

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020



SPORT | 8

Maradona admitted to hospital with signs of depression

www.asianage.com

RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17



NATION | 3

BJP legislator demands action against Big B for Manusmriti question in KBC

DELHI AGE | 11

Kangana, sister Rangoli asked to appear before Mumbai police on Nov. 10



Vol. 27 No. 259 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00

WINDOWS



A chimpanzee sits inside an enclosure at Alipore Zoological Gardens in Kolkata on Tuesday.

— PTI

Covid-19 surge in Delhi: 6,725 cases in a day

New Delhi: Delhi recorded over 6,725 fresh Covid-19 cases for the first time on Tuesday taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4 lakh, even as the positivity rate stood at 11.29 per cent amid festive season and rising pollution in the city. This is the first time when the number of daily cases has crossed the 6,000-mark. Meanwhile, Central government officials said that a steady decline in daily fresh cases in India has been noted but a large part of the country's population is still susceptible to the novel coronavirus infection. On Tuesday, 38,310 new cases were detected which was lowest after over 100 days.

Full report on Page 2

Vijay Raaz arrested in 'molestation' case

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Vijay Raaz on Tuesday was arrested in Maharashtra's Gondia district for allegedly molesting a woman crew member during a film shoot, a senior police official said. He later got bail. The woman approached the police with a complaint of molestation against the actor on Monday, the official said. — PTI

Full report on Page 4

Jet Air: Strongest airline stock in world

New Delhi: All airlines are feeling the Covid-19 pinch, but one that has not flown since April last year after collapsing under a pile of debt is the world's best-performing — at least from a share price point of view. Shares of Jet Airways India Ltd has surged almost 150 per cent this year.

Full report on Page 7

COUNTERPOINT



According to this online survey, 30% support Republicans, 31% Democrats, 28% JD(U), 25% RJD...

WEATHER

Max: 30°C
Min: 14°C
RH: 34%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Chavithi till 5.14 am
Star: Mrigashira till 4.49 am
Variyam: 8.37am to 10.22 am
Durmuhurtam: 11.36 am to 12.22 pm
Rahukalam: Noon to 1.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.33 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.12 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.40 AM

■ Voting figures likely to go up: EC ■ Fate of RJD leader and grand alliance's CM face Tejashwi sealed in this phase

53.51% turnout in Phase 2 polls in Bihar

NAYEAR AZAD with agency inputs
PATNA, NOV. 3

Over 53 per cent of voting was recorded in the second phase of Bihar Assembly elections on Tuesday as voting took place in 94 constituencies across 17 districts. The voting percentage figure is likely to go up as voting continued beyond schedule in several places, the Election Commission said.

The second phase is crucial for both the NDA as well as the alliance being led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal. For one, it will decide the fate of RJD leader and grand alliance's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav. In this phase the JD(U) has fielded candidates on 43 seats, the BJP on 46. From the Grand Alliance, the RJD fielded candidates on 52 seats, Congress on 24 and three Left parties on 14 seats.

The RJD is locked in a direct fight with the BJP in 28 seats and with the JD(U) in 24 seats. The Congress is contesting 12 seats each against the BJP and JD(U). While reports suggest that Tejashwi Yadav has the support of don turned politician Rama Singh from his seat, his elder brother Tej Pratap, who had won from Mahua seat in 2015, and is now contesting from Hasanpur, is locked in a tough battle against two-time sitting JD(U) MLA Raj Kumar Rai.

Another important leader whose fate will be decided in this phase of polling is Nand Kishore

Yadav of the BJP. He is the sitting MLA from Patna Sahib Seat and a minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet. JD(U) leader and minister Shrawan Kumar from Nalanda as well as actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv Sinha from Bankipore is also in the fray.

Luv Sinha is pitted against the BJP's three-time MLA Nitin Navin. Bankipore Assembly seat comes under the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha constituency that elected Shatrughan Singh twice in 2009 and 2014 when he was in the BJP.

Sources said that the Congress, which is an ally of the RJD in Bihar, is trying to use the popularity and political influence of Shatrughan Sinha by fielding his son from the seat.

According to Election Commission data, 51.68 per cent of the total 2.85 crore electors in 94 constituencies of Bihar exercised their franchise till 5 pm on Tuesday. Muzaffarpur district recorded the highest poll percentage of 54.8, while Patna district recorded the lowest turnout of 39.65 per cent.

The Election Commission also said that Bihar's combined voter turnout in the two phases was recorded at 53.79 per cent till 5 PM. In the corresponding constituencies which went to poll in the 2015 Assembly polls, the turnout was 55.35 per cent.



RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav shows his finger marked with indelible ink after casting vote during the second phase of Bihar Assembly polls in Patna on Tuesday. CM Nitish Kumar after casting vote in Patna. BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia during the MP Assembly bypolls in Gwalior district.



— PTI

PM mocks Cong's Parl tally, targets RJD's 'jungle raj'

NAYEAR AZAD
PATNA, NOV. 3

While Bihar voted in the second phase of the Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed rallies at Araria and Saharsa, urging voters to "choose the NDA for the overall development of the state". In his speech at both rallies, he also dismissed the speculation about anti-incumbency against Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and his government and said the "last decade was spent in meeting the needs of the people... In the next, the NDA will fulfil all the aspirations of the people". He also mocked the shrinking numbers of

the Congress in both Houses of Parliament, saying the current state of the party shows people have rejected the Congress. "Look at the condition of the Congress today. Even if they combine the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, they won't find even 100 MPs. They are in such a state because people are not happy with them. Now they are trying to save the party by tagging with others", Mr Modi said while addressing a rally in Forbesganj on Tuesday. At his public meetings, he also reminded people about "jungle raj" and the poor law and order scenario in

■ Turn to Page 4

CM Nitish Kumar faces onion attack, says, 'Keep throwing'

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
PATNA, NOV. 3

Onions were thrown at Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar by some protestors while he was addressing a public meeting in Madhubani which goes to polls in the third phase of Assembly elections on November 7. Mr Kumar was talking about the state's development and the employment issue when onions and stones came flying at him at the rally in support of his party nominee Sudhanshu Shekhar at Gangaur village ground in Harlakhi Assembly constituency. The onions thrown from a distance fell before

reaching the stage.

According to reports from Madhubani, a group of youth present at the rally got angry with Mr Kumar's comments and started throwing onions and stones at him. This is probably the first time that stones and onions were thrown at Bihar CM during an election campaign. "Khub feko, khub feko, khube feko (keep throwing)... You can keep throwing stones at me. But I ask you to beware of such people who have been promising 10 lakh jobs as they don't know anything about governance. I can tell you that they have no knowledge about the

■ Turn to Page 4

Trump, Biden confident as US votes

Trump: 'Winning is easy. Losing is never easy'



US President Donald Trump visits his campaign HQ in Arlington, Virginia, on Tuesday. Supporters cheered President Trump at his campaign headquarters, where he visited Tuesday to thank staffers. He said his campaign was doing well. "Winning is easy. Losing is never easy," he said. "Not for me it's not."

— AFP

dence of winning the race with a much greater margin. "We are gonna have a red wave. It's gonna be

a beautiful sight," Mr Trump told thousands of his supporters in Wisconsin on Monday. "We want to do it just like last time... but give me a little more margin than last time," the President, 74, told his cheering supporters who had waited for him for hours in the bitter Michigan cold. Former vice-president Biden, 77, at an event in Pittsburgh on Monday, which was headlined by popular singer Lady Gaga, said he is confident of a big win. "Folks, I have a feeling we're coming together for a big win tomorrow," he said.

— PTI

■ More on Page 6

■ 1 gunmen shot dead, manhunt on for others ■ 6 locations hit

4 killed in Vienna 'terror attack'

Vienna, (Austria), Nov. 3: A huge manhunt was underway on Tuesday after gunmen opened fire at multiple locations across central Vienna, killing at least four people and wounding 17 others in what Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz described as a "repulsive terror attack".

One of the suspected killers, identified as an Islamic State group sympathiser, was shot dead by the police who said they were searching for at least one more assailant still at large. The shooting rampage,



A man lights a candle next to flowers at a memorial site at the scene of an attack in Vienna, Austria, on Tuesday.

— AFP

in six locations, including near a synagogue and the world famous opera house

in the heart of Vienna, on Monday evening, was carried out by "several sus-

pects armed with rifles", the police said. Helicopters were flying overhead as the police sealed off the city in the hunt for other attackers, while neighbouring countries stepped up border checks.

The shooting erupted just hours before Austria was to re-impose a coronavirus lockdown, with people out in bars and restaurants enjoying a final night out. It follows a spate of Islamist attacks in France and triggered an outpouring of solidarity from Western leaders, including US President Donald Trump. — AFP

HC to SC: Set up courts for crimes, not for offenders

Twist to SC bid to hasten MP, MLA trials

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

In an unexpected twist to the Supreme Court's efforts to expedite the trial of national and state legislators facing criminal cases, a three-judge criminal rules committee of the Madras high court has said the special courts to hold swift trials in criminal cases can "only be offence-centric and cannot be offender-specific".

Raising the issue of the constitutional validity of special courts to hold trials of MPs and MLAs facing criminal cases, the three-judge high court committee noted that the Supreme Court had never directed the high court to constitute special courts to try criminal cases against MPs and MLAs in a fast-track mode as this is

not "legally permissible". "Courts can be constituted only by statute and (not) by judicial or executive fiat", the high court committee further spelt out. The committee said MPs and MLAs facing criminal cases can't be treated as a special class of persons and special courts set up for their trials.

It said an MP/MLA accused of an offence under, say, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Prevention of Corruption Act or Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act can only be tried by statutory special courts created under the these or similar laws and there cannot be another special court exclusively for the trials of MPs/MLAs who commit offences under these laws.

Law banning religious conversions for marriage soon in K'taka: Mantri

Bengaluru, Nov. 3: Karnataka tourism minister and BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi on Tuesday said a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage will be enacted in the state. He said the government will not remain silent when "Jihadis" strip the dignity of

women in the state. Earlier, BJP-ruled states UP, Haryana and MP had announced their intention to introduce legal provisions against "love jihad". He said any one involved in any act of conversion shall face severe and swift punishment. — PTI

■ More on Page 3

IN BRIEF

2 cops seek bribe to release drug peddler, suspended

Noida: Two policemen have been suspended from service in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar over allegations that they sought a bribe from a drug peddler to release him from custody, officials said on Tuesday. A departmental inquiry has also been initiated into the matter involving a head constable and a constable, both attached with the Jewar police station in Greater Noida, the officials said. The action was taken after a purported audio clip of the episode surfaced on social media. "The district police has taken a note of the audio clip. Head constable Shiv Prakash Shukla and Constable Lalit Kumar have been suspended with immediate effect. A preliminary inquiry has been initiated into the matter and further action would be taken accordingly," a police spokesperson said. Eight men involved in over a dozen cases of mobile thefts from apartments and societies in Greater Noida have been arrested, police said on Tuesday. The accused worked in housekeeping facilities of residential societies in the Bisrakh area and were connected to each other in a way that they worked as a gang, the police said. — PTI

DCW unites Bihar woman with lover

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women has come to the rescue of a woman from Bihar who was reunited with her lover in the national capital amid fears of safety of the couple, officials said on Tuesday. According to the Commission, a man had sent a complaint to the women rights body and stated that he was in a relationship with one Sushila (name changed). He said they were living together at Indrapuram in Uttar Pradesh. Sushila's parents got to know about the relationship and took her back to Bihar. Her lover was also beaten up by them, it said. The complainant was contacted by the Commission and asked about the whereabouts of Sushila. He said that he had a word with her sometime back and since then, her mobile phone was switched off, the DCW said in a statement. Sushila told the complainant that she was kept somewhere near Bhagwati Sthan Mandir, but did not know the exact location. The DCW contacted the Bihar Police and the woman was finally traced from Pandaul in Bihar. The police informed the Commission that the woman's life was in danger and she needed to be shifted to a safer place, it said. Later, the woman was brought to the national capital. The couple was reunited in Delhi. A court ordered the Delhi Police to provide security to the couple, the statement said. — PTI

₹10L SDMC help for deceased doc's wife

New Delhi: South Delhi mayor Anamika on Tuesday handed over a cheque for ₹10 lakh and appointment letter to the wife of deceased Dr Nezam Alam, who died due to Covid-19 while serving people during the pandemic. Ms Anamika said that the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) is making all efforts to help the families of those employees who sacrificed their lives due to Corona. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, leader of house Narendar Chawla and Chairman Standing Committee Rajdutt Gehlot and Commissioner released a booklet on efforts in preventing and fighting Covid-19 by the SDMC. "While on Covid-19 duty, he was tested positive for corona. Dr Alam fought bravely but he lost his battle against Covid-19 on October 27. He was a sincere worker, a true Covid warrior, active worker full of zest and enthusiasm," Ms Anamika added. Praising the efforts made by SDMC, Mr Gupta said that the civic body has fulfilled its promises by helping out families of those employees who lost their lives on duty. According to Mr Gupta, the corporation has given ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh to 12 families of doctors, sanitation workers, Teachers and medical staff who have sacrificed their lives.

■ Tally reaches over 4 lakh, highest single-day spike so far was 5,891

Record 6,725 Covid cases, 48 deaths in Delhi in 24 hrs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Delhi recorded over 6,700 fresh Covid-19 cases for the first time on Tuesday taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4 lakh, even as the positivity rate stood at 11.29 per cent amid festive season and rising pollution in the city. The 6,725 fresh cases came out of the 59,540 tests conducted the previous day.

This is the first time when the number of daily cases has crossed the 6,000-mark. The previous highest single-day spike till date here — 5,891 cases — was recorded on Friday. Forty-eight new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll in the national capital to 6,652, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

Delhi had recorded over 5,000 daily cases for five



Passengers board a bus at ISBT Kashmiri Gate in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Delhi government on Monday announced resumption of inter-state bus services by allowing the three ISBTs to operate at 50 per cent of their pre-Covid capacity.

days on the trot, ending Sunday when the count stood at 5,664.

The city recorded 4,001 Covid-19 cases on Monday with positivity rate hovering around 11 per cent, even as the Centre attributed the sudden surge in daily incidences in the last few days to greater movement of people during festive season and laxity

in adhering to safety norms.

The active cases tally on Tuesday stood at 36,375, as per the bulletin. The bulletin said that the total number of cases has climbed to 4,03,096, and the positivity rate stood at 11.29 per cent.

The Delhi government is mulling to collect samples from people while they are at restaurants,

markets and other public places in a bid to strengthen its Covid-19 surveillance mechanism amid a massive surge in daily cases in the last few days, sources said on Tuesday.

In a high-level meeting on Monday, chaired by Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the current Covid-19 situation was discussed threadbare. It was decided to concentrate efforts in certain key areas, such as targeted RT-PCR testing in sensitive and critical zones such as restaurants, market places, barber shops and salons; gear up the availability of medical resources including beds, ICUs, and ventilators as a preemptive measure; and ensure high degree of contact tracing along with monitoring of quarantined contacts so as to suppress and break the chain of transmission, the home ministry had said in a statement.

'No approval required for standalone restaurants'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

The Delhi government on Tuesday notified that no approval is required for standalone restaurants from the tourism department. As per the directions of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Tourism Department notified the termination of the process of granting approvals to standalone restaurants in the city.

The notification has come as a major relief to the restaurant industry, especially after a major economic downfall due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The notification comes in the wake of a meeting convened by Mr Kejriwal last month, wherein he directed various officials to remove hassles in the ease of doing business for the restaurant industry in the national capital.

As per the order, "In terms of decision taken by the chief minister, in the meeting dated October 7 regarding Ease of Doing Business for Restaurants, the voluntary scheme of granting approval to the standalone restaurants being implemented by the tourism department, GNCT of Delhi is hereby discontinued with immediate effect."

Before June 2003, the scheme for granting approvals to restaurants was being implemented by the union ministry of Tourism, on an All India basis. However, the scheme was discontinued on an All India basis from June 30, 2003 and the states were asked to formulate their own guidelines if they wished to implement the scheme.

The scheme was adopted by the city tourism department in the same year and was formally launched in 2004 for all restaurants having more than 30 seats.

■ Share of stubble burning dropped by 10%

Delhi-NCR's air quality turns 'very poor' again

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

The national capital's air quality slipped back into the "very poor" category again on Tuesday after recording a marginal improvement. However, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution dropped to 10 per cent during the day due to a change in the wind direction, a Central government agency said.

Officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the air quality had improved on Monday with high wind speed aiding dispersion of pollutants. However, stagnant night-time conditions led to accumulation of pollutants.

The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 332 at 10.00 am. It improved to 302 by 4.00 pm as the wind speed picked up.

The 24-hour average AQI was 293 on Monday which falls in the 'poor' category. It was 364 on Sunday, with stubble burning contributing to 40 per cent of Delhi's pollution.

The ministry of earth sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution has "decreased significantly" due to a change in the wind direction and is estimated to be at 10 per cent on Tuesday.

It said 3,068 farm fires were spotted over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand on Monday.

The boundary layer wind direction became south-westerly on Tuesday morning after a long spell which is unfavourable for the transport of pollutants from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana, according to the agency.

SAFAR said it was a typical example of high fire count and its low impact



People walk along Rajpath near India Gate under heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Tuesday. — AFP

City's minimum temp drops to 10°C

New Delhi, Nov. 3: As the minimum temperature in Delhi dropped to 10 degrees Celsius, the season's lowest so far, on Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it will declare a cold wave in the city if the situation persists for another day. The weather department also said the month of November this year is expected to be the coldest in the last four to five years.

"The trend of below normal minimum temperature continues. A similar

situation is expected to prevail for another four to five days," Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the regional forecasting center of IMD, said.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal for two consecutive days.

"The criteria for Tuesday has been met. We will declare a cold wave in Delhi if the situation persists on Wednesday," Srivastava said. — PTI

on Delhi's air quality due to unfavourable transport level winds, "demonstrating how meteorology can play a decisive role."

Stubble burning accounted for 16 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Monday and 40 per cent on Sunday, the maximum so far this season.

The air quality in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad remained "very poor" and "poor" in Gurgaon on Tuesday, according to a govern-

ment agency. Concentration of major air pollutants PM 2.5 and PM 10 also remained high in the five immediate neighbours of Delhi, according to the air quality index (AQI) maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The average 24-hour AQI was 356 in Greater Noida, 340 in Ghaziabad, 270 in Gurgaon, 321 in Noida and 318 in Faridabad, according to the CPCB's Sameer app at 4 pm on Tuesday.

A Delhi court on Tuesday expressed displeasure with Tihar jail authorities after several accused in a case related to the February riots in north-east Delhi stated they have not been given basic things permissible under the prison rules, and said that if things do not improve the judge would go and inspect the situation physically.

The court directed director general (DG) of Delhi Prisons to look into the grievances of all the 15 accused, booked under

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

During the hearing held through video conferencing, seven out of the 15 accused said they have not been given warm clothes, though it is permitted under the prison rules, and the jail authorities said they need court order for it

Man, wife arrested for killing minor niece

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

A man and his wife have been arrested for allegedly murdering the woman's 17-year-old niece at their home in Northeast Delhi's Tahirpur and stuffing her body in their bed box last month, the police said on Monday.

After killing the minor girl, the couple cleaned the blood from the crime scene (the room) and slept on the single bed for the night with the girl's body inside the box, it said.

According to the police, the man had an eye on the minor — the daughter of his wife's sister — who had been objecting to his advances. The man is a rickshaw-puller while his wife begs for a living.

His wife knew about it and had asked the victim to return to her native vil-

lage in Bihar but she wanted to stay and pursue her studies, the police said. She had completed her schooling and was planning to study further.

The girl's refusal to leave their home led to frequent quarrels between the couple, said an investigator who did not want to be named.

"On October 23, during an altercation, the woman told her husband to kill her niece. Subsequently, while his wife guarded the main door, the man killed the girl by hitting her on the head with an iron rod while she slept," said the investigator.

DCP (Northeast) Ved Prakash Surya said the murder was discovered on October 25 when locals informed the police about foul smell emanating from the house that was locked from outside.

As the man became the prime suspect, the police started looking for him and he was caught from a bus stand in his hometown in Bihar's Madhepura on October 28. He was brought to Delhi and the iron rod used in the crime was recovered.

"His interrogation led to his wife's arrest and both admitted to the crime," the officer added.

"The duo had planned to dispose of the body and waited the entire day looking for an opportunity. When they failed, the woman asked her husband to go to their native village so that nobody would suspect his involvement when the girl's body was discovered. The woman thought that as she was handicapped (in one leg caused by polio), the neighbours and the police would not suspect her," he added.



Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai inspects a stall during the launch of anti-cracker campaign in New Delhi on Tuesday. Mr Rai appealed to the people of Delhi to use green crackers and not polluting crackers during Diwali. — PTI

Security guard among 3 held Woman gangraped in hospital's parking lot

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Three men, including a security guard, have been arrested after a 30-year-old woman alleged that she was gangraped in the parking lot of a hospital in Rohini area of New Delhi, police said on Tuesday.

As per reports, the three accused included security guard of the Rohini hospital and two former bouncers.

In her complaint to police, the 30-year-old said she was raped by the three in the parking area of Baba Sahib Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini on the intervening night of October 30-31

October. According to the police, the woman was visiting someone admitted to the Rohini hospital and was staying in a shelter home for caregivers of patients.

The woman alleged that ex-bouncers and security guard of the hospital threatened the woman and took her to a deserted place in the hospital parking on the pretext of verification, where they gangraped her.

Following her complaint, police arrested the three accused on charges of rape on October 31. The three arrested have identified as Manish, 22, Praveen Tiwari (24), and Kanwar Pal (33).

4 women held for robbery in south Delhi

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

A gang of four women, who used to rob people under the garb of begging, have been arrested from south Delhi's Hauz Khas, police said on Tuesday.

The matter was reported to police on October 30, when a 64-year-old woman who was robbed by the gang approached police with her complaint.

The incident took place on Aurobindo Marg in Hauz Khas area, police said. A case has been registered and the women have been sent to judicial custody. They hail from a village in Bihar and were staying in Nizamuddin, police said.

YouTuber among 3 held for murder

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NOIDA, NOV. 3

Three youths have been arrested for allegedly plotting the murder of a 26-year-old private company executive who was found dead on the elevated road on October 28.

The police has learnt that the murder was the result of a tussle between the victim, Kamal, and a 24-year-old YouTuber, Nizamul, who was in a relationship with the former's sister.

Nizamul, a resident of Gijhore, had taken the help of his childhood

friends Amit and Sumit in executing the murder. While Amit is a resident of Sector 20, Sumit is from Delhi's Umanpur.

An injured Kamal was found on the road by a passerby, who took him to hospital. But Kamal was declared dead on arrival.

It was initially thought that Kamal had died in an accident, but the autopsy revealed a bullet injury in the back and that he had been shot from a very close range.

The police said Nizamul was in touch with Kamal's sister for the past two years and would often talk

to her over the phone. This had caused animosity between Kamal and Nizamul and both had come to blows on earlier occasions.

"The two had fought multiple times as Kamal would ask Nizamul to stay away from his sister. Once, Kamal had beaten up Nizamul and the latter nursed a grudge against him. Kamal had even snatched his sister's phone multiple times and it resulted in fights between the siblings," additional commissioner of police (law and order) Love Kumar said.

Delhi riots: Judge plans jail inspection after inmates say 'no warm clothes'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

A Delhi court on Tuesday expressed displeasure with Tihar jail authorities after several accused in a case related to the February riots in north-east Delhi stated they have not been given basic things permissible under the prison rules, and said that if things do not improve the judge would go and inspect the situation physically.

The court directed director general (DG) of Delhi Prisons to look into the grievances of all the 15 accused, booked under

During the hearing held through video conferencing, seven out of the 15 accused said they have not been given warm clothes, though it is permitted under the prison rules, and the jail authorities said they need court order for it

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the case, and order that somebody who can take a call inspect the situation at Mandoli and Tihar prisons. It asked the authorities to apprise the court of the status on

November 23.

This has to end. DG (Prisons) is directed to take stalk of the situation, to order someone, who can take a call, to look into the grievances. If things do not improve, I would go for a physical inspection myself. And the lawyers may accompany me too, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said.

During the hearing held through video conferencing, seven out of the 15 accused said they have not been given warm clothes, though it is permitted under the prison rules, and the jail author-

ities said they need court order for it.

Expressing dissatisfaction, the judge said he could not understand why the accused have to approach the court every time for such basic things. He further noted that the accused seemed to be facing several problems in jail.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

SHORT TAKES

Diamonds worth ₹90L mined by farmers

Bhopal: Lady Luck smiled on 2 small farmers when they mined 2 high-quality diamonds in their lands in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. While Laxman Yadav dug out a 14.98-carat diamond in his land in Krishna Kalyanpur village, Dilip Mishra extracted a precious stone weighing 7.44 carat in his land in Jaruapur village, according to a local district diamond officer. "The 2 diamonds were deposited with the Panna district mining office. They will be auctioned and proceeds from the sale would be given to them after deducting royalty of 12.5 per cent", local diamond inspector Anupam Singh said. Both the 7.44-carat and 14.98-carat diamonds are of high quality and may fetch ₹30 lakh and ₹60 respectively in the market, a senior district mining officer assessed.

Madras HC summons to Virat and Ganguly

Madurai: Indian cricketers, Virat Kohli and Sourav Ganguly, along with 15 others were summoned by the Madras high court bench of Madurai, for endorsing and popularising online gambling websites that forced youths to lose money and commit suicide. Taking up a petition filed by Mohammed Rizvi seeking the court safeguard Indian youth from unwanted online gambling apps and punish the celebrities including Virat Kohli, Sourav Ganguly, actors Prakash Raj and Tamanna, as they use their popularity to hook innocent youngsters to gamble online, and thereby spread the poison through their advertisements. Justice N. Kirubakaran and B. Pugalendhi issued notices to the celebrities to file their responses to the court by November 19.

College principal held for misbehaviour

Bhubaneswar: A principal of a women's college at Sunabeda in Odisha's Koraput district was, on Tuesday, arrested on the charge of misbehaving with a female colleague at the institute. As per the complainant, the principal, identified as Pabitra Kumar Bedanta, was allegedly harassing her and had tried to touch her inappropriately on multiple occasions inside the college. Based on an FIR filed here, the police arrested Bedanta under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and IT Act, 2020. It is also alleged that the principal had threatened the complainant of dire consequences after he failed in his attempts to coerce her into physical relationship. Sushila Behera, the wife of the arrested principal, said her husband was framed. "The complainant works as a temporary data entry operator in my husband's college. She has been asking for regularisation of her job and a hike in salary. However, due to Covid crisis there was some delay in meeting her demands. She thought that my husband was deliberately delaying meeting her demands and she implicated him with false charges," said Ms Behera.

■ Moderate to high polling recorded in bypolls to 54 Assembly constituencies in 10 states despite Covid pandemic

Karnataka bypoll results to determine future leadership

VINAY MADHAV
BENGALURU, NOV. 3

Though it looks insignificant, the byelections to two Assembly constituencies in Karnataka — Sira and Rajarajeshwarinagar — is an indicator for all the three political parties in the state over future leadership in each political outfit.

While chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa is battling the cry for leadership change, JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy is struggling to retain Vokkaliga vote bank which did not cross over to Congress, so that KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar would emerge as new Vokkaliga leader. Meanwhile, D.K.

■ **K. SHIVAKUMAR** is waging a lone battle to establish himself as the Congress leader, while the party bigwigs like former CM Siddaramaiah and others do not want Mr Shivakumar to establish himself.

Shivakumar is waging a lone battle to establish himself as the Congress leader, while the party bigwigs like former chief minister Siddaramaiah and others do not want Mr Shivakumar to establish himself.

Among the two, Sira was formerly held by JD(S), which fell vacant with the death of sitting MLA Satyanarayana. JD(S) has

■ **SIRA WAS** formerly held by JD(S), which fell vacant with the death of sitting MLA Satyanarayana. JD(S) has fielded Satyanarayana's widow Ammajama, while the Congress has fielded T.B. Jayachandra, who is a six-time MLA

fielded Satyanarayana's widow Ammajama, while the Congress has fielded T.B. Jayachandra, who is a six-time MLA. In Rajarajeshwarinagar, sitting Congress MLA Munirathna resigned and is now contesting on BJP ticket. Since it is Vokkaliga dominated constituency, Congress has

fielded Kusuma, a Vokkaliga and widow of an IAS officer, whose suicide had raked up controversy during Siddaramaiah government.

During JD(S)-Congress coalition government, Kumaraswamy and D.K. Shivakumar shared a good relationship. However, once Shivakumar was elevated as KPCC president, he sensed a potential threat for Vokkaliga leadership of JD(S). Even before the elections were declared, Mr Kumaraswamy reportedly struck a clandestine deal with chief minister Yeddyurappa. As per the deal, JD(S) would help BJP win Rajarajeshwari, while BJP would return the favor in Sira.

K'taka: Religious conversion to be banned for marriages

Bengaluru, Nov. 3: Karnataka tourism minister and BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi on Tuesday said a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage will be enacted in the state.

He said the government will not remain silent when 'Jihadis' strip the dignity of women in the state. The statement comes days after the Allahabad HC held that conversion of religion for purpose of marriage was illegal.

Earlier, BJP-ruled states UP, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh had announced their intention to introduce legal provisions against 'love jihad'. "On the lines of Allahabad High Court's order, Karnataka will



C.T. Ravi

enact a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage. We will not remain silent when Jihadis strip the dignity of our sisters," Ravi tweeted.

He said any one involved in any act of conversion shall face severe and swift punishment. The Allahabad High Court in its order on October 31 said that religious conversion just for the sake of marriage

■ **C.T. RAVI** said that the government will not remain silent when 'Jihadis' strip the dignity of women in the state. The statement comes days after the Allahabad HC held that conversion of religion for purpose of marriage was illegal.

was not valid. The court made the remark while dismissing a plea by a newly married couple in Uttar Pradesh that had approached it to direct police and the woman's father not to disturb their marital life.

In the petition, it was stated that the couple got married in July this year, but family members of the woman were interfering in their marital life. — PTI

Guj: Voting for eight Assembly seats ends

Ahmedabad, Nov. 3: Voting for bypolls to eight Assembly constituencies in Gujarat ended on Tuesday evening.

The polling was held between 7 am and 6 pm for bypolls to Abdasa (Kutch district), Limbdi (Surendranagar), Morbi (Morbi district), Dhari (Amreli), Gadhada (Botad), Karjan (Vadodara), Dang (Dang district) and Kaprada (Valsad).

As per the tentative figures shared by the authorities, 57.29 per cent voters had exercised franchise till 5 pm. Counting will take place on November 10.

A total of 81 candidates were in the fray for eight seats which collectively had 18.75 lakh registered voters.

To maintain social distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic, election authorities had set up 3,024 polling booths, much more than usual.

Disposable hand gloves were given to voters at polling booths. The byelections were necessitated after the sitting Congress MLAs resigned ahead of Rajya Sabha polls in June. — PTI

70.45% voter turnout in Odisha

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO
BALASORE, NOV. 3

The bypolls for two Assembly constituencies in Odisha passed off peacefully on Tuesday, barring a few stray incidents of attempt to influence and bribe voters.

The Election Commission said at least 70.45 per cent voters turned out to cast their



Voters stand in long queues to cast their votes at a polling station during the second phase of Assembly elections at Diyara in Danapur on Tuesday. — PTI

Over 51% turnout in UP Assembly byelections

Lucknow, Nov. 3:

Voters turnout for the Uttar Pradesh assembly byelections for seven seats crossed 51 per cent at 5 pm on Tuesday, an hour before end of the polling, amid an allegation of bogus voting for Nagaon Sadat seat in Amroha and poll boycott in Tundla.

The polling for the seven seats with 88 candidates in the fray, which began at 7 am amid tight security and adherence to anti-Covid precautions, picked up momentum as the day progressed.

ballots by 6 pm.

In Balasore, the police detained a woman for allegedly distributing money among voters at Adivasi Sahi in Ward 1 of Odisha's Balasore town when voting for the bypoll to the Balasore Sadar constituency was underway.

The locals gheraoed the woman when she was distributing cash along with her supporters. They

The voters turnout went up to 51.22 per cent by 5 pm from just 18.49 per cent at 11 am, the Election Commission said.

A total of 49.45 per cent votes were cast in Bangarmau till 5 pm, 49.77

later informed the police about the incident.

The woman hailing from the neighbouring Mayurbhanj district was questioned by senior police officials of state regarding her act of distributing.

Chief electoral officer S.K. Lohani said the police questioned the lady and she was later let free after due to want of concrete proof.

Eminent violin maestro TN Krishnan dies

Chennai, Nov. 3: Tributes poured in for violin maestro T.N. Krishnan, who died here at the age of 92, with PM Modi, home minister Amit Shah and the world of Carnatic music mourning the doyen's demise and recalling his rich contributions. He passed away on Monday due to old age issues. Krishnan is survived by wife and two children.

Counted among the other violin greats — Lalgudi

Jayaraman and MS Gopalakrishnan, Tripunithura Narayanayyer Krishnan started off his musical journey at a young age under his father's tutelage and staged his maiden performance at the age of 11.

Born in 1928 in Kerala, Krishnan shifted to Chennai in the early 1940s and was tutored by Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, a legend in the field of classical music. — PTI

BJP leader seeks action against Bachchan over KBC question

AGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 3

The 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' (KBC) show has courted yet another controversy. A Maharashtra BJP MLA has accused veteran Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan and the makers of the popular TV show of allegedly hurting Hindu sentiments.

Abhimanyu Pawar, BJP legislator from Ausa in Latur district, on Tuesday filed a complaint at Latur police seeking action against Mr Bachchan and Sony Entertainment Television, the makers of KBC, for a question about



Amitabh Bachchan

religious text Manusmriti. "There was an attempt to insult Hindus and create discord between Hindus and Buddhists who have been living in harmony," Mr Pawar tweeted.

On October 30, in the Karamveer special episode of KBC, Mr Bachchan had

said. The SP also urged voters to vote in large numbers. "Those in power and responsible for farmers' worries, women's insecurity, poor health facilities, labourers joblessness and collapsed law and order should be given a reply in today's assembly bypolls," it tweeted. The electoral fortune of 88 candidates, including nine women, will be decided by 24.34 lakh voters, who are eligible to exercise their franchise at 3,655 polling booths spread over 1,754 polling centres. — PTI

HC rejects bail plea of Kannada film actors in drugs case

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU, NOV. 3

Karnataka High Court has rejected bail for three persons, including two leading female actors of Kannada film industry, in connection with the drug dealing in the state.

At the same time, the HC also turned down anticipatory bail plea for three persons, including main accused in the drug case Shivaprakash Chippa, who are absconding since the arrest of the two actors.

The two leading actors, Ragini Dwivedi and Sanjanna Galrani, are in Parappana Agrahara jail for the last two months.

Another accused Prashanth Ranka also had applied for bail. The two-member bench of the Karnataka High Court turned down the bail petition. Now, the three have to approach the Supreme Court for the bail. Of the 14 accused in the case, six persons, including Aditya Alva, son of former Minister Mr Jeevaraj Alva are absconding. Among them, three persons, including prime accused Shivaprasad Chippa, Prashanth Raju and Abhiswamy had applied for anticipatory bail.


NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Deputy Chief Engineer /Const.-II Northern Railway, State Entry road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender (Single packet) for the following work:	
1 Name of work & location	Out sourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable condition in CAO/C office complex N. Rly. at Kashmere Gate Delhi in the section of SSE/C/J under XEN/C/HQ, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. (2nd call)
2 Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 54.51 lakh (Rupees fifty four lakh fifty one thousand only)
3 Earnest Money Amount to be deposited online	Rs. 1,09,000.00 (Rupees One lakh nine thousand only)
4 Completion period of work	24 (twenty four) Months
5 Sale/availability of tender document on Railway website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.11.2020 to 25.11.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
6 Last date and time for uploading of tenders	25.11.2020 upto to 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 11.11.2020 to 11.11.2020
7 Date and Time of opening of tender	25.11.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)).
No. 50A-G-C-K.GATE-DLI Dated 29.10.2020 2422/20	

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:	
1. Name of work with its location	Allotment of 3 Catering Stalls (Special Minor Units) at New Delhi & Delhi Jn. Railway Stations under Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years. (Ctg. SMU 01 to 03-2020)
2. Name of tender on IREPS	23/AC/CSBD/SMU A-1/2018
3. Approximate cost of work	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
4. Date of opening of Tender	27.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs.
5. Cost of tender document & 18% GST	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
6. Earnest Money Deposit	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://ireps.gov.in/
No. 23/AC/Ctg/SMU A-1/2018 Dated : 02.11.2020 2417/2020	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:	
1. Name of work	Renovation of toilets, repair to power cabin and floor surface of PF no. 1 and 2 at DKZ in the section of SSE/W/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI
2. Approximate cost of work	Rs. 44,94,926/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Six only)
3. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 89,900/- (Rs. Rupees Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 0/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	27.11.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest Money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. 	
No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/24/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 03.11.2020 2420/2020	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION	
	General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age: About 45 years, Height: 5'7", Face : Long, Build: Normal Complexion: Sallow, wearing two colour shirt and light blue colour jeans, was found unconscious on 29.10.2020 near Dr. Lal Path Lab, Regal Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi, he was admitted in RML Hospital vide MLC No. E-193658/567240. during the treatment doctor declare him dead. In this regard DD No. 88-A dated 29.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.
	Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO : P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23747100, 8750870525	
DP/151/ND0/20	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single-packet system for the following work.	
1 Name of work and location	"Hiring of 03 (three) Nos. Non-AC Vehicle such as "Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle" on the monthly basis for a period of 02 (Two) years for the officers working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/construction, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi.
2 Completion period of work	24 (twenty four) months
3 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 34,71,680.16 only
4 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 69,400.00 only
5 Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded upto to 11.30 hrs. on 26.11.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 26.11.2020.
6 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.11.2020 to 26.11.2020 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 11.11.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.
No.: 454-ACS/C/Vehicle/TKJ Dated: 03.11.2020 2415/2020	

Serving Customers with a Smile

SHORT TAKES

ONLY 38.3K CASES IN 24-HR, OFFICIALS SAY COVID-19 IS ON DECLINE

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Central government officials on Tuesday said that a steady decline in daily fresh cases in India has been noted but a large part of the country's population is still susceptible to the novel coronavirus infection. On Tuesday, 38,310 new cases were detected which was lowest after over 100 days. The national Covid-19 recovery rate is now 91.96 per cent. "It is satisfying that there is an improvement in overall cases and there is a consistent decline in active cases. However, in some states it is a reverse trend and there is a rise in fresh cases. In Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi and Manipur we are noticing rise in cases. In neighbouring cities of Delhi - Gurgaon and Faridabad - there is a sharp increase in new cases," said NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V. K. Paul. Mr Paul also heads the National Task Force on Covid-19, urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and asked people to get themselves tested if they observe any symptom of the viral disease. "We are susceptible to a very large extent and the situation in America and Europe is showing (that). We don't know the behaviour of the virus completely. So, we need to save the gains that we have earned in our fight against the pandemic till now. In these times, even the smallest of symptoms, such as cold, cough and sore throat is Covid-19 unless proven otherwise...It might be flu too, but if we miss even one positive case, that may result in thousands of cases," Mr Paul said.

3 Rafale jets to arrive from France today

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

In a big boost to Indian Air Forces air power, three more Rafale fighter jets would reach India by Wednesday evening from France. According to sources, these aircraft will take off from France on Wednesday morning and would arrive in India by evening. This will take the total strength of Rafale fighters with IAF to eight to take on threats emerging from China. Indian Air Force will like to operationalise the second batch of Rafale jets as soon as possible. In the first batch India had received five Rafale aircraft in July and these were inducted in IAF in September. The first batch has already been operationalised and has carried out sorties in Ladakh sector. In 2016, India had signed a ₹59,000 crore deal for 36 Rafales which will be based in Ambala and Hasimara (West Bengal) air bases. The 4.5 generation fighter aircraft, capable of carrying nuclear weapons provides IAF unmatched air superiority in the region with its advanced avionics and deadly weapon package which include Meteor, Scalp and HAMMER missiles. Rafale jets give India an edge over China and Pakistan as it is armed with the most advanced beyond visual range Meteor air-to-air missiles which have a range of upto 150 kilometers.

After Prez's no to appointment, Capt. to lead Rajghat sit-in

Continued from Page 1
The ruling Congress, the Punjab chief minister has urged Punjab legislators from other parties to participate as well. He said the protest in Delhi will highlight the situation in the state because of the suspension of goods trains by the Centre. Railways has stopped running trains to Punjab, saying farmers protesting the farm laws are blocking the tracks. However, the Punjab government claimed that the farmers have eased the blockade and are allowing goods trains to run. Thermal power plants are shutting down in the state because of lack of coal, the Punjab government said. Apart from Punjab, other Congress-ruled states like Rajasthan and Chattisgarh too have passed separate laws to negate the Central farm laws in their respective states.

Prayers & wishes for Trump and Harris from India



Activists of Hindu Sena, a right wing group, take part in a prayer ceremony for the victory of US President Donald Trump in the US presidential elections in New Delhi on Tuesday. (right) A motorist rides past a poster of US Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Kamala Harris, displayed on a street at her ancestral village of Thulasendrapuram in Tamil Nadu.



— AFP

8th round of Sino-India Corps Commander-level talks likely on Nov. 6

Quad members hold Malabar drill

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

India and three other "Quad" countries — US, Japan and Australia — on Tuesday started the naval exercise "Malabar" in Bay of Bengal, even as China confirmed to another round of Corps Commanders meeting with India on Ladakh standoff and a mutual agreeable date is being worked out. The 8th round of Corps Commanders level meeting is now likely to be held on Friday, said sources.

It will be first meeting under the new commander of Leh based 14 Corps also known as Fire & Fury Corps Lt Gen PGK Menon.

While India is trying to peacefully resolve the six month military stand-off



Ships taking part in Malabar exercise in Bay of Bengal.

with China through negotiations, it is also forming up strategic alliances with other nations. This is reflected by Indias invitation to Australia to participate in Malabar Naval exercise and signing Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) with US last week. This is a sig-

nal to China that India will not bow down to any pressure, even as it wants peace in the region. The Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) on Tuesday carried out anti submarine warfare operations, cross deck

landings and seamanship manoeuvres at sea.

Indian Navy ships Ranvijay, Shivalik, Shakti, Sukanya, and submarine Sindhuraj are exercising with USS John S McCain, HMAS Ballarat, and JMSDF Ship JS Onami.

China said on Tuesday that it hoped that the quadrilateral Malabar exercise would be conducive to the regional peace and stability instead of the contrary. "We hope that relevant countries military operations will be conducive to peace and stability in the region instead of the contrary," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

India, US, Japan and Australia are part of the "Quad" alliance, which Beijing considers as an

anti-China grouping.

While Australia wanted to be part of the Malabar exercise for some time now, India had been hesitant to invite it to avoid any angry reaction from China.

During the 7th round of Corps Commanders meeting, India and China on October 12 had agreed not to turn differences into disputes and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas. Both sides had agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible.

Indian and Chinese armies are now preparing to keep troops in forward positions during winter in Ladakh. The Russian Embassy said, "Having special but independent relations with both India and China, we would encourage our largest Asian partners to resolve differences by constructive dialogue. Disagreements between India and China doesn't benefit both sides, but provide some dishonest elements with an opportunity to interfere in their bilateral dialogue. We are confident that both countries, well-known with their ancient history and wisdom, are capable of dealing with the

Vijay Raaz arrested for molestation, granted bail

New Delhi, Nov. 3:



Vijay Raaz

Bollywood actor Vijay Raaz, who has worked in several path-breaking movies has been granted bail by a local court in Gondia, Maharashtra after he was arrested on molestation charges levelled by a 30-year-old crew member.

Vijay Raaz, along with other unit members of a Vidya Balan starrer *Shera* is currently being shot in Gondia where the incident allegedly took place. The films crew is stationed at Hotel Gateway for last 15 days.

A 30-year-old female crew member from the film has lodged a complaint against Vijay Raaz for molesting her.

The victim has alleged that during the films shooting in Madhya Pradesh Balaghat and in Hotel Gateway at Gondia, Raaz allegedly molested her. The complaint has been filed under IPC section 354 (A&D).

— Agencies

SC unhappy over TN gov's indecision on Rajiv 'assassin'

Purohit is sitting on recommendation on remission

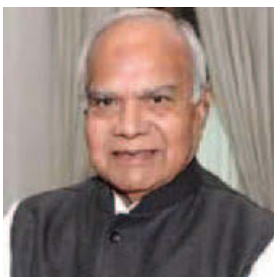
PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed unhappiness over Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit not deciding for about two years on state government's recommendation to grant remission of sentence to a Rajiv Gandhi assassination conspiracy case convict A.G. Perarivalan who is in jail for nearly three decades.

"We are not happy about the situation that the recommendation of the State government is pending with the Governor for two years" said Justice L. Nageswara Rao heading a bench also comprising Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice Ajay Rastogi.

Having expressed its disapproval over Governor Purohit sitting over the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu government, Justice Nageswara Rao told the lawyer appearing for the State government, "Why cant the State government ask the Governor to decide..."

Perarivalan was convicted for supplying two 9 volts batteries that were used for



Banwarilal Purohit

the making of the IED for the assassination of the former Prime Minister on May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur by a human bomb Dhanu. The court had reservation whether it can ask the Governor to take decision on the recommendations of the TN government to grant remission of sentence to Perarivalan.

Justice Nageswara Rao asked senior lawyer Gopal Sankaranarayanan appearing for petitioner Perarivalan "You please tell us what can be done when the governor has to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers."

Gopal Sankaranarayanan referred to certain judgments of the top court indicating that court can ask

the Governor to decide on the recommendation of the State government.

In the course of the hearing, the court was informed that governor has asked for the report of the CBI headed Multi Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) that is probing the larger conspiracy behind the Assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and unless he gets the report he cant decide on the recommendation of State government for the remission of sentence to Perarivalan.

The additional solicitor general K. M. Naqtraj told the court that the governor has asked the Central government to give the papers relating to MDMA in response to a poser from the Governor has sought the MDMA report.

At this point, Justice Nageswara Rao said that the probe by MDMA has nothing to do with those who have already been convicted in the case but focused on the alleged involvement of certain leaders including those who are no more.

Assam JEE proxy writer held

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 3

In a significant breakthrough in the investigation, police arrested the proxy writer in the Joint Entrance Examination (Mains) scam but the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducted the Joint Entrance Examination (Main), is yet to respond to the communication made by Guwahati police in connection with the scam.

Informing that proxy writer Bhargav Deka, the owner of a city-based

coaching institute Global Edu Light, has been arrested, security sources said that the police has requested the NTA to give details about the procedures used in the examination and the possible ways that might have been used by the proxy candidate to appear in the examination on behalf of Neel Nakshyatra Das.

Though, NTA officials without thorough probe of the scam claimed that the scam took place only in the specific examination centre located at ION Digital Zone in the Azara area of

the city and nowhere else in the country. Security sources admitted that NTA was reluctant to hold any nation-wide probe into the scam as any such investigation by any competent agency may open Pandoras box.

Pointing out that from the examination centre, the police have already seized several documents security sources said that the NTA has hardly taken any note of the scam as the centre was allowed to function and on November 4, National Eligibility Test will be held at the centre.



Jeweller Kotti Srikanth displays his self-designed ring made with 7,801 diamonds. He has been awarded with the Guinness World Record for the most diamonds set in one ring at his diamond store in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— AFP

Gurung is out of our syllabus, says Tamang, 'shocks' Didi

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, NOV. 3

In a clear refusal to unite with his rival in the party: Bimal Gurung, present Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) president Binoy Tamang has called him "out of our syllabus" after meeting West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday amid agitation by the two GJM factions in Darjeeling. He also wondered, "Who is Bimal Gurung?" before summarising him as a "closed chapter."



Binoy Tamang

Though Mr Tamang, accompanied by his deputy and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration chairman: Anit Thapa, claimed to have no discussion on Mr Gurung in the meeting at the state secretariat: Nabanna, sources however indicated that he took a tough stand before the CM against the erstwhile GJM chiefs wish to return to the hills. Mr Tamangs message deals a blow to the Trinamul Congress supremos attempt to placate him for a settlement in wake of Mr Gurungs pledge to support her in an alliance to help her come to power in the next years Assembly Election in the state. At Gorkha Bhavan in Salt Lake in the evening, Mr Tamang said, "We do not have Mr Gurung and Roshan Giri (Mr Gurungs long-time lieutenant) in our syllabus."

Nitish faces onion attack, says 'keep throwing'

Continued from Page 1
ABC of governance and cannot do anything. I also ask you not to indulge in all these anti-social activities otherwise nobody will be able to save you," Mr Kumar told the protestors and urged the security men not to pay attention to them.

At many places a section of the crowd disrupted his speech, at which Mr Kumar lost his cool and chided them for acting on behalf of his "political rivals" and telling them that nobody is bothered even if they don't vote for him.

Later, when his security personal tried to intervene and detain people who were involved in the attack, Bihar CM stopped them and said, "Let them do it. They are being misled by people who have done nothing for the state. I have already told you that I am working hard to create opportunities here so that people

don't go out to other states for work. They got the opportunity for 15 years but they didn't give any jobs".

Nitish Kumar, whose party is an ally of the BJP in Bihar, has been facing criticism from the Opposition parties, including LJP chief Chirag Paswan.

On Tuesday, Mr Paswan, while talking to reporters, said that "Nitish Kumar will not return as CM of Bihar. I can give you in writing as people are angry with him for not doing anything for the state".

Criticising the Grand Alliance for the incident, JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha in a statement said, "Everybody is aware how the chief minister worked hard for the development of the state. Such an incident is not good for the democracy".

Lakhs of migrant workers have returned to their homes in Bihar during

the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of them are unable to return to their previous jobs.

This is not the first instance when Mr Kumar had to face a hostile crowd at his rallies. A slipper was thrown at him by protestors while he was going towards his helicopter after completing his speech at Sakra in Muzaffarpur district on October 26. It missed him.

Mr Kumar lost his cool at an election rally at Parsa in Saran district on October 21 where he had gone to stump for his party candidate Chandrika Roy when a section of the crowd chanted "Lalu Zindabad". "Do not make such noise here. If you do not want to vote for us, don't do it," Kumar had told the slogan shouters.

Polling will be held in 78 Constituencies spread over 15 districts on 7th November in this phase.

PM mocks Cong, targets RJD's 'jungle raj' record

Continued from Page 1
1990s when the RJD was in power. He said the turnout in the ongoing elections shows the mood of voters in Bihar. "Reports show what Bihar wants. The message is clear that people have rejected 'rangbazi' and 'rangdari' and development is winning. They have also rejected dynasts and want only those to remain in power who work for the welfare of people", the Prime Minister said.

This was Mr Modi's fourth tour of Bihar for the ongoing elections. Apart from Forbesganj in Araria, he also addressed a rally in Saharsa where he listed the NDA government's achievements and urged people to be "vocal for local".

Political analysts here say his public meetings in Araria and Saharsa hold significance as both districts in Seemanchal are considered a stronghold

This was Prime Minister Modi's fourth tour of Bihar for the ongoing elections. Apart from Forbesganj in Araria, he also addressed a rally in Saharsa where he listed the NDA government's achievements and urged people to be "vocal for local".

The four districts in Seemanchal — Purnea, Kishanganj, Katihar and Araria — have 24 Assembly seats, while Kosi region has three districts comprising Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul. There are 13 Assembly segments in the region.

The JD(U) is trying its luck in 20 seats and its BJP ally has fielded 13 candidates in the region.

NDA partner VIP is also contesting three seats and Jitan Ram Manjhi's party HAM fielded one candidate in the region.

"The double engine government has brought speed in the progress of the state and it will continue to do so after the NDA is re-elected to power," Mr Modi said while addressing voters in Saharsa.

He also mocked the grand alliance's CM face Tejashwi Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by repeating his "double yuvraj" jibe and said that "people have rejected all those who are responsible for the jungle raj in the state".

The PM added: "Some people have problems with the NDA winning elections. They keep asking why Modi win elections. The answer is simple — Modi wins because he works for the poor people, mothers and sisters. They bless me".

THE ASIAN AGE

4 NOVEMBER 2020

Need to reform mindset of politicians and judges

The nation got a rude jolt, and deservedly so, when Attorney-General of India K.K. Venugopal stood up in the Supreme Court on Monday and told a three-member bench that judges in the trial courts and high courts must be sensitised on gender justice and the judgments of the apex court in this regard must be taught in judicial academies. Judges should be educated on the necessity of focusing on facts when imposing bail conditions in sexual harassment cases. The country's top law officer made the plainspeak before the bench hearing an appeal against a Madhya Pradesh high court order granting bail to an accused in a molestation case on the condition that he requested the victim to tie a "rakhi" on his wrist. The A-G was unequivocal in condemning the ritual as "drama" in that context.

Every civilised society revisits the way sexual assaults are treated in such a way that women's rights and gender sensitivity take precedence.

Both the suggestions of Mr Ramachandran a six-time Lok Sabha member and a former Union minister of state for home and agriculture, carry trouble: if he thinks that a woman can avoid the circumstances that lead to the crime, then the former junior home minister displays criminal ignorance of our social realities

That this awakening is not reflected in the judiciary is the point the A-G was trying to make. We have judges who think such offences are compoundable; some even direct the marriage between the perpetrator of the crime and the victim, thus sentencing the latter to life-long trauma. As the A-G was speaking in the apex court, the Kerala high court was forced to defer the trial in the actor assault case after the victim complained that the trial court was biased, hostile and partisan. The silver lining in the whole episode is that the A-G's words carried sufficient weight that the bench assured him that gender sensitisation will be part of its order.

It is not just the judiciary or officialdom that is at fault when it comes to gender sensitivity. The political class is equally or more guilty. It is not long before Kamal Nath, Congress leader, former chief minister and a Union minister for several terms called a woman minister an "item". The latest in this series has come from Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullappally Ramachandran who said women who have been raped should either commit suicide or avoid circumstances that can lead to the repeat of the crime. Both the suggestions of Mr Ramachandran a six-time Lok Sabha member and a former Union minister of state for home and agriculture, carry trouble: if he thinks that a woman can avoid the circumstances that lead to the crime, then the former junior home minister displays criminal ignorance of our social realities. And if he thinks a rape victim must commit suicide, then his insensitivity is nothing less than criminal. For rape is a crime which takes no mitigating circumstances. Anyone who thinks that the blame, or part of it, can be shifted to the victim is an apologist for the crime and a potential rapist, and must be treated accordingly.

It was a rare moment in our history that the A-G spoke up on the need to reform the judicial mindset, and one hopes for action to follow. The political class, too, must feel the heat, and take early steps to reform itself.

A win for diversity

She is no longer a Chennaite, nor a Keralite, neither an Indian. Ernakulam native Priyanca Radhakrishnan holds a New Zealand passport only. Yet the elevation of the left-leaning Labour Party leader to the post of minister for diversity, inclusion and ethnic communities in the new Jacinda Ardern government, which also placed its first Maori woman in the shape of foreign minister Nanaia Mahuta as well as half-Maldivian Ayesha Verrall, gladdens Indian hearts. It is the magic of democracy manifest in the brave, new post-globalised world.

Old-timers like to see the 41-year-old Radhakrishnan as a chip off the old block. Her maternal great grandfather, C.R. Krishna Pillai, was a doctor and a communist. He helped shape the political and cultural sensibilities of the people of Kerala and contributed to the formation of the Kerala state. Born to an IIT Kanpur alumnus and a cardiologist, both high achievers, Ms Radhakrishnan went to school in Singapore and proceeded to New Zealand to get her master's degree in development studies from Wellington's Victoria University. She joined politics while in university and stayed on to pursue it, proving her commitment to the welfare of her adoptive community. After entering the Labour Party in 2006, she became an MP first in 2017, then in 2020, from Maungakiekie constituency, entering the New Zealand parliament via the mixed member proportional representative system. She went on to serve as private secretary to Jenny Salesa, former ethnic communities minister. Ms Radhakrishnan's current portfolios also include youth, and community and voluntary sector. She is associate minister for social development and employment.

Ms Radhakrishnan has spent her public life advocating the cause of those whose voices often go unheard — migrant workers and victims of domestic violence in Indian-origin families. She is a votary of gender, race and income equality and community-based decision-making. The trust and responsibility vested in her by the people of her country of choice is a win for diversity and defeat for atavism and narrow identity politics. Welcome the newest kid on the desi diasporic block.

THE ASIAN AGE

T. VENKATRAM REDDY
Editor in Chief

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:

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

Published and Printed on behalf of and for

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,

New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

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

RNI Registration number: 57290/94

Subhani



Will Biden win in US, but Trump still be President?



Mohan Guruswamy

The American presidential election is possibly the most widely and closely watched electoral contest in the world. Like Americans, most of the world believes that the US President is the most powerful person in the world. A good part of that notion is attributable to the authority conferred by what is generally believed to be a free and fairly won mandate. But American presidential elections are not without controversy. It is widely believed the 1960 elections that saw John F. Kennedy getting elected by a plurality of less than 100,000 votes was because Chicago mayor Richard Daley, an old-fashioned Democratic party boss, with a wide network of friends in the labour unions and organised crime "stole" the election by ballot stuffing. A popular cry in Chicago in those days was "vote early and vote again and again".

Closer to our times George W. Bush is generally believed to have won in 2000 when a combination of voter fraud, deliberate miscounting and judicial intervention giving him the state of Florida by 537 votes. The state's secretary of state, Kathleen Harris, who was responsible for oversight of the state's elections and certification of the results, had also served as a co-chair of the Bush campaign in Florida. Further, Florida governor Jeb Bush was George W. Bush's brother. Between them they ensured that over 12,000 voters were excluded from the voter list on the grounds that they were all ex-felons. When the Florida Supreme Court ordered a recount in all 67 counties, a conservative leaning US Supreme Court overrode that order and ordered the election be declared. That gave Florida's 25 electoral votes to George W. Bush, winning him the presi-

dency in the Electoral College 271 to 266. This did not become a point of contention though the popular vote was with Al Gore, who got 48.4 per cent while Mr Bush received 47.9 per cent, losing by over 540,000 votes.

America's Presidents are, however, are chosen by the Electoral College, a system in which "electoral votes" are assigned to states based on their population and then awarded as a lump sum to the winner of the popular vote in that state — currently, it takes 270 electoral votes to win. In 2016 Democrat Hillary Clinton took the popular vote by almost 2.9 million votes, with 65,844,954 (48.2 per cent) to Mr Trump's 62,979,879 (46.1 per cent), but Mr Trump won the Electoral College votes 306 to 232.

That is why the US Senate's approval of Amy Coney Barret as a Supreme Court judge and tilting the balance heavily towards the conservatives 6-3 is significant. In 2016, under similar circumstances, the Republican-dominated Senate blocked the appointment of Merrick Garland, Barack Obama's nominee, a full 10 months before his term ended. Republican majority leader Senator Mitch McConnell then argued the elections were close and the people must decide. This time he argued just the opposite.

Most observers believe like Bush vs Gore, this year's elections will also end up before the

In 2016 Democrat Hillary Clinton took the popular vote, but Mr Trump won the Electoral College votes. That is why the US Senate's approval of Amy C. Barret as a Supreme Court judge is significant.

The likely outcome that worries observers is this: That the voting boxes and machines may reveal an early Trump lead, but as the postal ballots keep getting counted that lead will start whittling away

Supreme Court over challenges by a losing President Trump to the huge numbers of postal ballots. Mr Trump has not hidden his views on postal ballots. Time and again he has called them "very dangerous for our country" and "a catastrophe", even calling 2020 the "greatest rigged election in history". The US has about 240 million eligible voters. As of Sunday, over 91 million Americans had already cast their ballots. Surveys have also revealed that almost 60 per cent of Democrats prefer to vote by postal ballot, while in sharp contrast only about a quarter of Republicans were willing to do so.

The likely November 3 outcome that worries observers is this: That the voting boxes and machines may very likely reveal an early Trump lead, but as the postal ballots keep getting counted that lead will start whittling away. This will be keenly watched in border-line states like Texas, Georgia and Florida, which had favoured Mr Trump in 2016. The Trump operatives are expected to scrutinise each and every postal ballot and challenge many. It is estimated that close to 1.3 per cent of postal ballots are rejected on various technicalities. This suggests nearly 110,000 rejected postal ballots. Remember, in Florida in 2000, just 537 votes decided the outcome by requiring the Florida electoral votes to go to George W. Bush. This time, hundreds of Trump lawyer operatives have fanned out and the electoral process can expect to get slowed down by the sheer weight of challenges. Mr Trump has been quite blatantly signalling his troops to hobble the postal ballot count.

Postal ballots will have plenty of flaws for the Trump lawyers to seize upon. For instance, if a voter gives a different address, or a different version of his name such as Joe for Joseph or Richie for Richard, or if there is a variation in signature, any one of them can become a ground for dispute. Now here comes the catch. The states are required to finalise the appointment of the 538 Electoral College members by December 8. The Electoral College has to formally meet by December 14 to "elect" the President. The big question now is what next?

The US and even the world is accustomed to choosing the Electoral College by popular vote, but nothing in the US Constitution says it has to be that way. Article II, Section 1 states: "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress."

Republicans control the governorships and state legislatures in Texas, Georgia and Florida. Thus, these states can, in the absence of a popular vote, appoint the electors. If that happens, given the predicted "red" states voting for him, Donald Trump might very well be deemed to have been elected, or decide he is still the elected US President. The matter will almost certainly have to be resolved by the Supreme Court. But its tendencies are well understood.

Whatever be the Supreme Court's final decision, that is unlikely to come in time before January 20, 2021 when the US traditionally swears in the new President on the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C. If that doesn't happen, the world will have to live with President Donald Trump for some more time.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

LETTERS

IRRESPONSIBLE YOGI

This refers to the editorial, "Love jihad is a diversion, enforce rule of law in UP" (Nov 3). As CM, Yogi Adityanath has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of India. Therefore, it is the height of irresponsibility and dereliction of duty to unleash extrajudicial violence and threaten to unleash legal violence against people exercising their rights in freely choosing their life partners. UP, in particular, is badly affected by the pandemic. The Yogi should be focussing on containing its spread and making arrangements of income for those whose jobs have been lost or work affected.

Sankar Paul
Chakdaha, West Bengal

ISIS IN AFGHAN

THE SHOOTING OF 22 innocent students, including 10 women, at the Kabul University in Afghanistan is a horrific act. Two gunmen fired a volley of bullets and took dozens of hostages after a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the campus. The attack marked the second time in less than two weeks the terrorists targeted an educational institution in the capital. With violence surging across Afghanistan and the Islamic State group claiming responsibility for the attack, the Afghan authorities would do well to be on their toes.

N.J. Ravi Chander
New Delhi

RELIEF FOR PUPILS

THE ANDHRA PRADESH government had recently announced its decision to reopen schools and colleges from November 2 for classes 9 and 10, Intermediate First Year and Intermediate Second Year. Classes will be held for half a day. Students of classes 6 to 8 will also be called in from November 23. Classes for 1st to 5th standards will reportedly start from December 14. The headmistress of Bishop Azariah Government High School said that breathing exercises and walks will be organised at school every day. She also said students will be given a 15-minute break after every class to wash their hands and sanitise their books. I welcome the decision.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

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

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Crunch time for officials preparing Budget 2021

The countdown to the annual Budget for 2021-22 has started amid the urgency to push economic growth badly mauled by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is already talk of a third stimulus soon, going by the recent utterances of the finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman. The Budget-making babus led by finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey have their work cut out.

Sources say that the first meeting of the budget preparing exercise took place with officials of the department of financial services as well as MSME, housing, steel and power ministries in attendance. The almost one-month long exercise to finalize the Revised Estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and Budget Estimate for 2021-22 will conclude on November 12 after the expenditure secretary, T.V. Somanathan, completes discussions with other secretaries and

financial advisors.

This year, however, due to Covid, the number of participants for the pre-budget meetings may be restricted to a maximum of 5 officers for each meeting from a ministry/department, not below the rank of director.

For the Modi sarkar, the next Budget will be crucial since it will have to deal with the impact of the pandemic on revenue collection, disinvestment, expenditure, export and food prices. The indications are gloomy with the IMF forecasting that the economy will shrink by 10.3 per cent. Even the Reserve Bank of India has similarly opined that it will shrink by 9.5 per cent. The Budget will have to address critical issues pertaining to growth contraction and subdued revenue collection due to the pandemic.

MAHARASHTRA'S BIG IPS MUDDLE

As many as 36 IPS officers in Maharashtra are awaiting new postings and the unprecedented delay has given the Opposition BJP a handle to criticise the state chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Among the officers on the "wait" list are 15 SP-rank officers besides high-profile top cop Devan Bharti.

Mr Bharti, a 1994-batch officer has not been assigned a new posting but continues as ADG (Anti-Terrorism Squad) since he has not been relieved despite being transferred!

Sources say that this situation has created unease in the force, since the state government's refusal to clear the air, has only led to more rumours. It is well-known by now that Mr Thackeray wasn't too pleased with the transfer of cops effected by the Mumbai Police Commissioner in July when he reshuffled 10-DCP rank officers in consultation with the government.

Later, the transfers were put on hold.

Clearly, there is uncertainty and perhaps sharp differences on the issue within the government, even as the wait grows longer. The government says the "exercise" will be completed soon, but that may be little relief to the cops forced to cool their heels waiting for a decision.

IAS VS OTHERS IN HARYANA

The tussle between the IAS and other services is a constant factor in any government. The resignation of Jagdeep Dhandha, president of the Haryana Civil Service Officers' Association, has blown the lid off the resentment among a section of Haryana IAS officers. They feel that the Manohar Khattar government is allowing the "usurping" of IAS cadre posts by other services. Sources inform that Mr Dhandha resigned to express his resentment over the appointment

of HCS officers in the state transport department.

This feeling has peaked after the latest round of transfers issued by the state government. While an IPS officer was posted as the principal secretary and another was given the charge of managing director of one of the two power utilities in the state, an IFS officer was also posted as the principal secretary. Further, the state government has posted DSPs and employment officers against the post of district transport officers (DTOs), causing heartburn among officers of the state civil services.

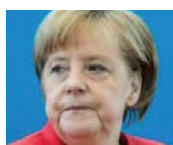
Apparently, after confabulations, a senior officer has been deputed to write to the chief minister on posting officers of other services against IAS cadre posts.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on Twitter. Let's multiply the effect.



The incumbent president, who is supposed to hold the elections, says this is the most-rigged US election throughout history. His opponent says Trump intends to widely cheat. This is American democracy.

— AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI, Iran's supreme leader



I certainly won't do that (comment on vote) one day before the election in the United States. You know that simply because of my education as a physicist I naturally attribute great weight to scientific advice, and make use of it myself

— ANGELA MERKEL, German Chancellor

US votes: Long lines seen outside polling stations

Mail-in votes count to take time; result not out soon

Washington, Nov. 3: Americans were voting in large numbers on Tuesday in one of the most divisive bitter presidential elections in decades in which incumbent Republican Donald Trump is challenged by Democrat Joe Biden.

Amidst a resurgent Covid-19 pandemic, nearly 100 million people have already cast their ballots in early voting, putting the country on course for its highest turnout in a century. Some 239 million people are eligible to vote this year. The mail-in ballots

could take days or weeks to be counted in some states — meaning a winner might not be declared in the hours after polls close on Tuesday. There is an estimated four million Indian-American population of which about 2.5 million are potential voters in the November 2020 presidential elections.

Over 1.3 million Indian-Americans are voters in key battleground states, including Texas, Michigan, Florida and Pennsylvania. The timing of the start of the polling differs

from State to State, mainly due to the different time zones. People mostly in the East coast started trickling down to the polling stations as many States opened up the polling stations at around 6 am (4.30 pm IST). These States include Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Maine. Polling in California starts at 7 am (8.30 pm IST).

Initial reports indicated an early large turnout. In the battleground State of Pennsylvania, hundreds of people were seen outside polling booths even before

the start of the polling. Trump who returned from campaigning in the wee hours of Tuesday urged Americans to vote for him. "VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!" Trump said in a tweet with a short video of him dancing at election rallies.

"Vote like your freedoms, your livelihood, and our future depends on it... Because they do!" said Trump, who is seeking to avoid becoming the first incumbent president to lose a re-election since George H.W. Bush in 1992. Biden also tweeted urging

people to vote. "It's Election Day. Go vote, America!" he tweeted.

"In 2008 and 2012, you placed your trust in me to help lead this country alongside Barack Obama. Today, I'm asking for your trust once again this time, in Kamala and me. We can heal the soul of this nation — I promise we won't let you down," Biden tweeted. His running mate, Kamala Harris, urged voters to not to "allow anything to come between you and your vote".

— PTI

ELECTION FIGURES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

100m

Americans had already cast ballots by Tuesday



• 6 crore likely to vote on the real election day on Tuesday

• 16 crore casting votes in a presidential election is a record in itself in terms of turnout after 1900

• 23.9 crore people are eligible to vote, according to the US Election Project

• 90 per cent of their 2016 turnout has been crossed by North Carolina, Georgia, New Mexico, Nevada and Tennessee

WHAT'S 270? THE MATH GAME BEHIND POLL

Washington, Nov. 3: What's all this hubbub about 270? It's not about the 270 whales stranded this fall on Australia's island state of Tasmania. It's not about congestion on Interstate 270 feeding commuters into Washington, D.C. It's about who's going to sit in the White House for the next four years.

IT'S THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Nearly 2.9 million more people voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016, but she still lost. Donald Trump won because he took the Electoral College, under a system set up in the US Constitution and refined through the centuries. This is where the magic number comes into play. To win the White House, a candidate must win at least 270 electoral votes. That's a majority of the 538 that are up for grabs in the 50 states.

THE NUMBERS: Each state is allotted a different number of electoral votes, based on how many representatives it has in the House, plus its two senators. California has the most electoral votes with 55. Texas is next with 38 electoral votes. The candidate who wins New York or Florida can pocket 29 electoral votes toward the race to get 270. Illinois and Pennsylvania each have 20. Rounding out the top 10 list of states with the most electoral votes is Ohio with 18.

TRUMP'S BEST PATH: Trump has several paths to 270, but his best route hinges on winning Florida and Pennsylvania. If he wins both states and holds onto North Carolina and Arizona, which he narrowly carried in 2016, and also Georgia and Ohio, which he won in 2016 but is now competitive, he will win. With 29 electoral votes, Florida is arguably the most crucial state for Trump.



Alkent Pozhegu works on an image of Joe Biden made with grain and seed in Gjakova, Kosovo.

WHAT BIDEN NEEDS: Democrat Joe Biden's campaign is laser-focused on the states in the Midwest and close by that Trump flipped in 2016 - Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. He's also making a big play for Arizona, a state that hasn't backed a Democratic presidential candidate since 1996. Biden is also redoubling his focus on Florida, the biggest prize among the perennial battles.

— AFP

SECURITY UPPED AS RETAILERS BOARD UP THEIR STORES

Washington/New York, Nov. 3: Security has been tightened at the White House and major commercial avenues across the US, with retailers boarding up their stores to head off any damages as America braced for possible unrest and violence in a bitter and divisive presidential race.

Vital government installations are on high alert while the Secret Service has fortified the White House. A "non-scalable" wall has been temporarily erected around the sprawling presidential complex ahead of the voting on Tuesday. About 600 National Guard troops have also been designated to help respond to protests around the country if requested. On election eve, contractors were seen busy boarding up major stores and businesses from New York and Boston in the north to southern Houston to Washington DC and Chicago in the east to San Francisco in the West.

Stores along the posh 5th Avenue in Manhattan as well as across the New York city boarded up and workers were seen drilling plywood onto the stores' facade amid fears that Election Day could bring violence, looting and clashes like during protests over the death of George Floyd. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he has spoken with Police Commissioner Dermot Shea and there is no specific report or threat of violence.

— PTI

Don, Joe woo undecided voters

Washington, Nov. 3: Republican incumbent President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden on Tuesday ended their most divisive and bitter election campaign with fervent appeals on social media to the undecided Americans to vote for them, as they pledged to take the country out of the woods.

The November 3 presidential election has been billed as one of the most divisive in recent American history. The election is already setting records for turnout, and perhaps no two candidates are more at odds over the future of the country and the direction they want to take it in. Trump, 74, toured the key voting battlegrounds of Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania on Monday while his

AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD FOUR MORE YEARS OF TRUMP, ASSERTS HARRIS

Washington, Nov. 3: Attacking Donald Trump on the eve of the US presidential election, Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris said that the president has failed to lead the country and America can no longer afford four more years of him. "We've seen who we are. The country we love. And that is why I know

77-year-old rival campaigned in Pennsylvania and Ohio, urging Americans to back them in the race for the White House.

"To all of our supporters: Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have been there from the beginning,

and I will never let you down. Your hopes are my hopes, your dreams are my dreams, and your future is what I am fighting for every single day!" Trump tweeted past mid-night.

"A vote for Sleepy Joe Biden is a vote to give con-

trol of government over to Globalists, Communists, Socialists, and Wealthy Liberal Hypocrites who want to silence, censor, cancel, and punish you. Get out and VOTE #MAGA tomorrow!" the president wrote in another tweet, attacking Biden.

The Republican Party in a tweet said, "Let's Make America Great Again and re-elect our fantastic president!" "We made history together four years ago, and tomorrow we're going to make history once again," the ruling party said. Biden, the former US vice president, said he was "running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president."

"I will work with Democrats and Republicans, and I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do."

— PTI

Dems back mail ballot delivery

Philadelphia, Nov. 3: Down to the wire with the threat of court battles looming, supporters of former US vice president Joe Biden scrambled on Monday to rally swing-state voters to drop off ballots, visit precincts in person and ensure that their votes are counted.

As months of President Donald Trump undercutting the legitimacy of mail-in votes gave way to promises he would challenge them in court, both sides made a final push to ensure their supporters turned out, even with the lingering threat of lawsuits aimed at invalidating ballots.

"Do not put ballots in the mail. Hand-deliver

your mail ballot to your county election office, satellite election office or other designated drop box or drop-off location," Pennsylvania's top election official, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, said. "Do it today. Do not wait."

With about 700,000 of some 31 lakh requested mail ballots in Pennsylvania still outstanding, some voters like 57-year-old Daniel Pigott took the warning to heart. Pigott stood in a line of dozens of voters, waiting to cast his vote after being alerted that there was a problem with his mail-in ballot. "In a normal election, would I do all this?" asked Pigott.

— AP

TRUMP CLAIMS HARRIS WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT

Washington, Nov. 3: Claiming that Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris wants to be the first woman president of the United States, President Donald Trump told his supporters that this is one "good reason" not to vote for his challenger Joe Biden.

"This wonderful woman, she wants to be your first female president. I don't think so. You know, that's a good reason not to vote for sleepy Joe too, right? You don't want to do that," Trump, a Republican, said at a political rally in Kenosha in Wisconsin, a key battleground state on the eve of Tuesday's presidential election. "Biden and Kamala! Does anybody know who Kamala is?" Trump said.

Trump said this in almost all of his election rallies on the last day of his campaigning for the Tuesday presidential elections.

The President has been claiming that if 77-year-old Biden wins Tuesday's elections, his running mate Harris will take over as president in a month's time.

— PTI

KEEPING TRADITION: 2 NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWNS CAST VOTES AFTER MIDNIGHT

Dixville Notch (US), Nov. 3: Two tiny New Hampshire communities that vote for president just after the stroke of midnight on Election Day have cast their ballots, with one of them marking 60 years since the tradition began.

The results in Dixville Notch, near the Canadian border, were a sweep for former Vice President Joe Biden who won the town's five votes. In Millsfield, 12 miles (20 kilometres) to the south, President Donald Trump won 16 votes to Biden's five. Normally, there

would be a big food spread and a lot of media crammed into a small space to watch the voting. Tom Tillotson, town moderator in Dixville Notch, said last week. But that's no longer possible because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

It's also hard to observe the 60th anniversary of the tradition, which started in November 1960. "Sixty years — and unfortunately, we can't celebrate it," he said. A third community with midnight voting, Hart's Location, suspended the tradition this election.

— AP



Voters check in with election officials before receiving their ballots at Ballard High School in Louisville, United States on Tuesday.

— AFP

Khamenei mocks US election

Tehran, Nov. 3: Iran's supreme leader mocked America's presidential election Tuesday in a televised address, quoting President Donald Trump's own baseless claims about voter fraud to criticise the vote as Tehran marked the 1979 US Embassy hostage crisis.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reiterated a long-standing Iranian position that it didn't matter whether Trump or Joe Biden wins the vote, but the stakes couldn't be higher for the

Islamic Republic. Another four years could see Trump's maximum-pressure campaigns further expand as it crushes the Iranian economy and stops Tehran from openly selling its crude oil abroad. Biden meanwhile has said he would consider re-entering Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, providing possible relief to the beleaguered Iranian rial.

"If you look at their own situation, it's lovely to watch. The incumbent

president, who is supposed to hold the elections, says this is the most-rigged US election throughout history," Khamenei said, not acknowledging that individual US states run the vote. "Who says this? The sitting president who is arranging the elections himself. His opponent says Trump intends to widely cheat. This is American democracy." Khamenei added that the result of the vote "is none of our business".

— AP

ISLAMIST | TERROR

As precaution, UK raises terror threat level from 'substantial' to 'severe' after attacks in Austria, France

5 dead in Vienna attack; assailant had previous conviction

Vienna, Nov. 3: Five people died, including an assailant, and 17 others were wounded in a shooting in the heart of Vienna hours before a coronavirus lockdown started. Austrian authorities said Tuesday. The dead attacker was a 20-year-old Austrian-North Macedonian dual national who had a previous terror conviction.

The UK's terror threat level was raised from "substantial" to "severe" on Tuesday, the second-highest alert level which means an attack is now judged to be "highly likely". UK Home

Secretary Priti Patel described the action as a "precautionary measure" following terror attacks in France last week and in Austria this week.

Two men and two women died from their injuries in the attack Monday evening, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said. The suspected attacker was shot and killed by police. Vienna's hospital service said seven people were in life-threatening condition Tuesday after the attack, the Austrian news agency APA reported. In total, 17 people were

being treated in hospitals, with gunshot wounds but also cuts. "It is now confirmed that yesterday's attack was clearly an Islamist terror attack," Kurz said. "It was an attack out of hatred — hatred for our fundamental values, hatred for our way of life, hatred for our democracy in which all people have equal rights and dignity."

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer later told APA that the dead assailant, who had roots in the Balkan nation of North Macedonia, had a previous conviction

under a law that punishes membership in terrorist organisations. The attacker, named as Kujtim Fejzulaj, was sentenced to 22 months in prison in April 2019 because he had tried to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group.

He was granted early release in December under juvenile law. Fifteen house searches have taken place and several people have been arrested, he added. The attacker, he said, "was equipped with a fake explosive vest and an automatic rifle, a handgun and a

machete to carry out this repugnant attack on innocent citizens."

Authorities were still trying to determine whether further attackers may be on the run. People in Vienna were urged to stay at home if possible on Tuesday and children did not have to go to school. Some 1,000 police officers were on duty in Vienna on Tuesday morning. Among those wounded in the attack was a police officer, said Nehammer.

The 28-year-old officer was in the hospital but was no longer in a life-threatening

condition. The shooting began shortly after 8 p.m. (1900 GMT) Monday near Vienna's main synagogue as many people were enjoying a last night of open restaurants and bars before a month-long Coronavirus lockdown, which started at midnight. Vienna police chief Gerhard Puerstl said the attacker was killed at 8:09 p.m.

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said that "we are victims of a despicable terror attack in the federal capital."

— AP



Armed police arrive at the first district near the state opera in central Vienna following a shooting.

— AFP

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,261.13	1.27
Nifty 50	11,813.50	1.24
S&P 500*	3,375.99	1.99
Dollar (₹)	74.40	0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.25	-0.47
Euro (₹)	86.77	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,735.55	0.10
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	39.74	0.77
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.898	0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.877	0.029

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Exports dip 5.4%, trade deficit narrows by 25%

With sharp decline in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, and leather, India's merchandise exports fell 5.4 per cent to \$24.82 billion in October from \$26.23 billion a year ago. Imports also fell 11.56 per cent to \$33.6 billion. "India was thus a net importer in October 2020 with a trade deficit of \$8.78 billion, as compared to trade deficit of \$11.76 billion, an improvement by 25.34 per cent," the government said.

Zydus Cadila files Covid drug application



Drug firm Zydus Cadila said it has filed the investigational new drug (IND) application for its small molecule candidate ZYIL1, positioned for management of critically ill Covid-19 patients. "Following up on its initiatives to fight Covid-19 with diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics, the company is now focussing on cutting edge research to bring targeted therapies," Zydus Cadila said in a regulatory filing.

Future Retail files caveat in Delhi High Court

Kishore Biyani led-Future Group has filed a caveat before the Delhi High Court requesting it to be heard if any plea is filed by Amazon over its Rs 24,713 crore deal with Mukesh Ambani-led RIL. Anticipating a move by Amazon, which had got an interim arbitration award in its favour, the Future Group firm has moved the Delhi High Court. Let no order of any kind be passed...without due notice," it urged the court.

Singapore to discontinue S\$1,000 notes

Singapore will discontinue the circulation of 1,000 Singapore dollar (SGD) notes from the beginning of next year to counter money laundering and terror financing risks. A limited quantity of SGD 1,000 notes will be made available each month from now until December 2020, said the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Existing SGD 1,000 notes in circulation will remain legal tender and can continue to be used.

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

■ Gets in-principal nod for signing deal Adani set to develop Lanka's port terminal

ARCHANA CHAUDHARY, P. R. SANJAI & ASANTHA SIRIMANNE NOV. 3

Adani Group is the front-runner to develop Sri Lanka's stalled East Container Terminal in Colombo port, people with knowledge of the matter said, helping billionaire Gautam Adani expand his port business overseas. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd and a local partner received an in-principle approval to sign a deal with Sri Lanka Ports Authority, which will hold majority stake in the project, the people said, asking not to be identified, citing rules for speaking with the media.

Details of the stake holding are still being worked out after a review of the project following labour protests that had stalled the deal before parliamentary elections in August, they said.

India's foreign ministry and the Adani Group didn't respond to requests seeking comments.

Adani, India's biggest ports and logistics company, had signed a preliminary agreement for the project last year.

Work on reviving the project, being jointly developed by Sri Lanka, India and Japan, comes at a time of rising regional tensions with China. Both India and Japan are members of the informal Quad grouping that along with US and Australia is seen as a counter to Beijing's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.



APSEZ Q2 NET PROFIT UP 32%

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited on Tuesday reported a 31.57 per cent increase in its consolidated profit to Rs 1,393.69 crore for the second quarter. Its total consolidated income rose to Rs 3,423.16 crore against Rs 3,326.90 crore in the year-ago period. —PTI

While the deal was agreed upon last year, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had announced a review after protests by labour unions who feared foreign control over the strategic project, according to reports. The island nation had earlier depended heavily on China for its infrastructure development in the first half of this decade, creating tensions with New Delhi.

The neighbours began rebuilding trade and investment ties before the coronavirus pandemic struck. In July, India extended a \$400 million currency swap facility to Colombo to assist with post-pandemic economic recovery. The two countries also discussed deferring of debt repayment during Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's first high-level virtual meeting since his re-election with India's Narendra Modi in September.

Sri Lanka—which emerged from a three-decade civil war in 2009—was known for taking Chinese loans to fund vast infrastructure projects, including ports and highways, which eventually became part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. Its appetite for Chinese cash waned after rising debt forced it to sell the Hambantota port back to China Merchants Port Holdings. —Bloomberg

Abu Dhabi fund first to get 100% tax exemption

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund (SWF)—MIC Redwood 1 RSC—has been granted 100 per cent income tax exemption for investments to be made in specified infrastructure sectors, the finance ministry said on Tuesday.

With this, the income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for the SWF's investment in India's priority sectors has been exempted, the ministry said in a statement.

MIC Redwood 1 RSC has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100 per cent income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India, the ministry said.

India has gradually opened up the economy for FDI, except for a few sectors, and also extended tax concessions for sovereign funds to attract long-term investments in the infrastructure sectors.

A tax official said that to expedite foreign investment in India's priority areas during the pandemic, the process of notification of MIC Redwood 1 RSC was completed in a record time.

To incentivise long-term investment by SWFs in the priority sectors, the government through the Finance Act, 2020, had granted a 100 per cent income tax exemption to notified SWFs on investment made in the specified infra sectors. —PTI

PSBs won't raise deposit, withdrawal charges: Govt

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 3

Public sector banks will not be raising bank charges in the near future in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government informed the public on Tuesday. The government quashed media reports claiming a steep increase in service charges by state-owned banks.

The finance ministry, in a press release, cited the RBI guidelines which allow all banks, including public sector banks, to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner on the basis of the costs involved. However, the ministry said that all the public sector banks have said that they do not propose to raise bank charges in the near future considering the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alluding to media reports of steep increases

STIMULUS SOON, SAYS SECY

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will soon announce the next set of stimulus package, economic affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

The finance ministry is looking into suggestions received from various sectors, he said in a virtual media conference on Tuesday. "We have received a lot of requests and comments from various sectors and we are looking into it. Very soon it will be unveiled. The finance minister will come out and speak to you on that," he said. —PTI

in service charges by public sector banks, the ministry issued a "factual position".

"There have been several media reports alluding to steep increase in service charges by certain public sector banks (PSBs). In this context, the factual position is as follows: No service charge is applicable on the 60.04 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit accounts, including 41.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened by the poor and unbanked segments of society, for the free services prescribed by RBI," said the ministry.

The government clarification comes close on the heels of Bank of Baroda announcing on Sunday that it will be charging customers for deposits, withdrawals above certain limits, which would be effective November 1, 2020. However, the ministry on Tuesday said that owing to the ongoing coronavirus situation in the country, the state-owned lender has "decided to withdraw the changes".

Lockdown hurts new investments

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 3

The pandemic-induced lockdown led to a sharp fall in new investments in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year (FY21). New project investment announcements plunged by 69 per cent at Rs 1.5 lakh crore compared with Rs 4.8 lakh crore during the same period last year, Care Ratings said.

Though Andhra Pradesh had the highest share of 23 per cent in the capex project

announced in H1FY20, totalling Rs 1.1 lakh crore, the state slipped to No. 2 spot after Tamil Nadu in FY21, with a share of 11 per cent of the investments proposed.

Investments announced for new projects have been falling for the past five years for the April-September period with the exception of H1 FY19 where it rose by 29 per cent year-on-year.

"As the enterprises were faced with Covid-19 induced challenges, they

focussed on survival. Hence the decline in capex investments (in H1 FY21) was somewhat expected," Care Ratings said.

"Companies for now seem to be focussing on normalising their business operations. Hence, it is expected that capacity expansion may not be in the pipeline soon."

There was an 81 per cent decline in projects announced by government, to Rs 0.6 lakh crore in H1 FY21 from Rs 3.2 lakh crore in H1 FY20.

World's best-performing airline stock is Jet Air

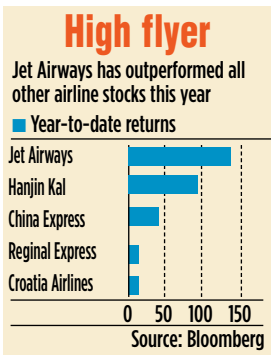
ANURAG KOTOKY & NUPUR ACHARYA NOV. 3

All airlines are feeling the coronavirus pinch but one that hasn't flown since April 2019 after collapsing under a pile of debt is the world's best performing—at least from a share price point of view.

The stock in Mumbai-listed Jet Airways India Ltd has surged almost 150 per cent this year versus a 42 per cent plunge in the 27-member Bloomberg World Airlines Index, which comprises the globe's biggest carriers.

The stock has hit a 52-week high of Rs 71.85 per share on the BSE on Tuesday, rising gradually from its 52-week low Rs 13.

Its runaway gains have market watchers scratching their heads, especially since Jet Air is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings, has almost 17,000 creditors seeking claims of around \$3.4 billion and has had most of its landing slots confiscated. It doesn't have any employees to speak of, either.



A panel of creditors did approve a resolution plan last month, bringing the recovery of any dues one step closer, but that doesn't guarantee a resumption of flights.

Retail investors are the last ones to get anything out of a bankruptcy, yet some are buying in the hope Jet Airways will successfully emerge from a restructuring, said Ajay Srivastava, MD of advisory firm Dimensions Corporate Finance Services. The airline isn't being thought of as a going concern, but a shell containing assets that may be sold, he said.

The resolution plan for Jet Airways was submitted by two individuals, Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch, exchange filings show. Jalan is a businessman with investments in India, Russia and Uzbekistan. Fritsch is the chairman of Kalrock Capital Management Ltd, a London-based financial advisory and alternative asset manager. The filings don't state how the men plan to restructure the airline.

Other investors may be hoping Jet Airways goes "the Ruchi Soya way," Srivastava said, referring to the stock that rocketed on thin volumes after an insolvency plan was approved.

Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd was acquired by a consortium led by Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved Ltd late last year. The founders held 99 per cent of Ruchi Soya's capital as of March 31. Its shares surged almost 500-fold on tiny volumes before paring gains. —Bloomberg

Govt investment in weather forecast pays off: Survey

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Investments of nearly Rs 1,000 crore on the National Monsoon Mission and the High Performance Computing programme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) over the past five years have generated economic benefits worth Rs 50,000 crore for farmers, livestock rearers and fishermen, a survey has shown.

The study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) was based on a face-to-face survey of 6,098 respondents—3,965 crop farmers, 757 marine fishermen and 1,376 livestock owners. Responses from over 2 lakh farmers were also collected through an interactive voice response system.

"The report provides an estimated income gain of nearly Rs 13,000 crore per year for agricultural and livestock farmers and an incremental benefit of nearly Rs 48,000 crore," the ministry said.

The report was launched by earth sciences minister Harsh Vardhan at an event here on Tuesday.

A total of Rs 551 crore



Harsh Vardhan minister

was spent on the National Monsoon Mission while Rs 990 crore was incurred on the High Performance Computing programme to better weather forecast.

For every rupee invested in the National Monsoon Mission and high-performance computing facilities of the ministry, the country has gained benefits worth Rs 50, resulting in 50-fold gains, it said.

"On adding the economic gain accruing to agricultural households and fisher households, the present value of benefits accruing to the BPL households to rain-fed areas works out to be Rs 50,447 crore."

"The current level of investment is far less in comparison to the realisable benefits over the period of five years," the report said. —PTI

PERFORMANCE STREET

SUN PHARMA Q2 NET PROFIT UP 70%

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries reported a 70.36 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,812.79 crore for the September 2020 quarter against Rs 1,064.09 crore a year ago, mainly on robust sales and exceptional tax gains. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 8,553.13 crore versus Rs 8,123.35 crore. "Tax gain (exceptional) for the quarter ended September 30, 2020, is on account of creation of deferred tax asset amounting to Rs 288.28 crore," the firm said.

GODREJ PROPERTIES Q2 NET DROPS 78%

Godrej Properties reported a 78 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit at Rs 7.10 crore for the September quarter on lower income. Its net profit stood at Rs 31.57 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell to Rs 250.23 crore from Rs 395.11 crore. Sales bookings stood at Rs 1,074 crore during the quarter compared to Rs 1,446 crore a year ago.

DEEPAK FERTILIZERS NET PROFIT SOARS

Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals posted an over three-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 80.55 crore for the second quarter against Rs 25.50 crore posted in the year-ago quarter. Net income rose to Rs 1,418.47 crore from Rs 1,181.47 crore.

MUTHOOT FINANCE Q2 NET RISES 2.5%

Muthoot Finance reported a 2.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 930.80 crore for Q2 versus Rs 908.54 crore a year ago. Total income grew 17.4 per cent to Rs 2,824.19 crore from Rs 2,406.39 crore. Consolidated loan assets under management grew 29 per cent to Rs 52,286 crore. Standalone net profit rose to Rs 894.39 crore.

NUTRITIOUS | STAPLE

28,000 mills need to be equipped with blending machines

Mills to be roped in for fortified rice supply

HOW RICE IS FORTIFIED

Fortification is done to increase the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply. Fortified rice kernels are produced by passing a mixture of rice flour and micronutrients through an extruder or pasta-making machine. The kernels are then

added to traditional rice, usually in a ratio of 1:100. Fortified rice looks, cooks and tastes like normal rice.

Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc as part of public health strategy. —FC Bureau

It was felt that "there is a need to scale up the supply of fortified rice kernels (FRK), whose availability currently is at a meagre quantity of 15,000 tonnes per annum."

"FCI has been asked to tie up with the rice mills in different regions for necessary investments in this regard," the ministry said. The operational readiness of FCI would help in scaling up procurement and supply of fortified rice in a phased manner from 2021-22 onwards, it added.

The meeting also discussed supply chain and other logistics requirements to scale up the scheme to cover the Integrated Child Development Scheme

(ICDS) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme in aspirational districts' first.

It was felt that covering 112 aspirational districts for PDS, ICDS and MDM scheme would require nearly 130 lakh tonnes of fortified rice for which FRK supply capacity in the country needs to go up to nearly 1.3 lakh tonnes.

If the entire rice supplied through PDS, which comes to 350 lakh tonnes, is to be fortified, there has to be an uninterrupted supply pipeline of FRK from the industry of about 3.5 lakh tonnes.

Further, there are nearly 28,000 rice mills in the country which need to be equipped with blending machines for mixing FRK with normal rice. —PTI

Pandey and other stakeholders like Tata Trust, World Food Programme, Nutrition International, among others, the food ministry said.

cussed in a meeting held on Tuesday between Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Department of Food and public distribution secretary Sudhanshu

SHORT TAKES

Zimbabwe beat Pak in super over

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Paceman Blessing Muzarabani took career best figures of 5-49 as Zimbabwe beat Pakistan in a thrilling super over finish in the third and final one-day international on Tuesday. The actual match finished in a tie after Pakistan skipper Babar Azam hit the final delivery of the 50th over from Richard Ngarava for a boundary to level the scores at 278. But man-of-the-match Muzarabani dismissed Iftikhar Ahmed and Khushdil Shah for two runs on four balls in the super over which Zimbabwe scored off just three balls without any loss.

Despite the defeat Pakistan won the three-match series 2-1. Azam, who finished with a run-a-ball 125 with 13 boundaries and a six, led Pakistan's fight-back and stood firm after Pakistan were set a daunting 279-run target. He added a match turning 100 for the seventh wicket with Wahab Riaz who made 52. — *AFP*

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 278/6 (Williams 118*, Taylor 56, Hasnain 5-26) tied with Pakistan 278/9 (Azam 125, Riaz 52, Muzarabani 5-49)

Super Over: Zimbabwe 3 beat Pakistan 2

Maradona shows sign of depression

Buenos Aires: Diego Maradona was admitted to a hospital with signs of depression, three days after his 60th birthday. A Maradona staffer told The Associated Press the former footballer's health condition is "not serious." He requested anonymity because he was not authorised to speak about the issue. "He has been very sad for a week, didn't want to eat," the staffer said, adding that Maradona's personal doctor Leopoldo Luque took the former footballer to a hospital so he could undergo health checks.

The captain of Argentina's 1986 World Cup winning team was admitted to a private clinic in La Plata, about 40 kilometers south of Buenos Aires. Maradona has lived there since the end of last year, when he took over as coach of first division team Gimnasia y Esgrima. Maradona turned 60 on Friday and showed up that night for Gimnasia's national championship match against Patronato, which his team won 3-0. He left before the end of the first half, which raised questions about his health. — *AP*

Covid-19 scare in archery camp

Pune: A support staff member of the Indian archery team training at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) here has tested positive for Covid-19 but the camp resumed after a two-day break, the Sports Authority of India said on Tuesday. The SAI said it is getting RT-PCR test conducted for all national campers as per the protocol. The support staff member, who tested positive for the virus on October 30, is undergoing treatment at a special Covid-care hospital in Pune. Following the Covid-19 positive case, the training camp was suspended for two days — October 31 and November 1 — but resumed on Monday. According to SAI, the said person underwent a 14-day quarantine after joining the camp on October 7 and was a part of training for nine days. — *PTI*

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

Women's Big Bash League: Perth Scorchers vs Sydney Thunder from 9 am on Sony Six

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Day 3 action from 3.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Istanbul Basaksehir vs Manchester United from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Barcelona vs Dynamo Kyiv from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1; Ferencvaros vs Juventus from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Chelsea vs Rennes from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; RB Leipzig vs Paris Saint Germain from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3

WWE

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

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

Sun shines bright

Hyderabad save best for the last to qualify for playoffs

Sharjah, Nov. 3: Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets in a must-win match to qualify for the play-offs of the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Chasing 150, openers David Warner (85 not out) and Wriddhiman Saha (58 not out) were enough to help Hyderabad cruise past the target in just 17.1 overs. Captain Warner's 58-ball knock was studded with 10 fours and a six while Saha struck seven fours and a six en route home.

Earlier, Hyderabad bowlers also played their part in a must-win game by restricting Mumbai Indians to 149 for eight.

MI would have ended up with much less if it wasn't for Kieron Pollard, who ensured his team put up a fighting total on a slow surface with an entertaining 41 off 25 balls. The defending champions collected 51 runs off the last five overs.

Needing a victory to make the play-offs, SRH bowlers made merry on a helping surface after their skipper David Warner decided to put the opposition in to bat.

MI skipper Rohit Sharma (4), who missed the last four games due to a hamstring injury, made a surprise return in his team's

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma c Warner b Sandeep Sharma 4, Quinton de Kock b Sandeep Sharma 25, Suryakumar Yadav st Saha b Nadeem 36, Ishan Kishan b Sandeep Sharma 33, Krunal Pandya c Williamson b Nadeem 0, Saurabh Tiwary c Saha b Rashid Khan 1, Kieron Pollard b Holder 41, Nathan Coulter-Nile c Garg b Holder 1, James Pattinson (not out) 4, Dhawal Kulkarni (not out) 3. Extras (lb-1) 1. **Total (for 8 wickets, in 20 overs) 149.**

FoW: 1-12, 2-39, 3-81, 4-81, 5-82, 6-115, 7-116, 8-145.

Bowling: Sandeep Sharma 4-0-34-3, Jason Holder 4-0-25-2, Shahbaz Nadeem 4-0-19-2, T. Natarajan 4-0-38-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-32-1.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Warner not out 85, Saha not out 58. Extras (w-8) 8. **Total (for no loss in 17.1 overs) 151.**

Bowling: Dhawal Kulkarni 3-0-22-0, Nathan Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, James Pattinson 3-0-29-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-36-0, Krunal Pandya 3.1-0-37-0.

last game ahead of the play-offs. However, he lasted for only seven balls as pacer Sandeep Sharma (3/34) had him caught at mid-off with a well-disguised knuckle ball.

Sandeep also found the stumps of Rohit's opening partner Quinton de Kock (36 off 29) who played on after smashing the SRH pacer for couple of sixes and a boundary. — *PTI*

IPL POINTS TABLE						
Teams	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
Mumbai Indians	14	9	5	0	18	+1.107
Delhi Capitals	14	8	6	0	16	-0.109
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	7	7	0	14	+0.608
Royal Challengers Bangalore	14	7	7	0	14	-0.172
Kolkata Knight Riders	14	7	7	0	14	-0.214
Kings XI Punjab	14	6	8	0	12	-0.162
Chennai Super Kings	14	6	8	0	12	-0.455
Rajasthan Royals	14	6	8	0	12	-0.569

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

Watson retires from competitive cricket

Sydney, Nov. 3: Top Australian all-rounder Shane Watson on Tuesday retired from competitive cricket following his team Chennai Super Kings' exit from the Indian Premier League, calling himself "ridiculously fortunate" to have enjoyed a career spanning 20 years.

The 39-year-old retired from international cricket in 2016 and bid adieu to the Australian Big Bash league last year.

"It all started as a dream as a young kid saying to my Mum, as I watched a Test match, that I want to play for Australia. Now as I officially announce my retirement from all cricket I feel crazily lucky to live out my dream," Watson said on his YouTube channel, a link of which was posted on his Twitter handle.

"It really does feel like the right time. Knowing



that I've played my last game of cricket ever, for my beloved CSK, who've been so incredibly good to me over the last three years.

"To think that I'm finishing up my playing days as a 39-year-old after all of my injury setbacks that I've had along the way, I feel so ridiculously fortunate."

In his spectacular international career, Watson played 59 Tests,

190 ODIs and 58 T20Is, scoring 10,950 runs and taking 291 wickets for Australia.

A sought-after player in the T20 format, Watson also has 3,874 runs in 145 IPL games with four hundreds and 21 fifties. Watson scored 299 runs in CSK's IPL campaign this year which ended on Sunday with the side failing to qualify for the playoffs for the first time. — *PTI*

Leicester power into second place

London, Nov. 3: Leicester swept into second place in the Premier League with an impressive 4-1 victory at Leeds, while Fulham beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 to finally clinch their first win of the season on Monday.

Brendan Rodgers' side are just one point behind leaders Liverpool after winning five of their first seven games in a top-flight season for the first time in their history.

Harvey Barnes and Youri Tielemans put Leicester two up before half-time at Elland Road.

Stuart Dallas got one back for Leeds but Jamie Vardy's eighth goal of the season and a late Tielemans penalty wrapped up Leicester's fourth successive away league win.

After the disappointment of missing out on a place in the Champions League last term, Leicester have shown they

THE RESULTS

Fulham	2
(Decordova-Reid 26, Aina 30)	
West Brom	0
Leeds	1
(Dallas 48)	
Leicester	4
(Barnes 3, Tielemans 21, 90-pen, Vardy 76)	

are capable of mounting another challenge to make it to top four.

Even a title push might not be impossible given they have already thrashed Manchester City 5-2.

"We were technically brilliant. We had the quality to play when we had the opportunities. I thought we were amazing right across the team," Rodgers said. — *AFP*

BCCI WILL DO ITS BEST TO GET ROHIT ON FIELD

New Delhi, Nov. 3: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly wants injured senior opener Rohit Sharma to tread cautiously while deciding on competing for his IPL team Mumbai Indians in the play-offs as he risks aggravating the hamstringing tear that led to his exclusion from the Australia-bound India squad.

Rohit has been out of action since the second leg fixture against KXIP due to a left hamstringing tear and has been left out of the Indian squad for Australia tour starting later this month.

The BCCI president said that the board will do everything possible to get an "asset like Rohit" back in the park as that's their job. MI are scheduled to take on Delhi Capitals on Thursday in the playoffs.

"Rohit is injured at the moment. Otherwise, why would we leave out a player like him. He is the vice-captain of the national

(limited-overs) team," Ganguly said.

"We will have to assess him. I don't know (when he can come back). He hasn't played so far since the time he has got injured. We want him to recover. It's the BCCI's job to get their best players on the park. If he recovers, he plays."

When asked about the videos put out by MI where Rohit is seen batting at the nets, Ganguly struck a note of caution for the senior player.

"Yeah, you don't want him to get injured again. He has a hamstringing tear and it will get ruptured again. It will then get longer for him to come back. But yes, there are people working with him."

"The Mumbai Indians physio is working with him. The Indian physio (Nitin Patel) is there. Rohit himself knows that he has got a long career ahead and its not just this IPL or next series for him." — *PTI*

Make helmets must for batsmen: Sachin

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Concerned about safety of the players, Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to make it mandatory for batsmen to wear helmets while playing at the professional level.

Tendulkar shared a video of Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Vijay Shankar getting hit on the head when Kings XI Punjab fielder Nicholas Pooran threw the ball towards the striker's end, attempting to run out the batsman.

In the video, originally posted by the official website of the Indian Premier League, Shankar is seen falling on the ground after taking the hit as physios rushed to check on him. Fortunately the 29-year-old was wearing a helmet.

"The game has become faster but is it getting safer? Recently we witnessed an incident which could've been nasty. Be it a spinner or pacer, wearing a HELMET should be MANDATORY for batsmen at professional levels. Request @icc to take this up on priority," Tendulkar tweeted.

The tragic death of young Australian batsman Phillip Hughes after being hit by a Sean Abbott bouncer during a domestic match in November 2014 had triggered a debate on players' safety.

The 25-year-old was hit on the neck, just below the helmet. It forced the manufacturers to redesign the helmets to enhance safety



Vijay Shankar (left) of Sunrisers Hyderabad is hit on the helmet by the returning ball during an IPL match against Kings XI Punjab in Dubai on October 24. — *BCCI*

of the batsmen. Tendulkar also tagged all the cricket boards including the BCCI, Cricket Australia and England and Wales Cricket Board.

In another tweet he tagged Ravi Shastri, recalling an incident when the India head coach got hit by a full-toss bowled by Sunil Gavaskar during an exhibition match.

"This also reminded me of the time when you got hit after top-edging a full toss bowled by Mr Gavaskar during an exhibition game. That could've been a grave injury too but thankfully wasn't!" — *PTI*

WOMEN'S T20 CHALLENGE

Supernovas target third straight title

Sharjah, Nov. 3: The best of Indian women's cricket will combine with and also go up against stars from countries like England, South Africa, and the West Indies when the third edition of the Women's T20 Challenge gets underway here on Wednesday.

The four-match tournament will have three teams — defending champions Supernovas, last year's runners-up Velocity and Trailblazers — competing against each other once before the summit clash on November 9. Cricketers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and New Zealand will also participate.

The Supernovas, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, have been invincible so far winning all the previous two editions. They will kick-start the tournament taking on Mithali Raj's Velocity in a repeat of last year's final eyeing a third title on the trot.

Harmanpreet was in top form in the last edition scoring two half-centuries in three matches and in the final, her blistering 37-ball 51 sealed a second win for them. India's T20 captain will look to return to her majestic form, overcoming a patchy show in the World T20 in Australia earlier this year.

She had a forgettable out-

● **The four-match tournament will have three teams — defending champions Supernovas, last year's runners-up Velocity and Trailblazers — competing against each other once before the summit clash on Nov. 9.**

ing averaging a dismal 6.00 from five matches that cost India quite dearly in the tournament where they finished runners-up, after being bowled out for 99, chasing 185.

There will also be Jemimah Rodrigues to watch out for. The Mumbai cricketer was the top run-getter (123 runs at an average of 61.50) in their triumphant campaign last season. She was adjudged the 'Player of the Series'.

The opposition camp features Mithali, who will be keen to lead from the front and avenge their 2019 defeat when they lost by four wickets in a last over thriller. Velocity will rely heavily on 16-year-old Indian sensation Shafali Verma who grabbed eye-balls by hitting most sixes (nine) in the World T20 and finished as the fifth highest run-scorer. — *PTI*

Shuttlers return home after testing -ve

New Delhi, Nov. 3: Forced to pull out of the SaarLorLux Open in Germany and stay in quarantine there because of Covid-19 fears, an Indian badminton contingent, including defending champion Lakshya Sen, on Tuesday returned to the country after testing negative for the infection.

Lakshya's dreams of defending the title had come crashing down when he had to withdraw from the tournament after his father-cum-coach D.K. Sen tested Covid-19 positive. He, however, had no symptoms. Two other Indian shuttlers — former world number 13 Ajay Jayaram and 2018 winner Subhankar Dey, who had arranged funds to participate in the German tourney after the Denmark Open, also had to withdraw owing



Lakshya Sen



Subhankar Dey



Ajay Jayaram

to contact with senior Sen. Lakshya, Jayaram, Dey and physio Abhishek Wagh had tested negative ahead of the tournament.

The Indian contingent, however, had to spend five days in quarantine before fresh test results found them to be negative, clearing their return to the country following the ordeal.

"We reached Bangalore at home this morning

around 5am. We all are fine and healthy," a relieved D.K. Sen said.

"We were in quarantine since my first Test came positive. The German official did the second Covid Test for all five of us on November 1 and thankfully the reports came negative, so we immediately returned home."

While Lakshya, his father and physio reached Bangalore, Dey

and Jayaram took a flight from Frankfurt to Delhi.

Lakshya, who claimed five titles in the senior circuit last year including two BWF World Tour Super 100 top honours, had received a bye in the opening round of the event along with Dey. Jayaram, on the other hand, had won his opening-round clash but the Covid concerns brought an unfortunate end to

India's campaign at the tournament.

"... This situation prevented the players from competing in the event and local authorities putting them in isolation," the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, where Lakshya is a regular, said in a statement.

"The timely intervention of Badminton Association of India, German Badminton Association and Badminton World Federation ensured that after 5 days of isolation, all of them were again put through a Covid test on Sunday which turned out negative."

"This helped the players, coach and physio to return back to India. Earlier the local authorities in Saarbrücken insisted on all the players and support staff to remain in isolation till the 10th of November 2020." — *PTI*