended his initial 18-month suspension following an appeal.

Iannone, 31, was suspended in March after testing positive for an anabolic steroid in a urine sample collected at an in-competition test at the Malaysian MotoGP in Sepang last November.

The Aprilia rider was also disqualified from the final two races of the 2019 season — in Malaysia and then Valencia — which he had not finished. In its ruling, CAS said the Italian's suspension would be backdated to December 17, 2019.

Iannone had contested that the presence of drostanolone in his system was the result of eating contaminated meat in Malaysia.

However, CAS rejected his argument and upheld a WADA appeal seeking a four-year ban. "The panel found that Andrea Iannone had failed to establish neither the precise type of meat he had consumed nor the origin of said meat," read a CAS statement. — AFP



Tiger Woods of the United States plays a shot as caddie Joe LaCava looks on during a practice round prior to the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia (USA) on Monday. — AFP

Bryson on the ball as golfers warm up

Augusta (USA), Nov. 10: US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau blasted routine tee shots 325 yards on the back nine Monday in his first official practice round for the 84th Masters, serving notice to Augusta National of his intent to overpower the famed course.

While the 27-year-old American didn't break the Masters' layout as some feared after his US Open romp, he certainly made a dent in it, using pitching wedges into the same Amen Corner holes that playing partner Tiger Woods told him he used during his 1997 Masters win.

"I've had to relearn the golf course. There are so many holes that play so differently for me," DeChambeau told The Golf Channel.

DeChambeau, who says he plays the par-72 layout as a par-67, found all fairways except at 18, where he went over a left-side bunker and still

layoff from March to June, never faced a shot into a green beyond 185 yards.

The scientist golfer favours distance above all else, ignoring possible deep rough for distance and position. With only minor rough at the Masters, the stage could be set for an epic overpowering of the course.

"He's trying to just take everything out of play," said fellow ball-basher Matthew Wolff.

"The way that me,

Bryson and other people are going with hitting it longer, my goal is to not overpower a golf course.

It just so happens that sometimes I can do that because I do hit the ball far," he added.

While the approaches and putts must still be top grade, rivals like Patrick Cantlay appreciate the edge extra length gives DeChambeau.

"I think this place probably fits it about as good as any place," Cantlay said. — AFP



Scuderia AlphaTauri Honda French Formula One driver Pierre Gasly drives his car past the Galata Bridge during a Formula One promotional movie shooting in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday. The Formula One Grand Prix of Turkey will take place on Sunday at Intercity Istanbul Park. — AFP

Formula One reveals a 23-race calendar for '21

Paris, Nov. 10: Formula One unveiled a 23-race calendar for 2021 on Tuesday, its biggest ever, but the Vietnamese Grand Prix was dropped.

The season will start in Australia on March 21 and will include the first ever race in Saudi Arabia on November 28 before the season ends a week later in Abu Dhabi.

Vietnam was to hold a street race on April 25 but doubts about the event arose after Nguyen Duc Chung, who was Hanoi's mayor and a major supporter of the event, was arrested on corruption charges in August. In the calendar unveiled on Tuesday, the race slot was left vacant.

For the 2020 season was heavily disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic but is eventually being run over 17 races, with reigning champion Lewis Hamilton on course to win the title for the seventh time.

Spectators have been barred from most races this year but organisers said they expect fans to return next year.

"The plans for 2021 have involved extensive dialogue with all promoters and their local and national authorities at a time of ongoing fluidity related to the global pandemic," F1 said in a statement.

"As we have said before, we expect fans to return for the 2021 sea-

Tokyo plans test events

Tokyo, Nov. 10: Tokyo Olympics organisers on Tuesday said they were encouraged by a gymnastics meet over the weekend and are now ready to hold test events early next year.

The Sunday meet featured 22 Russian, Chinese and American athletes entering Japan and competing in Tokyo with a few thousand fans attending.

Hidekazu Nakamura, the Tokyo Olympic games delivery officer, told an online briefing that plans are now in the works for more test events starting in March.

However, he did not say what form these might take or if non-Japanese athletes

would be involved. "We are discussing how to deal with Covid-19 together with the Japanese government and Tokyo Metropolitan Government," he said.

From the beginning of next year we will begin operations and proceed to have test events in March.

Holding the postponed Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be far more difficult than a one-day event with a few dozen athletes. Reports said no staff or athletes tested positive for the virus at the meet.

The gymnasts who entered Japan first faced a quarantine at home. In Tokyo, they were isolated in

hotel rooms, not allowed out for tourism, and tested daily for Covid-19.

Tokyo Olympic officials, the International Olympic Committee, and the Japanese government are trying to convince the world that the postponed Games can open on July 23 despite so much uncertainty in the ongoing pandemic.

IOC President Thomas Bach is expected in Tokyo later this month to drive home the point, particularly with the public and with local sponsors who have put up more than 3 billion yen for the Games.

The gymnasts who entered Japan first faced a quarantine at home. In Tokyo, they were isolated in regions where the virus is rampant.

The subsequent Paralympics will involve 4,400 athletes.

Japan has been relatively successful containing Covid-19 with about 1,800 deaths attributed to the virus. The problem will be opening the borders to regions where the virus is rampant.

The Olympics are proving very costly. — AP

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