

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | TUESDAY 10 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32°C
Min: 15°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 25
Tithi: Dashami
Star: Puram
Rahukalam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm
Yamagandam:
9 am to 10.30 am

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.52 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.41 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 1.07 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 1.58 PM

CORONA COUNT

| CASES | DEATHS |
|-----------|----------|
| (+31,420) | (+340) |
| 85,85,331 | 1,26,994 |

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,257)
TN: 7,46,079 11,362

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,10,19,347

DEATHS

12,66,074

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
216

worldometers.info

TN theatres to reopen today with old movies

Chennai: Though the state government gave the green signal to open theatres from Tuesday with SOPs, movie buffs will have to settle for old films and other language movies during this Deepavali. The standoff between producers and film exhibitors over the controversial virtual print fee (VPF) issue is not yet resolved. ■ **P2**

Google comes under CCI lens again

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday ordered a detailed probe against internet giant Google for alleged unfair business practices with respect to Google Pay as well as Google Play's payment system. Google Pay is a popular digital payments platform while Google Play is the app store on its Android ecosystem.

COUNTER POINT



I will not accept defeat even if I lose!

Punjab government withdraws general consent given to CBI

New Delhi, Nov. 9: India on Monday supported expansion of the membership of New Development Bank, set up by India and other BRICS nations, and emphasised on the importance of regional balance.

Participating in the 1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the BRICS Russian Chairmanship on Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also said that a consensus solu-

tion will play an important role in ensuring fairness, equity and sustainability of tax systems. "The Finance Minister supported the expansion of the membership of NDB and emphasised the importance of regional balance," an official statement issued after the meeting said. Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, which make up for the BRICS group, are currently the members of the NDB. — **PTI**



STATE | 2

TN reports 18 deaths, lowest in 5 months



NATION | 4

BJP rigged byelections in UP, alleges Akhilesh

WORLD | 5

Russia, China will not greet Biden till poll result official



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Bihar counting today, Cong rushes leaders

SREEPARNA CHAKRABORTY, NAYEAR AZAD | DC
NEW DELHI/PATNA, NOV. 9

Bihar is looking at a generational change in politics with the exit polls predicting that the Mahagathbandhan led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav and including the Congress is on its way to dethrone old socialist warhorse Nitish Kumar, the Bihar Chief Minister who leads the JD(U)-BJP combine.

But it remains to be seen whether the "Grand Alliance" of the RJD, the Left parties and the Congress will manage to romp home to power, as most of the exit polls have projected, or will merely emerge as the single largest entity, leaving the field open for post-poll alliances.

In case of a fractured mandate, it will be interesting to see which way the small caste-based parties swing as the process of government formation kicks off. Counting will be taken up at 55 centres in 38 districts across the state on Tuesday morning.

Most exit polls have predicted a rout for the ruling



Continuity or change?

Total no of seats: 243
For majority: 122



NO OF SEATS CONTESTED

| NDA | Grand Alliance |
|----------|----------------|
| JDU: 115 | RJD: 144 |
| BJP: 110 | Congress: 70 |
| VIP: 111 | CPI (ML): 19 |
| HAM: 7 | CPI: 6 |
| | CPI(M): 4 |

Counting to begin at:
8 am

No of centres:
55 centres

● **Bihar has 243 Assembly constituencies, and the most keenly watched on Tuesday will obviously be Raghopur in Vaishali district, from where Mr Tejashwi Yadav is seeking election**

JD(U)-BJP combine and a resounding victory for the Grand Alliance led by Mr Yadav, the son of former chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Bihar has 243 Assembly constituencies, and the most keenly watched on Tuesday will obviously be Raghopur in Vaishali district, from where Mr Tejashwi Yadav is seeking election. Mr Yadav is currently a mem-

ber of the Legislative Council and this is his first Assembly election.

The Congress, which does not want to take chances with exit polls predicting victory for the alliance, has reportedly rushed general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and Avinash Pandey to coordinate party's moves and frustrate attempts by the NDA to poach its MLAs.

Tejashwi has a quiet birthday ahead of results

DC CORRESPONDENT
PATNA, NOV. 9

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav celebrated his 31st birthday on Monday with simplicity, and also urged party workers to avoid visiting his house to greet him.

However, in few places in Patna, hoardings and posters were erected to wish him on his birthday and projected him as the future chief minister of Bihar. However, the RJD chief sent out a message of restraint and simplicity by celebrating a quiet birthday. "It's the personal decision of Tejashwi Yadav to celebrate his birthday with simplicity. So, the party humbly requests you (party workers) to avoid visiting his house to personally greet him. Be vigilant and remain in your areas for the counting on November 10," the party said in a message.

TV journo murdered for reporting land, ganja sale

SINDHYA SAMUEL, P. A. JEBARAJ | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 9

In a shocking incident, G. Moses, 26, a journalist working with Tamilzhan TV, a Tamil television channel, was hacked to death by a gang outside his house at Kundrathur in Kanchipuram district on Sunday night.

Police sources said they suspect the murder to be an after-effect of his reporting on illegal sale of government poramboke land and ganja sales in the area. Hours after the attack, the police arrested four members of such a gang.

Moses was covering Sriperumbudur and Kundrathur areas for the channel. His father Gnanaraj Jesudasan is a reporter with an evening Tamil daily.

Moses was at his home in Pudhu Nallur village, when



G. Moses

he received a call from an unidentified man asking him to come out of the house. A few minutes later, his father rushed out of the house hearing Moses screaming for help.

According to police, Moses, who was facing death threats, was attacked with sickles by a gang, who fled the spot leaving him in a pool of blood. Moses suffered severe injuries on head and hand and was immediately rushed to the Chromepet government hospital. However, he died due to severe injuries and blood loss. The

Somangalam police registered a murder case.

Sriperumbudur deputy superintendent of police confirmed to DC that they have arrested Navamani, 26, Vignesh, 19, Venkatesan, 18 and Manoj, 19. Further investigation is underway.

Moses had recently reported on the ganja sales by a gang in the region and had been facing threats from the group. The cult-rits had been suspecting Moses of passing on information to the police. Jesudasan told police that his son was always vocal about the issues happening in the region. Earlier there was a problem due to land grab and ganja sales and he went there and reported about it. Since then he faced threats. He said the police should have taken action and provided protection to Moses.

Save fishermen's boats in Lanka, parties tell PM

Chennai, Nov. 9: Opposition parties, including the DMK and MDMK, on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate steps for the release of over 100 impounded mechanised boats of Tamil Nadu fishermen from Sri Lanka or ensure compensation.

The CPI and AIADMK's ally DMDK also urged the

Centre to get the boats released swiftly.

DMK MP Kanimozhi said a Lankan court has given a judgment for either "destroying or auctioning" the boats, which are the source of livelihood of the fishermen. "The ministry of external affairs should intervene and take steps to ensure for return of the boats of

Tamils by the Sri Lankan government," she said in a tweet.

Ms Kanimozhi alleged Tamil Nadu fishermen continued to face attack by the Lankan Navy and also lost their fishing gear and boats.

Officials in Rameswaram, quoting information received by them, had on Sunday said

a court in Jaffna has permitted authorities to destroy several Indian mechanised fishing boats seized in the last 3-4 years for allegedly crossing into the island nation territory. Citing news reports, MDMK general secretary Vaiko said this news was shocking. "Of the over 100 boats, as many as 88 were from Rameswaram,"

Vaiko, a Rajya Sabha MP, said in a letter to Modi. "The government of India should take up this issue with the Sri Lankan government either for releasing the boats or to pay due compensation to the boat owners of Tamil Nadu. I would request you to take immediate effective steps in this regard," Vaiko said in the letter. **PTI**

Go local for Diwali, boost economy, says Modi

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Extending festival greetings to people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated his "vocal for local" appeal while urging people to promote "local for Diwali" in a big way.

Mr Modi, who inaugurated and laid the foundation for various projects worth ₹614 crore in his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, via video conferencing, asserted that buying local products will not only

strengthen local manufacturing but will also brighten up Diwali of those who make these products and give a new boost to the economy.

"You are seeing today that along with vocal for local, the mantra of local for Diwali is resonating everywhere....Celebrating Diwali with local products will give a new boost to the economy. I would like to say to the people of Varanasi and all countrymen, promote 'local for Diwali' big time," said the Prime Minister adding that



when every person buys local products with pride, talks about them, they help in promoting it.

"Going for local doesn't mean only purchasing 'diya' but everything you use in Diwali. It will

● **"The agriculture reforms will give direct benefit to farmers. They will be directly connected to the market and the middleman will be out of the system," Modi said**

encourage those making them," the Prime Minister said and added in a lighter vein that by going local he doesn't mean "throwing things you have bought already

in the River Ganga".

Highlighting various schemes launched by his government, Mr Modi said under the Swamitva scheme, farmers will be issued property cards, which will not only help them get loans, but the "game of grabbing their properties will also end."

Appreciating people of his parliamentary constituency for their "social unity" in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister also spoke about the agriculture reforms introduced by his

government, insisting that these reforms will connect farmers directly to the market and "send middlemen out of the system."

"The agriculture reforms will give direct benefit to farmers. They will be directly connected to the market and the middleman will be out of the system. The farmers of Purvanchal will also be benefitted from this," he said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of various development projects for Varanasi.

timing of use to two hours, as specified by the state, "due to Covid".

"If nothing is specified, the timing will be 8 pm to 10 pm on Diwali and Gurupurab, 6 am to 8 am on Chhatt Puja and from 11.55 pm to 12.30 am during Christmas and New Year's Eve," the order read.

For "other areas", where the air quality is better, the NGT has made the cracker ban optional, but directed the states to "initiate special drives to contain air pollution from all sources in view of Covid-19".

The tribunal directed the chief secretaries and DGPs of all states and UTs to issue and circulate orders with appropriate enforcement guidelines to all district magistrates, police chiefs and state pollution control boards.

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The National Green Tribunal on Monday imposed a total ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in New Delhi and its adjoining areas, across the entire National Capital Region, which includes Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana and Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, from midnight on Tuesday till November 30.

The NGT's ban on crackers is also applicable to all cities and towns in the country where the air quality during November falls under the "poor" and above category.

The NGT, in its order, also directed all states and Union Territories to initiate special drives to check air pollution from all sources in view of its poten-

● **The NGT's ban on crackers is also applicable to all cities and towns in the country where the air quality during November falls under the 'poor' and above category**

tial to aggravate Covid-19 infections.

The ban was imposed ahead of Diwali, which falls on November 15, to prevent any further rise in air pollution - already in the "severe" zone in Delhi-NCR - because of the bursting of firecrackers.

Only green crackers - considered to be less polluting - will be sold in the cities and towns where the air quality is "moderate", the tribunal ordered, and also restricted the permitted

Covid-19 vaccine works 90%: Pfizer

New York, Nov. 9: Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE on Monday said their vaccine candidate was found to be more than 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19.

"Today is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our Phase 3 Covid-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent Covid-19," Pfizer chairman and chief executive officer Albert Bourla said.

"We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development programme at a time when the world needs it most with infection rates setting new records, hospitals nearing over-capacity and economies struggling to reopen," he added.

After discussion with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the companies recently elected to drop the 32-case interim analysis and conduct the first interim analysis at a minimum of 62 cases, the company said.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis. We look forward to sharing additional efficacy and safety data

● **Pfizer Inc did not provide any more details about those cases, and cautioned the initial protection rate might change by the time the study ends** generated from thousands of participants in the coming weeks," Mr Bourla said. BioNTech co-founder and CEO Ugur Sahin said: "The first interim analysis of our global Phase-3 study provides evidence that a vaccine may effectively prevent Covid-19. This is a victory for innovation, science and a global collaborative effort." The Phase 3 clinical trial of BNT162b2 began on July 27 and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 38,955 of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of November 8, 2020, the statement said.

The trial is continuing to enroll and is expected to continue through the final analysis when a total of 164 confirmed Covid-19 cases have accrued. The study also will evaluate the potential for the vaccine candidate to provide protection against Cvo-19 in those who have had prior exposure to SARS-CoV-2, it added.

— **PTI**

Delhi reports its highest ever tally of 7,745 new Covid-19 cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

Delhi has overtaken Maharashtra and Kerala in the reporting new cases of Covid-19 and on Monday added 7,745 infections, the Union health ministry said on Monday. Nationally, the total caseload increased by 45,903 in the last 24 hours, 75 per cent of which come from 10 states, the ministry said. Delhi's 7,745 new cases is also its highest tally so far. The national capital is followed by Maharashtra with 5,585 cases and Kerala with 5,583 cases.

"New daily cases continue to trend downwards with the success of Jan-Andolan promoting Covid appropriate behavior," the ministry said.

The trend of recoveries outnumbering new cases has continued for the 37th day with 48,405 cases recovering in a span of 24 hours as against 45,903 infections being reported during the same period.

The active caseload at present stands at 5,09,673 which comprises 5.96 per cent of the total Covid-19 cases.

The recovery rate has also been boosted with the trend of recoveries exceeding new cases and presently stands at 92.56 per cent.

Total recoveries have surged to 79,17,373 and exceed active cases by 74,07,700.

India's cumulative positivity rate has dropped to 7.19 per cent as on date.

SHORT-TAKES

BJP cadres attempt to go on Vetri Vel yatra again

Chennai, Nov 9: BJP cadres led by state president L. Murugan on Monday again attempted to go on a 'Vetri vel yatra' from nearby Chengelpet, but were detained by police and released later.

When the saffron party workers, led by Murugan, tried to take out the state-wide yatra, they were detained at a hall in the suburban locality and released in the evening.

Murugan expressed confidence that his party would grow in strength to the point of determining the next government in Tamil Nadu.

"The Vetri vel yatra will continue," he said. Assembly elections are due in Tamil Nadu during April-May 2021.

Though the BJP had planned a month long (Nov 6-Dec 6), state-wide 'Vel' or 'Vetri vel yatra', the state government banned it, citing the coronavirus pandemic.

This is the BJP's third attempt to go on a yatra to 'expose the DMK' for backing atheist group 'Karuppar Kootam' which denigrated Kanda Sashti Kavacham in praise of Lord Muruga.

On November 6, Murugan tried to begin the yatra from Tiruttani, but was not allowed to do so.

He attempted to start it from Tiruvottiyur here on Sunday but was arrested and left off later. — PTI

474 tonnes of illegal onion stocks seized

Perambalur, Nov. 9: Officials of the horticulture department and Food Cell CID police department seized 474 tons of big onions found hoarded in four places at Irur, Chathiramanai and Mangoon villages in the district, on Monday. Official sources said, under instructions of Collector P Venkata Priya, an official team raided these places and found illegal stocks of big onions. Those managing the stocks told officials that they had stocked them for seed purposes. The collector ordered for seizure of the onion stocks. The food cell CID police registered a case against Muthuselvan and Ravichandran of Irur, Alagesan of Chathiramanai and Natarajan of Mangoon.

TN theatres to reopen today with old movies

No new releases for Deepavali

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | DC CHENNAI, NOV 9

Though the state government gave the green signal to open theatres from Tuesday with SOPs, movie buffs will have to settle for old films and other language movies during this Deepavali.

The standoff between producers and film exhibitors over the controversial virtual print fee (VPF) issue is not yet resolved. The Tamil Film Active Producers Association (TFAPA) announced that they are not in a position to release new movies this Deepavali.

Reacting to this, Tiruppur Subramaniam, head, TN Theatre Owners Association said, "We have also been mediating on the VPF issue day and night for the last few days. And, with our efforts we made Qube, UFO and other services to agree for a 60 per cent fee waiver till March 2021. Initially producers agreed, but later they retracted saying that after March end they will not pay VPF fees. Hence our association informed members to take a call on reopening their theatres as per their wish."

Meanwhile, theatre owners in the city are going ahead with their plans. Advance bookings for various films have begun. Online Tickets booking for PVR - SPI multiplexes are open for Chennai, Coimbatore and Vellore.

Swaroop Reddy, regional director, south, PVR Cinemas, said: "Currently, we are pleased to see people rejoicing at the reopening and eager to return to the theatres. We strictly adhere to the safety guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Disinfectant being sprayed in a cinema hall to be reopened on Tuesday.

Govt ready to mediate in VPF issue, says minister

ARULOLI M | DC THOOTHUKUDI, NOV 9

The state government is ready to take steps to amicably settle the virtual print fee (VPF) issue between the Tamil cinema producers and theatre owners, said Minister for Information and Publicity Kadambur C Raju.

Recalling a similar issue between producers' council and theatre owners in 2018 when his ministry intervened and settled the issue by bringing Qube cinema, provider of end-to-end digital cinema technology, into an agreement to reduce the weekly VPF

payment by 50 percent from Rs 15,000 to Rs 7,000, Raju said that talks between the Tamil Film Active Producers' Association (TFAPA) and theatre owners association has failed to work out a compromise. But my ministry is ready to hold talks under the direction of the chief minister, and settle the issue as the government did in 2018.

On the reopening of theatres on Tuesday (Nov 10) after a long closure of eight months due to Covid-19 lockdown, the minister said that theatre owners have agreed to the standard operating proce-

dures (SOPs) issued by the government. "Any violation of the SOPs will be severely dealt with," he warned, and added that the state administration would not hesitate to cancel licences for theatres which allowed overcrowding beyond the 50 percent, and also failed to disinfectant the theatre hall after every show.

City municipal corporation officials and respective district revenue officials under the supervision of the district collectors would monitor the functioning of cinema theatres during this period, said the minister.

Bigil will be released from November 10 with 4 shows. Movie buff Murali says that he is happy that theatres are reopening after almost 8 months. "But the theatrical experience of watching a new movie during pandemic times is truly gratifying."

among others are being released."

He adds, "once the new releases start coming, we are positive that people will be drawn to the theatres."

Sri Lakshmi Theatre at Saathankulam has announced that Vijay's

Stalin writes to Kamala Harris

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

"Tamil Nadu eagerly awaits your visit to the state," DMK president M K Stalin told US Vice-President elect Kamala Harris through a handwritten congratulatory letter in Tamil on Monday.

The letter in Tamil, the language that linked both of them, would make her happier, hoped Stalin, adding that she had proved that a Tamil woman was capable of ruling America through her hard work and vision.

Besides sending the handwritten letter, Stalin also tweeted in Tamil explaining that he wrote the letter to remind Harris of her roots, which he said was in Manargudi's Tulaendrirapuram.

Apart from getting elected as the first woman Vice President, she had also delighted the people of Tamil



Nadu with the sweet news, he said.

The Dravidian Movement, which was formed with the credo 'Everything for Everyone,' had gained great hope from the victory of Harris, Stalin said, adding that the movement had envisaged to do away with gender disparity and discrimination among people.

He wished that America would earn more laurels during her tenure, thus proclaiming to the world the traditional glory of the Tamils.

Stalin wants action against killers of journo

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

DMK President M K Stalin demanded action against those who killed Moses, a television journalist working for Tamilan TV, just outside his house in Kundrathur.

Though a complaint had been lodged with the police on the threats received by Moses after he exposed the illegal activities of some local gangs through his reportage, no action was taken by the police to save him, Stalin alleged in a statement on Monday.

Besides, paying condolences to the family of the young journalist, he urged the State government to bring to book the gangs involved in the hacking incident.

Organizations of media persons like the Madras Union of Journalists, the Chennai Press Clubs and Tamilnadu Women Journalists Forum also expressed shock over the killing of Moses and demanded action against the culprits.

IIT develops disruptive sensor tech

Chennai: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) researchers have developed a disruptive sensor technology to maintain heat in industrial ovens.

Christened as 'µTMaps' (or) 'Multi Point Temperature Measurement Sensor', it provides automated and intelligent measurements that can replace existing heat process control systems that cause expensive forced shutdowns and early retirement of components well before its designed life.

DMK skips meet over Bedi's delay to okay medical seat quota

Puducherry, Nov 9: The DMK skipped a meeting of leaders of all political parties to discuss the alleged delay by Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi to approve a quota of 10 per cent for admission of government school students to medical courses. The Lt Governor had referred to the Union Home Ministry the proposal of the territorial government for the quota this year. Chief Minister V Narayanasamy chaired the meeting attended by all the parties except the DMK which is an ally of the ruling Congress. When his attention was drawn to the absence of any of the representatives of the DMK, the Chief Minister

told reporters that he had sent letters asking the DMK leaders R Siva and S P Sivakumar to attend the meeting. "I have also spoken over phone to the two DMK leaders inviting them to the meeting. But, there was no response. They might have personal reasons for their absence," Narayanasamy said. The DMK has three legislators, including a woman MLA from Karaikal, and been supporting the Congress government from outside. On Sunday, the Chief Minister had alleged that the proposal of the 10 per cent quota was being blocked by Bedi who was allegedly delay in its implementation by referring it to the Union Ministry. — PTI

On horns of dilemma



Parents participate in meeting at Everwin School, Kolathur, on Monday to voice their views on reopening pf schools for students of classes 9 to 12. —DC

Woman dies after setting herself ablaze near temple

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

A 30-year-old woman who came to Madhurantakam as part of a ritual in a temple in Indalur village nearby died after she set herself ablaze at her place of stay on Sunday midnight. The deceased has been identified as Thangam, wife of Udhayakumar, residing in Teynampet. She has been unwell for the past one month and was not responding to any treatments.

According to police sources, she was taken to an oracle at a temple in Madhurandhagam last Saturday under the guidance of few people saying she was possessed by evil spirit. She was accompanied by her mother and mother-in-law.

According to the advice given by an oracle at 3 pm yesterday, Thangam had to stay in the temple for 21

days and perform puja to ward off bad luck surrounding her. Thangam agreed to perform the puja and they were staying at the place given for the devotees of the temple. They were also provided with facilities to cook.

Meanwhile at 2 am on Monday, Thangam set herself ablaze. Thangam's mother and mother-in-law poured water on her and called for an ambulance. However she died before reaching the hospital.

The Acharapakkam police personnel rushed to the spot and sent the body to Chengalpattu government hospital for post-mortem while further investigations are on.

It has been learnt that Thangam had already attempted suicide at Teynampet couple of times earlier and she has been accompanied by her mother and mother-in-law ever since.

TN reports 18 deaths, lowest in nearly five months

Chennai, Nov 9: Tamil Nadu on Monday reported 2,257 new Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 7,46,079, while the toll stood at 11,362 with 18 more fatalities, the lowest witnessed in nearly five months. Of the fresh infections, Chennai reported 585, Coimbatore 189, Salem 105, Kanyakumari 35 and the remainder was scattered across Tamil Nadu, a health department bulletin said.

The number of active cases were 18,825 with 2,308 patients getting discharged from various hospitals and 7,15,892 people have got cured till date. As many as 75,277 samples were tested and cumulatively 1,06,36,999 specimens have undergone RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) scrutiny in 207 COVID-19 labs in Tamil Nadu.

Out of the 7.46 lakh cases, the state capital accounted for 2,05,419. The toll of 11,362 covers Chennai's 3,726. — PTI

Wife of man who died in custody moves HC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

The wife of Selvamurugan, who died allegedly due to custodial torture in Virudhachalam jail on November 4, has filed a petition in the Madras high court to direct the Cuddalore district SP to register a murder case against three police personnel allegedly involved in his death and investigate the case in accordance with law.

According to S. Prema, on October 28, 2020, Selvamurugan who was doing cashew business went to Vadalur for business purposes but did not return home. She came to know that he was picked up by Neyveli Town Police in Vadalur under suspicion of theft and he was remanded and lodged in Virudhachalam sub-jail on November 2. When she went to meet him on November 2, he could not speak to her properly and she was informed that he sustained injuries in his neck and that

● **She alleged that her husband died after he was brutally attacked by Sudhakar and Arivalagan, who belong to the DSP crime party, and one Arumugam, Inspector of Neyveli town police station.**

he was unable to eat or speak. Thereafter, she returned home. On November 4, she received a call informing her that her husband had been taken to the hospital. When she rushed to the Virudhachalam Government Hospital, she was told that her husband had died, she added.

She alleged that her husband died after he was brutally attacked by Sudhakar and Arivalagan, who belong to the DSP crime party, and one Arumugam, Inspector of Neyveli town police station.

DMK supports Nov. 26 gen strike

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 9

DMK president M. K. Stalin pledged his party's total support to the general strike called by all-India trade unions on November 26 to protest against the anti-labour policies of the BJP government at the Centre.

In a statement on Monday, Stalin said the Centre had already done away with 15 of the 44 laws that provided rights, welfare and security to workers in the country and had also

diluted the remaining 29 laws by compiling them into four.

Those rights were obtained over centuries through prolonged struggles, he said. Before abolishing those laws that guaranteed livelihood to workers, the government did not hold proper discussions in both Houses of Parliament, he said.

Extending support to the general strike, Stalin said may it lead to the defeat of the BJP's anti-labour attitude and the success of workers' unity.



Bhaskar Pandian, IAS, after taking charge as DIPR director, pays a courtesy call on Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday. —DC

Jipmer course: Probe into fake nativity certificates begins

Puducherry, Nov 9: The Puducherry administration has commenced a probe into the allegation of fake nativity certificates submitted by other state candidates for admission to MBBS under the quota for the Union Territory. The Department of Revenue has asked the centrally administered Jipmer to furnish copies of certificates of all the provisionally selected candidates under the quota of residence of Puducherry for verification of the certificates.

The Special Officer of the department A Sureshraj has issued the letter to the Dean of the medical college on Monday as part of the probe initiated by the



District Collector T Arun.

It was stated in the letter, a copy of which was distributed to reporters, that the government had received complaints that names of candidates from other states had figured in the merit list published recently under the Puducherry quota for admission

to the MBBS course in the institute.

The revenue authorities have therefore now asked the management of Jipmer to verify at their level genuineness of nativity certificates.

The letter said the dual residence claim is also doubted against a few candidates based on their declaration of nativity.

The operation AIADMK has urged Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi to intervene in the alleged irregularity in admission of students to the MBBS course.

Leader of the Legislature wing of the AIADMK A Anbalagan who presented a petition to the Lt Governor urged her to requisition

services of the CBI to go into the issue.

Chief Minister V Narayanasamy had on Sunday said the government had received complaints of candidates from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana having submitted fake certificates for admission in JIPMER under the Puducherry quota.

He had said the Collector was asked to go into the allegations and take action to protect local students.

Bedi said in WhatsApp message that she had requested the director of the college not to finalise admissions pending verification of documents alleged to be fake. — PTI



SHORT TAKES

PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCAM BUSTED

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, NOV. 9

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Assam police on Monday busted a racket of illegal siphoning of centrally funded pre-Matric scholarship meant for poor minority students by a group of school teachers, staff, middlemen, bank correspondents, and officials. The CID arrested at least 21 accused including six schoolteachers here.

Inspector General of Police (CID) Surendra Kumar said that Director of Assam Minority development Board Mahmood Hassan had lodged an FIR regarding the misappropriation of pre-Matric scholarship for 2018-19 and 2019-20. On the basis of evidence collected during investigation so far, 21 persons have been apprehended by the CID with the support of local police of Goalpara, Darrang, Kamrup and Dhubri districts, Surendra Kumar added.

Pointing out that investigation has revealed that the accused stole IDs and passwords to access the National Scholarship Portal to dupe students, set up fake beneficiaries without the knowledge of the schools in Dhubri, Kumar said that in Goalpara they found that scholarship was siphoned off with involvement of headmaster of at least three schools.

ODISHA: 3 JAWANS SUSTAIN BURNS IN FIRE MISHAP

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 9

Three jawans of the Odisha Special Armed Police (OSAP) suffered critical burns due to an accidental fire caused by mosquito repellent coils in Bhadrak town on Sunday night.

According to reports, the armed personnel were sleeping post their duty at the Puruna Bazar Police Station in Bhadrak town when the repellent coils they used came in contact with some inflammable material stored nearby.

The trio sustained severe burns and were rushed to the Bhadrak hospital. According to reports, they are stated to be serious. Sources said the injured jawans identified as Manoranjan Ghadei, Sangaram Tudu and Ganesh Nayak belong to the 5th Baripada Battalion of the Odisha Special Armed Police.

According to Puruna Bazar police, the mosquito nets used by the jawans were gutted in the fire. Senior police officials visited the injured jawans in the hospital in the morning. The jawans were shifted to Cuttack SCB Medical College and Hospital as their health condition deteriorated.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Bikas Das informed, "We have registered a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) 435, 336 to investigate this mishap."

NADIADWALA'S WIFE APPLIES FOR BAIL

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 9

Shabana Saeed, wife of Bollywood producer Firoz Nadiadwala, on Monday filed bail application after a local court remanded her to judicial custody in connection with a drugs case. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday had arrested her after the agency found 10gms of marijuana in a raid at her residence.

Apart from Saeed, the NCB has also arrested four other people who are alleged suppliers and peddlers.

According to the agency first they nabbed one Wahid Abdul Kadir Shaikh alias Sultan Mirza from Andheri (west). During interrogation he revealed that he had supplied marijuana to Saeed. Following this one of their teams rushed to Saeed's residence in Juhu.

The agency has claimed to have found 10gms of marijuana in presence of two independent panch witnesses during the search of her residence. The NCB on Monday produced Saeed before Esplanade court.

The court remanded her to judicial custody till November 23. Her lawyer Ayaz Khan moved a bail application for her as soon as she was remanded to JC.

The court asked the NCB to file a reply on the bail plea and deferred hearing on her plea till Tuesday.

BJP RIGGED BY-ELECTIONS IN U.P., ALLEGES AKHILESH

Lucknow, Nov. 9: A day before the announcement of the results for by-elections to seven Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday accused the BJP of rigging the elections in its favour. He, however, did not elaborate on the accusation, and said he would provide detailed information after the results are out on Tuesday.

At a press conference after a number of former lawmakers from the BSP and the Congress joined the party, Yadav said, "The BJP has done 'dhandhli' (rigging), 'dhokha' (fraud) and whatever it could by (misusing) the administration. The government had made such an arrangement that the voters could not come out (to exercise their franchise)."

"I will give detailed information after the results of the by-election are declared on November 10," he said. About the Bihar polls, the SP president exuded confidence that the exit polls predicting an edge for the RJD-led opposition alliance over the ruling NDA would be correct and that the tenure of those who "started spreading hatred in the society" was coming to an end.

Even abroad, those who wanted to rule by dividing the society have been ousted by the people, he said. "I am happy that there is a group of journalists there (in the US), which claimed that in past four years there, a president lied more than 22 thousand times. If the journalists here count the lies of the UP CM and the PM, then it will come out in lakhs."

On demonetisation, he said those who had no black money suffered a lot and those with black money left the country. "The BJP is responsible for the condition of the country's economy. The result of demonetisation is that, till date, the economy of the country has not been able to recover. It not only ended the big businessmen, but also the small traders, farmers and the poor," Yadav said. — PTI

19 COAL MINES SUCCESSFULLY AUCTIONED, SAYS JOSHI

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 9

The Centre on Monday expressed optimism that revenues to the tune of ₹6,565 crore would be garnered annually after successful completion of commercial coal mining auction.

Union coal minister Pralhad Joshi announced this in a press conference, after completion of the bidding process of the auction.

He informed that 19 mines have successfully been auctioned, which is the highest number of successfully auctioned mines in any tranche of coal auctions.

The Centre had launched India's first auction of coal mines for commercial mining on June 18, 2020.

Joshi said that the mines have witnessed fierce competition and companies have offered great premiums. The highest premium remained at 66.75 per cent whereas the average premium remained at 29 per cent.

Out of 38 mines put on auction, financial bids were received for 19 mines, in other words the success of the auction remained at 50 per cent.



Pralhad Joshi



RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav celebrates his birthday with family members in Patna on Monday.

— PTI

RJD workers told to accept poll result with restraint

Most of the exit polls predict a landslide victory for the grand alliance

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 9

RJD leader and chief ministerial candidate for the grand alliance in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav on Monday celebrated his 31st birthday with simplicity and also urged party workers to avoid visiting his house to greet him.

However, in few places in Patna hoardings and posters were erected to wish him on his birthday and projected him as the future chief minister of Bihar.

His birthday falls a day ahead of the counting of Bihar Assembly election results. With most of the exit polls predicting a landslide victory for the

grand alliance, Tejashwi Yadav wanted to send out a message of restraint and simplicity by celebrating a quiet birthday.

The grand alliance is projected to get more than 122 seats in the 243-member Bihar Assembly in the exit polls.

"It's the personal decision of Tejashwi Yadav to celebrate his birthday with simplicity. So the party humbly requests you (party workers) to avoid visiting his house to personally greet him. Be vigilant and remain in your areas for the counting on November 10", a message released by the RJD on the social media said.

In another message, the party also asked its work-

ers not to indulge in any kind of celebratory firing and improper behaviour towards its opponents on the day of counting on November 10.

"Whatever the election results will be on November 10, it should be accepted with restraint and simplicity. Party will not accept fireworks, celebratory firing and rude behaviour against our political rivals", the message read.

RJD insiders said that the guidelines for Tejashwi Yadav's birthday and counting were issued after a meeting on Saturday evening. Sources said that Tejashwi Yadav was not present in the meeting but he was con-

sulted on the phone.

"The party is concerned about Lalu Yadav's health conditions and doesn't want to celebrate in his absence. All of us are hopeful that he gets bail by the court soon", a party leader said.

The Jharkhand High Court on November 6 had deferred Lalu Yadav's bail hearing to November 27 after CBI sought more time to file a reply in the case.

He has been in custody for two years and was not able to campaign for the Assembly elections for the first time in four decades.

The case pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of ₹3.76 crores from the Dumka treasury between

December 1995 and January 1996.

He has however been granted bail in many other cases related to the scam.

Elections in the state were held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and 7 and results will be announced on November 10.

The election commission has set up 55 counting centres in all the 38 districts of the state.

Security personnel of Central Industrial Security Force, Bihar Military Police and district arm forces have been deployed at the counting centres and observers have been asked to keep a tab on the counting process on Tuesday.

DKS says prof who ended life was forced to pay bribe for V-C's post

VINAY MADHAV | DC BENGALURU, NOV. 9

The suicide by former Bengaluru University Professor N.S. Ashok Kumar, who retired as Registrar of Rajiv Gandhi Health University has kicked up a row in Karnataka, with opposition Congress alleging that the professor was pushed to suicide after losing the race for Bengaluru Central University Vice Chancellor.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has demanded judicial inquiry into the death of Ashok Kumar, stating that he was forced to pay ₹2.5 crore bribe to become Vice Chancellor, but was not given the post.

Ashok Kumar had left behind a suicide note saying that no one was responsible for his death and requested his body and eyes be donated. However, since post mortem was conducted on the body, only eyes were donated.

Ashok Kumar, who was living near Silk Board junction with his wife, had served in Bengaluru University Journalism and Mass Communication Department for a long time. He was in close contact with most of the journalists, who had passed out of the department. Before his retirement, he was moved by the government to Rajiv Gandhi Health University as Registrar (Evaluation).

However, he was in the race to become Vice Chancellor of one of the three Universities in Bengaluru.

Last Friday, the government announced a list of Vice Chancellors to various Universities, including Bengaluru Central and the name of Dr Ashok Kumar was not in the list. On Saturday evening, Ashok Kumar was talking to his wife till late in the night. After his wife went to bed, Ashok Kumar went to his study room. When he did not come out till 7 am on Saturday, his wife got suspicious and went to the study room to find him hanging from the ceiling fan.

Shivakumar charged that Ashok Kumar was

forced by officials and middlemen to pay ₹2.5 crore for getting appointed as Vice Chancellor.

Since he did not have money, Ashok Kumar had borrowed money from friends as well as from the market.

"Ashok Kumar was a strong person and he realised that he could not recover money from the coterie of officials and powerful people, to whom he had paid money. Though he has left suicide note saying that no one was responsible for his death, the debate over his suicide is revolving around this. The government should immediately order judicial inquiry into his death from a sitting High Court Judge," he added.

MP BYPOLLS: BJP SEES NO THREAT TO SHIVRAJ GOVT

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 9

Hours before the announcement of results for the crucial by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, ruling BJP on Monday exuded confidence that there would be no threat to Shivraj government whatever may be the outcome of the polls.

The Opposition Congress which has claimed that the poll results would spring a surprise facilitating the party to return to power in the state has, however, kept its cards closed over its future course of action.

State minister Aurobind Bhadouria told reporters that Shivraj government has already managed majority and there would be no threat to its stability whatever may be outcome of the by-elections.

"BJP has a strength of 107. Seven non-BJP members have already extended support to Shivraj government. Another non-BJP MLA is going to support us. A Congress MLA has resigned taking the effective strength of 230-member MP Assembly to 229. Hence, we do not see any threat to stability of the Shivraj government."

"On the other hand, Congress which has 87 MLAs needed to win all the 28 seats to fancy a chance of returning to power", he added.

He, however, said that the BJP was confident of winning a majority of the 28 seats that have gone to by-elections on November 3.

Congress veteran and former chief minister Kamal Nath returned here from Delhi on Monday after holding discussions with the AICC general secretary in-charge of MP Mukul Wasnik in the national capital on the future course of action by the party.

Nath too kept his cards closed on his future strategy. "We will spring a surprise in the by-elections and return to power in the state", he has said.

NO | RELIEF Goswami has been arrested in connection with the suicide of an interior designer

HC denies interim bail to Arnab Goswami

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 9

The Bombay High Court on Monday refused to grant interim bail to *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and two others in a 2018 case of abetment of suicide of an interior designer.

The HC noted while rejecting the interim bail pleas of Goswami and the two other accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sardha that "no case has been made out against applicant under section 439 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to grant interim bail considering extraordinary jurisdiction to court".

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik made it clear in their order that applicant Arnab Goswami can approach Alibaug sessions court and file interim bail application under section 439 of CrPC, and it should be heard and disposed of within four days of filing the application.

Goswami and the two others were arrested by Alibaug police in Maharashtra's Raigad district on November 4 in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by companies of the accused.

The Court in its 56-page order noted that the fact that the magistrate did not give notice and opportunity to Goswami to file a protest petition before accepting the report, goes to the root of the matter. The judges held that there was no doubt in their minds that the state government can always direct a further investigation to concerned police officers, as done in the present case.

Merely, because a magistrate accepted the A summary report submitted by police would not mean and preclude the investigation officer to invoke CrPC section 173 to commence further investigation after

intimation to Magistrate HC noted.

The bench noted that "Rejection of interim order shall not be construed as an impediment to the petitioners seeking alternate remedies."

Goswami has now filed a bail application in the Alibaug sessions court. The sessions court is currently also hearing the revision application filed by the Alibaug police challenging a November 4 order of a magistrate's court denying them custody of Goswami and the two other accused in the case and remanding the three in judicial custody.

KOSHYARI ASKS HOME MINISTER TO ENSURE GOSWAMI'S SECURITY IN JAIL

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 9

A day after Arnab Goswami alleged that his life was under threat while being shifted to Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Monday spoke to State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh expressing concern over the security and health of the *Republic TV* editor-in-chief, who has been arrested in connection with an

abetment to suicide case. According to the statement released by the governor's office, Koshyari asked the Home Minister to allow the family of Goswami to see him and to speak to him. The Governor had earlier conveyed his concern over the manner of arrest of an editor.

After his arrest from his residence, Goswami was taken to Alibaug, where the court remanded him in judicial custody till November 18.

IN BRIEF

AUSTRIA RAIDS
HAMAS, MUSLIM
BROTHERHOOD

Vienna, Nov. 9: Investigators in several Austrian regions carried out raids early Monday on people and organisations suspected of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas groups, prosecutors said.

Authorities said there was no link between Monday's action against suspected Islamic radicals and the attack in Vienna a week ago in which an assailant described as a supporter of the Islamic State group fatally shot four people before being shot and killed by police.

Prosecutors in Graz said over 70 people are under investigation in the new case and 60 properties, including apartments and offices, were searched, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Thirty people were taken in for questioning. Prosecutors said they are looking into suspicions of terror financing, criminal organization and money laundering among other offences. They said the raids resulted from more than a year of investigations.

SUICIDE CAR
BOMBER KILLS
FOUR IN KABUL

Kabul, Nov. 9: A suicide car bomber in Afghanistan killed at least four people and wounded 40 in an attack on a police base in the country's southern Kandahar province, a provincial official said Monday.

Paramedics still searched the rubble of homes destroyed by the blast hours after the attack late Sunday night in the province's Maiwand district, said Mohammad Ashraf Nadery, the provincial director of Kandahar's public health department.

He said those wounded included both soldiers and civilians.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Kandahar long has been a stronghold for the militants since the 2001 US-led invasion following the Sept. 11 attacks masterminded by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, whom the Taliban hosted at the time. Violence has soared in Afghanistan in recent months, even as the Taliban and government negotiators hold peace talks in Qatar.

The two sides have made little progress and attacks continue despite warnings from the US that continued violence could derail the talks. Under a February agreement signed with the US, the Taliban have committed to fighting militancy and those who threaten the US in Afghanistan, specifically the Islamic State group and al-Qaida. Earlier this month, Islamic State militants stormed Kabul University, sparking an hours-long gunbattle that killed 22 people.

ERDOGAN'S
SON-IN-LAW
QUITS FM POST

Ankara, Nov. 9: Turkey's finance minister and son-in-law to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced his resignation on social media Sunday.

Berat Albayrak said on Instagram that he was stepping down from his post for health reasons and would spend more time with his family. Albayrak, 42, was appointed minister of finance and treasury in July 2018, having previously been energy minister for nearly three years.

His resignation follows the dismissal over the weekend of central bank chief Murat Uysal and his replacement by former Finance Minister Naci Agbal. "I decided not to continue my duty as a minister after five years in office due to health problems," Albayrak said.

"I will spend time with my mother, father, wife and children, whom I have neglected for many years out of necessity and who have never spared me their support."

The resignation was confirmed by officials at the Finance Ministry, broadcaster HaberTurk reported, although it was unclear if it would be accepted by Erdogan. In April, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu resigned on Twitter, only to withdraw the announcement within hours after Erdogan refused to accept it. Albayrak, who has four children with Erdogan's daughter Esra, has presided over a rough period in the Turkish economy.

The country was recovering from a currency crisis in 2018 when the deadly Coronavirus pandemic struck and Albayrak's stewardship came under much criticism.

Russia, China will not greet
Biden till poll result official

Brazil, Turkey, Mexico leaders are also yet to congratulate US President-elect

Moscow, Nov. 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin won't congratulate President-elect Joe Biden until legal challenges to the US election are resolved and the result is official, the Kremlin announced Monday.

Putin is one of a handful of world leaders who have not commented on Biden's victory, which was called by major news organisations on Saturday. But President Donald Trump's team has promised legal action in the coming days and refused to concede his loss, while alleging large-scale voter fraud, so far without proof. When Trump won in 2016, Putin was prompt in offering congratulations but Trump's challenger in that election, Hillary Clinton, also conceded the day after the vote.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that this year is different. "Obviously, you can see that certain legal procedures are coming there, which were announced by the incumbent president — therefore this situation is different, so we consider it correct to wait for the official announcement," he said.

The leaders of China, Brazil and Turkey also are holdouts in offering congratulations. And Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador also said he would wait to comment until the legal challenges over the vote were resolved. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Monday offered a similar explanation of why President Xi Jinping has stayed silent. "We understand the presidential election result will be determined following US laws and procedures," he said. Peskov suggested that when the time comes, a congratulations message from Putin would come with all the expected protocol. "I remind you that Vladimir Putin said more than once that he will respect any choice of American people, and will be ready to work with any chosen president of the United States," he said.

For now, Putin's holding back allows a delay in addressing that fraught question of how to improve relations. Although Russian politicians widely lauded Trump's election in 2016, expecting him to make good on his



Supporters of US President-elect Joe Biden rally at Black Lives Matter plaza near the White House in Washington on Sunday. Joyous celebrations erupted in Washington after Joe Biden was declared winner of the US presidency, as several people poured into the streets of the US capital — some of them chanting, cheering and singing in front of the White House.

promises of improving relations, his administration disappointed Moscow by enacting sanctions, expelling scores of Russian diplomats in the wake of the poisoning of double agent Sergei Skripal and authorising lethal weapons sales to Ukraine.

But Russia is characteristically wary of Democratic US administrations because they tend to be more forward about criticizing Russia on human rights and democracy issues. Biden, in a 2011 trip to Russia while vice president, epitomized that approach in a speech at Moscow State University, the country's most prestigious higher education institute. "Don't compromise on the basic elements of democracy. You need not make that Faustian bargain," he told students.

Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, economic crisis, systemic racism and climate change are the top priorities for the Biden administration, according to his transition team, as President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris gear up for building back everything "better than ever".

Following a tense week of vote tallying, Democratic presidential candidate

Biden, 77, on Saturday won the state of Pennsylvania and vaulted ahead in the race to become the next president of the United States. Biden's win in the key battleground state put him over the threshold of 270 electoral votes, cutting off all avenues for his opponent, incumbent Republican President Donald Trump.

As Biden's vice president, Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman — and the first woman of colour — to occupy the office. The Biden team updated its website to showcase four policy areas the incoming administration will prioritise: Covid-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change. "We aren't just going to rebuild what has worked in the past. This is our opportunity to build back better than ever," said the Biden-Harris transition team on Sunday, giving details of the priorities for the next administration which will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021.

President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris are confronting a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice, and climate change.

The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," the campaign said. Once sworn into office, Biden and Harris will provide the much-needed national leadership to tackle the pandemic and begin our nation's recovery, it said.

The mandate of the transition team is to put in place the infrastructure that can ensure a smooth transition from the outgoing administration and efficiently run the administration on day one. Observing that the American people deserve an urgent, robust, and professional response to the growing public health and economic crisis caused by the Coronavirus outbreak, the team said that Biden believes that the federal government must act swiftly and aggressively to help protect and support the families, small businesses, first responders, and caregivers essential to help them face this challenge.

The Biden-Harris administration will always listen to science, ensure public health decisions are informed by public health professionals and promote trust, transparency, common purpose, and accountability in the government, it said. — *Agencies*

ELECTION WAS
FUNDAMENTALLY
FAIR, SAYS BUSH

Washington, Nov. 9: Former Republican US president George W. Bush has said that the American people can have confidence that the 2020 presidential election was "fundamentally fair, its integrity will be upheld, and its outcome is clear".

Bush, however, also said that outgoing President Donald Trump has the right to request recounts and pursue legal challenges, with any unresolved issues to be "properly adjudicated." In a statement after speaking to President-elect Joe Biden over phone, Bush said he extended his warm congratulations to Biden and thanked him for "the patriotic message" in his address.

Bush, 74, who was the US president from 2001 to 2009, said that while he and the Democrat leader have political differences, he knows Biden "to be good man who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country." — *PTI*

Worldwide virus
tally crosses 5 cr,
with 12 L deaths

Boston, Nov. 9: The Coronavirus has hit another sobering milestone: more than 50 million positive cases worldwide since the pandemic began.

Johns Hopkins University's Coronavirus tracker reported more than 50.2 million Covid-19 cases globally as of Sunday. There have been more than 1.2 million deaths from the disease worldwide since the pandemic started. The US, with about 4% of the world's population, represents almost a fifth of all reported cases. The country has had more than 9.8 million cases and more than 237,000 deaths from the virus since the pandemic started, according to Johns Hopkins University's data.

Coronavirus cases and deaths also continue to soar in the US, as they are in many countries. The US reported more than 126,000 positive cases and more than 1,000 deaths from Covid-19 on Saturday, according to the university. — *AP*

Murthy named co-chair of Joe virus task-force
Washington, Nov. 9: Indian-American physician Dr Vivek Murthy on Monday was named one of the three co-chairs of the Covid-19 task-force that will guide President-elect Joe Biden in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic that has claimed over 236,000 lives in the country, Dr Murthy, 43, a former US Surgeon General, along with two other co-chairs — Dr David Kessler and Dr Marcella Nunez-Smith — would lead a team of leading public health experts who will advise Biden and the Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the deadly virus. The US is currently the world's worst-hit nation from the pandemic. "Dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I

POLL NIGHT PARTY
POINTS TO DON'S
CAVALIER ATTITUDE

Washington, Nov. 9: It was supposed to be a scene of celebration. Instead, the Trump campaign's election night watch party in the White House East Room has become another symbol of President Donald Trump's cavalier attitude toward a virus that is ripping across the nation and infecting more than 100,000 people a day.

Polls suggest that attitude was a serious drag on the president's reelection bid as voters chose to deny Trump a second term in favour of his Democratic rival, now President-Elect Joe Biden. And the party — with few masks and no social distancing — is now under additional scrutiny after the president's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, became the latest top White House official to contract the virus, which has now killed more than 237,000 people in the US alone. The White House has repeatedly refused to say who else has tested positive, even as the virus continues to spread. — *AP*

will be informed by science and by experts," Biden said.

New cases are rising in at least 40 states, with more than 9.3 million total infections and more than 236,000 deaths, a media release announcing the Covid-19 Advisory Board said. "The Advisory Board will help shape my approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations," he said. — *PTI*

UK, EU push for
Brexit trade deal

London, Nov. 9: Negotiators from Britain and the European Union were meeting Monday to seek a breakthrough in gridlocked trade talks, with just days until a deadline to strike a post-Brexit deal. EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier is due to meet his British counter-

part, David Frost, in London, after both sides warned there is little time to bridge big differences between them. Barnier tweeted that he was "Happy to be back in London today, redoubling our efforts to reach agreement on the future (EU-U.K.) partnership." — *AP*



Aung San Suu Kyi

SUU KYI'S PARTY
CLAIMS MAJORITY
IN MYANMAR

Yangon, Nov. 9: Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy party claimed Monday that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power. It made the claim even though the state Union Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's election.

"I can now confirm that we're now securing more than 322 seats," said Monywa Aung Shin, a spokesperson for the NLD information committee. There are 642 seats in Parliament.

There were no reliable official figures available on voter turnout, and the Union Election Commission had earlier said that it might take as long as a week to release full results. A victory by the NLD had been widely expected, though it had been speculated that its deterioration of relations with ethnic minority-based parties, with whom it had cooperated in the last election in 2015, might cut its totals.

Pak media mogul gets
bail after 8 months in
three-decade-old case

Islamabad, Nov. 9: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to the owner of the country's leading media house, the Jang Group, after eight months he was arrested in a three decades-old land allotment case. Mir Shakilur Rehman, the owner of Jang Group of Newspapers, which includes Geo TV, was arrested on March 12 by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the eastern city of Lahore in a case related to a land he allegedly acquired illegally in the tenure of then chief minister of Punjab, Nawaz Sharif, 34 years ago.

The court granted Rehman bail against a surety bond of Rs 10 million. The Lahore

High Court had earlier denied bail to Rehman, after which he had appealed in the Supreme Court. The NAB alleged that Rehman was given 54 plots of land in Lahore's Jauhar Town phase-II by then Punjab chief minister Sharif in 1986 in violation of the relevant laws.

However, after hearing the argument, the top court accepted the bail application. Rehman's arrest was widely condemned by rights bodies and media groups and those linked with his media outlets had been regularly protesting against the prolonged detention. They alleged that he was a victim of Prime Minister Imran Khan's vendetta. — *PTI*

Christian girl sent
to shelter home

Islamabad, Nov. 9: A Pakistani high court on Monday sent a minor Christian girl to a shelter home after she was allegedly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man. Arzoo, 13 who is a resident of Karachi's Railway Colony, went missing on October 13 and later it was found that she married Syed Ali Azhar.

NAME CHANGE
I. PAJITHKUMAR, S/O, PANDI, Residing at D.No: 4/973, Yadavar Street South, Kattoorani, Ramanathapuram - Taluk & Dist, Tamilnadu, India. Shall hence forth be known as PAJITHKUMAR.
P.AJITHKUMAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE
COIMBATORE
COIMBATORE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY
FILE NO:2869/2020/LPA

In the G.O.Ms.No. 661 Housing and urban Development Department dated 12.10.1994, the Government has approved the Coimbatore Master Plan and enforced. The applicant **Mrs.V.Kavitha & V.Deepa** is requesting for change of land use from **AGRICULTURAL** use into **RESIDENTIAL** use in the Coimbatore approved Master plan of Coimbatore District, Coimbatore South Taluk, Singanallur Village in S.F.No.475pt, T.S.No.28/5 Block 03,Ward 37,for an extent of 0.32 Acres.Any Objection and suggestion to the change of land use proposal may be informed to the Coimbatore Local Planning Authority within 30 Days.

Member Secretary /Joint Director
District Town & Country
Planning Office
Coimbatore

| மதுரை மாநகராட்சி மின்னணு ஒப்புத்தப்புள்ளி அறிவிக்கை எண்., 72/2020 | | | |
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| A1 / 013898 / 17-18 மதுரை மாநகராட்சி கீழே குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள பணிகளுக்கு ஒப்புத்தப்புள்ளி தகுதி வாய்ந்த ஒப்புத்தப்புள்ளிகளிடமிருந்து ஆணையாளர் அவர்களால் வரவேற்கப்படுகின்றன. | | | |
| பணிகள் | பணியின் பெயர் | முதிர்வு தேதி (குடியிருப்பதற்கு) | ஒப்புத்தப்புள்ளிகள் சமர்ப்பிக்கும் நாள் |
| 1 | A1 / 013898 / 17-18 Supply of Computer Operators For Schools in Madurai Corporation | 59.80 | 10.11.2020 to 26.11.2020 3.00 P.M |
| இதர விபரங்களை http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in என்ற இணையதளத்தில் தெரிந்து கொள்ளவும். e-mail Address: commr.madurai@tn.gov.in Contact No: 0452-2532412 | | | |
| செ.ம.தொ.அ. 4197 / ஒப்புத்தப்புள்ளி/2020 ஆணையாளர், மதுரை மாநகராட்சி | | | |

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING OFFICE
COIMBATORE
COIMBATORE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY
FILE NO:2864/2020/LPA

In the G.O.Ms.No.661 Housing and urban Development Department dated 12.10.1994,the Government has approved the Coimbatore Master Plan and enforced. The applicant **V.R.Natarajan** is requesting for change of land use from **AGRICULTURAL** use into **RESIDENTIAL** use in the Coimbatore approved Master plan of Coimbatore District, Coimbatore South Taluk, Singanallur Village in S.F.No.475pt, T.S.No.28/1 for an extent of 0.289Acres. Any Objection and suggestion to the change of land use proposal may be informed to the Coimbatore Local Planning Authority within 30Days.

Member Secretary /Joint Director
District Town & Country
Planning Office
Coimbatore

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 292/P-1/EMP-W-11747 dt. 30.10.20 Tender ID.2020_POWER_55596_1

Scope of Work: COLLECTION & PREPARATION OF COAL, COLLECTION OF ASH, GAS, OIL, POLLUTION MONITORING SAMPLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS OF D.M. PLANT AT GGSSTP, RUPNAGAR.

EMD: Rs. 1,20,500.00 for contractors/firms and Rs.60,250/- for Co-op Societies Registered with Co-operative Societies, Punjab.
Date & time upto which tender shall be received/uploaded: 08.12.2020 upto 11:00 AM

Date & time of opening of tender: 15.12.2020 upto 11:30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website & <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.

Note: 1. In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or e-procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No. +91-(172)-2970284/63. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website: eproc.punjab.gov.in.

RTP-47/2020 RO : 1/101897 **SE/Head Quarters, GGSSTP, Roopnagar**

DECCAN
Chronicle
10 NOVEMBER 2020

Govt needs to rethink
cut in military pension

The proposal emanating last week from the defence ministry's department of military affairs, that is from the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, to cut pensions from several categories of personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force, doesn't seem to be thought through. In its present form, what it has done is to possibly create grounds for grievance-building across the three services. This is not what its authors may have intended.

The proposal creates a strong disincentive for those seeking premature retirement for officers, junior commissioned officers (JCOs) and other ranks in the logistics, technical and medical services, covering the medical corps, ordnance corps, services corps and the military engineering service. Without these, the fighting jawan on the border, the air warrior in the skies and the soldiers of the combat branches of the Navy, cannot take one step forward.

Those who wish to sign off after even 25 years of commendable service will have half their pension cut, so draconian is the concept. To get full pension, premature release applicants must serve a full 35 years. How is that for "premature" retirement?

Such a procedure does not exist in the civil service at the Centre or the state level, and this makes the idea discriminatory, besides constituting a ground for breeding anxiety and dissatisfaction among even those military personnel who might not be directly affected.

In the Navy and the IAF, which use more technology to be what they are, suspicion of the terms of service may run deeper and could, arguably, act as a strong disincentive for young men and women with technical skills from joining the armed forces, which well-educated Indians anyway avoid, preferring better paid opportunities in civilian life.

We are already in the phase of thinking of theatre commands, instead of the present organisational structure, and integrated defence forces by pooling the assets and resources of the three branches of the military. None of this is possible without a buoyant, optimistic and overhauled and modernised services structure, ethos and environment.

It can be argued that the teeth-to-tail ratio can be improved by happily letting go those who wish to depart, keeping a smaller and fighting trim younger force, and enhancing expenditure manifold on technological scaling up and tending to a revolution in military affairs with greater devotion, much like what China achieved more than two decades ago.

The pension payout is less than salary payout, especially at the more serious levels. So, let people leave. Why should the government grudge them a few years of better paying working life in the civilian sector, besides keeping their regular pension? As for filling the services' requirements, it may be better to hire fresh, young, optimistic, personnel with improved incentives.

The present proposal fundamentally derives from cutting corners — to save funds since the defence budget is lower than previously and much less than China's or Pakistan's. This deserves to be raised (along with education and health). The time for tinkering is gone. Salaries and pensions, along with a technology upgrade and organisational restructuring, must be done on the strength of new contour lines which are yet to be drawn. That must be the first priority of the CDS, not fiddling with pension schemes.

UAE shows the way

The world is applauding the United Arab Emirates for its milestone reforms that aim to consolidate the rule of law, signal its commitment to tolerance and safeguard women's rights. The most significant are the ones that make it permissible for citizens above 14 to cohabit and mandatory for honour killings to be prosecuted as murders. Alcohol consumption is no longer a crime and suicides no longer punishable. Non-Emiratis may use the laws of their home countries in deciding inheritance. Good Samaritans causing inadvertent harm may not be prosecuted under the new laws. The guiding principle of these changes, which mark the UAE's 50th anniversary as a nation, is that, unless an act constitutes harm to others or their interests as protected by the law, it will not be criminal.

Notably, however, these reforms aren't the result of a power shift. They are market driven and arrived riding on the back of economic concerns. As weaker demand amid lockdowns took its toll on crude oil prices, the UAE felt the need to promote itself as a tourist- and investor-friendly destination. Even earlier, the expat-populated UAE maintained a cosmopolitan lifestyle at the governance level, not effecting the more extreme punishments that it retained on paper. It may even have taken its cue from Saudi Arabia that, in turn, was pushed to the backfoot by an exodus of atheists and women, before announcing piecemeal liberal measures to contain it. That again shines hope. But the real challenges — reforms in the areas of guardianship laws and freedom of movement of Muslim women — demands for which have been raised in Saudi Arabia and which might find a resonance in certain milieus in UAE — remain. The message that goes out to the world is this — personal and civil laws need not be rigid and can move with the times. It applies equally to all secular, diverse and multicultural nations, such as India. It is a good example for others to follow.

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Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavantham Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408

Kozhikode: No 61002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax : 0495 4019018

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Maleeha Lodhi

What America's
post-Trump
foreign policy
might look like

Never have Americans seen an election in their recent history quite like the 2020 presidential contest. Never has the world watched with such concern the political tensions, bitter rhetoric and legal fights that marked the turbulent run-up to the election. The close race kept people on edge for days following the election as votes were counted in the crucial battlefield states.

The American people chose Joe Biden to lead their country in what has been described as "an election of a lifetime" which will have "decade-defining consequences". This has come as a relief to many people in America and beyond. For the international community, the overarching question is how the new occupant of the White House will change American foreign policy in the post-Trump era.

To begin with, Mr Biden will be preoccupied with managing domestic challenges with the pandemic still wreaking havoc across the country, polarisation undermining

national cohesion and racial tensions waiting to be seriously addressed. Uniting a deeply divided country will undoubtedly be his first order of business. As he reiterated after the election: "I will govern as an American President. There will be no red states and blue states. Just the United States of America."

The outcome of the congressional election too will present a challenge as the Senate is likely to remain in Republican control. This will pose formidable problems of divided government and legislative gridlock. Mr Biden will be obliged to deal with an unfriendly Senate which will make governance difficult while his pledge to heal a divided nation will require vigorous efforts.

That Mr Trump got more popular votes now than in 2016 indicates how widespread support remains for "Trumpism". If Mr Trump continues to play an active political role this could further complicate Mr Biden's task.

But as a course correction is also needed in America's relations with the world this will not wait for the domestic agenda to be tackled. Some argue that this is where Mr Biden may have a less constrained hand. What then is a Biden presidency likely to do? The selection of his foreign policy team will be an early pointer to the foreign policy he will pursue.

As someone with rich experience in foreign policy, Mr Biden is expected to follow a more traditional approach fundamentally different from Mr Trump's unpredictable and whimsical policies pursued at great detriment to America's global standing. In contrast to Mr Trump's intensely unilateral "America First" policy, Mr Biden would seek to restore his country's multilateralist credentials.

In broad brush terms a Biden administration is likely to see the revival of a more stable foreign policy, renewal of commitment to multilateralism, reaffirmation of ties

with allies, reversal of Mr Trump's abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal, re-engagement with key international institutions, a return to the Paris climate agreement and recommitment to alliances, especially Nato.

On Afghanistan and the US commitment to withdraw its remaining forces, Mr Biden's policy will not differ much from Mr Trump's. He has long been a critic of America's prolonged military engagement and as vice-president had opposed the military surge President Barack Obama ordered in 2009. Asked in an interview earlier this year what he would do if the Taliban ended up in power, he said: (I have) "zero responsibility. The responsibility I have is to protect America's national interest and not put our women and men in harm's way to try to solve every single problem in the world by the use of force".

A significant departure from Mr Trump's policy would be re-entering the Iran nuclear deal. Mr Biden

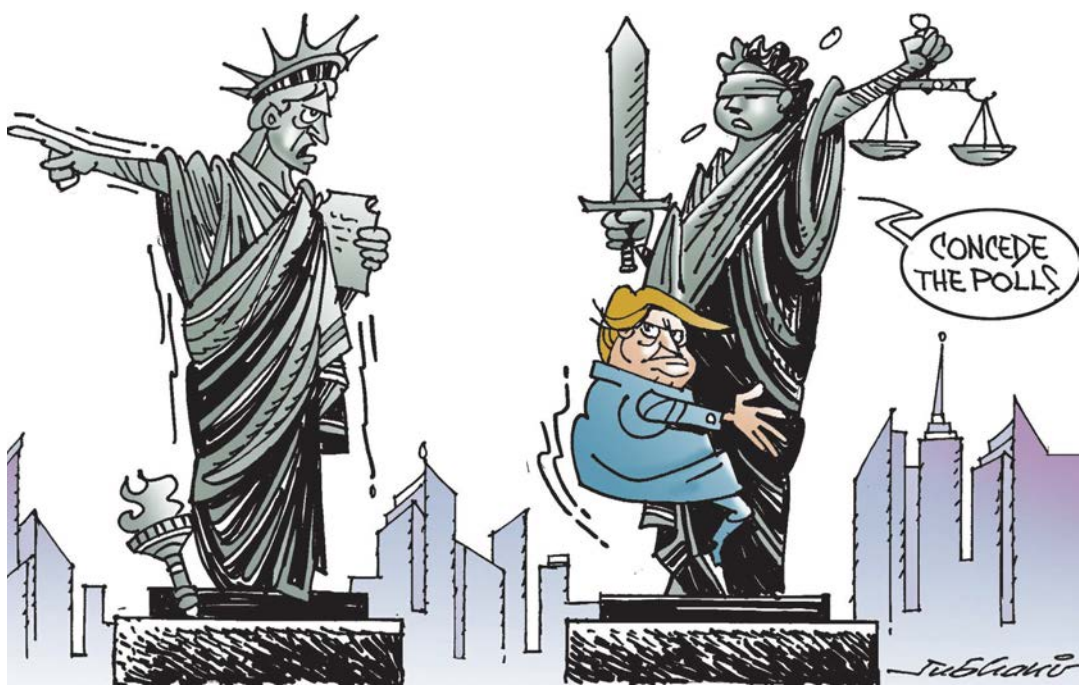
has repeatedly asserted he would re-commit to JCPOA if Iran complied and seek to strengthen it with partners. He believes this would help to re-establish US credibility. In the Middle East, it remains an open question how Mr Biden's frequent criticism of Saudi Arabia would translate into policy. His support for Israel will continue to be firm.

The biggest foreign policy challenge will remain America's relations with China. Predictability and stability in US foreign policy would be the most important change from the Trump years. But it is the home front where bitter discord and divisions have made the country virtually ungovernable that will receive the greatest attention from the next President.

The writer is a former Pakistan ambassador to the UN and the United States

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



Why presidential system
might not suit India well



Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

Donald Trump's eccentricities and extravagances do not in themselves constitute a convincing argument against any system of presidential governance. But a system that allowed its chief executive to ride roughshod over public concerns, substitute populist slogans for well-considered policy decisions and undermine established institutions while encouraging slander and libel against political adversaries can only be catastrophic for democracy.

To heal the wounds of the last four years and, as he puts it, erase the divide between "red" states and "blue" states to uphold only the "United States" must be President-elect Joe Biden's first task. His huge majority, particularly in the popular vote, is obviously an enormous asset. So is his running mate, Kamala Devi Harris, now the vice-president-elect, whose gender and ethnicity make her of historic importance.

But the additional support that President Trump attracted this time, proving the opinion polls wrong, confirms that he is by no means a spent force politically. Millions of Americans worship at the altar of brute force that he is thought to represent; and many world leaders secretly aspire to the methods and priorities that made the US President such a sinister authoritarian figure of formidable power.

It may be revealing that Prime Ministers Narendra Modi, Boris Johnson and Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia were probably Mr Trump's best friends among international politicians. Mr Johnson was even called his "visible and emotional clone". But it's not only the end

product that excites comment. The unique US electoral college system ensures that whichever candidate gets the most votes in a few key swing states, including Florida and Pennsylvania, ends up winning the White House. Mr Trump himself lost the popular vote by nearly three million ballots to Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016, and yet ended up reaching the presidency.

Underlying these and other peculiarities is the fact that the American system — like the French — is really a form of disguised absolute monarchy. France's Bourbon heir, the Comte de Chambord, would have been crowned King in the 1870s if only he had not insisted on replacing the tricolour, adopted during the French Revolution of 1789, with the white Bourbon lily or fleur-de-llys. He even rejected a compromise whereby the fleur-de-llys would be the King's personal standard while the tricolour remained the national flag. The already finalised monarchical constitution had to be hastily adapted to republican requirements.

American monarchism centres on a profound misunderstanding of the role of England's King George III. Believing that he defeated the all-powerful British sovereign in the War of Independence, the Americans sought to model their presidency on the Crown. What Congress didn't realise

To heal the wounds of the last four years and erase the divide between 'red' states and 'blue' states to uphold only the 'United States' must be Mr Biden's first task

Jawaharlal Nehru was as much an elective monarch as any French or American President, but he respected the institutions he had helped to create

that in demanding that "His Highness the Lord Protector and President of the United States of America" should be styled "His Elective Majesty" and be surrounded by the "Splendor and Majesty" (*sic*) of Europe's royal courts was that George III had no formal constitutional power. His informal influence, although considerable, resulted from a mix of patronage, persuasion and manipulation.

That sounds rather like the operational style of the Trump administration which often seemed to blur the dividing lines between politics and private business, with the President's threatening rhetoric on China contrasting with reports of his little-known undeclared bank account there. The erratic dismissal of one presidential adviser after another, the alienation of weaker neighbours like Canada and Mexico, the mismanagement of the coronavirus pandemic and inability to handle the impact of technology on jobs or the challenge of climate change have helped to diminish the United States on the world stage. So has indifference to the treatment of African Americans and the bullying tactics of neo-fascist gangs across the country.

Mr Trump probably still hopes that the US Supreme Court's 6-3 conservative majority — the result of presidential appointments such as that of Amy Coney Barrett as a judge just days before the election — will ultimately overturn the voters' mandate and reward him with the second tenure of which he, claiming to be the recipient of more than 71 million votes, feels he has

been unjustly robbed.

It took five weeks in 2004 for George W. Bush to establish his right to the presidency. If the system were replicated in India — and every presidential election in the US revives the old debate against the parliamentary system — it might take anything up to 50 years. In fact, such disputes would swamp the electoral process in unending litigation. Many Americans felt in 2004 that the system had treated vice-president Al Gore, who also got a majority of the popular vote and had the better moral claim, shabbily. If legal and constitutional channels were closed, that feeling would explode in India in bloodshed — that is if the ranks of Indian politicians could produce an Al Gore ready to sacrifice ambition to propriety.

The American system has much to commend it. It respects federalism. It sanctions greater accountability. It separates the executive from the legislative process. It provides for direct elections. A series of checks and balances ensures operational fairness. But it evolved out of the American experience; it reflects the American Dream. It does not have to pamper castes, put down communities, and devise sophisticated means of promoting majority interests without provoking allegations of partisanship.

Jawaharlal Nehru was as much an elective monarch as any French or American President, but he respected the institutions he had helped to create. Indira Gandhi continues to be severely castigated for bending institutions to her will but must be given the credit for shying away from contemplated constitutional changes when reminded of the Supreme Court's views on the basic features of India's democracy. India and the world are watching Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ultimately, it is not the Constitution that is at fault but the men and women who operate it. It is the singer, not the song.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

DUO'S METEORIC RISE

Apropos the editorial *Biden offers US healing touch, world is relieved*, (Nov. 9), it is a timely honour to the new leaders of the US, Biden and Kamala Harris, whose poll manifesto, maintaining stoicism, fight-to-the finish attitude have given them a meteoric rise to the envious chairs, leave alone Kamala Harris handing in the pride to her ancestral Tamil Nadu kith and kin. As quoted by her, Biden as a 'healer', and as said by Biden that he wanted "the US to be respected around the world", there is a glimmer of hope that the duo would take it on the chin to lead America to a dizzy height.

E.S. Chandrasekaran,
Chennai

WHAT A RELIEF

DECENT AND dignified elderly Biden offers a healing touch and the world is relieved. Biden said he will rejoin Paris climate summit and will review all the policies of Trump which made many enemies. Even China may find a helping hand with Biden as he was an expert in foreign affairs. With Kamala Harris as his VP, Biden can have confidence building measures with several Asian and African nations. Biden believes in consultations, not confrontations, and wants to be the president to all American citizens. After five decades wait, Biden could live in WH and can afford to be good and do good to all the people. Indians can now dream of a better reception at US shores, with the optimism of liberalised immigration laws.

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

DELHI'S BOLD DECISION

KUDOS TO Delhi Capitals' bold move to drop out of form Prithvi Shaw and ask Stoinis to open with Shikhar Dhawan which paid rich dividends to enable them to topple SRH and enter their maiden IPL finals. It is all the more bold to bat first after winning the toss and their openers gave a rollicking start to upset the rhythm of SRH bowlers, who were on a high after their win against RCB. Though DC was short by at least 10 runs, the target of 190 set by them proved to be more than enough, thanks to the final burst of Rabada. Rabada, after a lean patch, was on a high to York out David Warner, who was threatening. Then they reduced SRH to 44/3 in the power play to create jitters. However, Kane Williams and Holder steadied the ship and inched towards their goal of 190. Rabada prized out Williams and another two wickets in his 19th over to seal a well deserved win for Delhi Capitals.

N.V. Krishnan,
Chennai

Mail your letters to
editor@deccanmail.com

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Sensex | 42,597.43 | 1.68 |
| Nifty 50 | 12,461.05 | 1.61 |
| S&P 500* | 3,609.74 | 2.86 |
| Dollar (₹) | 74.14 | 0.08 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 97.47 | 0.07 |
| Euro (₹) | 88.07 | -0.23 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 52,183.27 | 0.53 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 42.59 | 3.14 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 5.876 | 0.005 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.930 | 0.110 |

* As of 8:30 PM IST

RBI restrictions on Equitas Small Fin. Bank lifted

Equitas Holdings said the RBI has lifted the restrictions imposed on its small finance bank subsidiary in September last year. The RBI lifted the restrictions on Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) subsequent to the listing of its equity shares, Equitas Holdings said in a BSE filing. The RBI had restricted ESFB from opening new branches and froze the remuneration of MD&CEO at the existing level.

15th Finance Commission submits report



The 15th Finance Commission submitted its recommendations on the ratio in which taxes are to be divided between the Centre and states over the next five years. The panel, headed by former bureaucrat N. K. Singh, submitted its report titled 'Finance Commission in Covid Times' to President Ram Nath Kovind. Its recommendations for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 haven't been disclosed as the report is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

Builders seek watchdog to bust cement cartels

The Builders' Association of India (BAI) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to constitute a regulatory authority for the cement sector to curb "cartelisation and undue profiteering". In the letter, BAI has demanded that the Cement Regulatory Authority should be constituted. Its president Mu Moahan said such an authority will prevent manufacturers from "indulging in unethical trade practices."

Apparel exporters launch virtual exhibition

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) has launched a virtual platform to exhibit garments round the year. Brands and buyers from across the world can visit the virtual fair and place orders. "Holding international exhibitions has become difficult due to travel restrictions. To overcome this, we have set up a virtual platform to exhibit our products 24x7, 365 days a year," AEPCC chairman A. Sakthivel said.



Investors richer by ₹2.07 lakh crore Sensex and Nifty scale new peaks

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 9

The market surged to a new all-time high, surpassing the January 20 peaks, amid strong global and domestic cues as well as sentiments turning bullish ahead of Diwali, an auspicious time to make new investments.

The Sensex closed 704 points higher at 42,597 after touching an intra-day high of 42,645.33 and the Nifty-50 at 12,461 was up 197 points after reaching a new high of 12,474.05 in the sixth straight session of gains for the bulls.

The BSE market capitalisation soared to Rs 165.67 lakh crore, making investors richer by over Rs 2.07 lakh crore. However, the broader market underperformed, with BSE Mid-cap Index gaining 1.01 per cent and BSE Small-cap Index rising 0.57 per cent, against 1.68 per cent jump in the Sensex and 1.61 per cent rise in the Nifty-50.

Hemang Jani, head-equity strategist, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Both Nifty and Sensex finally managed to cross Jan. 20 high levels on the back of strong global cues and positive Q2 results by corporates. There is an expectation of more flows into emerging markets due to weakness in the US dollar and that is reflecting in the strong performance across emerging markets. We expect the Indian markets to remain strong as the major event (US elections) is out of the way and



OIL SOARS ON VACCINE, SUPPLY HOPES

London, Nov. 9: Oil jumped by almost 10 per cent on Monday for its biggest daily gain in more than six months after Pfizer announced promising results for its Covid-19 vaccine candidate and Saudi Arabia said an Opec+ oil output deal could be adjusted to balance the market.

Brent crude was up \$3.37, or 8.5 per cent to \$42.82 a barrel at 1402 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was up \$3.54, or 9.5 per cent, at \$40.68. Both contracts rose more than \$4 earlier in the session. "Asset prices move

faster than the real economy, and oil and other risk assets are reacting positively today to the Pfizer vaccine news," said BNP Paribas analyst Harry Tchilinguirian.

Pfizer said its experimental vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19, based on initial data.

"In the eyes of traders, a vaccine will help ensure no future lockdowns are needed and will bring people back to the streets, allowing road and air transport to recover," said Rystad Energy's Bjornar Tonhaugen. — Reuters

earnings recovery is becoming stronger."

Heavy buying by foreign portfolio investors continued for the third consecutive session; they were net buyers by Rs 4,548.39 crore. The rupee ended at 74.17 to the dollar against 74.20 on Friday.

According to Japanese brokerage Nomura, "For

India, November started on a positive note led by higher power demand and improving mobility data. The moderation in India's pandemic curve, ongoing lockdown relaxations and festive demand and if this trend persists over coming weeks, November monthly data could improve over October."

Equity MFs see over ₹2,725 crore outflow

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 9

The mutual fund industry's assets under management rose 5.10 per cent to Rs 28.22 lakh in October from Rs 26.85 lakh crore in September, as per monthly data released by industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

Most debt fund categories witnessed inflows with cumulative inflows reaching over Rs 1.10 lakh crore.

Equity-oriented schemes witnessed outflows of Rs 2,725 crore while hybrid schemes, which also have equity exposure, witnessed outflows of Rs 1,682 crore on the back of record gains in the equity market.

Other ETFs (exchange traded funds) witnessed outflows of over Rs 2,661 crore due to profit booking on sharp gains in Sensex and Nifty-50.

Gold ETFs saw inflows which was more than four times higher at over Rs 384 crore compared to Rs 90.90 crore inflows in September while fund of funds investing overseas saw inflows worth Rs 338 crore.

"Equity-oriented mutual

funds witnessed net outflows for the fourth month in a row, and the pace of net outflow shot up from the previous month. During the month of October, the segment witnessed a net outflow of Rs 2,725 crore, which is significantly higher than the net outflow of Rs 734.4 crore witnessed in the month of September. Since July, equity-oriented mutual funds have witnessed a net outflow of Rs 9,939.3 crore," said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director-manager research, Morningstar India.

"Except for sectoral / thematic funds and large & mid capFund, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflows during the month. The sectoral / thematic fund category has seen the launch of new funds which garnered good traction from investors," Srivastava said.

The multi-cap category witnessed net outflow for the fifth month in a row and was the worst hit as new regulations mandate minimum investments in mid-cap and small-cap stocks and reduction in exposure to large-caps.

TCS TO ACQUIRE POSTBANK SYSTEMS FROM DEUTSCHE BANK

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday said it will acquire 100 per cent shares of Postbank Systems AG (PBS) from Deutsche Bank AG.

PBS has been the internal IT provider for Postbank AG, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, catering for the German retail banking market. PBS has about 1,500 employees across nine locations in Germany.

The transaction will see the employees of PBS become a part of the Mumbai-based company.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said "100 per cent of the shares will be acquired by TCS Netherlands BV (a subsidiary of TCS)" and the "estimated transaction value at a symbolic 1 euro".

The transaction is subject to both parties finalising agreements, besides regulatory approvals.

Headquartered in Bonn, PBS' services include infrastructure operations, application operations and management and development. — PTI

Huge stimulus needed to offset loss of working hours

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 9

The country lost 5,948 crore working hours due to the lock-down restrictions in the last three quarters. An additional direct fiscal stimulus, of the size of 3-5 per cent of GDP, might be required to offset the lost hours, says an SBI analysis.

Going by the International Labour Organisation's calculation of the working hours lost and the size of the fiscal stimulus required, SBI Ecwrap, a State Bank of India research publication, found that the country had lost a cumulative 5,948 crore working hours in the March, June and September quarters.

The maximum hours lost was in the June quarter when the lockdown was the most severe, found the analysis, which has taken Q3 FY20 as the baseline.

Further, using the ILO methodology, SBI Research found that the direct fiscal stimulus of around 3 per cent of GDP provided by India, equals 2,206 crore working hours.

So an additional direct fiscal stimulus to the size of 3-5 per cent of GDP might be required to offset the gap between the equivalent fiscal stimulus hours and the loss in hours, the report said.

October vehicle retail remain in the red despite festivities

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV 9

As India enters the last leg of festivities, even though customer walk-ins have improved, healthy conversions are yet to happen.

Except for tractors, sales of two-three-wheelers and passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles were in the red in October; the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, or Fada, said on Monday.

Fada said passenger vehicle retail sales dipped 9 per cent at 2,49,860 units in October compared to year-ago sales of 2,73,980 units.

However, top automakers, such as Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Kia Motor, Mahindra, Honda Cars, Volkswagen, Toyota and MG Motor among others, had shipped 17.31 per cent more passenger vehicles to 3,33,842 cars last month from factory gates to dealerships anticipating high demand ahead of the festive season.

Total automobile retail registered a 5.11 per cent growth over the preceding month in October but

Single premium plans drive life insurance growth in Oct.

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 9

As business activity has started unlocking, life insurance companies have witnessed an improvement in new business.

The sector continued to report positive growth in October 2020 for the fourth straight month after witnessing a year-on-year drop in first year premiums in Q1 FY21. First year premiums of life insurers grew by 32 per cent last month to Rs 22,776 crore compared with Rs 17,272 crore in October 2019, driven by growth in individual business.

Single premium policies (primarily investment-oriented) have accounted for the growth of premiums in October. If these policies were removed from the analysis, then the overall first-year premiums would have witnessed a decline.

The life insurance sector returned to positive growth in their first year premium collection as business has picked up after the reopening of the economy, which has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector reported an increase of 3 per cent in first year premium to Rs 1.47 lakh crore in year to date (YTD) October FY21 from Rs 1.43 lakh crore YTD October FY20.

But the overall sum assured declined by 7.4 per cent from Rs 25.5 lakh crore in YTD October to Rs 23.6 lakh crore in YTD October FY21.

Life Insurance Corporation of India,



which continues to focus on individual single premium policies and less profitable group business, grew by 36 per cent in October this year to Rs 15,548 crore and by 2 per cent during the seven months ending October 2020 to Rs 103,566 crore.

While private companies reported a growth of 5.5 per cent in YTD October FY21 versus 19.4 per cent in YTD October FY20. Individual single premiums grew by 243.7 per cent in October 2020 versus a decline of 38.8 per cent in October 2019. These policies have grown by 35.6 per cent in YTD October FY21 versus a rise of 29.8 per cent in YTD October FY20, driven by the current interest rate scenario.

"The life insurance business has witnessed a fall in Q1FY21 due to the lockdown and business disruption. However growth has returned to the industry in October 2020," said Care Ratings.

CCI to probe Google Pay conduct

New Delhi, Nov. 9: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday ordered a detailed probe against internet giant Google for alleged unfair business practices with respect to Google Pay as well as Google Play's payment system.

Google Pay is a digital payments platform while Google Play is the app store on its Android ecosystem. "... the Commission is of

the prima facie view that the Opposite Parties have contravened various provisions of Section 4 of the Act... These aspects warrant a detailed investigation," it said in a 39-page order.

The watchdog has ordered a detailed probe by its Director General (DG), which is the investigation arm, for alleged anti-competitive practices with respect to Google Pay.

Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant market position. The regulator says prima facie it is of the view that the "conduct of Google amounts to imposition of unfair and discriminatory condition, denial of market access for competing apps of Google Pay and leveraging on the part of Google, in terms of different provisions of Section 4(2) of the Act." —PTI

TALK SHOW APP 'STEREO' TO JOIN SOCIAL MEDIA WAVE

BEN STUPPLES NOV. 9

Andrey Andreev pocketed at least \$1.5 billion from Blackstone Group Inc after agreeing last year to sell his stake in the firm behind some of the world's most popular dating apps, including Bumble.

He's already moved on to his next act: Stereo, an audio-centric app that allows people to host, listen to and participate in live talk shows from their phones. Andreev and his team in London and Los Angeles plan on rolling out a full version globally this week after recently launching it in the US.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the vision behind the app is now there," Andreev, 46, said in a telephone interview.

Andreev is betting he can shift the social media landscape with his latest venture. His audio-focused form of social media won't contain real-life images. Instead, users create personalised avatars for their Stereo profiles. Those who have signed up so far include comedian Jeff Ross, a frequent participant of Comedy Central's televised celebrity roasts. Users who attract the most listeners to their broadcasts can make as much as \$25,000.

"It's all about your conversation, your voice, your thoughts and what you share with the people listening," Andreev said. "It's nothing to do with visual. You don't have to worry about your appearance."

Stereo is one of several projects Andreev is working on after leaving MagicLab—as the firm was formerly known—earlier this year with a team of 20 employees as a part of the deal with Blackstone. The PE giant valued the company at about \$3 billion when it bought a majority stake. — Bloomberg

MCKINSEY | REPORT Output could be doubled by enhancing product quality, scale of operation

11 sectors can take Indian manufacturing ahead

FC BUREAU HYDERABAD, NOV. 9

Even while the government has been focusing on improving ease of doing business, the Indian manufacturing sector could more than double its output by merely improving its product quality and ramping up scale in 11 sectors.

The 11 sectors, according to a McKinsey report, have strong potential to operate in international markets, power economic growth, and provide long-term employment and skill pathways for millions.

The sectors are vehicle and vehicle components, capital goods and machine tools, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and allied prod-

ucts, agriculture and food, metals and basic materials, apparel and textiles, furniture, leather and rubber, electronics and semiconductors, aerospace and defence, and renewable energy.

The report by Rajat Dhawan and Suvojoy Sengupta of McKinsey claims that India is one of the countries which could reap the benefits of the new trend among companies to reconfigure their sourcing and manufacturing footprints in the wake of disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in China.

They, however, aver that some nations, including India, are not yet ready to take full advantage of these shifts.

SECTORS IDENTIFIED

- Vehicle & components
- Capital goods & machine tools
- Pharma, chemicals & allied products
- Agriculture & food
- Metals & basic materials
- Apparel & textiles
- Furniture, leather & rubber
- Electronics & semiconductors
- Aerospace & defence
- Renewable energy



"To become globally competitive, India's manufacturing value chains must lift their productivity in GVA output per full-time-equivalent worker closer to global standards. They have a long way to go in this regard: their

labour productivity and capital productivity are both low," the report argued.

Compared with India, the report claims, manufacturing productivity in Indonesia is twice as high; in China and South Korea,

productivity is four times higher. For example, South Korea's electronics manufacturing sector is 18 times more productive than India's.

Indian companies, the authors argued, also need to improve their manufacturing processes and adopt automation. "By investing in analytics, reskilling, and upskilling, Indian manufacturers could accelerate the capture of many of these gains."

"With these reforms, and complementary actions by manufacturing companies, we estimate that the 11 value chains could more than double their GDP contribution to \$500 billion in seven years while powering extensive

job creation at a time when the COVID-19 crisis has pushed millions below the poverty line," the report claimed.

Currently, the manufacturing sector contributes around 17 per cent of the country gross domestic product (GDP) or \$397.14 billion.

There is nothing much that the government needs to do for these companies to succeed. According to McKinsey, the government will have to do just one thing: Creating a stable framework of time-bound and conditional localisation incentives to entice global companies to set up operations in India, either independently or with a local partner.

SHORT TAKES

City hold Reds, Villa stun Arsenal

London: Kevin De Bruyne missed a penalty as Manchester City squandered the chance to close the gap on Liverpool on Sunday while Tottenham's Harry Kane celebrated joining the Premier League's 150 club. A win at the Etihad would have taken the Reds to the summit but the battle between the two dominant powers of recent seasons ended 1-1.

That meant Leicester clung onto top spot after leapfrogging Spurs, who beat West Brom 1-0, after a 1-0 win of their own at home to Wolves. In the late evening kick-off, Aston Villa hammered Arsenal 3-0, condemning Mikel Arteta's men to their fourth defeat in six league games.

Aston Villa, who climbed to sixth place after their win against Arsenal, went ahead at the Emirates when Bukayo Saka turned into his own net. Two goals from Ollie Watkins in the second half put the game beyond Arsenal, leaving Arteta disappointed with his team's showing. — *AFP*

Ibrahimovic grabs point for AC Milan

Milan: Zlatan Ibrahimovic missed a penalty before scoring a late equaliser as Serie A leaders AC Milan salvaged a point in a 2-2 Serie A draw against Hellas Verona on Sunday to let rivals Juventus and Inter Milan off the hook after both were held 1-1 in earlier games. "I'll let Franck Kessie take the next one, that would be better," said Ibrahimovic, who has now missed four of the last six penalties he has taken for AC Milan. Stefano Pioli's side are top of Serie A with a two-point advantage on second-placed Sassuolo, who were held to a goalless draw against Udinese on Friday.

Champions Juventus drop to fifth, four points behind the leaders after Lazio's Felipe Caicedo scored five minutes into injury time to cancel out Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half goal.

Inter Milan and Atalanta also shared the spoils in Bergamo after Aleksey Miranchuk scored on his first Serie A start for the hosts to cancel out Lautaro Martinez's header. — *AFP*

Lille suffer first defeat of season

Paris: Ligue 1's last unbeaten run was ended on Sunday when Lille followed up their midweek triumph over AC Milan with a 3-2 defeat at Brest, while Lyon downed local rivals Saint Etienne 2-1. Lille remain second in the French top-flight five points behind Paris Saint-Germain and one above Rennes after suffering their first loss since February.

The team that thumped Milan 3-0 at the San Siro on Thursday failed to leave enough in the tank to see off Brittany outfit Brest, who had lost three in a row. Ronael Pierre-Gabriel got his first professional goal with a header for the opener on 15 minutes and Brest raced to a 3-0 lead before half-time with goals from Romain Perraud and Irvin Cardona.

Bradl bags more points for Honda

Valencia, Spain: A wet and wild first weekend comes to an end in Valencia as Stefan Bradl walks away with more points while Alex Marquez shows top-ten potential again. Sunday in Valencia got off to a busy start on a dry circuit, the Repsol Honda Team working to refine their dry race setup in just 20 minutes after a weekend of running in the wet. When the lights went out, Alex Marquez once again got off the line well, charging ahead to gain positions in the opening corners.

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Final — Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Melbourne Stars vs Adelaide Strikers from 9 am; Melbourne Renegades vs. Hobart Hurricanes from 1.35 pm on Sony Six, HD

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Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

MI charged up for DC

First timers Delhi stand between Mumbai and 5th IPL title

Dubai, Nov. 9: The unmatched legacy and hegemony created by the 'galacticos' of Mumbai Indians will be thoroughly challenged by a young Mumbaiaiker Shreyas Iyer, who will lead a passionate-but-unpredictable Delhi Capitals in a cracker of an Indian Premier League final here on Tuesday.

After 52 days of the most closely-contested and widely-watched edition played on alien land in the backdrop of the raging Covid-19 pandemic, the BCCI can pat itself for pulling off a near flawless tournament that gave people a chance to withdraw from prime time negativity that dominated the air space.

And now, it's the coronation time with IPL's most successful skipper Rohit Sharma itching to win his fifth title amid a stormy couple of weeks.

On the other hand, the Capitals, a team that had flattered to deceive for a dozen editions, will finally realise their potential on the grand stage of T20 cricket.

There hasn't been too many editions where the two most deserving teams squared off in a summit clash unlike this edition where Mumbai reached the finals winning 10 out of their 15 games while Capitals, despite a slump, managed to triumph in nine out of their 16 games.

There haven't been too many teams that have shown the flair and balance of Mumbai Indians, an envy for any opposition.

Sample this scary piece of statistic and one can gauge the might of Mumbai. In all, their players have hit 130 sixes compared to Capitals' 84.

Quinton de Kock's panache has a foil in Rohit Sharma's style although proving a point to all and sundry about his hamstring injury would also be on the Indian's mind.

— *PTI*

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma (left) and his Delhi Capitals counterpart Shreyas Iyer pose with the Indian Premier League trophy.

— *BCCI*

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:
● Matches: 27 ● Mumbai: 15 ● Delhi: 12

MEETING IN 2020

- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets in Abu Dhabi.
- Mumbai defeated Delhi by 9 wickets in Dubai
- Mumbai beat Delhi by 57 runs in Dubai (Qualifier 1).

FOR THE RECORD

- Delhi Capitals entered the final for the first time while defending Champions Mumbai Indians will play in the final for the sixth time.
- Kagiso Rabada with 29 wickets at an average of 17.79 in 15 innings of as many matches, is the highest wicket-taker in this IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

IYER RELISHES MAKING IPL FINAL

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 9: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer says qualifying for a maiden IPL final is "best feeling ever" after a roller-coaster journey in which his team has peaked at just the right time.

Delhi Capitals beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 17 runs on Sunday to reach the final.

"(It's) Best feeling ever. Journey has been a roller-coaster. The emotions keep going high and low, so you can't have the same set of

routines. Have to keep chopping and changing," Iyer said at the post-match presentation.

"Hoping that in the next game as well, against MI the biggest team, we're able to play freely."

Iyer lauded the collective effort that carried the side through to the summit clash.

"End of the day we stuck together as a family. Very happy with the effort every individual has put in," he added.

— *PTI*

SHAME WE COULD NOT MAKE FINAL, SAYS WILLIAMSON

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 9: It's a "shame" that Sunrisers Hyderabad could not make the IPL final, feels top batsman Kane Williamson but asserted that the side can take pride in its remarkable fightback to make the play-offs after the early struggle in the tournament.

Williamson's counter-attacking 67 went in vain as Delhi Capitals made it to their maiden IPL final on Sunday.

"Delhi is a very good side. They have been trying to find the rhythm to their play like we were and we managed to for a little period of time. Delhi was able to put it together against us and they played very well," Williamson said during the post-match press conference.

"It's a real shame not to make the finals but I think, particularly in the last three weeks, the guys can be proud of how they played."

— *PTI*

Sweet 16 for Trailblazers

Mandhana and Co. won by 16 runs in T20 Challenge final

Sharjah, Nov. 9: Trailblazers defended a modest 118 with a brilliant bowling display to topple two-time champions Supernovas by 16 runs and win their maiden Women's T20 Challenge trophy here on Monday.

The summit clash turned out to be a low-scoring affair and it was not the best advert for women's cricket with strokeplay proving to be extremely difficult on a slow surface.

Barring Trailblazers Smriti Mandhana (68 off 49), the batswomen from either side struggled to get going.

In response to Trailblazers' 118 for eight, Supernovas could only manage 102 for seven.

Bangladesh star Salma Khatun (3/18) eclipsed Radha Yadav's (5/16) sensational five-wicket haul to fashion a comprehensive win for her team.



Trailblazers captain Smriti Mandhana en route to her 68 against Supernovas in the final of the Women's T20 Challenge at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

— *BCCI*

Nonetheless, it was a welcome return to the field for Indian players who were out of action since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the dew around, pitches have played better in the second half of the IPL but Supernovas

found it tough from the word go on a slow surface. After their spinners did well to restrict Trailblazers to a modest total, Supernovas were at the receiving end with left-arm spinners Sophie Ecclestone (1/26) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad

keeping things tight.

— *PTI*

Brief Scores: Trailblazers 118/8 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 68; Radha Yadav 5/16) bt Supernovas 102/7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 30; Salma Khatun 3/18, Deepti Sharma 2/9).

BCCI, IPL teams lack coordination on injury issues



Hemant Kenkre
Silly Point

Even as the Indian Premier League (IPL) culminates with a clash between first time finalists Delhi Capitals (DC) and tournament favourites Mumbai Indians (MI), reports of injuries to few Indian players are a big reason for worry. In a few days from now, the Indian team will embark on their tour of Australia where they will play Twenty20 and One Day (ODI) Internationals apart from a four-Test series that is an ongoing part of the World Championship of cricket.

The latest in the list of the injured lot, picked in the extended Indian squad, is leg spinner Varun Chakravarthy who made his mark in the IPL with a stellar show for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). The 29-year old Tamil Nadu bowler has a labrum tear in his shoulder which allows him to bowl but not to throw the ball while fielding.

A few days before the news of Chakravarthy's injury became known, wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha sat out of the last two matches of

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) due to a hamstring tear which makes him a doubtful starter for the Australian Test series. Not a stranger to debilitations, Saha (in the past) came back from India's tour of South Africa in 2018 after injuring his hamstring and had missed the last edition of the IPL due to a thumb injury.

The hamstring problem also affected Rohit Sharma who was not picked by the Indian selectors for the tour along with Ishant Sharma (rib-cage muscle tear) and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar (thigh muscle injury). While Saha, Ishant and Kumar sat out of the IPL once their injuries were diagnosed, Rohit took the field to lead his team after resting for a few matches in the IPL. In Chakravarthy's case, it is learnt that he was carry-

ing the injury for a while and aggravated it by continuing to play in the tournament.

As one looks back in time an evident pattern emerges of many Indian cricketers who pick up injuries while appearing in the IPL or continue to hide existing ones and keep playing till the damage goes out of control. It is here that the coordination between the various franchisees of the IPL and the BCCI comes into the picture. Acquiring an injury is accepted as a part and parcel of the game and there is a standard operating procedure in place, set by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to deal with injury management.

During the IPL, monitoring the fitness of the players comes under the purview of the physiother-

apists of the franchisees who are to report issues (if any) to their counterpart in the BCCI to take further action. While the cases of Ishant, Kumar and Rohit were duly reported to the BCCI by the respective franchisees, Chakravarthy's injury was reported by KKR after their IPL campaign ended. The fact that he was carrying an injury was kept from the BCCI and the Indian selectors who picked him for the Australian tour.

The story continued when Rohit who was left out of all the squads for the Aussie tour, as was recommended by the BCCI physio, continued to play for MI casting doubts on the process of injury management.

He continued appearances for his franchise, inspite of gentle advice of

being cautious by Indian head coach, Ravi Shastri, and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. While Shastri cautioned Rohit, speaking of his own experience with an injury, Ganguly said that hamstring tears are likely to be ruptured again and it may take Rohit a longer time to come back.

While Indian cricket fans hope that Ishant, Bhuvaneshwar, Rohit and Saha get fit for the Australian tour, it is disheartening to see (what looks like) a lack of understanding between the BCCI and IPL franchisees. The availability of Ishant and Saha will matter most when it comes to team balance for the Test series. A team without the most experienced pacer and the best wicket keeper will find it difficult to challenge the Aussies on their

Natarajan added to India T20 squad

New Delhi, Nov. 9: India captain Virat Kohli was on Monday granted paternity leave by the BCCI after the first Test against Australia next month, while his limited-overs' deputy Rohit Sharma was added to the red-ball squad after being initially left out due to a hamstringing injury.

Kohli will miss three Test matches in Australia to be with his actor wife Anushka Sharma as the couple welcomes its first child in early January.

"...Mr Virat Kohli had informed the BCCI about his plans to return to India after the first Test in Adelaide. The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain. He will return after the first Test against Australia in Adelaide," Board secretary Jay Shah stated in a press release.

The centrally-contracted players are eligible for paternity leave and Rohit had availed it during the 2018 tour of Australia.

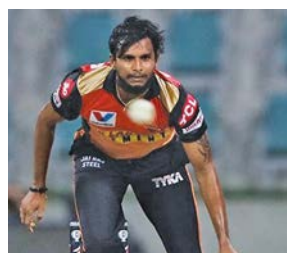
India's tour of Australia comprises three ODIs, as many T20 Internationals and four Tests. The series begins November 27. The Tests start on December 17 in Adelaide.

Kohli will miss the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne (December 26-30), New Year's Test in Sydney (January 7-11) and the final game at the Gabba (January 15-19).

Cricket Australia, which is already facing a lot of heat from the broadcasters Seven Network, would be worried as the Indian captain is a massive draw and his absence could severely impact the advertisement market.

Shah also gave an update on Rohit's fitness and said he will miss the ODI and T20 series.

"The BCCI Medical Team



T. Natarajan

REVISED SQUADS

T20I squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul (vice-captain and wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, T Natarajan.

ODI squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul (vice-captain & wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper).

Test squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Mohd Siraj.

has been monitoring Rohit Sharma's fitness and has briefed All-India Senior Selection Committee on the same."

— *PTI*

Starc opens up about living in bio-bubbles

Melbourne, Nov. 9: Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Starc has become the latest cricketer to raise concerns over the mental well-being of players staying in a bio-bubble as he feels it is "not sustainable" to live in such restrictions for a prolonged period.

In a world scarred by Covid-19 pandemic, cricket is currently being organised in bio-bubbles and the situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

"It's not a sustainable lifestyle," Starc was quoted as saying by *cricket.com.au*.

"You're living in a hotel room with zero outside contact. Some guys haven't seen families or their kids for a long time, for those guys in the IPL."

While the cricketers competing in the IPL have been in a bio-secure bubble in UAE since August, many will have to enter another bio-secure arrangement when they represent their respective national teams in the upcoming events.

The Indian team will leave for its long tour Down Under after the IPL final on Tuesday, along with few Australian cricketers such as Steve Smith, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and David Warner, who were part of



Mitchell Starc

various IPL franchises.

Among others, England players will be touring South-Africa for six white-ball matches in less than a fortnight after the IPL, while West Indies players have to depart for New Zealand for another assignment.

"It's tough going we get to play cricket, (so) we can't complain too much but in terms of wellbeing of players, staff and officials, how long can you stay in hubs for?," Starc questioned the model.

— *PTI*