THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

**COIMBATORE | SUNDAY 8 | NOVEMBER 2020** 

**WEATHER** 



ASTROGUIDE Sarvari: Aippasi 23 Tithi: Ashtami Star: Aayilyam Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

> 12 noo to 1.30 pm **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.52 am Zohar: 11.58 am **Asar:** 3.12 pm Maghrib: 5.41 pm **Isha:** 6.54 pm

Yamagandam:

**CORONA C**UNT

**DEATHS** (+34,697) (+489)84,95,748 1,26,094

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,341)TN: 7,41,488 11,324

**DEATHS** 

**WORLD CONFIRMED CASES** 

12,53,443

216 worldometers.info

> **TN wins best state** award for water

DC CORRESPONDENT

management

CHENNAI, NOV. 7 Tamil Nadu has won the 'National Water Award' for being one of the best states for water security and management in 2019, Chief Minister K. Palaniswami said on Saturday. It gives great pleasure to the government of Tamil Nadu receiving the National Award of the Ministry of Jal Shakti as the **Best State for Water Management** 2019, the chief minister said. been ranked first and second respectively, under the 'Revival of River' sub-category while Perambalur district came second in the Water Conservation category he said in a tweet Tamil Nadu has bagged the first place under the 'Best State' category under the National Water Awards (NWAs) 2019, presented by the

Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources,

River Development and Ganga

Rejuvenation. **P3** 



Let's celebrate Diwali now, we may not get the chance after the results!



STATE | 3 Kamal's birthday celebrated with a political twist



WORLD | 5

WH chief of staff tests virus +ve SPORT | 8

Vol. 10 No. 312 Established 1938 8 PAGES ₹4.00

Holder praises his bowlers for 'using skills and brains'



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

## Biden-Kamala trumps Don

Pennsylvania's 20 help **Democrats cross 270** 

Washington, Nov. 7: Democrat Joe Biden on Saturday defeated incum-Republican US President Donald Trump in the closely-fought presidential election, according to American media projec-

The 77-year-old former US vice-president will become the 46th president of the United States, CNN reported, after a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

With Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, Biden now has a total of 273 electoral votes. Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Mr Biden served as vice-president under former President Barack Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator. Senator Kamala Harris, 56, who is of Indian origin, has become the first ever woman vice-presidentelect of the US. She would also be the country's first Indian-origin, first Black and first African American Vice-President of the coun-

Mr Biden and Ms Harris would be sworn in President and Vice-President on January 20. "America, I'm honoured



The work ahead of us will be hard... I will keep the faith that you have placed in me.

that you have chosen me to

lead our great country. The

work ahead of us will be

hard, but I promise you

this: I will be a President for all Americans whether you

voted for me or not. I will

keep the faith that you have

placed in me," Mr Biden

said in a tweet soon there-

much more than Joe Biden

or me. It's about the soul of

America and our willing-

ness to fight for it. We have

a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started," tweeted

Vice President-elect Harris.

'This election is about so

- JOE BIDEN, President-elect

golf in Virginia when major media outlets called the race. He is now the first incumbent president to lose reelection bid after George H.W. Bush in 1992. Major media outlets start-

ed calling Mr Biden the

winner after it became clear that he has taken a major lead the battle-ground state of Pennsylvania, which has 20 electoral college votes, making him cross the benchmark of the 270 electoral college votes.

Counting of ballots is still going on in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and



■ Harris is first woman, ■ Prez Trump likely to

of colour Vice-President mount legal challenge

This election...is about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it.

- KAMALA HARRIS. VP-elect

Georgia. Mr Biden has the lead in all the four states, which according to major media outlets is unlikely to be reversed.

"Former vice-president Joe Biden is projected to win Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes, according to Edison Research, putting him over the 270 needed to win the presidency," The Washington Post reported.

The call came about 11:30 a.m. Saturday (local time), after a report of more counted votes

Pennsylvania. "Joseph Robinette Biden

## Kamala will stand up for human rights: Uncle

• Chennai: With Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris winning the US' election, Kamala's uncle Dr Balachandran told B. Vijayalakshmi that their win was on expected lines. On Kamala's strong views on Kashmir,

Balachandran said, "Yes, she always stands up for human rights." ■ More on P3

Jr. was elected the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, promising to restore political nor-malcy and a spirit of national unity to confront raging health and economic crises, and making Donald J. Trump a oneterm president after four years of tumult in the White House, The New York Times said. Agencies

**RJD LARGEST PARTY** 

## It's exit NDA, say Bihar exit polls

New Delhi, Nov. 7: Several exit polls on Saturday gave the RJD-led opposition alliance in Bihar an edge over the ruling NDA while at least three of them predicted a clear majority for Mahagathbandhan, which has projected Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministerial face.

Most of the exit polls also predicted the RJD to again emerge as the single largest party in the 243-member assembly along with a clear dip in the seat tally of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U).

Counting of votes for the three-phase Bihar assembly polls, which ended on Saturday, will be held on November 10. Exit polls are typically based on feedback from a limited number of voters in select areas and none of them have a 100 per cent accuracy record.

News18 projected 180 seats for the RJD-led grand alliance, 55 for the NDA and eight for others. The majority mark is 122.

India Today-Axis My India poll showed the RJDled block winning 139-161 seats, as against 69-91 for the NDA. It predicted 3-5 seats for LJP and also 3-5 for oth-

The ABP-CVoter exit poll predicted NDA to get 104-128 seats and 108-131 seats for the opposition grand alliance. It projected Chirag Paswan-led LJP to get 1-3

A similar trend was predicted by Times Now-CVoter, which projected 116 seats for the NDA, 120 for the opposition alliance and a single seat for the LJP. It predicted six seats for oth-

### The winner is...

<b>EXIT-POLL</b>	<b>BIHAR ASSEMBLY</b>		
·	MAHA GADBANDHAN	NDA	MAJORITY MAI
ODAY'S CHANAKYA NN NEWS18	180	55	122
NDIA TODAY- XIS MY INDIA	139-161	69-91	
BP-CVOTER	108-131	104-128	TOTAL SEATS
IMES NOW-CVOTER	120	116	<b>243</b>

## I-T digs out ₹1K cr fraud in TN firm

New Delhi, Nov. 7: The Income Tax department has conducted searches IT infrastructure group and detected ₹1,000 crore alleged black money and possible instances of holding of benami assets, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Saturday.

It said the raids were carried out on November 4 at five locations in Chennai and Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

"The searches had led to the detection of unaccounted income of around ₹1,000 crore out of which disclosure of additional income of ₹337 crore has already been made by the assessee, besides actionable issues under the Benami and Black Money Acts," the Board said in a statement.

The CBDT is the administrative authority for the Income Tax department. Sources said the raids were on IG3 Infra Limited, which owns Chennai One IT Special Economic Zone (SEZ). It was incorporated in 2004 as Indian Green Grid Group Limited.

The raids led to "unearthing" of evidence relating to investments in Sources said the raids were on IG3 Infra Limited, which owns Chennai One IT **Special Economic** Zone. It was incorporated in 2004 as **Indian Green Grid Group Limited** 

a Singapore registered company, it said.

"The shareholding of this company is held by companies, one d by the group two searched while the other company is a subsidiary of a major infrastructure development and financing group," the CBDT

"It has been found that the company belonging to the searched group has invested a very nominal amount, although it has 72 per cent shareholding, while the other company having 28 per cent shareholding only has invested almost the entire money, it said.

This has resulted into a "benefit or gain" of almost seven crore Singapore Dollars, which is about ₹200 crore, in the hands of the company of the searched group. ■Turn to P4

#### Karnataka allows only green crackers Bengaluru, Nov. 7: The sale and bursting of 'green crackers', as per Supreme Court guidelines, will be

allowed during Deepavali, the Karnataka government said on Saturday, as it stressed on restrictions to contain the coronavirus infection.

Hours after indicating that the state would ban fireworks due to the pandemic, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had appealed to the people on Friday to celebrate the festival in a simple way by using only green crackers.

In view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, chief secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar said more stringent measures are needed to be initiated to check the spread of the disease.

"Keeping in mind the existing situation, there is a need to celebrate the fes-

tival in a simple, meaning-ful and devotional way," the chief secretary said in his order.

He said only green crack-Saturday to November 16 in an open space where istancing can be maintained.

The Chief Minister had said on Friday that there will be restrictions on bursting of crackers. mr Yediyurappa had earlier said the state government will issue an order banning the use of firecrackers during the festival in view of the pandemic situation. Several states, including Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi,have already decided to ban fire-

The surroundings of the cracker shops should be sanitised, the chief secre-

crackers.

### **RSS-affiliate SJM opposes** ban on fire crackers New Delhi, Nov. 7: RSS- are less polluting." For

affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) on Saturday factual information. state said illegally imported firecrackers from China primarily cause pollution and urged state governments to avoid banning "less polluting" green "less polluting" green crackers made in India.

Underlining that the livelihood of nearly one million people depends on the firecracker industry, SJM co-convener Ashwani Mahajan in a statement "Throughout the year, these people wait for Deepawali to sell their firecrackers. In such a situation, it is not prudent to ban domestically made green firecrackers which

governments have been taking action like banning all types of firecrackers on Diwali, which is completely inappropriate. "It has to be understood that till now the pollution caused by firecrackers was primarily due to illegally imported firecrackers from China," he said. The SJM pleads to the governments of Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Karnataka and all other state governments, which have imposed a complete ban on firecrackers, to repeal the same, Mahajan

**TNCC against** release of Rajiv case convicts DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

TNCC president K. S. Alagiri raised a lone voice of dissent taking a stand diametrically opposite to that of the popular narrative on setting at liberty the seven persons convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Despite all political parties, including their ally DMK, in the state rooting for the release of the seven convicts and the Supreme Court also asking the Governor, before whom a state government recommendation was pending on the issue, Alagiri queered the pitch by playing the discordant note.

When asked about it, DMK MP R. S. Bharathi president against

#### Drones to monitor TNagar festivities DC CORRESPONDENT ing crime-free shopping

CHENNAI, NOV. 7 The Greater Chennai

Police will deploy drones, advanced closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras with face-recognition software, and equip its personnel with body cameras to ensure that people follow Covid-19 protocols in T. Nagar ahead of



Deepavali.

It is also aimed at ensur-

and accident-free celebrations, city police commis-Maheshkumar Aggarwal told reporters Mr Aggarwal said the

police has chalked out a three- pronged strategy. There will be 100 addition-CCTV cameras installed in shopping areas in addition to the

Bazaar in T. Nagar.
"The movement of the crowd is being monitored by police personnel in a control room. As and when any suspicious movement is noticed or any criminal suspect is found in the crowd, police personnel will take immediate take action," he said.

Mambalam and Pondy

said principles and alliances were different. The TNCC president remonstrated describing the seven con-

## PSLV puts Earth Observation Satellite in orbit

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR I DC NELLORE, NOV. 7

In its first launch this year, India's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, placed the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-01) and nine foreign satellites into their designated orbits after a textbook-perfect blast-off from the space-port at Sriharikota near Nellore on Saturday.

Minutes before launch, heavy downpour and lightning at the Sriharikota range (SHAR) caused some concern at the mission control in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC). The count-down was halted 18 minutes before launch. After hectic deliberations,

the scientists led by Dr K. Indian Space Organisation Sivan, Research Chairman and senior scientists Somanath Kunhikrishnan decided to

postpone the launch by nine minutes. The countdown resumed, and the rocket, designated PSLV-C49, blasted off at 3.11 pm instead of the scheduled 3.02 pm. After 15 minutes and 20 seconds, EOS-01 was inject-

into

its



weather Earth Imaging Satellite EOS-01 and nine other foreign satellites launches from Satish **Dhawan Space Centre in** Sriharicota on Saturday.

Subsequently, nine commercial satellites were released into their intended

After separation, the two solar arrays of EOS-01 were deployed automatically and ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network at Bengaluru control of the satellite. In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration.

"PSLV-C49 successfully placed all ten satellites precisely into their 575-km orbit," Dr Sivan declared congratulated the launch vehicle and satellite teams for rising to the occasion amidst the Covid-19 restrictions.

EOS-01, earlier known as RISAT-2BR2, is an earth observation satellite intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management sup-The international satellites — one from Lithuania, four each from Luxembourg and the USA were launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), department of

space. The Lithuania satellite. R2, is a technology demonLuxembourg satellites, Kleos (KSM-1A/1B/1C/1D), are designed for maritime applications. The USA satellites, named Lemur (Lemur-1/2/3/4), are meant for multi-mission remote sensing. ISRO used the PSLV-DL variant, which has two strap-on boosters with 12 tonnes of propellant, for the mission. This variant was first used to launch a Microsat-R satellite on January 24, 2019.

This was the 51st launch of the PSLV, the 76th launch vehicle mission from the SDSC and the 38th launch from the first launch pad at SHAR.

### **Give details of yatra to govt, Madras High Court tells BJP**

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has informed the Madras High Court that it will give an additional representation to the state government, giving particulars about the number of participants and the number of vehicles likely to par-ticipate in its Vel Yatra in the State, besides number of participants above the

The party made the submission before the High Court at a special sitting on Saturday while seeking restraining the police from

interfering with its Yatra. In his petition, state general secretary K. Nagarajan also sought to quash Part-II, Clause VII of the G.O dated October 31, 2020 (which stated that religious congregations, with a maximum ceiling of 100 people, would be permitted in the state from November 16), in so far it relates to persons going for the Vel-Yatra and to direct the government to issue order to all the district police officers to facilitate free movement of Vel-Yatra conducted by the petitioner between November 8, 2020 and December 6, 2020.

#### **DGP** shifts custody death case to CB-CID

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police J.K. Tripathi has transferred the recent alleged Cuddalore custodial death case of a 40-year-old man to the Crime Branch-CID (CB-CID) on Friday. The case pertains to the death of Selvamurugan, who died in judicial custody at Virudhachalam jail November 4.

As per police sources, Selvamurugan of Panruti was taken into custody by the Neyveli township police on October 28 in Neyveli in connection with a theft and was remanded at Virudhachalam sub-jail. His wife Prema went to meet him on November 2 at Virudhachalam sub-jail, when he looked weak and his throat was swollen. He was unable to eat and talk properly.
Prema returned home and on

Wednesday night, she received a call informing her that her husband had been taken to the hospital. When she rushed to the Virudhachalam government hospital along with her children, she was told that Selvamurgan had suffered seizures and had died.

Prema and her relatives immediately started to protest. They refused to receive the body and alleged that he died of custodial torture. Prema alleged that her husband's body had several wounds on the neck and back and that he had been tortured to death. The wife and kin of the deceased man continued to protest on Saturday and sought the intervention of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

reunited

with family

from Bengal

after 12 years

Man DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, NOV. 7

A 40-year-old mentally challenged man from Cooch Behar district in West Bengal was

reunited with his family on

Saturday by social workers here at 'Udavum Karangal' in

Thiruverkadu.

The man, Makbul Hossain, was spotted by a social worker

of Udavum Karangal in Janua-

## **Pushback: Al serves** showcause to 2 staff

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, NOV. 7

Two ground staff of Air India have been issued show-cause notice in connection with the 'pushback' incident of Chennai-Madurai flight at Chennai airport on Wednesday. The airline swung into action after DC published an exclusive report titled "Pushback: Airport seeks report from AI" on Saturday.

Airlines sources told DC that the staff members had been issued notice after prima facie finding lapse on their part in the incident. As part of the procedure, they will be given a 7-day timeframe to present their case. If their reply is unconvincing, then suspension

the sources.
It was on Wednesday

evening the aircraft was pushed back after a Madurai-bound passenger failed to get on board though his luggage was loaded in the flight. Pushback is an airport procedure to push an aircraft backwards away from an airport gate by external power; that is pushback tractors or aviation tugs.

When the passenger reached the departure gate, he saw the flight moving from the bay. The panicked passenger alerted the ground staff. As a result, the flight was pushed back to the bay so that the passenger could get onboard. DC has learnt that the flight was called back after the pas senger questioned the ground staff's lapse and exchanged war of words. An airport official said a flight being pushed back once it started moving is quite unusual. The passe-nger reported at the airport very late. It wouldn't have been pushed back if the passenger had not created a mess with the gro-und staff', the official

However, the official admitted lapse on the part of the ground staff. It was the duty of ground staff to make sure the head count of onboard passengers before providing a signal for taking off. Meanwhile, the airport authorities had also asked the airline for a report on Thursday in this incident.

#### Chennai metro revises train timings

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has rescheduled its train services from Sunday for making the timings convenient for all passengers.

Metro services will be in operation from 5.30 am to 11 pm from Monday to Saturday with a peak hour headway of 7 minutes and non-peak hour headway of 10 minutes. Currently, the services are from 7 am to 9 pm.

On Sundays and public holidays metro trains will run from 7am to 10 pm without any peak hour headway. CMRL requested all passengers to maintain social distancing norms by wearing face masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

said the personnel, adding that his travel to Delhi has

Sources said he was

handed over to the airport

police for an inquiry. During the investigation, the principal said that in

the recent past, one of his

students had brought the

bullet to the school, which

was seized and he had

passed on the information

to their counterparts in

Punjab, to investigate the

matter there. Inquiries are

kept it in his bag.
The airport

underway.

been cancelled.

## TN food safety officials warn people against adulteration in sweets and savouries ahead of Deepavali at T Nagar. Orange alert in certain places of Tamil Nadu

DC CORRESPONDENT

Various places in Chennai experienced scanty rainfall on Saturday. The Met department forecast cloudy skies and moderate rain in Chennai on Sunday. An orange alert has also been issued in certain parts of the state. Several parts of Tamil

ADULTERATION WARNING

Nadu is expected to receive mild to moderate rains for the next 48 hours starting from Saturday, as a result of a change in wind directions, forecast

the Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai.
According to the bullatin.
Puviarasan, Director of the RMC, Chennai, said, "In the next 72 hours, many parts of the state will experience dry weather. Some of the coastal areas are likely to receive mild to moderate

In the case of Chennai and its outskirts, the RMC predicted cloudy skies for the next 24 hours. Some parts of the city will receive rains with thunderstorms. The maximum

According to the bulletin, Puviarasan. Director of the RMC, Chennai, said, "In the next 72 hours, many parts of the state will experience dry weather. Some of the coastal areas are likely to receive mild to moderate rainfall"

temperature is predicted to be 32?, with a minimum temperature of 25?. For the next 48 hours,

Puviarasan said, "The places will be cloudy with some parts of the city experiencing mild showers with thunderstorms. The maximum temperature will be 33? and the minimum temperature will be 25?.

Parts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai Ramanathapuram likely to experience heavy rainfall, coupled with

wind and thunderstorms in the next 48 hours. In the last 24 hours,

Chennai received light to moderate rains in some areas. The highest rainfall in the state was recorded in parts of Madurai, Virudhunagar and

Sivagangai. Chennai-based weather blogger Pradeep John also said the city will witness short, intense spells of rains till late Saturday night. However, the rains will start to reduce from November 8.

On Saturday morning , he posted that there were good rains in Anna Nagar West and many parts of Chennai for the last 30 minutes. Meenambakkam has recorded 21 mm so far. More popup is forming in the northeast of Chennai and likely to move towards Chennai in the coming hours and many parts of the city will get rains. With the fading easterly wave, there are chances of short intense spells on Saturday morning and Saturday late night in parts of Chennai city. "Then we head for a break of rains from November 8 as dry air moves into the city," he

## Bullet in luggage, principal held at Chennai airport

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

A 42-year-old school principal, bound for Delhi, was arrested after he triggered a scare at the Chennai airport after security personnel found a live bullet in his luggage, on Saturday. Selvaraj, a native of

Uthiramerur Kanchipuram, is the principal of a private school in Punjab, sources said. He came to the Chennai airport on Saturday morning to board an Air India flight to Delhi.



According to the airport sources, the bullet was discovered after the scanner alarm went off and the bag was taken out for thorough checking. The prin-

ry 2019 in Vadapalani in a hig-

hly deranged condition. Dress-

ed up in rags with unkempt

matted hair he kept muttering

to himself. Jacob, a social wor-

ker, says," I saw him in a very

pitiable condition and when

asked if he was willing to co-

me with me to Udavum Karan-

gal home, where he would be

taken care well, he immediate-

ly got into the ambulance.'

cipal denied having any bullet in his bag, but the airport security personnel recovered a live bullet

psychiatrist, who diagnosed

him as a psychotic patient. He

was also anaemic and was given

After receiving medication and

psychiatric treatment for a few

months, he gave the details of

his family. He divulged that he

4 units of blood in the hospital.

from his bag. "It was a 9mm bullet,"

Karangal, said," when he was brought to our home at Thbelonged to Chhodaatharakotha village, Moamari panchayat, Coiruverkadu, he seemed to be och Behar district. West Bengal. mentally ill and also anaemic. The Udavum Karangal team We immediately referred him to

contacted the family and the relatives were happy to hear about Makbul who was said to be missing for 12 years. His brother immediately rushed to Udavum Karangal on Saturday morning and was filled with joy to see his brother hale and

## 'Karpom-Ezuthuvom' meet

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, NOV. 7

There are 3,96,100 literates including 2,78,985 women aged above 15 years in the district as per the 2011 population census, said Collector S ment through non-formal adult education from the cur-

Sivarasu, during a meeting here on Saturday with officials involved in implementthe new scheme 'Karpom - Ezuthuvom', under the adult education move-

During the meeting, they discussed among other things issues related to identifying the beneficiaries, 'Thannarva teachers', and to establish 'Karpor Maiyams', for this proposed scheme.

## 40 villages to have veterinary hosps

DC CORRESPONDENT ARIYALUR, NOV. 7

The government has allocated a sum of Rs 1.60 crore for establishing 40 veterinary hospitals in 40 remote villages during the current year, to ensure regular treatment for cattle of the particular

village and its surroundings, said government Chief Whip, Thamarai S Rajendran.

Inaugurating a veterinary hospital at Sembiyakkudi village near here in the presence of Collector T Rathna and others, on Saturday, Rajendran said, the veteriSembiyakkudi will take care of 5,000 cattle of Kulamanickam, Kandiraathiththam, Esanai and Pudukkottai villages, and called upon the people of these villages to utilise the facility. Later, Rajendran also distributed various welfare meas-

### **PLEA SEEKS RESERVATION FOR GOVT-AIDED SCHOOL STUDENTS**

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUCHY, NOV. 7

The Tamil Nadu Elementary School Teachers Federation, while thanking the government's efforts to provide internal reservation of 7.5 percent in medical courses to students of government schools, urged the government to also earmark 2.5 percent similar reservation for the students of government-alded schools Association state general secretary, N Rengarajan, Sudhakaran and Neelakandan, told newsmen soon after their state executive held here on Saturday, that a resolution to this effect was adopted at the meeting.

They said the meeting also wanted salary for middle class teachers at par with Central government teachers, and to re-introduce the old pension scheme, to continue the incentive pay hike to the teachers which was given since 1969, after revoking Government Order

The meeting also expressed concern over the government's decision not to give teachers posts to those who have crossed 40 years. The decision is totally anti-democratic, they said and requested the government to revoke GO 12 and declare that there should not be an age limit for teachers' posts. The meeting also requested the government to disburse travelling allowance to differently-abled teachers, which has been stopped at present. Federation treasurer, Kathiravan, proposed a vote of thanks.

### **Rowdy murdered**

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, NOV. 7

An 18-year-old rowdy was murdered by a six-member gang due to rivalry at Vamadam area in the city, on Saturday. Police said the deceased, Vijay, facing several criminal cases, came out on bail recently, and on Saturday noon the deceased was chatting with his friends near his house, when the gang fatally attacked him with deadly weapons and fled.

Thillainagar police went to the spot and shifted the body to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial government hospital here for post mortem.



Traffic moves at snail's pace on Kamarajar Salai on a rainy Saturday.

## Salem: Library opened in Kichipalayam police station

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC SALEM, NOV. 7

A library was inaugurated at the Kichipalayam police station here on Saturday by Assistant Commissioner A. Manikandan. The library also houses general knowledge books and newspapers. Hundreds of books are currently available for public reading.
The initiative will

The initiative will expose the public visiting the police station to some good reading material as they wait there to meet officials and get their issues redressed.

Kichipalayam inspector A. Sivakumar, said, "There are situations when the public who usually come to police stations sometimes have to wait for a long time to meet the officials, and get their problems solved. In such a situation, we have tried to create an environment where the public can read books in the library

during the waiting peri-

Books on general knowledge, books on justice and law, and newspapers will be made available for public reading. A first aid kit, drinking water facility and fan facilities, have also been provided. The library has a seating capacity of 10 persons.

A portrait of former Late President Abdul Kalam, beautiful landscapes and village scenes have been painted on the wall in front of the police station, adding charm to

## Tamil Nadu reports 2,341 new cases

**Chennai, Nov. 7:** Tamil Nadu on Saturday saw thenumber of active COVID-19 cases declining further to 18,966 while 2,341 new COVID-19 infections pushed the tally

to 7 41 488 As many as 25 people succumbed to the virus, taking the toll to 11,324, a health department bulletin said. The number of recoveries stood at 2,352 on Saturday, pushing the total number of those cured to 7,11,198 so far, the bulletin said.

Active cases. those in isolation, stood at 18,966. To the State's 7.41 lakh cases, Chennai accounted for 2,04,258 with 603 new infections.

Of the 11 324 death toll the State capital's share was 3.711 the bulletin said. As many as 80,112 samples were tested and in total 1,04,86,338 specimens have been examined till date. Coimbatore recorded 213 new cases followed by Thiruvallur 137, Tiruppur 114, Chengalpet 112, Erode 108. Salem 106.

Tenkasi recorded the least with six new infections. Of the dead, three were without comorbidities which include 35-year-old-woman from Chengalpet who succumbed due to 'respiratory failure.'

30-year-old man from Villupuram died due to 'COVID-19 pneumonia' while a 101-year-old man from Chennai died due to 'acute respiratory distress syndrome'.



A worker arranges new crackers for Deepavali sale at a shop in Broadway.

### Students called to turn 'leaders of change' R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUCHY, NOV. 7

Delivering the convocation address at the 16th econvocation of National Institute Tiruchirapalli (NIT-T) here on Saturday, founder, Wipro Limited, and chairperson, Azim Premji Foundation, Azim Premji, on Saturday said, 'Education and Learning is a life-long process and young graduates must take charge of their educa-

He also shared his experience and gave five significant tips as lessons to the

He called upon the graduates to become 'Leaders of Change' for this country, so that the change would truly enable a just, equitable, and humane society new graduates. Listing out

the tips, Azim Premji urged students to hone their ability to think critically, to ask questions and be open-minded about it, make no substitute for

commitment and tenacity, which eventually makes the most difference in life. Each of us must understand and recognize that we live with fellow human beings, and the most important lesson of life is that truth and integrity are the foundation of everything. The pandemic crisis has showcased the stark inequality and injustice that millions of our fellow citizens face and live in our country. But it has also shown us that millions have the courage and generosity of spirit to battle the toughest of cir-

lenge lies in the hands of this younger generation, to mobilise courage and spirit collectively and ameliorate injustice and inequality, and truly change our country, he stressed.

He called upon the graduates to become 'Leaders of Change' for this country, so that the change would truly enable a just, equitable, and humane society.

Chairperson, Board of Governors, NIT-T, Bhaskar Bhat inaugurated the convocation by welcoming chief guest Azim

ing NIT-T Director, Mini Thomas, for her inspiring long-term plans

In her annual report, Dr Mini Shaji Thomas, said the institute had improved on all the NIRF parameters in the last three years, and the institute is part of Supercomputing Mission (NSM) and a

Supercomputer installed at an investment Rs 19 crore. NIT-T is appointed the National MOOCs coordinator for UG and PG engineering programmes by Ministry of Education.

#### OTHER STORY

#### 500 more cops to manage festive crowds

From P1

He also said 500 police personnel would additionally be deployed since more shoppers are likely to visit over the weekends. As many as 10 beat constables have been given smart jackets with body cameras and deployed for round-the-clock patrolling in 15 sectors.

Police watchtowers have been set up at vantage points. The police have also opened minicontrol rooms and police assistance booths under the Mambalam Soundarapandianar

police station limits. Similar bandobast arrangements would be in place in shopping areas in other parts of the

city as well. The commissioner ducted with the office-bearers of traders associations in the city to ensure they follow the Covid-

#### Thoothukudi baqs 1st place in water conservation

From P1

Under the 'Water Conservation' category for South, Sasthavinathur village panchayat, Thoothukudi, bagged the first place. Madurai Municipal Corporation was awarded the first place in the 'Best Urban Local Body' catego-

Under the Best Research/Innovation/Adaptatio n of New Technology for Water Conservation category, Hari Kuppuswamy, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, T Pradeep, IIT Madras and Va Tech Wabag Ltd bagged the first three spots respectively. Manikandan, co-ordinator, Kovai Kulangal Pathukappu Amaippu, Coimbatore and Prof Sakthinathan Ganapathy Pandian, CWG Campus, Anna University bagged the top two places under the Best Water Warrior for South Zone.

Indira Gandhi Government High School, Katterikuppam, Puducherry, was awarded the first place in the Best School category. The awards distribution ceremony will take place on November 11 and 12, virtually.

The National Water Awards 2019 are presented in 16 categories including Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Research/ Innovation/ New Technology and Best Education among others, and each of the categories has sub-categories in different zones of the country. Tamil Nadu was followed by Manarasntra and Kajastnan as the best states under the normal

**Indira Gandhi Government High** School, Katterikuppam, Puducherry, was awarded the first place in the Best School category. The awards distribution ceremony will take place on November 11 and 12, virtually.

#### **Vel yatra will** resume, says **TN BJP**

**Chennai, Nov. 7:** The BJP's Tamil Nadu unit chief L Murugan on Saturday said the 'Vel Yatra' would resume from tomorrow and go on as per the schedule. A day after police stopped the 'Vel' or 'Vetrivel' Yatra at Tiruttani near here since the government had banned it in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BJP top state leader expressed confidence that the statewide campaign shall restart on Sunday from

"The yatra will start at 10 am from Vadivudayamman temple, Tiruvottiyur," he told reporters here. The yatra, according to the BJP, was to 'expose' the DMK and other forces that had hurt the sentiments of people by denigrating the Kanda Šashti Kavacham, a spiritual hymn in praise of Lord Muruga. The Saffron party also has approached the Madras High Court seeking a nod for holding the yatra. On Friday, the police did not allow the BJP leaders including Murugan to commence the vatra from Tiruttani and detained all of them. They were released later. The party had announced that the yatra would commence on November 6 at Tiruttani and culminate on December 6 at Tiruchendur covering all the six abodes, 'Padai Veedu' of Lord Muruga in Tamil



Police Commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal inspecting the drone to be used as part of security measures in shopping hub T Nagar.

## **DMK** raises questions of law in conduct of gram sabha case

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

Challenging the action of the Tamil Nadu govern-ment in cancelling the gram sabha meetings at village panchayats, scheduled on October 2, 2020, the DMK party has raised four questions of law, Constitutional importance, before the Madras high court.

Senior counsel N.R.Elango, assisted by advocate V.Arun raised the four questions of law before a division bench Justices comprising comprising Justices M.Sathyanaraynan and R.Hemalatha when a PIL filed by DMK MLA K.N.Nehru came up for hearing on Thursday. In his petition, Nehru,

sought a direction to the state government to abstain from interfering with the administration and conduct of gram sabha meetings by the vil-lage panchayat presidents and people of gram sabha under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, and Tamil Nadu Grama Sabha (quorum and procedure for convening and conducting meetings) Rules 1998 to exercise their constitutional rights conferred on the gram sabha as per Article 243G and eleventh schedule of the Constitution of India. The bench said senior counsel invited the attention of this court to paragraph 4 of the affidavit and submitted that the following questions of law Constitutional impor- security of the country, Tamil Nadu state.

## **DMK** meet: Cases against 2K cadre

DC CORRESPONDENT THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 7

Police here registered cases against 2,036 DMK including MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi and three sitting MLAs on Saturday, for organising and participating in DMK president MK Stalin's virtual meeting tittled 'Tamilagam Meetpom' ('Retrieve Tamil Nadu) in the district on November 5.

MK Stalin had held the virtual meeting in 147 places to address party functionaries in the district, in violation of Covid-19 norms. Hence, Thoothukudi police on Saturday regis-

tance and therefore, prayed for appropriate orders and it was relevant to extract the same. The bench said government pleader V.Jayaprakash Narayan, accepting notice on behalf of the authorities, has drawn the attention of this court to Chapter X of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1994 and submitted that in the light of Section 202 of the said Act, the powers were available with the inspector of panchayats or the delegated official and further pointed out that any subject sought to be included in the agenda of gram sabha concerned assumes with the sovereignty and sabha meetings all over

tered cases against 2,036 DMK functionaries, Kanimozhi, sitting MLAs P Geetha Jeevan, Anitha Radhakrishnan Shanmugaiah under sections 147, 269, 270, 271 and 189 of Indian penal code (IPC), for holding public meeting in violation of public order, negligent and malicious act likely to spread infections dangerous to lives, for knowingly disobeying the rule promulgated by the government, and for threatening a public servant. The police also invoked the epidemic diseases act' against the functionaries.

still it was open to the inspector of panchayats or the delegated official to take preventive measures and prayed for accommodation to file a compre-hensive counter affidavit with supporting docu-ments, the bench added and posted to January 22, 2021, further hearing of the case. Similarly, the bench also ordered notice, returnable by January 22, 2021, to the state government, on another PIL filed by A.G.Mourya, general secretary, Makkal Needhi Maiam party, through advocate Viiavan Subramanian, which sought to conduct gram

## Kamal's birthday celebrated with a political twist **DC CORRESPONDENT** CHENNAI, NOV. 7

The 66th birthday of Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan was celebrated on Saturday by his fans and followers with a clear political twist as for the first time he was openly hailed as the future Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Wall posters appeared all over Chennai, in which his followers declared that their vote would be for Kamal Haasan only, thus reaffirming their support

for his political move.

Though Haasan's film fans have been calling on him on his birthdays and have even put up wall posters greeting him in the past, this is perhaps the first time he is hailed



MNM party flag was hoisted on the occasion, pre-senting him as a full-fledged politician to all.

Kamal met his followers who turned up at his office to greet him and accepted their wishes personally on Saturday and also spoke to many well-wishers who called him over phone.

Among the prominent personalities who greeted him on the occasion was Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi, who described him, in a tweet, as 'A strong voice that has contributed to modern Tamil

Kerala Chief Minister Pinayari Vijayan, DMK president M. K. Stalin and MDMK founder Vaiko were among the prominent politicians who conveyed their wishes to Haasan. Stalin, who greeted him over the phone, also wished him a long life in his Facebook post.

Among those in the film fraternity who greeted him Rajinikanth and actress Khusboo. This was the first birth-

day in which his followers pledged their electoral support to him through posters as is came close on the heels of a series of

meetings that he had with his party functionaries and leaders, who had urged him to contest the election from his home town of Paramakudi and also from Mylapore in Chennai.

It is said that Haasan and also his supporters are a bit upbeat about their electoral prospects, particularly in the context of Rajinikanth opting out of the political race. The followers believe that Kamal's prospects have increased and also expect Rajinikanth to support

They believe that the MNM has emerged as an alternative to the two major Dravidian parties, DMK and AIADMK, as the party founder himself had

#### **HC extends** parole to corona affected life convict

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

The Madras high court has extended by 15 days, the parole granted to a 27-year-old life convict, who was convicted and sentence to life in a murder case, as he is also affected with corona while attending his father, who was affected due to corona, during his earlier parole period. A division bench com-

prising Justices M.Sathyanarayanan and R.Hemalatha granted extension of parole for 15 days while disposing of a petition filed by Abisri, which sought to extend the parole grant-ed earlier to her husband Gunasekaran for

Workers spray

disinfectant in

museum which is to be

reopened on November

**Government Egmore** 

## Dead leopard found in snare in Nilgiris

**B RAVICHANDRAN | DC** OOTY, NOV. 7

A leopard trapped in a metal snare in a farmland along the jungle fringes of Kakkanji Nagar hamlet near Coonoor was found dead, and foresters have nabbed two persons in the village on charges of killing the animal.

For the past one month, it turned out be a period of distress for wild animals here, as two elephants, one in Gudalur and the other in Ooty, and a wild boar were electrocuted in Gudalur, while a leopard was found dead with bullet injuries in Gudalur limits. Now, another leopard has been found dead within Coonoor limits.
The incident now calls

for foresters to personally inspect farmlands

**Forest officials** attached to the **Coonoor forest** range who rushed to the spot on Saturday found that it was a fiveyear-old female leopard with tightened metal wires around its carcass

remote villages along the jungle fringes to unearth the clandestine snares set up to trap wild animals. Forest officials attached

to the Coonoor forest range who rushed to the spot on Saturday found that it was a five-year-old female leopard with tight-

ened metal wires around its carcass. Further enquiries in the village revealed that two persons, Murugan (38) and Selvam (40), hailing from Kakanji Nagar hamlet had set up the snare in the private farmland.

"They were said to be in the habit of setting up wire snares to trap wild boars and other small animals. Regarding Friday's incident, they had set up the snare to trap wild boars in the area, but the leopard got trapped. While trying to rescue itself from the trap, the leopard sustained injuries and suffocation, resulting in its death," forest official sources said, and added that they arrested Murugan and Selvam. Further investigation is underway.



## Was sure of Kamala's win: Uncle

**B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC** CHENNAI, NOV. 7

With Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris winning the US' election, Kamala's uncle Dr G. Balachandran said their win was on expected Speaking to *DC* from ew Delhi, Dr

Balachandran said, "I am glad the suspense is over. I was confident that Biden-Kamala would emerge victorious in the election. It is not a surprise to me." When asked about any

change in India-US bilateral relationship with the change of guard there, Dr Balachandran, who has specialised on issues related to technology and economics, said a strong foundation has already been laid for India-US ties.

'There is no outstanding issue between the two countries. I think the new US regime will continue to strengthen its relationship with India." It may be recalled that Biden, in his address to a virtual Or fundraiser for Indian views

# Twin villages in state get ready for early Deepavali

Nagapattinam, Nov. 7: With Democratic candidate for the Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris confident of her victory, the people of two villages in Tamil Nadu, which are native to her maternal grandparents, are also equally convinced that she would emerge victorious and eager to celebrate her win, an early Deepavali. The mood is upbeat at Thulasenthirapuram and Painganadu, tucked away in a corner of Tiruvarur district, a part of the fertile Cauvery delta region, and people are waiting only for a formal declaration that Kamala has won

Americans, had said the US and India share a strong interest in a rulesbased Indo-Pacific region. On Kamala's strong

start celebrations. The villagers have now kept firecrackers ready to hail a win for Kamala Harris, also a US Senator. Women are also planning to draw a mega rangoli in front of the village temple. "We have collected Rangoli powders in different colours and are planning to draw the image of Kamala Harris. It is a matter of pride for the entire womenfolk," said Meenakshi, a housewife at Thulasenthirapuram.

The people feel proud that their villages happen to be the native place of the grandparents of ed for Kamala Harris. The road tions.

Balachandran said," Yes, she always stands up for ful. human rights."

in the last few days, said added.

Thulasenthirapuram and Painganadu villages from nearby Mannargudi town is filled with wall posters and digital banners wishing a resounding win for Joe Biden and Kamala Earlier, on Harris. November 2, when the US went to the polls, the people performed special prayers in the local temple praying for a win for K a m a l a . Thulasenthirapuram and Painganadu are agrarian villages and are located near Mannargudi. Both villages appear to be head-

hisniece sounded cheer-

ed for prolonged celebra-

"Based on my analysis, I Balachandran, who had spoken to his niece twice sure of her victory," he

## Students from private schools joining state-run schools a heartening trend, says minister

**Tirunelveli, Nov. 7:** State-run schools havescripted history by attracting 5.18 lakh students from several private schools across Tamil Nadu, and this reverse exodus is a heartening trend,School Education Minister Sengottaiyan said on Saturday. The scenario of exodus from state govern-ment schools in the past has completely changed

"From a migration of about 20,000 to 50,000 students to private schools in the past, there has been a steep enrollment in our schools. About 5.18 lakh students who opted out of several private schools have joined government

and a large number of stu-

dents are flocking to state-

run schools, he said.

"From a migration of about 20.000 to 50.000 students to private schools in the past, there has been a steep enrollment in our schools. About 5.18 lakh students who opted out of several private schools have joined government schools'

schools," the minister told reporters here. Claiming that state government schools have scripted "history in Tamil Nadu,' Sengottaiyan said, the reverse exodus on a massive scale took place during the tenure of chief minister K Palaniswami. "This is something that gives happiness," he added. The minister also claimed that several sec-

tions appreciated the curriculum of government schools, saying it was better than the curriculum of Sengottaiyan, who earlier participated in a programme organised to grant recognition to prischools Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi Kanyakumari districts, said the state government was willing to issue orders granting permanent recognition status to private schools. About 2,515 private schools across the state would soon be provided recognition, he added. The recognition which was extended year-on-year basis till

last year, will be issued for

two years from this year, he said. —*PTI* 

## Only 14 cars and 30 people for yatra: BJP

— PTI

that once the temple was conditions, it was not temple.

Once the temple was opened for public view, the

Advocate-general Vijay When the hearing commenced, BJP's counsel Raghavachari submitted Marayan said when the representations were made by the parties, the police directed them to approach the local police. The October 31 GO clearly appropriate to prevent stated that religious con-people from entering the gregations will be permitted only after November

The authorities had state can only regulate it, indeed sought particulars

entire tour. They were saying that they were being denied permission to visit a temple but actually they were bringing a huge crowd, he added.

Pointing out that the petitioner cannot choose the route, the bench said the petitioner has to state the number of people and the vehicles accompanying him as well as the

above 60. "Being the state president of a national party, do not forget the fact that apart from Covid-19, revenue and police will now have to deal with monsoon also," the bench added.

Counsel said his client will use only 15 cars and he will be accompanied by 30 people. If December 6 (the ending date of Vel-

the state, the petitioner will conclude the yatra on December 5. The petition-er will give an additional representation to the state, giving all the particulars including the number of participants and the vehicles, he added.

The bench posted to November 10, furhearing of the

#### PONDY WITNESSES DROP IN DAILY **CORONA CASES, 3 MORE DIE**

Puducherry, Nov. 7: Puducherry recorded a dip in the daily count of coronavirus cases with 73 fresh infections on Saturday, taking the overall tally to 35,744.

Three people, including a 55 year old woman from Yanam died due to the virus, pushing the toll to 601.

A release from Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said 73 new cases were identification. tified at the end of examination of 3,981 samples dur-

ing last 24 hours ending 10 am on Saturday. While Puducherry accounted for 58 cases, Karaikal and Yanam regions had two fresh cases each while

Mahe had 11. The deceased had complaints of co-morbidities like diabetes and hypertension.

## IN BRIEF

#### **STAN SWAMY SEEKS COURT NOD TO USE SIPPER**

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

Father Stan Swamy, the 83year-old tribal rights activist arrested in the Elgar Parishadalleged Maoist links case, has moved a special court in Mumbai for permission to use a straw and sipper in Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai, where he is currently lodged.

Swamy, through his lawyer Kritika Agarwal, moved the plea before the special NIA court on Friday seeking straw and sipper in jail citing health issues. "I cannot hold a glass as my hands are unsteady due to Parkinson's," Swamy said in his application.

The special court judge D.E. Kothalikar has asked the national probe agency to file its reply on the matter on November 26.

Swamy was arrested from his home in Ranchi last month in connection with the violence in Bhima Koregaon near

Pune in January 2018. Last month, the NIA had filed a charge-sheet in the matter against eight people, including Swamy. The investigating agency has alleged that Swamy was actively involved in the activities of the CPI (Maoist).

#### **ACTIVE COVID CASES STAY BELOW 6 LAKH**

New Delhi, Nov. 7: India's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 84,62,080 with 50,356 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 78 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,25,562 with 577 new fatalities, the data updat-

ed at 8 am showed.
A total of 78,19,886 people have recuperated from Covid-19 so far pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further declined to 1.48 per

The number of active cases of Covid-19 remained below 6 lakh for the ninth consecutive

day.
There are 5,16,632 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 6.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on 30 iakn on August 2 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 11,65,42,304 samples have been tested up to November 6 with 11,13,209 samples being tested on Friday. The 577 new fatalities include Maharashtra. 161 from

#### **BIDEN-KAMALA** TRUMPS DON

From Page 1

of national unity to confront raging health and economic crises, and making Donald J. Trump a one-term president after four years of tumult in the White House, *The New* York Times said.

Mr Biden's victory amounted to a repudiation of Mr Trump by millions of voters exhausted with his divisive conduct and chaotic administration, and was delivered by an unlikely alliance of women, people of colour, old and young voters and a sliver of disaffected Republicans. *PTI* 

#### **SHIVRAJ SAYS NATH WOOING BJP MLAs**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 7

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Saturday traded charges against each other of poaching MLAs from the rival camps even as ruling BJP and Opposition Congress waited for the outcome of the November 3 by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies.

Talking to reporters here, Mr Chouhan said he was informed by some BJP MLAs that the former chief minister Mr Nath was wooing them to join Congress. But, the BJP legislators have spurned the offer, Mr Chouhan claimed. "It is Mr Nath who

brought the culture of luring MLAs of the rival party to Congress in Madhya Pradesh. We have never approached the Congress MLAs who resigned from their party and joined BJP. They (Congress legislators) volunteered to join

BJP", Mr Chouhan said. As many as 22 Congress lawmakers resigned from the assembly and subsequently from their party in March to pull down the Nath government. Shivraj said Mr Nath

first took the step to woo 2 BJP MLAs into his party after Congress came to power in the state in 2018. "Mr Nath has introduced the culture of horse trading in MP by wooing 2 BJP MLAs. He is now accusing BJP of trading MLAs", he added.

Earlier, Mr Nath has accused BJP of trying to 'purchase' Congress MLAs. "I have been informed informed by some Congress MLAs that they were getting offers party", Mr Nath said.

## 55% vote in Bihar's crucial final phase, results on 10th

Voting held for 78 seats in 15 districts of north Bihar and Seemanchal

NAYEAR AZAD | DC with agency inputs PATNA, NOV. 7

Bihar on Saturday recorded a voter turnout of around 55 per cent during the third and final phase of polls. Voting in this phase was held in 78 constituencies spread across 15 districts of north Bihar, Seemanchal and Kosi region of the state.

Like the previous two phases, the final phase too is considered crucial for the ruling NDA led by the JD(U) and for the Grand Alliance comprising the RJD, Congress and Left parties. However, the entry of parties like LJP, Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM and Pappu Yadav's JAP made the fight triangular in most seats.

Chirag Paswan, who had pulled out of the NDA citing ideological differences with chief minister Nitish Kumar ahead of seat-sharing, emerged as the third force and fielded candidates on 42 seats, mostly against the JD(U) and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) during the third

phase of polls.
Political analysts believe that the NDA as well as the Grand Alliance are set to witness a tough fight in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region where AIMIM has a visible influence and has fielded 15 candidates.

"Asaduddin party AIMIM has a visible influence in some of the seats in the Seemanchal region. The party may cut votes and cause a major dent in the NDA as well as the Grand Alliance in this phase of polls," a political observer said.

Similarly, Pappu Yadav's JAP is also likely to make the contest tough for NDA and the Grand Alliance in



Security personnel escort a man with physical disability as he arrives to cast his vote at a polling station for the third phase of Bihar elections at Raxaul in East Champaran district on Saturday.

Yadavs and Backwards are the deciding factors. Pappu Yadav contested from Madhepura.
A total of 1,204 candi-

dates are in the fray for the 78 Assembly seats out of which the RJD had fielded the maximum (46 candidates), followed by LJP's 42, JD(U)'s 37, BJP's 35, Congress' 25, the RLSP's 25, BSP's 20, AIMIM's 16, VIP's 5, CPI-ML's 5, CPI's 2, and IJ M's an according to

and HAM's one candidate. Casting of votes began at 7 am at all 33,782 polling stations where as many EVM sets and VVPAT machines were installed and paramilitary forces deployed to maintain order, officials said.

In 2015 polls, the JD(U) as part of the Grand Alliance

the Kosi region where had won 23 out of 78 seats in the third phase of polls followed by BJP's 20, RJD's 20, Congress' 11 and others four seats. In the previous two phases, the voter turnout was 54.26 and 54.05 per cent. The results will be declared on

November 10. During all the three phases, the BJP campaigned aggressively for NDA candidates. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed 12 rallies across the state. Besides, UP CM Yogi Adityanath also held rallies across the state to campaign for the NDA.

Other Central leaders of the BJP who toured Bihar for campaigning were party's national president J.P. Nadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh, MOS home Nityanand Rai, Union ministers Giriraj Singh and Ashwini Choubey.

In all the three phases the BJP took the campaign beyond local issues by speaking about the abrogation of Article 370 and Pakistan-backed terror. Mr Adityanath took up Ram Temple in Ayodhya and triple talaq and while addressing rallies. He had created a flutter by bringing up the CAA and NRC issue while campaigning in Seemanchal ahead of the third phase of polls.

Meanwhile, the younger brother of jailed criminal Bittu Singh, wanted in more than a dozen murder and extortion cases, was shot dead on Saturday near a polling booth in the district when he was going to cast the ballot, police

The 30-year-old Beni Singh was shot dead at Sarsi village in Dhamdaha assembly constituency by a bike-borne assailant, Superintendent of Police Vishal Sharma said. He said the assailant

pumped eight bullets in Beni Singhs body and fled from the spot.

Beni Singh was killed barely 100 meters of a polling booth near his home when he was going to cast his vote, the police

Locals and Singhs relative created a ruckus after the incident following which the SP and other officials reached the spot to pacify them.

#### **SOVAN TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN BJP AHEAD OF WB ELECTIONS**

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 7

In what appears to be a major takeaway for union home minister Amit Shah from his West Bengal visit, BJP leader Sovan Chatterjee has asserted within two days of meeting him that he never quit the

The former Kolkata mayor, who was once chief minister Mamata Banerjee's close aide and also her cabinet colleague with three portfo-lios, maintained dis-tance from the BJP for over a year following a spat with its state leadership soon after his defection from the Trinamul Congress.

To get back its Narada sting scam accused Behala East MLA, the meanwhile renewed efforts which saw Mr Chatterjee meeting the CM in person and also getting security cover from the state government. But his meeting, in presence of his close friend Baishakhi Banerjee, with Mr Shah on November 5 dashed all hopes of the TMC for his return to the party.

On Saturday Mr Chatterjee said, "I took the BJP membership 18 months ago. But did I take any other party's membership since then? Or has there been my severance from the BJP? Did I ever say anything like that? So where does such a scope arise from?" He also hinted to become active for the first time in the party ahead of the Assembly Elections.

On Mr Shah he said, "He wanted to know the situation. I tried to explain the issues to him. He tried to understand them during our

## 'Valley has less than 200 militants now

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

Security forces in no reinforcements are Jammu and Kashmir are extremely optimistic that overall security scenario in Valley would improve considerably during the winter season as they have been able to successfully thwart major infiltration attempts from terror outfits in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

This, sources claim, would have a direct impact on the security situation as militant groups were facing a severe crunch of both men and material.

Intelligence inputs had revealed that 250militants were waiting at the various launchpads close to the Line of Control and International Border along with Pakistan. Following this security forces had further strengthen their three-tier anti-infiltration

grid Senior security officials claimed successfully checking infiltration will have a direct impact on the Kashmir security situation as militants here were facing sever shortage of both men and material. "The total number of active militants in security personnel.

the Kashmir Valley is now less than 200. We are confident now that coming from across the border we will will launch a fresh operation to eliminate the remaining active militants in the region,' the official added. Top security sources

have confirmed that in the past two months despite more than 20 infiltration attempts not a single attempt was successful. "Any attempt to push militants into India from across the border have failed completely due to the pro-active surveillance undertaken by the Army along with BSF, CRPF and the local police," a senior security official

What is even more significant is that despite Pakistan Army deploying its Border Action teams (BAT) which helps facilitate infiltration by militants has also failed completely in its attempts this winter season. This is largely on account of the new surveillance patrolling strategies adopted. In the past Pak Army's BAT has been involved in targeted attacks on Indian

#### **J&K ALLIANCE TO CONTEST LOCAL POLLS**

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, NOV. 7

The recently formed alliance of Jammu and Kashmir's regional opposition parties and their allies from the national Left parties has decided to contest the elections for the District Development Councils and vacant seats of Panchayats in the Union Territory (UT) unitedly.

After holding day-long deliberations at the residence of its president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah in Jammu on Saturday, the 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD)' spokesman Sajad Gani Lone said that all seven member parties will unitedly fight these elections.

He said, "The PAGD

has unanimously decided to fight the DDC elections unitedly. Despite the abruptness of the DDC elections in terms of timing it is important that this sacred space in democracy is not allowed to be invaded and marauded by divisive forces"

The J&K administration had announced to hold the first ever DDC elections in eight phases from last week of November.

## Bombay HC issues notices to Maha, Mumbai CP in TRP scan case

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

The Bombay High Court on Saturday asked the state government and Mumbai Commissioner Param Bir Singh to reply a plea filed by Hansa Research Group Pvt Ltd, the complainant in the television rating points (TRP) scam, alleging harassment by the police.

The petition filed by the company and three of its senior officials alleged that the city police was conducting the probe in an illegal and highly objectionable manner.
The petition claimed that

the company's officials were being harassed and coerced into making false statements against a particular news channel and sought for the probe to be transferred to the CBI. The petition has named

assistant police inspector Sachin Waze and assistant commissioner of police Shashank Sandbhor as the ones who were harassing On Saturday, advocate

Devadutt Kamat, appearing for the government, Param Bir Singh and the two police officers, refuted the allegations and said the petitioners are being called for questioning only when required.

He further told the court that investigation in the case is still on and certain material has also come to

 Hansa Research Group Bhandari on October 6 after ne was round allegedi accepting payments illegally to make certain households watch specific TV channels, allegedly to fudge TV TRP ratings.

Ten arrests have been made so far, including those of former employees of the company.

• The police, after preliminary inquiry, had claimed that two local regional channels and Republic TV was also involved in the scam.

the fore against the petitioners.

The bench, however, noted that since the petitioners are complainant in the case, they should not be called to the police station without any reason.
"They are the com-

plainant and not the accused in the case. We are not saying stop the investigation, but call them only when required and on specific days and for reasonable time," Justice Shinde

Mr Kamat agreed and told the court that the petitioners would be called for questioning twice a week for a reasonable time.

## had lodged a complaint against its employee Vishal HC reserves order on Arnab's bail plea

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

The Bombay High Court on Saturday reserved its order on *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's interim bail plea.

When his lawyer Harish Salve insisted that an adinterim relief be granted, the court said it will reserve orders and will pronounce them some day in the coming week.

The division bench assured that the court will pronounce the order as early as possible.

Meanwhile, the HC said

Mr Goswami can move the sessions court for regular bail in the meantime.

The bench clarified that the pendency of the case in the High Court will not be an impediment for the petitioners to seek regular bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the concerned court. If such an application is made, the court ordered, the same should be decided by the concerned court within four days of the filing. After hearing arguments

from all sides for more than

bench of Justices S.S Shinde and M.S. Karnik "We will pass the order at the earliest. The pendency of this matter does not preclude you (Goswami) or the other accused from approaching the concerned lower court seeking regular bail."

The high court was hearing petitions filed by Goswami, a high-profile TV journalist, and two other accused — Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda — seeking interim bail and challenging their "illegal arrest"

The trio were arrested by Alibaug police Maharashtra's Raigad district on November 4 in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anyay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged nonpayment of dues by the accused's respective firms. The petitions also sought a stay to the investigation and quashing of the FIR.

The HC, meanwhile, also sought response from the state government on a petition filed by Anvay Naik's daughter Adnya Naik seeking a fresh probe by an independent agency.
It will be heard on

## TOUGH | TALK | Abdullah wants J&K's special status restored Raut tells Farooq to go to Pak

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC

MUMBAI, NOV. 7 Shiv Sena on Saturday slammed former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah saying Article 370 has no place in India and he can go to Pakistan and implement it there. "If Farooq Abdullah wants, he can go to Pakistan and implement Article 370 there. In India, there is no place for Article 370 and 35A," Sanjay Raut

Mr Abdullah, speaking in a rally on November 6, had

Mr Abdullah, also the president of the NC, was recently appointed as the chairman of the just floated **Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration.** 

vowed to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. "I will not die until the constitutional rights of my people are given back.... I am here to do something for the people and the day I will finish my I will leave this

world," he said. Article 370 had granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Narendra Modi-led BJP government had abrogated law in August 2019 and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

Mr Abdullah, also the president of the National Conference, was recently appointed as the chairman of the just floated Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti is his deputy. The alliance's objective is to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Sena few days back had also opposed the BJP over the recent decision of permitting people across Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Raut, in his weekly

column in party's mouthpiece Saamna, said that some days ago, the police stopped the youths who had gone to Srinagar's Lal Chowk to hoist tricolor. "If we can't hoist our national flag on that land, then what is the fun to invite country men for buying land in Jammu and Kashmir," he

## IT raid unearths Rs 1,000-cr fraud From Page 1

This was not disclosed by it in its return of income and also in the foreign assets schedule,

alleged. "Thus, there is suppression of foreign income received in the form of share subscription equivalent to Rs 200 crore, which is taxable in India in the hands of the shareholder, it said.

The statement said that action "will be initiated" against the group under the

est in the I-T return. It added that the present value of this investment

exceeds Rs 354 crore. Raids found that the group had "acquired five shell (dummy) companies recently, which were used to siphon off as much as Rs 337 crore from the main group company by raising bogus bills and without doing any real business in

these companies," it said.
"The siphoned off money

Black Money Act, 2015, for not disclosing foreign assets and beneficial interaction was transferred abroad and utilised for purchase of shares in the name of the son of the main assessee,"

the CBDT alleged. One of the directors, it said, has admitted that they have "diverted" funds through these companies.

"Evidence has also been found regarding allotment of preference shares worth Rs 150 crore in 2009 in the group company by passing accounting entries only to inflated capital project before banks and financial

institutions

finances," the board said.
"Allotment of another Rs 150 crore worth preference shares in 2015 from funds from group companies, who in turn took loans/entries, is being examined," it said. The CBDT claimed the

group had borrowed funds from banks on interest and diverted to other group companies free of interest for investments in properties. "The total interest disallowance on this count works out to about Rs 423

### IN BRIEF WH CHIEF OF **STAFF TESTS VIRUS +VE**

Washington, Nov. 7: White House chief of staff Mark Meadows has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the latest Trump administration official to contract the disease, which has killed over 2,36,000 Americans.

It was not immediately clear how 61-year-old Meadows who has often appeared at public events without a face mask — was infected. A White House official told Fox News that Meadows was "doing well."

Meadows' positive test comes weeks after President Trump and first lady Melania Trump contracted the Coronavirus

### **BORIS HAILS DIWALI SPIRIT OF VICTORY**

**London, Nov. 7:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the Diwali spirit of the victory of light over darkness and good over evil as he delivered a message of optimism about overcoming the Coronavirus pan-demic for a first-of-its-kind virtual Diwali festival this weekend. Johnson appealed for a "huge collective effort" as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown earlier this week, to last at least until December 2, in order to curb a surge in coronavirus infections across the country.

"While undoubtedly there are huge challenges ahead, I have every confidence in the resilience and resolve and good sense of people across the country and that together we will overcome this virus, just as Diwali teaches us that light triumphs over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over igno-

### **RAPPER KING VON KILLED IN ATLANTA**

Atlanta, Nov. 7: Chicago rapper King Von was among three people shot and killed in a shooting early Friday outside a nightclub in Atlanta that also left three people wounded, state investigators said.

The preliminary investigation indicates that Dayvon Bennett, aka King Von, and a group of men left the Opium Nightclub and went to the Monaco Hookah Lounge," the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said in a statement. there, two men approached the group in the parking lot, and the two groups of men started to argue with each other. The argument quickly escalated to gunfire between the two groups." The GBI said on- and off-duty Atlanta police officers responded and one of each fired shots. "During the shooting incident, six men were shot during the group altercation and officer encounter.'

## INDIAN ELECTED **TO UN ADVISORY**

United Nations, Nov. 7: In a significant victory for India at the United Nations, Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elec ted to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACA-BQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. In the Group of Asia-Pacific States, Maitra, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, obtained 126 votes. The 193-member General Assembly appoints members of the Advisory Committee. Members are selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications

and experience. In the group, Ali Mohammed Faeq Al-Dabag of Iraq drew 64 votes. The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with administrative and budgetary issues, recommended Maitra to the Assembly for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

The victory comes as India gets ready to sit in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 2021.

India's Permanent Represe ntative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said that Maitra was elected on Friday to the UN ACABQ "in a strong display of support by UN member

He expressed confidence that Maitra "will bring an independent, objective and muchneeded gender-balanced perspective to the functioning of ACABQ".

## Is Murdoch dumping Trump?

## Media magnate Murdoch-owned Fox News helped Don come to power in '16

New York, Nov. 7: Fox News and the New York Post, magnate Rupert Murdoch's main media outlets, have started distancing themselves from Donald Trump as the US election vote counting drama drags on — a first since the president came to power and a potential turning point.

On Thursday night in Phoenix, Arizona, supporters of Trump bluntly Sucks" in reference to the news outfit considered fiercely loyal to the presi-dent for the past five years. Fox News infuriated Trump and his people on election night by calling Arizona for Democrat Joe

Jared Kushner, Trump's advisor and son in law, called Murdoch in vain to try to get that call retracted. Other media held off from calling the battle-ground state for Biden as the tallying of ballots con-

Since that night, Fox News has stepped very carefully around allega-tions of massive vote fraud coming from the Trump campaign and the man himself.

"We just haven't seen it. It hasn't been presented to us," Fox News anchor Brett Baier said on the air

So people are asking if Fox News, which helped bring Trump to power in 2016, is in the process of dumping him as Biden closes in on the magic number of 270 electoral votes that would win him the White House.

DePauw University com-

munications professor Jeffrey McCall said Fox News has always had a twin identity — on one hand, star anchors who are more editorialists than journalists and on the other a newsroom that is much more measured. Some *Fox* journalists, such as Chris Wallace, who was the moderator at the first Trump-Biden debate, are very well respected professionals.

On the in-your-face editorial side stands Fox star Sean Hannity, who is very close to Trump and said on Thursday evening, "Americans have every right to be suspicious ... to distrust the legitimacy of the results." McCall said that the way Fox News has treated Trump since the election and its early calling of Arizona for Biden show the more serious side of the network is try-ing to "operate as inde-pendently as possible from the opinion section and even from the ownership.' "These people have their own journalistic stan-dards that they want to

uphold." But Reece Peck, who wrote a book about Fox News called "Fox Populism", said this dis-tancing could alienate

some viewprompt them to switch to another news source, such as OAN, a small new outfit, ultra conservative and extreme-ly pro



I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT! Bad things took place during those hours where LEGAL TRANSPARENCY was viciously & crudely not allowed. Windows were covered with thick cardboard so observers could not see into the count rooms.

DONALD TRUMP, outgoing Prez

Washington, Nov. 7: Donald Trump on Saturday declared himself as the winner of the saying that "official sources may not have called the race when this was tweeted. Trump also repeated his allegations of electoral fraud by claiming without evidence that "bad things happened" inside the

> state of Pennsylvania. The president has repeatedly attempted to question the validity of vote counts in key swing states and made unfounded claims that the election is being "stolen" from him. "Bad things took place during those hours where LEGAL TRANS-PARENCY was viciously & crudely not allowed. Tractors blocked doors & windows were covered with thick cardboard so that observers could not see into the count rooms. BAD THINGS HAPPENED INSIDE. BIG CHANGES TOOK PLACE!" he said in a tweet.

> counting rooms and tens of thou-sands of votes were illegally

received in the key battleground

Four days after the November 3 presidential election, votes were still being counted in several key battleground states. "This would ALSO change the Election result in numerous States, Pennsylvania, which everyone thought

won on

Night, only to see a massive lead disappear. — PTI

**TOUGH ROAD FOR** 

Washington, Nov. 7:

President Donald Trump has repeatedly said

there's one place he

wants to determine the

outcome of the presiden-

tial election: the US

Supreme Court. But he may have a difficult time

Over the last two days

Trump has leaned in to

the idea that the high

court should get invol-

ved in the election as it

did in 2000. Then, the

court effectively settled

the contested election

for President George W.

Bush in a 5-4 decision that split the court's lib-

erals and conservatives.

Today, six members of

the court are conserva-

tives, including three nominated by Trump.

But the outcome of

seemed to be shaping up

very differently from

electoral votes delivered

the presidency to George

W Bush. Then, Bush led

in Florida and went to

court to stop a recount.

Trump, for his part, has suggested a strategy

that would focus on mul-

tiple states where the

winning margins appear

to be slim. But he might

have to persuade the Supreme Court to set

aside votes in two or

more states to prevent

Joe Biden from becom-

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is

not likely to want the

election to come down to

himself and his col-

leagues. Roberts, who

was not on the court for

ing president.

year's election

when Florida's

ever getting there.

**DON TO GET SC** 

**TO INTERVENE** 

# Bannon lawyer quits fraud case

New York, Nov. 7: A lawyer for President Donald Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, quit defending him in a federal fraud case a day after Bannon made inflammatory comments about Dr. Anthony Fauci and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

In a letter dated Friday, defence attorney William Burck told a federal court luage in New York City that he was withdrawing from the case. He did not give a reason why. Reached by email, Burck declined to discuss the decision. The lawyer quit after Bannon suggested on an online broadcast that Fauci and Wray should be beheaded for being disloyal to the president. The remarks prompted Twitter to permanently suspend Bann-

on's account.
"I'd put the heads on pikes" as a warning to federal bureaucrats, Bannon said on video. "You

**NATIONS CHIDE** 

**TRUMP CLAIMS** 

Bogota, Nov. 7: Dem-

ands to stop the vote

count. Baseless accusations of fraud. Claims

that the opposition is trying to "steal" the elec-

tion. Across the world,

their heads on Friday -

especially in countries

that have long been advised by Washington

on how to run elections

assertions could truly be

coming from the president of the US, the

nation considered one of

the world's most emble-

"Who's the banana republic now?" Colombian daily newspaper *Publimetro* chided on the

front page with a photo

of a man in a US flag

print mask. The irony of

seeing US President Do-nald Trump cut off by major media networks

Thursday as he launch-

ed unsubstantiated clai-

ms lambasting the US

electoral system was not

The US has long been a

vocal critic of strong-

man tactics around the

lost on many.

matic democracies.

- wondering if those

**OF FRAUD** 

IN A letter dated Friday, defence attorney William Burck told a federal court judge in New York City that he was withdrawing from

either get with the programme or you are gone." Bannon, 66, is facing charges he ripped off Trump supporters as an organiser of a group called "We Build The Wall" that portrayed itself as eager to help the president build a barrier along the US-Mexico border. He has pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors accused Bannon and codefendants of misappropriating money from the group, which raised \$25 million from thousands of donors who thought their cash would be used to build the wall. Prosecutors declined comment

The pace of vote-counting in Nevada is being criti-

cised for taking too long

and it's even become fod-

der for online jokes. But

government officials say

they are emphasising

accuracy over speed in a year when processing an

unprecedented flood of

mail-in ballots under

extended deadlines is tak-

on that results would take

'We told everyone early

ing more time.

# Protesters crying foul over vote counts simmer safety concerns

Washington, Nov. 7: Pro-Trump protesters — some of them openly carrying rifles and handguns — rallied outside vote-tabulation centres in a few cities around the country country Friday, responding to groundless accusations from President Donald Trump that the Democrats trying to steal the White House.

Election officials in several states where Democrat Joe Biden was ahead said the anger outside their doors made them fear for the safety of their employees. Roughly 100 Trump supporters gathered for a third straight day in front of the elec-tions centre in Phoenix, where hundreds of workers were processing and counting ballots.

Why Nevada counting dragging?

Carson City (US), Nov. 7: at least ten days," Secret- come in, though the num-

ary of State spokeswoman Jennifer A Russell said in

an email. The Legislature

passed a bill in August to

send all active voters mail-

in ballots in hopes of

curbing, or at least not fuelling, the spread of the Coronavirus. Those post-

marked by Election Day

can be counted if they

arrive at election offices

within seven days, which

And they continue to

is Tuesday.

"Arrest the poll workers!" the crowd chanted, demanding four more years in office for Trump. Sheriff's deputies kept protesters in a "free speech" zone away from the entrance to the build ing. "When we start auditing some of these voter rolls, their fraud may actually be exposed," conservative activist Charlie Kirk told the crowd, eliciting cheers.

In Detroit, dozens of Trump supporters returned to the streets outside the city's convention centre, where election workers counted ballots. "Stop the steal!" the protesters chanted. Some carried signs that read, "Make Elections Fair Again" and "We Love Trump".

ber arriving each day is expected to dwindle.

"It's been a different year for us," said Deanna

Spikula, registrar of vot-

ers in Washoe County, the

county that includes Reno. "The volume is defi-

nitely something that

we've never seen before in

the state as far as receiv-

ing and processing mail-

second-largest

state's

in ballots.



A police office directs as demonstrators march during a protest after the elections in Los Angeles on Friday. -AP

**MAIL BALLOTS** 

Congress passed the first law that guaranteed the right to vote in federal elections to members of the Armed Forces who were away dur-

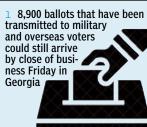


2009: Congress passed a bill requiring states to set up a system to transmit absentee ballots to military and civilian voters who were overseas during federal elections

28 states and the District of Columbia accept and count ballots that arrive from overseas after

3 days after polls, mail ballots accepted in Georgia as long as they are postmarked by Election Day. North Carolina accepts them until November 12: and Nevada and Pennsylvania until

North Carolina received nearly 11,000 ballots from uniformed service members; Georgia received more than 5,600 ballots; Pennsylvania received nearly 7,800 and Nevada about 2,700



## Biden: Youngest senator to oldest Prez

Washington, Nov. 7: Third time lucky is an apt phrase to describe the remarkable rise of Joe Biden, a veteran in US politics for around five decades, from being one of the youngest senators in history to the oldest American president.

The 77-year-old six-term Democratic senator, who triumphed over incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential election, ran twice unsuccessfully for president — in 1988 and 2008. The presidential dreams that the veteran leader from Delaware had harboured since child-

hood seemed all but over for a third time until he South Carolina's Democratic Party primary on February 29, forcing most rivals out of the race and making one of the most dramatic comebacks in American political history. Biden served two terms in the White House former president Barack Obama's vice president, capitalised on that

experience to portray himself as a tested leader and a better alternative to Republican incumbent President Donald Trump. accepting the Democratic presidential

nomination in August,

Biden pledged to restore "soul of America" and be an "ally of the light, not the darkness."
"The current president has cloaked America in darkness for much too long. Too much anger. Too much fear. Too much division. If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I will be an ally of the light, not of the darkness," he said.

He has a strong track record of being an ardent advocate of a strong Indiarelationship. From playing a key role in the passage of India-US civil nuclear deal during a

Republican administration to setting up the goal of a \$500 billion in bilateral trade, Biden has strong ties with the Indian leadership across the aisle and has a large number of Indian-Americans within his close circuit. At a fundraiser in July, Biden had said that India and the United States were natural partners. "That partnership, a strategic partnership, is necessary and important in our security, said when asked whether India is critical to the US' national security. Referring to his eight

years as the vice presi-

dent, Biden said that he

our strategic partnership with India was a high priority in the Obama-Biden administration and will be a high priority if I'm elected president," he had said. Born in Pennsylvania in 1942. Joe Robinette Biden Jr studied at the University of Delaware and then earned a law degree

from Syracuse University

in 1968.

Bush v Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, was proud to have played a has often tried to disrole in securing Congressional approval for the tance the court from the political branches of US-India Civil Nuclear government and the pol-Agreement, which he said itics he thinks could was a "big deal". "Helping hurt the court's reputaopen the door to great progress in our relationship and strengthening

It's also not clear what legal issues might cause the justices to step in. Trump has made repeatunsubstantiated claims of election fraud. Lawsuits filed by his campaign so far have been small-scale efforts unlikely to affect many votes, and some already have been dismissed Still, Trump has focused on the high court.

**LETTERS** 

Our CDS has come out with a statement that

the people of both the nations. People are fighting the pandemic. The

the economy is in bad shape. At this point a war will have disastrous consequences. More than eight rounds of diplomatic talks have been held so far. Our Prime Minister is

larger conflicts with China cannot be ruled out. It is a cause for concern for

government is spending a lot of money to arrest the spread of the disease. There are job losses and

**BORDER ISSUE** 



## Chronicle

8 NOVEMBER 2020



Shashi Warrier

**Off the beaten track** 

# Plotting a son-rise on shifting sands

ying in bed at night at home by Someshwar beach, it's hard to believe that the economy has slowed down. The quiet is broken by the roar of diesel engines as trucks carry sand away from the beach. It's all illegal, this sand mining, but it goes on through the night and most of the day despite recent headlines in a newspaper claiming that the Mangalore police have cracked down on it.

Complaints to the local police had unexpected consequences. They brought a visitation from a gangster — a minor gangster, but big enough to deter senior citizens — who was recently released from prison after serving a sentence for murder. That was the end of the complaints.

I considered going higher up, to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, but then that's time-consuming and useless. I went to the DC a couple of years ago with a complaint about the local panchayat breaking all sorts of rules for friends and relatives. After a dozen calls, four visits to his office and six hours of waiting, I got three minutes in the presence of the man to explain these troubles. A month later, there was a letter from his office saying that my complaint had been transferred to the local authorities, who would get back to me. They never did: it was like asking a burglar to investigate her own crimes.

At my wits' end, I thought I'd wait for my friend Murthy, the one with the contacts in high places, to visit. Thanks to the lockdown, he's been in these parts for some months, and drops in once in a while to drink my most expensive whiskey. The least he could do in return, I thought, was to get some high-up to stop the sand mining, which is destroying what's left of the beach after the sea is done with it.

Murthy turned up one weekend. My wife, being aware of his habits, went off to watch TV, leaving the two of us to ourselves. I still haven't figured

It's all illegal, this sand

mining, but it goes on

through the night and

despite recent head-

lines in a newspaper

Mangalore police have

most of the day

claiming that the

cracked down on it

out how he managed to swallow, with no sign of haste, two large pegs of scotch, without giving me a chance to edge a word into the conversation. But then he bit into a samosa that was a little too spicy for him and had to shut up for a moment to let his tongue cool off and I grabbed the opportunity to present my

You have to hand it to the man. I gabbled my problems in the thirty seconds or so that it took him to recover, and he grasped it all. "So now you want me to see whether I can persuade some big shot to stop this illegal sand mining, someone with enough clout to avoid interference from local gangsters or officials or both.'

"Yes," I responded, and sat back to receive the flood of the rest of his monologue.

As he left that night, he paused at the door of his cab, an anonymous white hatchback, very unlike the Mercedes in which he made his first visit to my house. "I'm not sure it'll work, he said. "No one else wants this to stop." "What do you mean?" I asked.

"A few people here, a hundred voters, maybe, want the mining to stop," he replied. "Thousands of others, voters for whom the sand means business, or work, or hope, will want it to continue.

"The whole beach and the township will be gone in twenty years," I said.
"Name one leader who looks beyond the next elections," he told me.
"Twenty years is long past any politician's horizon. Five years is the

absolute maximum." He dropped in again just three days later. My hopes rose when he walked in, but fell again when he started talking. For the first time in my experience, he seemed chastened, apologetic, and even humble. "What hap-

pened?" I asked. with uncharacteristic directness. "One of these VII invited me home a couple of days ago. He told me that his security level had just been upgraded, so he's got an armed guard now. His teenage son wanted to borrow the guard's pistol to shoot at coconuts on a palm, and the bodyguard refused to hand it over. The VIP was chewing out the bodyguard when I got to his place, and eventually the bodyguard had to submit. After the boy went out, weapon in hand, the VIP turned to me, smiled, and said, 'Boys will be boys. I was just like that at his age.' He was in a good mood, for he then asked, 'What can I do for you?

"I told him about the sand mining and the beach disappearing and so on, and he seemed to be thinking about it. I should have shut up then but instead I told him you were afraid your township would disappear under the waves in twenty years.

"His face lit up. 'Does that mean that fifteen years from now we'll build a sea wall there?' he asked. I told him yes, and he smiled happily. 'Elections are a part of politics,' he said, 'and you get used to winning about half the time. The important thing is your first election. If you win that, you're doing fine. Building a sea wall there after some years will fund my son's first election. So tell your friend not to worry. We'll build him a sea wall to keep his house safe."

I didn't know what to say, so I got up to fetch Murthy a whiskey. He read my mind, for he said, "I can't stay for a drink. I've got to move on.

'Where?" I asked, surprised. "Back to that VIP. It's the son's birthday today, and he's having a party... I'll get my scotch there.

Shashi Warrier has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.



## Biden takes high road, Trumpism is still alive



K.C. Singh

merica's presidential election on November 3 took pollsters, Democrats and the world by surprise when the early results showed President Donald Trump leading in most swing states, including in the socalled Democratic "Blue Wall" states like
Pennsylvania, Michigan
and Wisconsin. Mr Trump
had snatched these Rust Belt states from the Democrats in 2016, and their 46 Electoral College votes secured Mr Trump's

victory four years ago.

Former vice-president
Joe Biden told his party that as someone born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he could reclaim the wall by bonding with the alienated working class, who had defected to Mr Trump, who in 2016 played on the twin fears of these people. One, deindustrialisation caused by the 1970s' oil price rise, ition that stretched supply chains worldwide. China's manufacturing prowess after joining the World Trade Organisation in 2001 turned global trade upside down. China built huge trade surpluses, while the US expended money on two costly wars abroad. Mr Trump exploited these fears and xenophobia under his "America First" slogan.

is clear despite Mr Biden flipping Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and, more significantly, Georgia after three decades of Republican dominance. Of the 150 million votes cast, the heaviest ever, Mr Trump has under half. It signals a deeply divided nation, with one half wedded to a divisive, racist and exclusionist vision. Recounting looms in Georgia, as the voting

gap is within the 0.5 per cent difference mandated as a pre-condition. In Pennsylvania, carrying which will take Mr Biden across the 270 mark to victory, with each group of mail-in ballots counted Mr Biden's lead increases. The main news networks, however, haven't yet called the election as the uncounted votes exceed Mr Biden's lead.

There are multiple issues

in play. Mr Trump is not only unwilling to concede defeat but maintains, through tweets and otherwise, the false narrative of electoral fraud. He plays on the confusion between inperson votes, which his

The power of his message

supporters mostly cast, and legal mailed-in votes mostly going to Democrats. The Democrats advised all, due to the Covid pandemic, to avoid the voting day rush and use mail-in voting. They also feared intimidation by Mr Trump's followers to suppress the minorities' votes. Mr Trump realised weeks earlier that those enlisting for mail voting were mostly Democrats, so during electioneering, he started demonising mailed ballots. In the presidential election, the methodology is left to each state, so the procedures vary from one state to another. Many allowed mail-voting or in-person early voting. However, while some allowed counting of this mix of votes simultaneously or early, in many crucial swing states, the Election Day votes were tabulated first. The first reports thus showed Mr Trump leading, which in some states began dissi-pating as mailed ballots were counted. This Mr Trump decried as fraudulent disappearance of his

votes.
This argument doesn't

wash as Republicans have done well to keep Senate control and Mr Trump's tutional statements and unbecoming conduct. If Mr Biden widens his Pennsylvotes exceed his 2016 tally. vania lead to where it is Mr Biden simply got more votes, breaking existing seen as irreversible and the election is called, the wind may leak out of Trumpian records. In a similar situation in 2016, Hillary Clinton bravado. A Biden presidenwas advised by then President Barack Obama to cy appears inevitable. All nations are observing silently the high theatre in concede to avoid uncertainty. But Mr Trump has no adviser with the gravitas of James Baker, who con-vinced a cornered Richard world's most powerful democracy. A senior BJP leader has written, as head of a party-linked think Nixon that his only good tank, to indirectly convey option was to resign after the government's thinking. He incorrectly claims no Republican President lost reelection in a century, forthe Watergate scandal. Mr Trump seems to think he can reel-back Arizona, getting George H.W. Bush's loss to Bill Clinton in 1992.

where he's cutting Mr Biden's lead, see a turn-Naturally, he ignores the "Abki baar" slogan Prime Minister Narendra Modi around in Pennsylvania as more votes are counted and keep Georgia logjammed in recounts or legal chalraised in Houston, crossing lenges. A protracted standthe line between personal off, he hopes, can somehow retrieve the situation, maybe by going to the Supreme Court. Unfortun-ately, even senior Repubfriendship and political endorsement of Mr Trump. He now avows permanence of interests and not friends as the guiding principle.

A Biden presidency means both continuity and lican leaders fear speaking the truth to Mr Trump as change. The basic trajectory of India-US relations will continue, but its momenthey can see his mesmerising grip on a huge electoral base, which many senators have just enchased. tum will be conditioned by After waiting unsuccesshow Mr Biden handles

fully for the election to be called, Joe Biden finally addressed the nation. He chose the high road, promising to heal divides, promising to deal with the economy, climate change and the pandemic. He recommended patience, and unlike Mr Trump endorsed the integrity of the electoral process. He assumed the posture of de facto winner by promising to again address the nation the following day. Slowly, senior Republicans are moving away from solidly backing Mr Trump in his unconsti-India has an outstanding ambassador in Washing-

The basic trajectory of **India-US relations** will continue, but its momentum will be conditioned by how Mr Biden handles China, Pakistan, **Afghanistan** and Iran

have a one-to-one meet to sort out differences for war is no answer to the border issue. It should be

resolved bilaterally.

to meet Xi in the

**Shanghai Cooperation** 

Organisation (SCO) meet. Both the leaders should

Sravana Ramachandran,

Chennai

**POLES APART** 

ACCORDING TO British tabloid The Daily Mirror, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is planning to resign after six months as he finds the salary too low in com-parison to his previous occupa-tion. Johnson earns approximate-ly 1,50,400 pounds which is reportedly not sufficient for his survival. He is said to be 'jealous' of his predecessor Theresa May, whose earnings have gone up sub-stantially after she quit as the Prime Minister last year. Have we ever heard of an Indian leader giving up his political career due to poor earnings? In fact, people enter politics purely because it is the most lucrative profession in the country. When there was a report that this is the last election of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, his party officials promptly came out with a clarification that there was no retirement for their leader and that he would stay in politics "as long as the pub-

P.G. Menon, Chennai

#### **COMMENDABLE WIN**

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD (SRH) did everything right (right from winning the toss and decid-ing to bowl) on Friday to eliminate Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) from this edition of the Indian Premier League. That they (SRH) restricted the RCB to a paltry total of 131 in 20 overs suggests how much homework they would have done in an eliminator match. Though the RCB tried to compensate its batting lapses with some tight bowling, it could not prevent the Sunrisers from romping home. Full marks to Sunrisers Hyderabad for winning the match by six wickets.

Pakistan,

make-or-break

Afghanistan and Iran.

Trade ties would not be

treated as Mr Trump did by

solutions. Climate change

provides a new area of con-

vergence, which Mr Trump

contemptuously ignored

But the Democrats would

hold India to a higher stan-

dard of liberal democracy

than the government in

New Delhi is used to. Kamala Harris will remem-

ber the insulting treatment

of her comrade Pramila

Jayapal, convincingly re-

elected, by external affairs

minister S. Jaishankar.

ton, on a third posting there, having relationships

with both sides. But then,

as the BJP ideologue wrote,

interests can outrank kin-

The writer is a former

at @ambkcsingh.

secretary in the external

affairs ministry. He tweets

ship or friendship.

seeking

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

#### **SRH FAVOURITES**

KUDOS TO David Warner and his team for decimating Kohli's team to enter the qualifier 2 stage to meet Delhi Capitals on Sunday. Like the previous seasons. RCB progressed well till the middle stages and then choked to throw away their chances to lift the IPL trophy. Ironically, this season even the skipper was found wanting, both as a batsman and captain. A.B. de Villiers too was patchy. If only they had played Zampa or even Moeen Ali in place of Finch, things could have gone their way. The way Sunrisers Hyderabad have bounced back, it seems they will topple Delhi Capitals on Sunday and lift the Cup on Tuesday.

Capt. N. Viswanathan Coimbatore

# **Aakar Patel**

## Amid new dawn in the US, India may now have to work differently

n American from Chennai won re-election this past week. Her name is Pramila Jayapal and and she heads the Congressional Progressive Caucus. A few months ago, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar cancelled a meeting with the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, which included its Republican chairman and Democratic members. Mr Jaishankar refused to meet them because the group included Pramila Jayapal, who had pushed a resolution demanding that India end the communications blackout in Kashmir. Mr Jaishankar told the Americans that he would meet them only if they dropped Ms Jayapal from the group. Of course, the Americans refused.

Mr Jaishankar is paid by us to defend India abroad but chose instead to duck the meeting as it would involve a difficult conversation or perhaps he was just afraid of a confrontation. After his running away was widely reported in the American media, Senator Kamala Harris of California had tweeted: "It's wrong for any foreign government to

tell Congress what members are allowed in meetings on Capitol Hill." Mr Jaishankar felt he could afford to do this as the US administration was headed by Republican Donald Trump, who doesn't care about human rights. It will not be possible for Mr Jaishankar to do what he did in

December 2019 again. The BJP has invested a lot in doing what no other Indian government has done before - meddle in the US elections and try and get Mr Trump elected again. A group called the "Overseas Friends of the BJP" had registered itself officially as a foreign agent in the US in September. After this was discovered, the party instructed these Indian Americans to help Mr Trump in their 'personal capacity" and to not use the BJP's name, but it is clear that they are all BJP supporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself asked Indians in the US to vote for Mr Trump at the "Howdy Modi" rally in September 2019. Or at least that is one interpretation we can give to his line "Ab ki baar Trump sarkar"

What happens now that Mr Trump is on his way out? The BJP has begun backpedalling from its recklessness. It trotted out in-house intellectual Ram Madhav to write a newspaper article on Saturday that "US-India ties stand on a bipartisan and strong footing". Mr Madhav wrote: "Some in India believe Biden-Harris would be bad news for US-India relations.

Actually, nobody believes that. Mr Madhav is confusing the BJP with India. There is no question that US India relations run deep and at times there is a civilisational connect between the two nations. This is not such a time. India has taken a turn towards majoritarianism. The Indian State is bullying and harassing its own citizens at a scale which has alarmed the world.

Pramila Jayapal and Kamala Harris did not casually take up the issues they chose to. They will not stop taking them up now as the previously partisan BJP now pleads for bipartisan support.

Events in America have strengthened the hand of those leaders there who wish India well but think of India as being a collection of Indians. If Indians are mistreated, they will object.

The Democratic Party fought this election on a very liberal platform. On the question of human rights, the most powerful message they were aligned with was Black Lives Matter. This part of the Democratic Party (which includes Ms Jayapal) has become stronger inside because of the success of the human rights messaging.

Most Indians may not know that in April India was earmarked as a Ĉountry of Particular Concern" by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Its report said that "India took a sharp downward turn in 2019" because the Modi government "instituted national-level policies violating religious freedom across India, especially for Muslims". It said of the Citizenship Amendment Act that "this law is meant to provide protection for listed non-Muslim religious communities — but not for Muslims — against exclusion from a nationwide National Register of Citizens and the resulting detention, deportation, and potential statelessness". It said India had seen "nationwide campaigns of harassment and violence against religious minorities to continue with impunity, and engaged in and tolerated hate speech and incitement to violence against

It names home minister Amit Shah and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath and reproduces their statements. Most important, it has recommended that

the US administration act and impose "targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/or barring their entry into the United States under human rightsrelated financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations".

India was able to ignore this till now because Mr Trump was running the administration and he was the one who would decide. India put out a statement that said: "We reject the observations on India in the USCIRF annual report. Its biased and tendentious comments against India are not new. But, on this occasion, its misrepresentation has reached new levels.

This was also a form of running away. If you think you are friends with America, you have to convince them that their findings are wrong. Refusing to engage with them is not a solution. It worked when Mr Trump was in charge. It will not work now.

The writer is a columnist and a senior

KAUSHIK MITTER Editor, R. MOHAN Resident Editor

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OUR CRITIC'S RATING Outstanding ★★★★★ Great ★★★★ Good ★★★ Okay ★★ Poor ★ Truly Terrible TT

## Parveen Babi: How a life of glamour ended as Token No. 62 at the morgue



Anirudha Bhattacharjee

centrespread I grew up with in my childhood featured a prominent cricketer. I do not remember where I saw it. Could be Sportsweek, or one of the film magazines which would be sold on the pavement outside the main road connecting Pirmohani to Kadam Kuan in Patna. The cricketer was Salim Durrani, the hero of young women at that time. The beautiful but littleknown young woman in the picture, we were told, was a new actress. Parveen Babi.

In no time the little-known young woman, advertised as the "Hottest Discovery" by director B.R. Ishara soon became a centrespread regular. Her pictures would adorn the walls of hair salons along with another centrespread where the reigning sexy symbol, Zeenat Amar, in her youth icon photograph where she would be swinging from a hammock. The filmy press even gave Parveen a moniker -- poor man's Zeenat Aman, though by all standards Parveen was the

better actress of the two. Gradually, the poor man's Zeenat became part of the lives of teens brought up on a diet of Hindi films. However, except for her association with multiple men at various points in time, little was known about the roots lined well enough to get a

of the lady who, along with Sunil Gavaskar, Amitabh Bachchan, Kishore Kumar, R.D. Burman and a few others, made our lives worth living when we were young. Reports about her were mostly about various glamour, lifestyle, perversion,

and schizophrenia.
Thankfully, Karishma
Upadhyay's book on Parveen is a godsend. The 290+ pagelong impressive compendium serves three purposes. One, it documents Parveen Babi's life in intricate detail. Two, it gives a rationale behind the myths associated with the actress. Myths which have been floating in various forms for the last 30 years. And three, it gives her persona a human face.

Upadhyay starts off with the history of the Babi dynasty. The roots are traced back almost 350 years. We get to know about Parveen's parents, her education in a Gujarati medium school, her rather modest upbringing where aspirations were limited, her college days at St. Xavier's, Ahmedabad, and her modelling spree which started with Calico.

Moving to the world of cinema, Upadhyay narrates how Parveen became part Dhuen Lakir and Charitra almost

simultaneously in detail. Her journey — both personal and professional — is outthe 1970s which were more about gay abandon, to the dark chambers of the 1980s. The gradual loss of innocence and how we lost the lovely and capable actress to schizophrenia and manic depression is the highpoint of the book. The book ends with Parveen Babi getting registered as "unclaimed body number 16" at Cooper Hospital and later as Token No. 62 at the morgue. Poignant? Yes, it is. Heartbreaking? Surely.

Routine? No. What is distinctly different about this book is the immense effort Upadhyay has pumped into her work. Of late, with the boom of social media, the groundwork in terms of interviews and detailing in biographies has shown a marked increase. Upadhyay, however, takes it to a different level. For someone who did not grow up during the time Parveen was a Page 3 regular for causes other than controversies and hal-lucinations, the effort is

mind-boggling. The book has a plethora of interviews, with her family members, school/college mates, film and media personalities, her life-long friend-cum-secretary and, of course, the three known men in her life.

While Parveen was perceived to be a Page 3 item, the interview responses are definitely not of the "oh, she was such a beautiful girl" variety. They have depth, and coverage wide enough to trace Parveen's life across a wide span of time. And in quite some detail. Stitched almost seamlessly, with anecdotes and news reports sourced from multiple periodicals/publications, the odicals/publications,



**PARVEEN BABI: A LIFE** By KARISHMA

**ÚPADHYAY** 

Published by Hachette

India ₹467 chapters create a very visual story. Needless to mention, Upadhyay's standing as a reporter/scribe comes out very strongly in her work. Investigative journalism it is, but sans judgement. The book not only forces the reader to think, it also makes you feel. It takes you back in time, it makes the eyes moist. The helplessness of one of the most beautiful, articulate and modern women in cinema rubs on to the reader as well. Quibbles? I have a few. The

extreme neutral stance taken by Upadhyay implies that she does not question even basic things like a 14-year-old joining college. The subcontinent is infamous for fake birth certificates and records, but in this case Upadhyay accepts what was told to her. Two, Parveen's role as the "other woman" in Marc Zuber's life in *Yeh Nazdeekiyan* is like a slice of her own life, and this could have been discussed in more detail rather than limiting the filmic interpretation of her psyche only to Kavita Sanyal in *Arth*. Three, there

might lose track of timelines as not all events in the book are in strict chronology. In this case, the editors should have been extra careful. A few behind-the-scene film-making stories would have added value as well, for example the inspiration behind slick *Bullet* (1976), or how Bhappie Sonie borrowed an idea from Billy Wilder in *Chalta Purza*, the Rajesh-Parveen starrer which was expected to rock but did rather badly. Lastly, the book deserved many more photographs, properly catalogued

However, these are minor issues. The book's major strength is the storytelling which, like good biographies, can be given multiple reads simply to get the feel of the enigma that was

The 10-year-old small-town boy, after seeing a few cen-tre-spreads of Parveen, had formed an opinion. She was like a happy girl with very sad, lonely eyes. The idea was cemented after watching Deewar (1975). Despite her western outfits and chain-smoking avatar, she seemed to be a simple, trusting and down-to-earth girl next door with an elusive quality which was beyond definition. She was like someone who was so near. and yet so far. After reading Upadhyay's book, those "sad, lonely eyes" linger in my head.

Anirudha Bhattachariee. author of the National award- $winning\ book\ R\ D$ Burman, the man the music, is a huge fan of 1970s cinema and a self-confessed fan of the actress.



## Harnessing horror to showcase female rage

Kaali Khuhi

Arora, Satyadeep Misra

RATING: \*\*

TOR: Terrie

A tmospherics play a significant role in setting the tone of any film, more so, in a film that needs to draw you in and make you

too - being a girl - begins to learn the bitter truth of her being an unwanted child.

To tell such a story, smoky and care. And, if sets out to raise the patriarchal practice of killing female newborns, it'd better be logical too. Not just in its premise but in its storytelling too.

The 90-minute film Kaali Khuhi (The Black Well) ambitiously tries to comment on an age-old malpractice seen more in North India – the killing of female infants at the very moment of their birth. Its first-time director Terrie Samundra does have his heart

in the right pace when the grave issue as the basic premise in the film is set in Punjab (albeit the small town is fictional here) where patriarchy has always ruled primarily due to sex-selective abortions that abound leading to a disproportionately higher number of male children in the state. And, the aforementioned imbalance – welldocumented in umpteen data culled from research papers published in many journals – is a direct

insult since Punjab is otherwise a highly developed state in economic terms. The nameless village could well be a deliberate attempt at reminding us that it could be any place with such depraved and evil thinking people. That too in this day and age!

Γĥe Netflix India original film tends to deal with such a solemn subject using great cinematic visuals that provide more jitters than substance but with a scant regard for depth. Though well intentioned the result is both half-

baked and murky. Upon hearing her grandmother's (Leela Samson) sudden illness, the 10 year old Shivangi (Riva Arora)leaves for her father Darshan's (Satyajeet Mishra) and mother Priya (Sanjeeta Sheikh) ancestral village in Punjab with them. She looks and behaves just like any girl her age would but little does she know that she would soon be embroiled in a conflict that bodes ominous repercussions. Earlier, when see a man unsealing the unused well in the introductory sequence, we are sort of prepared to read more into the well - supposed to be the life-giving sourcethe neighbourhood that has a lot more

to reveal than hide from its depths. For Shivangi, who is beginning to learn life's lessons on her own owing to the constant bickering between her parents, the creepy atmosphere in the village adds a pall of gloom all the more. As she explores the village along with her grandmother's neighbour Satya Maasi(Shabana Azmi) and her granddaughter Chandni (Hetvi Bhanushali), strange things begin to happen leaving her wondering what all this would lead to. A girl appears below her grandmother's bed;a dead rat and unnerving ghost-like sounds etc. Soon, she begins to experience and uncover the mystery surrounding their house that also helps her discover the gruesome past that has been lurking in the village. That the dark and gloomy incidents of the bygone days are back to haunt and avenge is evident from sudden noises and disappearances of characters in her life. Not only her father, who faces the wrath of the spirit, other members of her family get resurrected too, as she

spooky sound and dim vision are not enough for viewers to get an authentic feel to a plausible story. To be fair, Sejal Shah's muted camerawork uses the right mix of dark lens and natural light to give us shudders in a few scenes, and the technical aspects of the film are laudable. Choosing a subject that is so commonly known in India and yet brushed under the carpet when confronted with it, is itself a

very apt choice. Considering such killings are even justified by some and many

of the chauvinists would react to such a story only when prodded, making them matter-of-fact too, we ought to make people aware of such dogmatic nonsensical views. The shameful tradition can be so routine for some that they may not even react. But do we need to accentuate the gory happenings that are, may be, not every day occurrences any more, but nevertheless are

prevalent even today, with haze and uncanny eerie scenes to make it a horror genre film? Agreed the ambience denoting scare and chilling effects of an infant getting killed by self-styled do-gooder women who believed that a girl-child would bring a curse is foreboding. But creating a mysterious atmosphere when everything is familiar and evident is unnecessary.

There are flashes of great analysis when we see nearly an all -woman cast dealing with the subject for which they themselves are equally to blame for perpetuating the unjust social system of patriarchy. That women could jointly take a stand to stop such evil is what one learns about all the women characters involved in the story.

The girl-child as a protagonist represents the new generation who must bring about the desired change and the film is seen through the prism of

That apart, the one and half hour film fails to elicit a thought provoking response from its viewers. The narrative is fairly simplistic and in no way, makes us reason out.

While the idea to scare us by underlining the message that it's scary to know that female infanticide is an ugly reality we cannot escape from. But leaving many of the questions unanswered in a fog that the lens of the camera uses in abundance, leads to an even moremiasma of smoke and uncertainty. Why, for instance, the ghost of a girl kill all those who she believes prevented her from living? Or, why does Darshan behave the way he does, and insists on staying back in the village after his mother's demise?

It is also unpardonable to use actors of the calibre of Shabana Azmi in a role that she tries hard to sink her teeth into but in the absence of anycredible approach, her efforts are as fleeting as the length of her role itself. Watch Kaali Khuhi, if you must, but don't look for any lessons though the

film's writers Terrie Samundra, David Walter Lech and Rupinder Inderjit do have a message for you all - the abysmal dark well of superstitions must be done away with!

## Diane Lane and Kevin Costner reunite for some Western warmth

T: Diane Lane, Kevin Costner Direction: Thomas Bezucha CTOR: yyy

Superman, that boring lug, has thankfully flown the coop. Writer-director Thomas Bezucha's Western thriller *Let Him* Go reunites Diane Lane and Kevin Costner, who as the Kents were easily the warmest presences in the otherwise dully dour Man of Steel.

They are together again in Let Him Go, this time front and center but likewise retired and living close to the land. And the pairing is just as good. Both Lane and Costner, direct and earthy performers from the start, have only added depth with age. As long-married Montana ranchers in *Let Him Go*, they're basically the platonic ideal of an old-fashioned, homespun Americana. They could sell you a

mountain of jeans if they wanted to. In Bezucha's film, adapted from Larry Watson's novel, they are Margaret and George Blackledge, and the opening scenes are of ominous harmony. Their son James (Ryan Bruce) returns from the fields for breakfast, turning the radio on



and dancing with his wife, Lorna (Kayli Carter), and their newborn. If there's a trace of discord, it's in a moment where Lorna puts her son under water too hot, leading Margaret to take the child with probably isn't her first reproachful glance at her daughterin-law. It's an early sign: Let Him Go might be set on familiar, tense Western plains, but it's about mothering.

In a series of fast-moving events, James is killed in a horsing accident. Bezucha cuts immediately to three years later, when Lorna is remarrying in a small, joyless ceremony. Soon after, Margaret sees the new husband Donnie (Will Brittain) striking both mother and son on the street. Before she's had much time to respond to it, she finds the family has unexpectedly moved out of their new apartment. Margaret starts packing up the Chevy station wagon. She's going to look for them, she says. George, a former lawman,

At this midway point, *Let Him Go* is good. As two childless, grieving figures traversing a Western landscape, the Blackledges seemed carved out of an elegiac mythology. They are trying to beat back the loss they feel creeping over their lives. "Sometimes that's all life is, Margaret," says George. "A list of what we've lost." It's an impression made more powerful by Lane and Costner, both of whom are return-

but from a different standpoint in life. (Costner is more identifiable with Westerns thanks to Dances With Wolves, Wyatt Earp and others. but don't forget Lane in Lonesome

Their search takes them into North Dakota where the dark reputation of Donnie's family, the Weboys (pronounced "wee-boys"), begins to surround them before they've even crossed state lines. Finding them at all seems uncertain, but they manage it, and in a menacing dinner, they meet the Weboys. Their clan, too, comes with a formidable matriarch in Blanche Lesley Manville, bringing dramatic flare to an otherwise restrained film), a much more violent and sin-

ister corollary to Margaret. But the collision of the two families is managed awkwardly. The Weboys, which include a grinning father (Jeffrey Donovan) and two other brothers, never come through clearly. It's unclear what they're about except that they're bad news, and their cruelty comes off as strange, extravagant gestures in uncertainly defined roles. What seems set up for a slow-burn showdown between rival grandmas dissipates in blunt shootouts that sidelines Lane's Margaret at just the wrong time. It's Margaret who leads the charge, and it's Lane's movie even when the film momentar ily forgets it.

## A grand contribution to Hollywood history

ST: Gary Oldman, Amanda fried, Lily Collins, Arliss oward, Tom Pelphrey, Sam oughton, Ferdinand Kingsley Armando Iannucci ATING: ★★★★★

g on: Netflix

n one history of the movies, *Citizen Kane* screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz might look like a footnote. The former playwright had a hand in many famous pictures, including *The Wizard of Oz*, but most went uncredited. He was the smartest guy in the room, a drunk and a gambler who was dead at 55. And his kid brother, Joe, who directed and wrote *All* About Eve, would go on to be the

But in another version of Hollywood history, the one David Fincher tells in the glorious new film *Mank*, Herman Mankiewicz as portrayed by Gary Oldman was early Hollywood in all its greatness and tragedy. Working off a crackling screenplay by his late father Jack Fincher, David Fincher has made *Mank* into an incisive look at a complex man who was once William Řandolph Hearst's favorite dinner companion but by 43 was a Hollywood has-been — washed up and laid up while writing what would become "Citizen Kane" in a bungalow in

Victorville in 1940. Even though it's filmed in black and white with a big band score (from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross) and made to look and sound like a film of the time, this isn't some dreamy, nostalgic writer-as-hero tale. It that there's nothing more deathly boring and uncinematic as the writing process. Nor is it a referendum on the old "who really deserves credit for Citizen Kane" debate.

Instead, Mank is about the context around Citizen Kane, the tarnished realities of Hollywood's Golden Age, the seductive power of filmed imagery and how a man who was once a friend not just to Hearst, but to Marion Davies, too, would decide to write about them against the advice of everyone in his life.

In order to do this, Fincher flashes back to 1934, when Mank is riding high in the studio system, getting invited to all the parties, helping his little brother Joe (Tom Pelphrey) get a foot in the door and hanging around Hearst (an intimidating but warm Charles Dance) and Davies (an outstanding Amanda Seyfried). But outside of the opu-



lence of the movie business there is the Depression going on and worldwide unrest that will soon lead to another war. In one scene Louis B. Mayer (Arliss Howard) walks Mank and Joe through the studio lot while giving a lively speech about the 'dream factory," only to end up on a big soundstage where he tells everyone from movie stars to grips that they'll have to take a 50% pay cut so the "family"

can survive the Depression. The hypocrisy of it all is getting too much for Mank to handle with his usual sarcasm. He already believes he's slumming it in his mercenary procession and is unafraid to speak his mind to the suits around him, who tolerate him until they don't.

By 1940, Mank is a Hollywood exile who agrees to write a script for the 24-year-old radio wunderkind Orson Welles (Tom accident, he dictates dialogue and scribbles notes that his prim British assistant Rita (Lily Collins) puts through a type-

There are more questions than answers when it comes to Mank, including why he seemed so intent on self-sabotage and why his wife Sarah (Tuppence Middleton) stayed around. Although pushing the limits of whot e 42 world men looked. what a 43-year-old man looked like in 1940, Oldman is naturally terrific at playing the guy who refuses to suffer fools and is always ready with a comeback, but who takes it too far too often (the tragedy of the arrogant drunk).

The film is wry and observant about the movie business and all the things that haven't changed, as well as those that have. That it's a Netflix production is a deafening statement of its own. But it also has a beating heart thanks

in large part to Seyfried's Davies who beautifully reclaims the life and agency of a woman who history and "Citizen Kane" reduced to Hearst's showgirl mistress. Mank and Davies are kindred spirits and she is the moral compass of the ridiculous world they inhabit. When Mank is eviscerating everyone in a drunken rant, you're looking for her reaction. It makes the question of why he ended up writing what he did ever more vexing toward the end. Was it a paycheck? A bout of moral conscience? An attempt to burn bridges? A combination of all? Or something else altogether?

"Mank" isn't interested in providing the answers, which is just as well. It's simply telling a story about a man behind so many of our movie memories and making a new one in the process. And it is, without a doubt one, of the year's very best.

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Saints top for 1st** time in 32 years

London: Southampton swept to the top of the Premier League for the first time since 1988 with a 2-0 win against Newcastle, while Burnley remain without a victory this season after they were held to a 0-0 draw at Brighton on

Friday Goals from Che Adams and Stuart Armstrong ensured Southampton finished the day at the summit of the English top-flight table for the first time since Chris Nicholl's team 32 years ago. It is Ralph Hasenhuttl in charge of the Saints now and the Austrian has masterminded a remarkable revival on the south-coast. Just over a year after they were

humiliated in a 9-0 thrashing by Leicester at St Mary's, Southampton have been transformed so thoroughly that they now look capable of beating anyone in the country on their day. Sustaining their place at the top is likely to prove a step too far, yet there is no reason why they shouldn't dream of European qualification and

the top four. Hasenhuttl recently claimed he wanted his team of "pirates" to stay out of the spotlight, but their swashbuckling form will make that impossible. — AFP

even a surprise bid to finish in

#### Ram reaches **Challenger final**

Eckental, Germany: Indian ace Ramkumar Ramanathan fought back from a set down to beat Germany's Marvin Moller 4-6, 6-, 6-1 and enter the final of the Eckental Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday.

Ramkumar fired 12 aces and won five of seven break points on his way to the final of the Euro 88,520 event. Ramkumar will face Sebastian Korda of United States in the final on Sunday. This is his fifth singles final on the Challenger circuit. He has never won a title.

On Friday, Ramkumar achieved the best performance of the season by reaching the semifinals with a straight set 6-2, 6-1 win over Evgeny Donskoy of Russia. Before this event, making the Bangkok Challenger quarterfinals in January was the

He resumed competitive tennis last month after a long coronavirus-forced break. Entering the last-four clash on the back of a convincing quarterfinal win over Donskoy Ramkumar started the match on the wrong foot, losing the

unseeded Indian's best result.

## **Azam leads Pak's**

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Skipper

Babar Azam smashed a robust half-century to lead Pakistan's six-wicket rout of Zimbabwe in the first Twenty20 international in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Azam proved yet again why he is one of the top batsmen in white-ball cricket with an attractive 55-ball 82 to anchor Pakistan's chase of a modest 157-run target in 18.5 overs. The win gives Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and a 12th straight win over Zimbabwe in all Twenty20 international cricket.

### Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Qualifier 2 — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Melbourne Stars from 8.15 am on Sony Six

ATP Paris Masters: Semifinal from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

English Premier League: West Brom vs Tottenham Hotspur from 5.30 pm; Leicester City vs Wolverhampton from 7.30 pm: Manchester City vs Liverpool from 10 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Lazio vs Juventus from 5 pm; Atalanta vs Inter Milan from 7.30 pm; Bologna vs Napoli from 10.30 pm; AC Milan vs Verona from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2

**UFC FIGHT NIGHT** Thiago Santos vs Glover Teixeira and other bouts from 8.30 am on

Regd. No.

## TNENG/2010/35692

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# Can Delhi eclipse Sun?

## Inconsistent Capitals face red-hot Hyderabad in Qualifier 2

Peaking at the right time and with all their boxes Sunrisers Hyderabad are certain to hold sway over a dishev-elled Delhi Capitals in the second Indian Premier League qualifier here on Sunday. The past couple of weeks have been a picture in contrast for the two fran-

After an underwhelming first half, Hyderabad started pushing the envelope with the mercurial David Warner marshalling his resources well.

Capitals, on the other hand, looked like serious contenders till their first nine games, winning seven in that phase before an inexplicable slump saw them lose five out of their next six matches with skipper Shreyas Iyer looking all at sea.

The current situation notwithstanding, young Iyer would want to lead the Capitals to their first summit clash in 13 editions while Warner wouldn't mind adding another sil-verware to his 2016 tri-

In fact, if he can win the next two games, Warner could boast of guiding comparatively one of the more inexperienced teams

For Capitals, the biggest worry has been their toporder woes — especially the first three slots where Shikhar Dhawan (525 in 15 games) has shone the

Prithvi Shaw's (228 from 13 games) technique against top quality fast bowling has left a lot to be desired and Ajinkya Rahane (111 from 7 games) has had only one knock of note so far.

Something that would definitely worry coach Ricky Ponting is the number of ducks by the toporder — nine. Dhawan has four, Shaw has three and Rahane didn't bother the scorers twice.

However, the bowling unit has done well save a few occasions like the first qualifier, where Mumbai Indians batting took them apart. Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets), Anrich Nrtje (20) and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) have done exceedingly well in most of the games. -PTI

NEHA SURANA | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 7

India's star paddler G.

Sathiyan marked his

return to competitive

table tennis after a break

of seven months when he

his

Superliga debut last

month. Now back in

Chennai, Sathiyan is on a

14-day home quarantine

and is set to fly off to Japan on November 23 to

Rivets in the Japanese T-

League. As his quaran-

tine period ends on Thursday, he will train

for a week before he

The 27-year-old, who

will become the first

Indian in the Japanese T-

League, believes it is

going to be a different ball

packs his bag again.

Polish

Okayama

made

represent



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner (left) with his Delhi Capitals counterpart Shreyas Iyer.

#### **NUMBERS GAME**

HEAD TO HEAD OVERALL:

Matches: 17 Hyderabad: 11

**LEAGUE STAGE** 

Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs in Abu Dhabi. Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 88

FOR THE RECORD

Warner with 546 runs at an average of 42 in 15 innings is the second highest run-getter in this IPL.

Kagiso Rabada with 25 wickets at an average of 19.48 in 15 innings is the second highest wickettaker in this IPL

Japanese league will be a different ball game: Sathiyan

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

G. Sathiyan

"Okayama Rivets has

been helping me with the

visa and other arrange-

ments in such a short

span of time. They are as

thrilled as I am. The com-

petition level is high and

it is going to be massive.

Playing in such elite leagues will help me

The Japanese league

starts on November 17

and will go on till April

30, 2021. Sathiyan will be

missing out on four

grow," said Sathiyan.

# Holder praises his bowlers for 'using skills and brains'

Indies captain Jason Holder, whose late inclusion galvanised a muchimproved Sunrisers Hyderabad, praised his side's bowlers for "using brains" as much as skills which earned them a place in the second IPL qualifier against Delhi Ĉapitals.

Sunrisers bowlers stifled RCB to a paltry score of 131 and won the 'Eliminator' by 6 wickets with Holder playing an important all-round role with 3 for 25 and 24 not

out off 20 balls. "For me, it's all about execution. We have had we will be in the finals,"

matches that will be held

in November but is hopeful of playing eight

matches in December. He

is expected to return to

lockdown routine. I have

my fitness and yoga ses-

sions online and I am

practicing with my robot.

Also, I am in constant

touch with my mental

conditioning coach, dietician and physio to keep

myself mentally and

physically fit," Sathiyan

When asked about the

possibilities of joining the national camp,

the national camp, Sathiyan said: "Once I

come back from Japan,

and things start to get bet-

ter, I will look at the pos-

sibility to go the camp in

"Now, I am back to my

India on December 30.

certain players and in the heat of the battle, it's all about executing. Led by our bowlers, we have used our skills and our

brains," Holder said. The Caribbean skipper is happy that SRH have peaked at the right

'Morale is really good as we have done well at the back half of the tournament. We peaked at the right stage and (we are) carrying good momentum. Different guys have put up hands on different occasions.

Paris, Nov. 7: Novak

Djokovic on Friday emu-

lated childhood hero Pete

Sampras by claiming the

vear-end world number

one ranking for the sixth

Djokovic, 33, was con-

firmed in the position after Rafael Nadal, the

only man who could deny

him top spot, opted not to

play in the Sofia event next

Djokovic was also a sea-

son-ending world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015

"Pete was somebody I

looked up to when I was

growing up, so to match

his record is a dream come

The Serb star, a winner

of 17 Grand Slam titles,

had already moved past

weeks in the top spot in

286

true," said Diokovic.

Sampras' tally of

and 2018.

**NOVAK DJOKOVIC EQUALS** 

**SAMPRAS RANKING RECORD** 

year.

For Holder, who has made the difference with his steady medium pace, picking up 13 wickets in six games, it was being in a good space after two difficult years when he hardly bowled due to a shoulder injury.

"I have had a few injuries in the last couple of years, which have hampered my preparations. I had a bad shoulder and had surgeries. So, I worked a little harder, fine-tuned my skills. I am in a good space and that gives me confidence," Holder said.

September.
Djokovic can go past alltime record-holder Roger

Federer's mark of 310 weeks on March 8 next

"To finish the year as No.1 is one of the most

impressive achievements

in our sport, one which

requires sustained excel-

lence across the season,"

"To see Novak achieve this for the sixth time and match Pete's record is sim-

ply incredible, and he con-

tinues to cement his place

Djokovic has compiled a

39-3 winning season, picking up four titles — a

record eighth Australian

Cincinnati tournament,

which was staged in New

York, and in Rome. — AFP

Dubai,

chairman

ATP

in the history books.

Andrea Gaudenzi.

## Supernovas edge past Trailblazers, in final

Sharjah, Nov. 7: Two-time champions Supernovas defeated Trailblazers by two runs in a must-win game to enter the final of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Saturday.

Chamari Atapattu top-scored with a 67-run knock as Supernovas posted 146 for six after opting to bat.

Trailblazers were then restricted to 144 for five in

Electing to bat, Supernovas rode on Atapattu's aggressive 47-Electing ball 67, which was studded with five fours and four sixes, and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's big shots (31 off 29) in the slog overs to post a challenging

total on board. Supernovas were going strong at 80 for no loss in 10 overs but the Trailblazers spinners Harleen Deol (1/34) and Salma Khatun (1/25) pulled things back, giving away just 23 runs in

next five overs.

However, Harmanpreet exploded in the 19th over, smashing a four and a six to pile up 15 runs to take them close to 150-mark.

For Trailblazers, experienced Jhulan Goswami

Opener Chamari Atapattu top-scored with a 67-run knock as Supernovas posted 146 for six after opting to bat.

was the best bowler with figures of one for 17 from 4 overs, while Harleen and Khatun picked up a wicket each. There were also three run-outs in Supernovas

Earlier, left-handed opener Atapattu looked for runs from the word go and made her intentions clear with two boundaries in the second over of the innings bowled by Deepti Sharma.

Later in the fourth over, the Sri Lankan nonchalantly hoisted one over mid-off for a six and then swept Deepti for a boundary as Supernovas amassed 15 runs. — PTI

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

Supernovas 146/6 (Chamari Athapaththu 67, Harmanpreet Kaur 31; Jhulan Goswami 1/17) bt Trailblazers 144/5 (Deepti Sharma 43 n.o., Shakera Selman 2/31).



Coimbatore's Arjun Balu steers his car during the MRF MMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship in

## Arjun, Rithwik and Diljith hog limelight

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 7

(Kace Concepts chalked up another fluent win despite teething trouble with his car in the top end Indian Touring Cars class as the second round of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Championship commenced here at the MMRT behind closed doors and complying with Covid-19 safety protocols after a nine-month break.

Also finishing on the top step of the podium were Bengaluru's Rithwik Thomas (Race Concepts) in the Super Stock class, Diljith TS from Thrissur in the MRF Saloon Car Championship (Toyota Etios), and Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsport) and Mohamed Ryan (M Sport) in the Formula LGB 1300 category that had two races today.

A couple of spells of rains led to a few delays, but the stop-go proceedings did not affect the competitive nature of the races that produced plenty of

Pole-sitter Tijil Rao led a

Motorsport after holding off team-mate Chirag Coimbatore veteran Arjun Ghorpade in a tense battle with Diljith Racing) completing the podium. It was a good run by Ghorpade who started seventh on the grid and cut through the field to catch up with Tijil. The two were locked in a tense battle, but Tijil just about kept his nose in front while Dilijith made two places from fifth to finish third.

In the second Formula LGB 1300 race, Mohamed Ryan (M Sport) won handily from reverse grid start ahead of Karthik Krishna (Hasten Performance) and . Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS

Balu, thus, swept to his third consecutive win in the championship following a double in the opening round in February, but was far from pleased with his performance. "I was still down on my lap times and was not too happy with the balance of the car. We made some changes to the car from the previous round, and so, had to deal with some teething issues. I hope to do better in the next outing," said Balu.

## Delhi have to put up an all-round show to beat SRH



### Ayaz Memon

**Over The Top** 

hich team will Mumbai Indians in the IPL final on

It is perilous to pick winners in a format which is known to throw up topsyturvy results. I have so often ended up my foot in the mouth after making was seemed a 'safe' forecast, that I now leave predictions to the more brave

or foolhardy. Yet, how the two teams — Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals — which

clash today for a place in Tuesdav's final is worth a study simply because of the hugely contrasting style in which they've reached this situation.

When the tournament started, DC couldn't put a foot wrong and SRH couldn't put a foot right. Midway through the league stage, DC seemed the strongest rivals Mumbai Indians, SRH appeared lackluster, and still seeking their best

Cut to the last fortnight,

and the scenario changes dramatically. DC, after a spate of wins, suddenly hit a slump, got stranded on 14 points for a long while, and only just made it to the

That they finished no.2 on the points table was statistical fact, but in terms of quality of performance, DC were not quite the same, exciting, winning side that one saw at the start of the tournament.

Some stats here to explain the turmoil DC has undergone. They've lost five of their last 6 matches. In the first qualifier, they were 0-3 against MI chasing 200 and lost by a whopping 57 runs margin.

The top order, full of youthful energy and bravado, now appears as hardy as papadum, which was

amply evident in the first qualifier against Mumbai when DC were reduced to Shaw, Pant, and Rahane

have been struggling badly, which is adding pressure not just on Iyer and Stonis, but also the bowlers. DC's bowling which was the most penetrative when the tournament appears to have lost edge. Even Rabada has been innocuous.

Contrast this with SRH in the past fortnight. Starting with two defeats, the team picked up momentum towards the end of the league stage, and now has five successive wins to its credit.

This includes a massive 10-wicket victory over Mumbai in the last league match, which no other

team has managed in this tournament, and saw SRH leapfrog over hapless KKR into the play-offs. match, Their next

against RCB, was a cliffhanger, victory coming only in the final over. The calmness of Williamson and the rich experience of Holder saw them through. These two wins showed how quickly and well SRH

could adapt to different pitches and situations. That's because they've struck a formidable combination nearing the end of the league phase. Though hit by injuries

Marsh, Kumar, (Mitch Bhuvaneshwar Williamson, Vijay Shankar, Saha have been casualties, long or short term), SRH have been able to find adequate replacenow look like the team to

So remarkable has been their turnaround after losing their first two matches that SRH can afford to leave out senior pro and white ball specialist Johny Bairstow from the playing side without worry.

The batting leans heavily dependent on Warner no doubt, but in crunch situations, other batters have delivered too. Williamson's composed half century and fine partnership with Holder took the team home under pressure against

RCB. It's in the bowling though that SRH have stood out, more so after Holder's inclusion. The attack now has a fine blend of quality pacers and spinners.

ment, regroup in time, and now look like the team to Rashid Khan has been the stand out performer, with others only a whit behind.

The IPL is played at frenetic pace, players and teams that show stamina, physical and mental, are most likely to succeed. This also finds expression in the composition of the playing sides.

It is no surprise that Mumbai Indians have made the least changes in the tournament followed by SRH, allowing, of course, for those forced by injury. What DC are up against tonight is a wellbalanced, ambitious team led aggressively by captain Warner that is refusing to yield an inch. To beat this team, Delhi have to put up a capital show in every sense of the word.