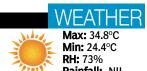
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM | TUESDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2020



Rainfall: NIL Forecast: Haze. Max/Min temp. 34/24 ºC

COVID-19 **C** WUNT

CASES **DEATHS** (+404)(+35,301)82.62.478 1,23,025

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+922)(+7)TS: 2,40,970 1,348 (+1,916)(+13)AP: 8,27,882 6,719

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers.info/

coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Tadiya till 3.23 am (Wednesday) Star: Rohini till 2.28 am Varjyam: 5.35 pm to 7.21 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.35 am to 9.21 am; 10.44 pm to 11.34 pm **Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rabbi-ul Awwal 16, 1442 AH

PRAYERS Fajar: 5.50 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm Asar: 4.45 pm Maghrib: 6.15 pm Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.24 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.56 AM MOONRISE TODAY 7.25 PM **MOONSET TOMORROW 7.59 AM**



No more slip of the tongue They have tattooed the party's name on his hand!

SHORT TAKES

Maya's u-turn on backing BJP

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati asserted on Monday that her party would never enter into an alliance with the BJP in elections, highlighting that the ideology of the two parties were "opposite". Her clarification came amid speculation over her last week's statement that the BSP would vote for the BJP or any other party's candidate to ensure defeat of the Samajwadi Party contenders in future elections, including those of the Uttar Pradesh legislative council and the Rajya Sabha. She alleged that the SP and the Congress

SC: Speed up

were misusing her statement so that the Muslims distance

themselves from the BSP.

Tablighi cases

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the trial courts to expedite hearing in the pending cases against foreign Tablighi Jamaat members for alleged visa violations. A bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna listed the pleas filed against blacklisting of foreign members of Tablighi Jamaat for attending the Nizamuddin Markaz congregation in the national capital for further hearing on November 20 and asked the lower courts to expeditiously deal with their cases.

NATION 4





BUSINESS 7

Tata Steel lets staff work from anywhere

SPORTS 8

Sindhu scares fans with 'retire' tweet



Vol. 36 No. 160 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

Centre to release ₹2,300 cr for Polavaram minus riders

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD. NOV. 2

In a major and immediate relief to the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh, the Union finance ministry on Monday agreed to release ₹2,300 crore for the ongoing Polavaram multipurpose irrigation project without imposing riders.

Earlier, the finance ministry insisted that the Jal Shakti ministry approve the project cost at ₹29,000 crore as estimated in the financial year 2013-2014 as against the revised estimate of ₹48,000 crore. The precondition for releasing the funds, if agreed by the Jal Shakti ministry, would have put a heavy financial burden on the state government as it

THE STATE government has also got a shotin-the-arm with the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) observing that the project could be completed only at the revised estimate.

differential amount. "We are happy to note that the Union finance ministry has removed a conditional clause for releasing ₹2,300 crore and asked the Jal Shakti ministry to sort out the issue by the time the next instalment is due," a senior

could have had to bear the

 $Deccan\ Chronicle.$ The Jagan Mohan Reddy government has also got a

4 smugglers burnt alive

Mahendran and Mukthi-

yan, while the fifth was

yet to be identified. The

accident occurred on the Kadapa-Tadipatri high-

According to Eshwara

Reddy, Inspector, Kadapa

Rural, one tipper, one

Scorpio, and another other car were hit simulta-

way around 3.30 am.

Ramachandran,

water resources official of

Andhra Pradesh

shot-in-the-arm with the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), a nodal agency, observing that the project could be completed only at the revised esti-mate. The PPA met here on Monday under the chairmanship of Chandrasekhar Iyer to discuss the finance ministry's proposal to the Jal Shakti ministry to approve the pro-

ject cost to avail funds. Significantly, the PPA also fixed April 2022 as the deadline for completing the project. An expert committee,

which recently visited the project site, has prepared a monthly schedule of works to be completed to meet the deadline.

flames. Smugglers were

carrying red sanders logs

and passing towards Bengaluru. While they were nearing Gotur village, one

tipper came on the road

and the driver tried to

Page 3: Three injured

steer the vehicle away.

Page 2: AP wants R&R included in project cost

57 teachers, 3 students test positive for Corona

Source of infection could not be schools, say officials

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

Even as the Covid infection continues to threaten, bringing students back to the classrooms appears to be unsafe as the first day of reopening since March, saw some teachers and students testing positive coronavirus on

Monday. As per the data, six students, including three each from Nellore and Chittoor districts, tested positive when the medical department conducted random tests. Similarly, about 57 teachers in Chittoor and a watchman and a mid-day meals helper in Nellore district

also tested positive.

It may be recalled that there was strong criticism from various sections on the decision to reopen the schools while the virus rages. Monday's incidents prove them right and this has created ripples among parents and officials. The education department officials have, however, said that it is possible the children or teachers were infected elsewhere.

According to the data

Go easy on lost syllabus: Jagan

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed officials to ensure that students are not subject to any undue pressure on catching up with acade-mics in a bid to cover the

Covid-19 setback. He was speaking at a review meeting on higher education with minister for education Adimulapu Suresh, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney and other senior officials at his Camp Office on Monday. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid stress on a motivational ambience so that students

shared by Chittoor District Education Officer, Chittoor the medical and health department conducted Covid-19 tests on around 2,534 teachers, of whom 57 turned positive, while random tests conducted on 608

concentrate better and be on their chosen career path. He asked the officials to comply with the guidelines issued by both the Centre and the UGC in promoting higher education in the state.

The CM called for compliance with standards, especially in private universities. Pointing out that students prefer private universities in the expectation of quality teaching and good infrastructure, the state government should keep a check on such universities.

Page 2: Private varsities told to maintain quality

students across the district, saw three including two in Chandragiri and one in K.V. Palle mandal, testing positive.

Page 2: Schools are

POOR TURNOUT SEEN IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

The fear of getting infected with Covid-19 seems to have had its impact on the turnout of students from Classes IX and X and Intermediate second year in both government and private institutions.

As schools and colleges reopened on Monday after seven months closure, the turnout of students was poor on the first day. While 43.65 per cent

Class 10 students attended schools, only 39.65 per cent students from Class 9 turned out at the schools. In total, out of 10,04,989 students, the attendance registered was 42 percent. Among the teachers, out

of a total strength of 98,723, as many as 86,656 attended schools for an 87.88 per cent of atten-

Page 2: Fewer student

MFG SECTOR SEES FASTEST GROWTH IN A DECADE

BALLEDA I DC

KADAPA, NOV. 2

Four red sanders smug-

glers were burnt alive and

one died in hospital after

they were involved in a

road accident in Kadapa

district on Monday. The deceased, all from Tamil Nadu, were identified as

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 2 With rising demand and

disruptions, India's factory activity, measured by Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), expanded to 58.9 in October-- nearly a 13-year high and the fastest pace in over a decade. However, on the employment front, the numbers remain a concern, as companies cut

vev showed on Monday. Even though the economy shrank at a record 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, the latest PMI survey shows that Asia's third-largest economy is signalling a fast pace of recovery with several economic indica-

more jobs, a private sur-

tors turning positive. "Rising from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October, the headline PMI pointed to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in over a decade, with companies raising output to the greatest extent in 13 years amid robust sales growth. The reading was the highest since May 2010 and above the 50-level separating growth from contraction for the third straight month.

■ Full report on Page 7

Masks get fashionable



Women wearing designer masks pose for photographs as they prepare to celebrate Karwa Chauth festival in Bhopal

US poll campaign draws to a close

Washington, Nov. 2: The US Presidential campaign entered its final day on Monday with a last-minute scramble for votes by incumbent Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden, drawing to a close an extraordinary race that has put a pandemic-stricken country on

While campaigning will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday,

 WHILE CAMPAIGNING will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday, many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and legal challenges.

many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and possible legal challenges.

Those factors, along with an unprecedented convergence of social justice protests, coronavirus precautions and Trump's fear-mongering campaign, have led to apprehension over whether unrest could erupt. Taking no chances, businesses in some cities have boarded up windows, while across the country the harsh political climate has led to fierce debate.

As proof of how much

frightened by the pandemic — a record of more than 93 million people have cast early ballots, according to the nonpartisan US nonpartisan Elections Project. As the hours count down

on Monday and with polls showing him behind, Trump and Biden continue their final rallies.

Americans have been gal-

■ Full coverage on Page 5

EASY I RIDE APSRTC and TSRTC divide operating routes for their buses equally

Relief for Telugus as RTCs restart buses

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 2

There was respite for road commuters from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who have been facing tremendous problems, with their state-run transport corporations deciding to resume inter-state bus services.

Hours after arriving at the decision on Monday, buses were pushed into service by evening. As per Memorandum of orstanding (MoU) Understanding signed between the two,

TSRTC will operate across 1,61,258 km in AP with 826 buses and APSRTC will operate across 1,60,999 km with 638 buses Telangana.

On the Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 52,944 km with 273 buses in Andhra Pradesh and APSRTC will operate across 52,524 km 192 buses in

Telangana. On the Kurnool route and beyond, TSRTC will cover 43,456 km with 213 buses in AP while APSRTC will do so across 43,202 km with

On Piduguralla/Guntur route via Wadapally, TSRTC will operate across Wadapally, 19,044 km with 67 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 20,238 km with 88 buses in Telangana.

On the Macherla route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 14,158 km with 66 buses in AP and APSRTC will operate across 16.060 km with 61

buses in Telangana. On the Nuzvid, Tiruvur, Bhadrachalam-Vijayawada route and beyond, TSRTC will operate across 12,453 km with 48 buses in AP and APSRTC will oper- this route in Telangana.

On the remaining rou ate across 14,026 km with 65 buses in Telangana. Khammam, the

Jeelugumilli, Jangareddygudem route and beyond, TSRTC will now operate across 9,140 km with 35 buses in Andhra Pradesh and APSRTC will operate across 11,541 km with 58 buses in Telangana.

On the Hyderabad-Srisailam route, TSRTC will continue operations across 1,904 km with 62 buses in AP and APSRTC will not operate buses on

On the remaining routes such as Sathupally - Eluru (two routes), Bhadrachalam and Kunta via Kallugudem, Sathupally-Vijayawada and others, TSRTC will operate across 8,159 km with 62 buses in Andhra Pradesh, and APSRTC will operate across 3,408 km with 28

buses in Telangana. However, all routes would not be available as the demand is low. The routes will be increased proportionate

Dubbak bypoll has all TS focus S.A. ISHAQUI | DC AS THE TRS goes into HYDERABAD, NOV. 2 the Dubbaka byelection with a good track record

Hotly-contested

The stage is set for polling on Tuesday in the Dubbak Assembly constituency which witnessed a highvoltage campaign ever since the bypoll was notified by the Election Commission.

The polling is scheduled to take place at 315 polling stations in the constituency from 7 am to 6 pm. The Election Commission has made all arrangements for the conduct of the bypoll in compliance with Covid-19 norms, besides taking tight security mea-

The byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting TRS MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy in August this year. The TRS has fielded his widow Solipeta Sujatha as its candidate. Though 23 candidates are in the fray, the main contest is among the candidates of the TRS, Congress and the BJP.

The Congress has given the ticket to TRS leader Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, who joined the party just ahead of the bypoll, while the BJP has fielded M. Raghunandan Rao who lost the previous election in Dubbak. The results of

between the Congress and the BJP appears to be confined for the second position.

of winning such electoral

exercises, the fight

the byelection will be out on November 10.

Political observers believe that odds are in the favour of the ruling TRS and that it would certainly retain the seat. They claim that typically a majority of voters in the bypoll opt for the ruling party for the development programmes.

As the TRS goes into the Dubbaka byelection with good track record of winning such exercises, the fight between the Congress and the BJP appears to be confined to the second position. The Congress, though claims to defeat the ruling party, is trying hard to retain its second place in view of the ensuing elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. If the Congress loses its second position, it would have to face a difficult situation in the GHMC polls,

SC won't extend ex-judge's security

New Delhi, Nov. 2: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to extend the security of former special judge S.K. Yadav who had pronounced the verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case and acquitted all 32 accused, including BJP veterans L.K. Advani, M.M. Joshi and Uma

A bench, headed by Justice R.F. Nariman and also comprising Justices

Bharti.

Navin Sinha and Krishna Murari, was considering the former judge's request to continue his security in view of the sensitivity of the case decided by him on his last day in office. "Having perused the let-

appropriate to provide security," the bench said. On September 30, the

special court had acquitted all 32 accused in the

ter, we don't consider it

OTHER STORIES **MALABAR NAVAL BAY FROM TODAY**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2

The 24th edition of the scheduled in two phases beginning November 3, Tuesday. The Phase One of the exercise involving participation by Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force and Royal Australian Navy is set to commence off Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6, said an official release issued by Eastern Naval Command on Monday.

The release said the Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy and US Navy exercise. Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force joined Malabar in 2015. The 2020 edition will now witness the participation of the Royal Australian Navy in this joint maritime exercise.

The Phase Two of the Malabar 20 is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November 2020, the

US, DUTCH EXPERTS TO TRY REFLOAT **STRANDED SHIP**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2

Experts from the United States and the Netherlands have arrived in Visakhapatnam on Monday to assist the local agencies in putting back the Bangladesh merchant vessel afloat in the waters. The vessel mv Maa ran aground near Tenneti Park during the depression in Bay of Bengal last fortnight.

The management of the vessel has appointed Gill Marine to drain out the furnace oil and diesel before another agency Resolve Marine Pvt Ltd deployed to salvage the vessel.

Gill Marine, which took up the vessel cleaning completed its draining of furnace oil and diesel on Sunday evening and set to clean the ship from Monday onwards. No water ingress or oil pollution is reported so far. The draining was done in the presence of Coast Guard, Visakhapatnam Port Trust and Mercantile Marine Department. They supervised the operations to see that oil did not spill into the water or beach.

"We had a preliminary meeting today with the US and Dutch experts and more discussions would be held to explore the possibility of putting the ship back into the sea during the next three days, Marine Surender Singh Gill.

PINEPE: WILL GIVE BEST TREATMENT IN GOVT HOSPITALS

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC (AKINADA, NOV. 2

The state government is rendering medical services to the people in all government hospitals in the state on par with corporate hospitals, said the social welfare minister Pinepe

Viswaroop. He, along with Amalapuram MP Chinta Anuradha, set the stone for construction of the third stair for providing 50 beds in Amalapuram Area Hospital with ₹5.75 crore

Nabard funds on Monday. Mr Viswaroop said the state government was providing all infrastructure facilities to all government and area hospitals. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is determined to develop and upgrade all the hospitals in the state for the

interests of the people.

He said the Chief Minister was making efforts to provide medical treatment to the people free of cost. He noted that institutional deliveries had increased Amalapuram Area Hospital and performed more than its

He said that 10 ventilators had been installed in the hospital for giving treatment to Covid-19 patients.

Ms Anuradha said that the people should make use of the medical services rendered by Hospital Area Amalapuram.

She instructed the Medical and Health Officials to take steps to increase the institutional deliveries to all primary health centres and other

health centres. Amalapuram mandal tahsildar Mr Tagore, Hospital Incharge Superintendent Dr Supriva. Incharge Resident Medical Officer V.R.K. Murthy, Dr Koumidi, Dr M. Prasada Rao, Dr Kiranmayi, Dr Hemanth Chakradhar and oth-

ers were present.

Attendance of students better Include R&R in in Chittoor, Nellore rural areas

Parents are concerned about the safety of their kids despite assurances

SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, NOV. 2

Despite worries over the safety of children and parents' reluctance to give their consent for physical classes, the attendance of the students is better in rural areas as compared to the urban areas across Chittoor and Nellore dis-

On day one of the reopening of schools on Monday, about 70-75 per cent and 43 per cent attendance was reported from schools across the Nellore and Chittoor districts respectively, in which schools in rural areas saw 60 per cent attendance.

Officials of the Education Department said some parents are concerned about the safety of their kids despite assurances by the administration regarding adherence to the Covid-19 safety guidelines and are not keen to send their wards to schools just yet.

District Educational Officers of Nellore and Chittoor districts, Ramesh and Narasimha Reddy said that the Covid-19 scare was still prevalent. Confirming that the attendance of the students is better in rural areas as compared to the urban areas, they reiterated that all schools had been sanitised and Covid-19 standard operating protocols (SOPs) are being followed.

In Chittoor district, of the 69,587 students enrolled in ninth standard (34,931) and tenth standard (34,656) at 673 schools across the district, about 29,559 (IX - 13,482 + X-16,077) students turned up on the day one on Monday. In all, of the 16,372 teachers working in 4,825 schools, including primary, upper primary and high schools, only 9,773 have attended the duties on day one.

Meanwhile, most parents are still having apprehensions about the safety of their wards and are not ready yet to send them to school. "We are not eager to submit consent letters immediately. Some schools are still lacking the better infrastructure to ensure a seating plan with social distancing. School managements should build confidence through prto resume schools," said a Tirupati-based parent, who requested anonymity.

From Page 1

Earlier, minister for edu-

cation Dr Adimulapu

Suresh said that as per

directions from the state

government, 98.84 per

cent of high schools were

However, on the day of

reopening of schools, a watchman working at AP

Model School, Nandavaram, Maarripadu in

Nellore district and two

students of Zilla Parishad

High School, Pathavell-

anti of Nellore mandal,

Meanwhile, students accompanied by the par-

ents arrived in several

parts of the state. The par-

ents observed whether the

schools were complying

with guidelines pertain-

ing to sanitation, usage of

tested Covid-19 positive.

opened in the state.



Ninth class students wear protective facemasks and attend classes while maintaining physical distance at KDPM High School near East Point Colony in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

Parents reluctant to send children to school

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, NOV. 2

Many parents are not willing to send their children to the schools on the first day of reopening day on Monday in East and West Godavari districts. They were reluctant to give consent letters to send their children to the schools. They want to wait for another 10 or 15 days, and after careful observation circumstances, they want to send their ward to the schools. Attendance was very thin on the first day of reopening the schools in East and West Godavari districts on

Most of the students have not attended the classes, in particular, the attendance in private schools was very low. It was 11.15 per cent in West Godavari with only 11,724 students attended out of 1.05.158 total students for IX and X standards and Kakinada Municipal Corporation registered 19 per cent attendance in 14 Municipal High Schools which is a strength of

The West Godavari district Educational Officer P.V. Renuka said that the dents might increase in dents out of 68,105 attend-

Fewer students attend

junior colleges on 1st day

THE AUTHORITIES

from the Board of

Education sounded

turnout of students

confident that the

would slowly pick

come as they were

initiating all safety

hand sanitisers, social dis-

tance norms in class-

A parent identified as V.

Syama Sundar from Vijayawada said, "As my

son is studying Class 9 in

AKTP Municipal Corpor-

ation High School, I took

him to the school and che-

cked whether the school

management was comply-

ing with Covid-19 proto-

rooms and face masks.

precautions

up in the days to

Intermediate

IT IS NOTICED that the students residing in slums have attended in large numbers to their respective municipal schools without expressing any Covid-19 scare.

coming days as it was the first day on Monday of reopening and all precautionary steps were being taken for not attracting Covid-19 virus. She said that 96.64 per cent of teachers attended the schools. She said that 11,573 teachers attended out of 1,1975 in West Godavari on the first day. She said that 4,430 students both boys and girls (8.54 per cent) out of 51,887 for IX standard and 7294 students both boys and girls (13.69 per cent) out of 53,271 to X standard attended.

East Godavari registered 69 per cent with attendance of 96.698 students out of 1,39,966 in IX and X standards

EG District Educational Officer S. Abraham said that 49,026 students attended out of 71,861 in IX standard with attendance of the stu- 68 per cent and 47,672 stu-

col. We were satisfied and

my son will continue to

attend school without any

Among junior colleges, the turnout of second-

year Intermediate stu-dents was a meagre 16.6

Out of 4,60,722 students enrolled for the second

year, only 76,658 attended.

As they are already

attending online classes,

they seem to have pre-

ferred to continue the

However, the authorities

from the Board of Intermediate Education

sounded confident that

the turnout of students

would slowly pick up in

the days to come as they

were initiating all safety

with the Covid-19.

per cent.

same practice.

ed with 70 per cent in X standard. He said that the making efforts to create awareness among the students to come to the schools.

However, the private school managements have a different view. They said that on the first day of reopening of the schools, about 1.5 per cent students attended since parents were hesitant to send their children to the schools due to Covid-19 scare.

"Parents did not give their consent letters for sending their students for the classes of IX and X standards," said the Private Schools Managements Association East Godavari president Muthukumilli Srivijay.

He said that the parents said that they would wait for another 10 days and after observing the circumstances, they can send their children to the schools. He said that the government was campaigning on the second wave of Covid-19 and parents are afraid of sending their children to the schools. However, it is said that the students residing in slums have attended in large numbers to their respective municipal schools without expressing any Covid-19 scare.

SCHOOLS ARE SANITISED, **SAYS OFFICIAL**

From Page 1

Confirming the development with Deccan Chronicle, DM&HO, Chittoor district Dr M. Penchalaiah said the testing drive at schools across the district would continue and all Covid-19 safety precautions and sanitisation drives would be followed across the district.

We have been conducting Covid-19 tests on students randomly and all the teachers in the district have already undergone one round of tests. We have thoroughly sanitised the premises where the positive cases emerged," he added.

Parents are also checking whether the schools are complying with Covid-19 protocol.

PRIVATE VARSITIES TOLD TO MAINTAIN QUALITY

From Page 1

He warned of stern action against private universities that do not maintain academic standards and are found guilty of having less than the required tea ching staff. He urged private universities to ensure that they have the mandataccreditation from NAAC, NBA and others.

The officials spoke about a series of reforms taken up in higher education and that as part of the 'Anytime-Ânywhere Learning' method adopted during Covid-19, five lakh online classes were held in the state. The Chief Minister felt the need to bring in a good number of students into the facility.

On seats allocation in educational institutions. the meeting decided to allot 50 per cent seats under convener quota while the remaining are to be filled up under the institute's quota so that students. poor secured seats in convener quota, can be entitled for fee-reimbursement from the government.

Regarding polytechnic colleges, he underlined the importance for launching new courses and integration of existing courses dealing with engineering, veterinary and agricul-ture so that students can find employment. He directed the officials to come up with an action plan by incorporating new courses coming up at the global level based on local needs to help develop such colleges as centres of employment.

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy called for development of capacity building com-nlexes' in every Parliamentary constituency so that all stakeholders like teachers, employees in village/ward secretariats and others can undergo multitasking training. He directed officials to make use of available colleges and government training centres as CBCs and also asked for roping

briefed the Chief Minister about the ongoing works at prestigious institutions like IIT, Tirupati; IISER, Tirupati; IIM, Visakhapatnam and NIT, Tadepalligudem like laying roads, construction of drainages, taking up sanitation, and power supply

project cost: AP

The committee estimated that 74 per cent of the civil works are completed.

Central Commission and the Revised Cost Committee took part in the meeting through a video confer-Adityanath Das, special CS, water resources, represented the delegation of AP officials.

'The outcome of the meeting is positive. There has been a consensus among the participants that the project cannot be completed at 2013-2014 estimates and the same has to be communicated to the MoJS which in turn will take up the matter authority.

The state government has also made a strong pitch for treating the Rehabilitation and Resetgral part of the irrigation component of the project. The officials brought to

the PPA's notice that Centre has not separated R&R in any national irrigation project currently under progress in other parts of the country and there should be no discrimination against Andhra Pradesh. The state government has agreed to the PPA's observation that revenue proceedings from the sale of water to industrial purposes should go to the

Release whitepaper on Polavaram: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 2

The Bharatiya Janata Party demanded the state government should release a whitepaper on Polavaram project. The BJP media panel member Y. Malakondaiah told the media on Monday that the union government would release the funds for the completion of the Polavaram project if the state government acts transparently and submits details of the funds spent on the project He said that there was 50

per cent of corruption in taking up the Polavaram project works since the late CM Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy and the corruption went to a peak stage during the Telugu Desam regime.

The then opposition leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy made several allegations of corruption in the Polavaram Project. Although he assumed charge as the Chief Minister, Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy could not disclose the corruption practices during Mr Chandrababu Naidu's regime. So, now, depots.

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy should release a whitepaper on funds released by the Union government, taking up works, completion of works, required land for the project, acquisition of the lands and its compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement and other issues.

He said that the Union government would construct the Polavaram roject compulsorily. Mr Malakondaiah also

said that the union government was releasing funds of more than ₹3,440 crore to ₹57.60 lakh farmers in the state, but the state government was not rendering support to the farmers who incurred great losses during heavy rains and floods. He said that the govern-

ment should make a probe on rice distribution under the Distribution Scheme as the rice was going to recycling and then it is being exported to foreign countries. He said that the state government should appoint food committees and curb the recycling of rice belonging to ration

AG takes serious note of CM's letter to CJI

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

Venugopal took a serious note of the letter written by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to Supreme Court Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and his principal advisor Ajay Kallam, releasing the same to the media.

duct of the said persons (Chief Minister and Kallam) is contuma-cious," he said in his reply to Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay, a Supreme Court advocate

criminal against the two.

Attorney General K.K. "Prima-facie the con-

Further, Venugopal said that he was of the opinion

that the timing of the letter and releasing it to media "could certainly be said to be suspect, in the background of the order passed by Justice Ramana on September 16 directing pending prosecutions of elected representatives to be taken up and disposed of expeditiously.

The AG, however, declined to consent to the contempt proceedings as CJI was already seized of the matter and it would requested the former to not be appropriate for initiate proceedings for him to deal with the same.

AP REVOKES GO ON 1 YR EXTENSION OF **SERVICE TO AWARD-WINNING TEACHERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

The state government revoked the order dealing with enhancement of one year service beyond the age of superannuation for both national and state teacher awardees who are still in service. The government issued GO MŠ No. 58 here on Mo-

nday keeping its earlier GO MS No. 101 issued on

31/12/2018 by the School Education Department, in abeyance. The GO 58 said that earlier GO 101 was issued without obtaining finance concurrence and also no mechanism was set up to determine whether a teacher was physically and mentally fit to grant extension of service. It said that to avoid unnecessary legal complications, the GO 101 was kept in abeyance.

GOVT. DECEIVED THE PENSIONERS: TULASI REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, NOV. 2

Pradesh Congress Working president Tulasired-dy said that it is not appropriate for the government not to increase the pensions to elderly, widows, and others as assured earlier. He questioned the government that is it not deceiving the pensioners. He spoke to reporters on Monday in Vempalle. He also demanded that the old arrears be paid to them.

STATE | AID | Minister handed over a cheque of ₹10 lakh CM relief to the victim's family

Varalakshmi murder charge sheet in 7 days: HM

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2

Minister for home and deputy Chief Minister Makethoti Sucharita on Monday called on the family members of Varalakshmi in Gajuwaka in Visakhapatnam and handed them over ₹10 lakh cheque as announced by the CM. Varalakshmi was killed by her school days friend Akhil Sai.

Gajuwaka MLA Tippala Nagi Reddy and collector V. Vinay Chand were pres-

ent. Ms Sucharita told the parents of Varalakshmi Mr P. Satya Gurnath and P. Padma Priya that full protection would be given to them and the accused charge sheet under Disha Act would be filed within seven days. She said after the Disha came into being, charge sheets were filed in 390 cases and punishment given to 108 accused. She in a case relating to

rape of a minor girl in Chittoor, the court awarded death penalty to the accused within seven days

of the incident. Another person was also given death penalty for rape of a minor in Vijayawada. She said the rapes were being committed by the persons known to the victim. Appealing the girls to download Disha App, she

advised them to inform their parents immediately so that they could take precautionary measures. Meanwhile, the accused

Akhil Sai was produced in the court and the judge remanded him to judicial custody till November 12.



of a minor Varalaxmi a murder victim, at her residence at Gajuwaka in Visakhapat nam on



SHORT TAKES

RARE HONOUR FOR WALTAIR

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2

Diesel Loco Shed Visakhapatnam achieved National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation with the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in the field of testing.

The chemical and metallurgical laboratory of Diesel Loco Shed is the first laboratory among sheds in Indian Railway to achieve this feat. Perhaps this is also the first laboratory of Railways in India to achieve testing accreditation in the field of wear metal analysis for nine elements in used lubricating

Divisional Railway Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava appreciated the efforts of Diesel Loco Shed in ensuring quality service to the railways and congratulated the staff for achieving the unique feat. He presented the certificate to Santosh Kumar Patra, Senior Divisional Mechanical

SR ASSISTANT OF ENDOWMENTS WING IN ACB NET

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 2

A senior assistant of endowment department was caught by ACB sleuths while accepting a bribe of ₹1.50 lakh from family members of a priest, who died of Covid-19, to process the application under compensative grounds at Nettikanti Hanuman temple in Kasapuram in the district on Monday. Shockingly, the temple executive officer, is of the cadre of deputy commissioner and office superintendent. ACB DSP Alla Baksh said Sri Kaladhar Swamy, a priest in the five centuries-old historic Nettikanti Hanuman temple in Guntakal mandal died two months ago and his son, Vinay Kumar applied for a priest post under compensative grounds. After negotiations, family members agreed to pay ₹90,000 towards posting under compensative grounds and ₹30,000 towards clearing pension papers to the endowment staff, who demanded an additional bribe. The family members of the deceased priest approached ACB sleuths. The DSP Alla Baksh caught redhanded the senior assistant Vemanna while accepting a bribe of ₹1.50 lakh. During the investigation. Vemanna revealed that ₹1 lakh was a bribe towards temple executive officer Vijaysagar Babu, ₹20,000 to office superintendent Venkatesh, ₹10,000 to computer operator Ranga Reddy and ₹20,000 towards himself. Similarly, endowments commissionarate proposed action against the executive officer and other staff involved in the case.

State records 1,916 Covid cases, 13 deaths; toll 6,719

AP conducted Covid-19 tests on 1,53,226 samples per one million

Vizag, Vizianagaram report

zero Covid deaths in a week

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

AP registered 1,916 new Covid-19 cases scaling up the tally to 8,27,882 and 13 deaths taking the toll to

6,719 in the last 24 hours. The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin on Monday reporting that out of 64,581 samples tested, 1,916 persons were found infected with Covid-19. Out of a total number of 81,82,266 samples tested so far in the state, 7,98,625 patients were discharged after recovery while 22,538 patients are still active with the virus and are undergoing treatment at various hospitals in

Among the daily Covid-19 cases, West Godavari topped the state with 426 followed, 354 in East Godavari, 179 in Guntur,

178 in Prakasam, 141 in Kadapa, 121 in Chittoor,

S-I ATTACKED BY

A GROUP OVER

CIVIL DISPUTE

TIRUPATI, NOV. 2

Sunday.

in the city.

According

Tiruchanoor

DC CORRESPONDENT

A Sub-Inspector of police sustained severe

injuries after a group of

attacked him over an

alleged property dispute in Tirupati late on

In connection with the

case, the Tiruchanoor

police have booked one

Krishnaiah and few oth-

ers. They are the neighbours to the victim SI

Subrahmanyam, 57, attached to the west divi-

sion police station here

Sudhakar Reddy, the SI

Subrahmanyam was returning home from a

hospital on Sunday

night when a group of persons attacked him at RC Puram circle. In the

attack, the SI had sus-

injuries. He was rescued

by a passerby, who shift-

Based on the complaint

ed him to the hospital.

by

booked a case against

one Krishnaiah and his

accomplices for attack-

ing Subrahmanyam. CI

said that there was a

civil dispute between the

SI and the attackers and

a case has been regis-

tered in this regard and

further investigation is

lodged

Tiruchanoor

severe head

the

allegedly

106 in Anantapur, 105 in Visakhapatnam, 93 in Nellore 68 each in Krishna and Srikakulam,

Srikakulam

on Monday.

55 in Vizianagaram and East Godavari contin-

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

Red

Parirakshana Samithi

on Monday staged a

protest in front of the

Red Cross committee

unit office in Nellore, accusing the unit chair-

man K. Chandrasekhar

diverting and selling plasma, donated by

recovered Covid-19 patients, to private hos-

pitals for cash instead of

sending them to the gov-

The Samithi leader

Kaku Murali, who led

ernment institutions.

DC CORRESPONDENT

AP High Court issued a

stay order on the ongo-

ing online admissions

for first-year intermedi-

The High Court single

member bench headed

by justice M. Venkata

Ramana held a hearing

on the petition objecting

to online admission for

intermediate first-year

The court asked under

what rule the depart-

ment of education was

taking up online admis-

sion for students of

intermediate first year.

Petitioner's counsel

argued that the online

deprive the opportunity

for the students to select which group to pursue

admission

admission in the state.

courses

November 10.

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

recovered

for allegedly

Cross

AP HC stays online

admissions for Inter

until

issue.

TIRUPATI, NOV. 2

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC

VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 2

Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts

reported no deaths due to

only two deaths during

the last one week ending

Visakhapatnam record-

ed 55,036 positive cases

with only 1,894 active

cases. The total number

of deaths so far was put

at 479. Srikakulam regis-

recorded

tered 44,390 positive cases so far and 85 cases on Monday.

The total number of deaths was Vizianagaram district, which remained a green district for the first two months after the outbreak, registered around 36,000 positive cases with 199 deaths.

Health appealed to the people to continue Covid-19 protocols by wearing masks and maintaining social

ued to be the worst hit with the cumulative positive Covid-19 cases with the highest number of 1,16,389 followed by 86,449 in West Godavari, 78,886

Red cross Nellore chief accused

the Red Cross unit chair-

man has been swindling

money by selling plasmas, which was donated

by many Covid-19 recov-

patients

He alleged that the

members of the Red

Nellore have been ille-

gally supplying plasma

to private hospitals in

Chennai in the name of

dead patients and swindling money. He demanded the district

collector to order for a

reveal facts to the public.

counsel asked the court

to give some time to sub-

mit full details on the

Based on it, the court

issued a stay order and

posted the case for next

hearing on November

state government to sub-

mit a counter-affidavit

Earlier, the Board of

Intermediate Education

announced a schedule of

admission for the first

course online for the

current academic year

2020-21 beginning from October 21 to 29.

Subsequently, the date

for online registration

was extended up to

In a separate develop-

ment, the court held a

hearing on a batch of

petitions opposing relo-

cation of capital city

that the state govern-

ment did not have the

However, the court

posted the case for next

authority to do so.

hearing on Tuesday.

claiming

intermediate

on the issue.

November 6.

Amaravati

The court directed the

Meanwhile, the Red

committee,

across the district.

of selling plasma to hospitals

"The ensuing festivals including month-long Kartika Masam begin-ning with Diwali, Christmas, New Year and three-day Sankranti is testing time for the peo-ple of Andhra Pradesh," said a senior health offi-

Visakhapatnam. He also feared that the opening of schools and cinema theatres could be focal points of contracting the

Guntur, Anantapur, 59,834 59,685 Prakasam, 59,530 Nellore. in Kurnool Visakhapatnam, 52,346 in

man Mr K. Chandrashekhar Reddy

interacted with the media and said that they

had maintained every

record transparently

and adequately. He

claimed that the Red

Cross committee, Nellore unit, has been

involved in many serv-

ice activities during the

"We have supplied food

to the homeless and roadside dwellers in

Nellore city limits dur-

ing the lockdown. We

also motivated people on

blood donation,"

YOUNGSTER

BOOKED UNDER

POCSO FOR ASSAULT

DC CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old girl was

sexually assaulted by her neighbour when the

victim's mother went

out to buy vegetables at Rayalpeta in Peddapanj-

ani mandal of Chittoor

district. Though the

incident happened late

on Sunday night, it came

to light on Monday when

the parents lodged a complaint at the police

According to Palamaner DSP Arifulla, 26-year-old Mohan, who

found the six-year-old girl alone at home,

sneaked inside and sexu-

ally assaulted her at

around 8 pm on Sunday night. The accused absconded after the inci-

dent. The victim's moth-

er, who returned home

after an hour, was shocked to see her

daughter bleeding and crying in pain. The girl

was rushed to the gov-

ernment hospital, the

doctors confirmed that

assaulted.

station.

TIRUPATI, NOV. 2

lockdown period.

Srikakulam, 39,720 Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery among the Covid-19 infected patients has been with 1,11,569 followed by 82,891 in West Godavari, 75,970 in Chittoor, 63,812 in Guntur, 63,122 Anantapur, 59,084 58,739 Nellore, Kurnool, 57,816 Prakasam, 53,699 Visakhapatnam, 50,710 in Kadapa, Srikakulam, 38,926 Vizianagaram, 36,293 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Among daily death cases of Covid-19 infected patients, Anantapur and Krishna registered three each followed by one each in East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Prakasam, Srikakulam and West

3 INJURED SHIFTED TO KADAPA RIMS

FROM PAGE 1

The Scorpio with red sanders logs and passengers hit the tipper's diesel tanker. Meanwhile, the smugglers' escort pilot vehicle being driven at a high speed rammed into both vehicles.

FOLLOW COVID **NORMS: MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER**

DC CORRESPONDENT

Municipal commission-Prasanna Venkatesh called upon the people to strictly follow all safety norms to avoid getting infected

evident

face mask.

All three vehicles were

burnt and four persons were burnt alive and three were seriously injured

On coming to know of the incident, Valluru police sub-inspector Rajagopal Reddy and Kadapa, Kamalapuram fire department person-nel and Kadapa fire offi-cer Palagiri Basivi Reddy rushed to the spot and tried to douse the

The three injured were shifted to RIMS Hospital in Kadapa. One of them, Mukthiyan succumbed while taking treatment. Police filed a case and are investigating.

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

with Covid-19.

commissioner held a review meeting with the heads of various departments here on Monday. He laid stress to follow Covid-19 norms in the wake of expected outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19 as is European countries.

commissioner called for maintenance of six feet physical distance, usage of hand sanitiser and wearing



iob security and to implement government welfare schemes for them, outside the District Collectorate in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

ASHA workers held for protest

Thousands of ASHA workers on Monday staged a protest at Gandhi statue near RTC complex against their transfer to village sec retariats. They later took out a rally to Collectorate where the police, present in large numbers, bundled several of them into vans and taken to the Two Town police station and were later released on self bail.

Honorary president of AP ASHA Workers Union P. Mani said the workers were attached to the district medical and health department under the National Health Mission.

By transferring them to secretariats, the jurisdic-

population to 8,000. She said the workers were being asked to sign the register at the secretariat every evening after daylong field work and the superiors are harassing them for no rea-

been enhanced from 2,500

Mani said they were being paid ₹10,000 per month and no social benefits like ESI and PF were given to them. They were also denied the superannuation benefits like other employees. "Hundreds of workers are

on the rolls since the last 14 years, but the government is not showing any interest in regularising their services despite their immense contribution to the health

AP POLICE RESCUE 12,621 CHILDREN UNDER OPERATION MUSKAN

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 2

The state police rescued 12,621 children under Operation Muskan Covid-19 in three days covering October

November 2.
Given the huge response for the programme taken up based on the initiative of Director General of Police Goutam Sawang, the police rescued 3,339 children on Monday alone up to 7.30 pm

and out of them, 2,691 were

three days, 10,492 were boys and 2,129 were girls. The police will continue

boys and 648 were girls. Out

of the total number of 12,621 children rescued in

the operation on Tuesday. All the rescued children were being subjected to Covid-19 tests and also being provided with medical treatment to the infected children besides providing them rehabilitation to the homeless and orphan

VEDURUKUPPAM PS VANDALISED. 13 ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Puttur sub-division police on Monday arrested 13 people on charges of vandalising Vedurukuppam police station late on Saturday. Villagers of Yanamala awada late on Saturday attacked and ran-sacked the Veduruk-uppam police station after the police stopped

a child marriage.
According to Puttur
DSP D. Muralidhar, the police got a tip-off about a child marriage being held in the Yanamala village on Saturday. Following the information, police immediately teams swung into action and reached the village and stopped the marriage.

They took the bridegroom into custody and counselled him before he was released. The enraged family members and villagers later attacked the police station.

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CRIME AGAINST WOMEN TO BE REDUCED TO ZERO PER CENT, SAYS KADAPA COLLECTOR protection of the rights of DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, NOV. 2

District Collector Chevuri Harikiran said that the conwork in coordination to bring the registration percentage of cases of sexual assault, crime. and aggression against women and children to zero. They want to expand services at Disha, Sakhi Kendras and Mahila police stations for the women, girls, and children. He directed the authorities to

Department,

raise awareness among the people on the Disha law to curb crimes against women. He held a meeting in his chamber at the Collectorate on Monday with the staff of the District Women and Child Welfare Department, Medical Health

as they get no opportunity for counselling to choose the group of their choice by interact-ing with the officials. He said that it might result in the student failing to select the group of Department, One-Stop Center his or her choice to pur-

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SHORT TAKES

MAYA: BSP-BJP ALLIANCE NOT POSSIBLE

Lucknow, Nov. 2: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati asserted on Monday that her party would never enter into an alliance with the BJP in the assembly or the Lok Sabha elections, highlighting that the ideology of the two

parties were "opposite". Her clarification came amid speculation over her last week's statement that the BSP would vote for the BJP or any other party's candidate to ensure defeat of the Samajwadi Party contenders in future elections, including those of the Uttar Pradesh legislative council and the Rajya

Mayawati alleged that the SP and the Congress were misusing her recent statement so that the Muslim community distances itself from the BSP.

"The alliance of the BJP with the BSP is not possible in any polls in the future. The BSP cannot contest with the communal party," she said in a media briefing.

"Our ideology is of *sarvajan sarva dharma hitay* (benefit of everyone and all religions) and is opposite to the BJP's ideology," she said. "The BSP cannot enter into an alliance with those having communal, casteist and capitalist ideolo-

Mayawati said she would rather take *sanyas* (retirement) from politics than ally with such parties.

MODI LIKELY TO WIND UP BIHAR CAMPAIGN TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

As the battle for Bihar enters its final phase, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are all set to address rallies in the Seemanchal area of the state.

While the Prime Minister will be winding up his election tour of Bihar on Tuesday, Mr. Gandhi will carry on with his campaign and address another couple of rallies the next day

A senior leader of Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee said that in all likelihood Mr. Gandhi might conclude his election engagements by holding a joint press conference with RJD leader and Grand Alliance's CM face, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, on Wednesday.

The Congress leader will address two rallies at Bihariganj in Madhepura and

Araria on November 4.
Daughter of Sharad Yadav, ubhashini Kao, and sitting MLA Abidur Rahman are set to take on JD(U)'s Niranjan Kumar Mehta in Bihariganj and Sagufta Ajim in Araria seats respectively.

Bihar Congress leaders are also mobilising their resources to ensure that the rallies of the former Congress president at Korha in Katihar and Kisanganj on Tuesday are a grand success and work in favour of sitting MLA Poonam Paswan and Izharul Hussain, who are pitted against the BJP's Kavita Singh and Sweety Singh respectively.

CRUCIAL CONTEST IN MP AS VOTING **TO BE HELD TODAY**

Bhopal/Lucknow/Ahmedab ad, Nov. 2: Voting will be held on Tuesday for by-elections to 54 assembly constituencies in 10 states including 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh where the BJP is locked in a keenlyfought contest with the Congress to save its govern-

All eyes are riveted on Madhya Pradesh where the BJP which has 107 MLAs in the assembly, with an effective strength of 229, needs at least eight more MLAs for a simple

The stakes are high for the Congress too as it had sitting MLAs in 27 seats out of 28 in the state.

The saffron party is fielding 31 candidates in MP, Gujarat and Karnataka who had won from the Congress ticket but switched sides and resigned, necessitating the byelections in those seats.

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP, which has a comfortable majority in the Assembly, is locked in a battle of prestige on the seven seats six of which it had won in the last election

Samajwadi Party. In Gujarat, the bypolls are being held in eight seats after the Congress MLAs resigned ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in June this year. Five of them later joined the ruling BJP and are contesting again.



Security personal carrying VVPATs and EVMs leave for polling booths from a distribution centre ahead of the second phase of Bihar assembly

SC 'relief' for Kamal Nath on star campaigner issue

SC issues notice to EC, CJI focuses on issue of the powers of poll panel

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Election Commission's order taking away the start campaigner status of the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for the Congress in the ongoing bypolls to the state assembly for which campaigning ended on Sunday.

The court issued notice Commission.

Putting on hold the poll panel's decision denuding Kamal Nath of his status as star campaigner for the Congress in Madhya Pradesh bypolls, Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde neading a bench also comprising Justice A. S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian on the larger issue of the sought reply from the poll

ing during election, the Chief Justice of India expressed his misgiving whether the poll panel had any such powers which it had exercised in the case Election of Kamal Nath.

At the outset of the hearing, senior counsel Rakesh Dwivedi told the court that the petition by the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has become infructuous as campaigning has already ended and polling is on Tuesday (November 3).

who will be the leader of a

party during electioneer-

expenditure of a candi-

date or by the leader of a

political party campaign-

However, the CJI focused powers of the poll panel to

panel while questioning take decision ousting a by terming state women its powers to decide as to star campaigner from electioneering.

Senior advocate Kapil ing. Referring to Section 77 of the Representation Act that deals with the Sibal, appearing for Kamal Nath, asserted that Sibal. "no notice was issued to us" and the decision was arbitrary.

Kamal Nath has moved

the top court challenging the EC's decision to revoke his status as a star campaigner.

The BJP on Tuesday said the stay on election commission's order revoking former chief minister Kamal Nath's star campaigner status by supreme court, cannot be construed as relief to the Congress

spokesman Raineesh Agrawal said the order was merel a judicial process and it refused to withdraw the did not give a clean chit to Mr Nath for his violation of model code of conduct

minister Imarti Devi as an

Besides, the stay order is meaningless now considering that the campaigning for the assembly byelections in the state already came to close on Monday evening.

> Shivraj, Nath hit out at each other

Meanwhile, with barely 24 hours left for the crucial assembly by-elections in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Monday indulged in namecalling to show each other in poor light in public.

wnne mr Chounan nas papi (sinner) tag given by him to Mr Nath, the latter literally called him a liar.

papi. Let him explain what sin I have committed? All his (Mr Chouhan's) assertions that I have not implemented farm loan waiver promises and also held back students' scholarships when I was chief minister are utter lies. Mr Chouhan is shamelessly dishing out lies", Mr Nath told reporters here.

He said crop loans of around 27 lakh farmers were written off when he was chief minister. His government was planning to waive farm loans of the rest of the beneficiaries in 2 phases, but it was pulled down. Mr Chouhan, however, stood by his remarks saying that Mr Nath has committed fraud on farmers by going back on his crop loans within ten days

of coming to power in the

Tejashwi, 4 ministers of Nitish govt in

HAM seeks probe into Paswan's death

Patna, Nov. 2: NDA ally HAM created a flutter on Monday with its leader Jitan Ram Manjhi demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan while pointing an accusing finger at Chirag Paswan, prompting the LJP chief to claim it was a "plot" by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to discredit him when elec-

tion was under way.
Chirag Paswan, in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former chief minister should ask Prime Minister Narendra

Modi about the issue.
Paswan jr. said Modi used to call him up every day to inquire after his late father when he was sick and hospitalised, sometimes to even inform him about the LJP founder's condition after talking to doctors attending to him.

'I request the prime minister to order a judicial probe into the death of Ram Vilas Paswan to unravel the dubious role of Chirag Paswan in the matter," Manjhi said.

HAM spokesman
Danish Rizwan also wrote
a letter to Modi backing the demand while citing a video of Chirag rehearsing before issuing a video message a day after the death of his father where he was purportedly seen joking with the people present and even talking about the texture of his

Chirag Paswan accused Nitish Kumar of "script-ing a plot to settle political scores with him" and instigating the HAM to rake up an emotional issue to blunt the LJP's campaign to prevent him from becoming the chief minister once again.

Manjhi wanted to know who ordered the hospital to not issue regular health bulletins of Paswan, who was "such a big leader". Manjhi also claimed

people were prevented from meeting the Dalit leader when he was hospitalised. Chirag had informed people about the death of his father through a tweet on October 8. Manjhi claimed it was being speculated that the LJP leader while there were smiles on the faces of LJP candihad died 2-3 days ago

 CHIRAG PASWAN. in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former chief minister should ask Prime Minister about the issue.

 BOTH THE HAM and the LJP draw strength from Dalit voters, and Manjhi was not on good terms with Ram Vilas Paswan when the two were partners in the NDA in the 2015 election.

neither called me again nor visited Papa in the hospital," Chirag Paswan told a press conference.

Ever since his return to the NDA, facilitated by Kumar, Manjhi and his party have been routinely targeting the LJP, which has walked out of the ruling alliance in Bihar and is going solo at the hus-tings. Chirag has also fre-quently launched vicious ttacks on the chief min-

Both the HAM and the LJP draw strength from Dalit voters, and Manjhi was not on good terms with Ram Vilas Paswan when the two were partners in the NDA in the 2015 assembly election.

"Kumar, who is now showing concern about my father's death, never telephoned me to know about his health leave alone visiting him in the hospital," the LJP president said.

"On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was kind enough and used to telephone me almost twice a day to inquire about Papa's health and sometimes even tell me what the doctors are saying about his medical condition." He recalled Modi had

told his first rally of the election in Sasaram that Paswan stood with him till his last breath.
"Indeed he (Modi) was

the only person who was sincerely bothered about him till he breathed his last," the 38-year-old LJP chief, who recently declared himself Modi's Hanuman, said.
Flanked by BJP and

JD(U) rebels like Rajendra Singh and Bhagwan Singh dates after the first phase "When he had telephoned me when my father was in hospital, I told him everything. He asserted. "Attached the first phase of polls, Kumar was glum. "Nitish will be sent packing after November 10," he asserted. — PTI

Parties in Bihar field candidates with criminal cases: ADR

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 2

Bihar election watch (BEW), a wing Association Reforms Democratic (ADR) has released data which says that most of the political parties have fielded candidates with criminal cases for the ongoing assembly elections in Bihar.

The report released by the ADR shows that out of 3.722 candidates analysed 2.166 have declared crimi nal cases out of which 915 have serious criminal pending against them.

As per the data, in the first phase of polls, out of 1,066 candidates in the fray, 327 had declared criminal cases.

Data also reveals that 104 candidates did not inform the public about the pending cases against

In the second phase of polls scheduled on November 3, the percentage has gone up from 31 to 34 per cent. Political parties in this phase have fielded 891 candidates with criminal cases out of which 389 have serious criminal cases pending

against them. Similarly in the third phase, to be held on November 7, out of 1,204 candidates in the fray, 653 candidates have criminals cases out of which 282 have serious cases pending against themselves. The RJD which is

IN THE THIRD PHASE, to be held on November 7, out of 1,204 candidates in the fray, 653 candidates have criminals cases out of which 282 have serious cases pending against themselves.

ALL MAJOR PARTIES have given tickets to 37 per cent to 70 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

the main opposition party and a senior grand alliance partner in Bihar has topped the list followed by the BJP, the Congress, LJP and JD(U).

Data revealed that 115 candidates in the fray have declared cases related to crime against

women. Out of these, 12 candidates have rape charges pending against them. While 73 have murder charges pending against

The ADR in its report adds that the direction of the Supreme Court had no effect on the political parties in the selection of candidates as they have again followed their old practice of giving tickets to around 32 per cent candidates with criminal

All major parties have given tickets to 37 per cent to 70 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

fray as Bihar votes in 2nd phase today Patna, Nov. 2: The stage is set for the second and, arguably, the most crucial of the three phases of Bihar assembly elections in which over 2.85 crore voters are eligible to decide the fate of nearly

Tuesday. Voting will take place on November 3 in 94 assembly segments, more than a third of the 243-strong assembly spread across 17 districts, all of which but three — Patna, Bhagalpur and Nalanda — are situat-

candidates

ed north of the Ganges. Notable among the candidates is the RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, the oppo-sition Grand Alliance's Chief Ministerial candidate, who has been aggressively trying to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor against the Nitish

Kumar government. The 31-year-old is seekre-election from Raghopur in Vaishali district which he had wrested back for his party from the BJP's Satish Kumar in 2015. The BJP leader had defeated Yadav's mother Rabri Devi, a former chief minister, in 2010.

The BJP has retained its trust in Satish Kumar, hoping that the giant killer will be able to do a repeat of 2010 when, like this time, JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was with the NDA. Tejashwi's elder brother

Tej Pratap Yadav is trying

his luck from Hasanpur in

Samastipur district, shift-

ing his base from Mahua

in Vaishali. There were said to be fears in the RJD camp that Tej Pratap's bid to retain Mahua could be challenged by the NDA through his estranged wife Aishwarya as its trump card. She is already taking an active part in the campaign for her father Chandrika Roy in Parsa, which he has represented a number of times

a JD(U) ticket this time. All the four assembly segments in the capital Patna Kumhrar, Bankipur and Digha are also going to polls in the second phase. All these are held by the BJP.

and is seeking to retain on

State minister Nand Kishore Yadav is in the fray trying to retain Patna Sahib for a seventh consecutive term.

MLA Multiple-term Nitin Nabin faces a challenge in Bankipur from Congress candidate Luv Sinha, who is the son of actor-turned-politician Shatrughan Sinha, a twotime local MP who lost the seat when he entered the fray after quitting the BJP.

The BJP has retained as its candidates Arun Sinha and Sanjiv Chaurasia for Kumhrar and Digha respectively. Seven constituencies of

Nalanda district, to which

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar belongs, also go to polls in the second phase. Barring Hilsa, represented by the RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav, and Bihar Sharif, which two-term

MLA Sunil Kumar retained on a BJP ticket in 2015, all the remaining five were won by the JD(U).

The assembly segment named after the district is represented by state minister Shrawan Kumar who is seeking re-election from the seat. The JD(U) has suffered a

setback in the reserved Rajgir seat where its sitting MLA Ravi Jyoti, a former police inspector, is now the fray on a Congress ticket. Two other ministers

Ram Sevak Singh (JDU) and Rana Randhir Singh (BJP) are trying their luck from Hathua and Madhuban in Gopalganj and East Champaran districts respectively. The ministers are sitting MLAs from the respective seats.

Many bahubalis or their wives, sons, brothers or other close relatives are also contesting a number of seats.

Of the 1,463 candidates in the fray on the 94 seats, nearly 10 per cent (146) are women. Among the 2.85 crore voters, fem account for 1.35 crore. females Maharajganj has the

maximum number of 27 candidates for any constituency while Darauli (04) has the lowest. The RJD is contesting 56 of the 94 seats while its ally Congress is contesting

24. The CPI and CPI(M),

which joined the Grand

Alliance recently, are fighting four seats each.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar addresses a gathering during an election rally, at Alamnagar in Madhepura district on Monday.

NITISH: WILL RJD DELAY SALARIES TO **FULFILL 10-LAKH JOBS PROMISE?**

Patna, Nov. 2: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said providing 10 lakh jobs, That is impossible, they RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's main poll promise, would cost the exchequer ₹1.44 lakh crore annually, and wondered if his rival would shelve other development works or delay salaries to imple-

ment his pledge. Addressing constituents in five assembly segments through a virtual rally 'Nishchay Samwad', Kumar also said his government has changed the state's industrial policy and that "we will be able to invite several industries".

Tejashwi has promised he would sanction 10 lakh government jobs in his

won't get the chance to govern," Kumar said. "But for what he (Tejashwi) has said, it will

cost the state exchequer ₹1.44 lakh crore annually... Should they shelve all other development work? He said earlier nobody used to get salaries in time and recalled that several teachers and university professors had told the CM

during his Vikas Yatra in

2005 that they did not get

salaries in time. 'We fixed that. Now what do they want to do? Again not paying salaries? Will there be no other (development) work?" Kumar said.



HILLARY CLINTON @HILARYCLINTON

However you're turning out the vote for Biden-Harris over the next four days, thank you for doing it. Future generations will ask what we did to affect the outcome of this pivotal election.



BARACKE OBAMA @BARACKOBAMA

You could be the difference between someone making it out to the polls or staying home. And many states could be decided by a handful of votes. Join me and make some calls for Joe.



LADY GAGA (@LADYGAGA

HEY TIM HEY @realDonaldTrump SO HAPPY IM GLAD TO BE LIVING RENT FREE in your HEAD. #BidenHarris. Heeeey Donald... #WINNING (also, what is a fracking?

US on edge as 77% fear violence

Last-minute scramble for votes by Trump and Biden; no clarity on timing of the result

POLL LINGO: NAKED BALLOTS TO A RED MIRAGE

WILMINGTON, Del. (Reuters) - Every U.S. presidential election has its own lingo, like the "hanging chads" on voting cards in Florida that led to a landmark court battle in 2000. Below is some of the jargon used in the days leading up to the Nov. 3 election pitting **President Donald Trump against his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.**

NAKED BALLOTS

Sixteen states require voters to return mail ballots in a special "secrecy" envelope. Ballots that don't arrive in the envelope will be considered "naked" and might be disqualified. Celebrities including Naomi Campbell, Chris Rock and Sarah Silverman disrobed

in a video to promote proper voting procedures, 'the least sexy thing a completely naked person can say." according to actor Josh Gad, who also stripped for the video by activist group Represent.Us, which has promoted anti-graft resolutions, says it does not endorse either candidate.

RED MIRAGE/ BLUE SHIFT

Fearing crowded polling places amid the Coronavirus pandemic, a record number of Americans, particularly Democrats, cast mail-in ballots this year, and counting them could take days. As a result, initial results on Ele-ction Day may show Republicans, indicated by red on election maps, holding large leads in battleground states, which counts mailin ballots received three days after Nov. 3. As ballots are tallied in the ensuing days, that "red mirage' could fade, giving way to a "blue shift." Experts see a possible "blue mirage" and "red shift" in Florida and North Carolina.

SPOILED BALLOTS

Ballots that are improperly marked can be rejected as spoiled. Trump said in a tweet the phrase "can I change my vote" was trending on Google and urged Americans to submit a new ballot for him. Some states allow voters to request a new absentee ballot but first they have to request their original ballot be marked as spoiled.

DUELLING ELECTORS

The Electoral College allots electors to states based on population, and the candidate who wins the popular vote gets its electors. But legal experts say Trump could try to convince Republican lawmakers in closely contested states to approve the Republican slate of electors based on early vote tallies. As more ballots are counted, Biden might be certified as the winner. The result: Dueling electors and an outcome that could be

determined by Congress.

COURT PACKING

Republicans confirmed Amy Coney Barrett as a Supreme Court justice on Oct. 26 to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a hero to many for her advocacy for women's issues. Democrats had argued Ginsburg's seat should be filled after poll. Some have suggested that a Biden Administration could expand the court beyond its traditional nine justices. Biden has said he will establish a bipartisan comchanges to the court system, which he said is "getting out of whack."

POLL WATCHERS

The Republican National Committee is mobilizing thousands of supporters to monitor early voting sites and bal-lot drop boxes, looking for irregularities such as people dropping off multiple ballots in states where that generally is not allowed. This marks the first presidential election in nearly four decades in which the Republicans can engage in "ballot security" activities without prior review and approval from the Department of Justice.

Washington, Nov. 2: The US presidential campaign enters its final day Monday with a last-minute scramble for votes by Donald Trump and Joe Biden, drawing to a close an extraordinary race that has put a pandemicstricken country on edge.

But while campaigning will halt and voters will have their say on Tuesday, many questions remain over how soon a result will be known due to a flood of mail-in ballots and possible legal chal-

About three-quarters of Americans are concerned about riots and violence after election day, according to a new poll by JL Partners Independent.

Almost three out of four voters (72%) describe themselves as "very or very concerned about post-election violence", according to the survey. Concerns are greater among President Trump's supporters – 77% said they fear violence and unrest. Among former Vice President Biden's supporters, 73% described these concerns.

Those factors, along with an unprecedented convergence of social justice protests, Coronavirus precautions and President Trump's fear-mongering campaign, have led to apprehension over whether unrest could erupt.

Taking no chances, businesses in some cities have boarded up windows, while across the country the harsh political climate has led to fierce debate, in some cases

even dividing families.
As proof of how much Americans have been galvanized -- and perhaps fright-ened by the pandemic -- a record of more than 93 million people have cast early ballots, including in-person and mailed votes, according to the nonpartisan US Elections Project.

Democratic

presidential

candidate Joe Biden has

said that if elected, he will

convene a global summit of

democracies in the first

year of his presidency to

counter the "rising authori-

tarianism" in the world and

address issues of election

security and human rights.

Biden accused President Donald Trump of "embrac-

ing" every autocrat in the

world which he said has

undermined America's cre-

dibility. "One of the things that have hurt us so badly,

is that this president has embraced every thug and

Will host meet of

democracies: Joe

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: autocrat in the world, in

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden hugs his granddaughter Finnegan Biden during a canvassing kick-off event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Sunday. - AF



US President Donald Trump arrives for a Make America Great Again rally at Fayetteville Regional Airport in Fayetteville,

Biden names 800 major fundraisers

Washington, Nov. 2: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has released the names of major fundraisers, including Indian-Americans, who helped him raise at least \$100,000 for his election campaign this year.

The list, released on Sunday, contains the names of 800 major donors, including a few dozen Indian-

Americans.
Topping the list of IndianAmericans are well known
community leaders Swadesh Chatterjee, Rameshk Kapoor, Shekar N. Narasimhan, R. Rangaswami, Ajay Jain Bhutoria and Frank Islam.

ways that have undermined

our credibility," he said dur-

nity of democracies to co-

unter the rising authoritar-

ianism we see in the world.

In my first year, we're going

to host a summit of the

democracies to address ele-

ction security, human rights, etc," Biden said.

Responding to questions

on China, he said trade,

human rights and security

are the three main issues. Criticising President Tru-

mp's policies toward China, he said, "Trump caved to

Chinese leaders every time. He let them off the hook,

"Trump gave them the green light to put millions

of Chinese Uighurs in con-

centration camps," he said. His campaign has termed

the alleged HR violations

Uyghur Muslims in

China's Xinjiang region

as "genocide" and call-

ed for a global effort to

make a united stand

against the "oppress-

ion". — PTI

started a trade war, etc."

"I'll energise the commu-

ing a conference call.

Among other prominent Indian-American bundlers are Neil Makhija, Rahu, Prakash, Deepak Raj, Raj Shah, Rajan Shah, Radhika Shah, Jill and Raj Singh, Nidhi Thakar, Kiran Jain, Sony Kalsi and Bela Bajaria. Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has also been listed

Given that the list of bundlers includes all those

have already

cast ballots

who have raised more than \$100,000, the number of Indian-Americans in far less than those of former presidents Barack Obama and Bil Clinton campaigns. Some of the traditional Indian-American Democra-tic donors like hotelier Sant Chatwal are missing from the list. According to The Wall Street Journal, the list of "bundlers" includes the who's who of Democratic

politics, including former and current governors, senators, Cabinet secretaries big names Hollywood. Film producer Jeffrey Katzenberg, writer and director Lee Daniels, LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman; media mogul Haim Saban and former US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker are on the list, the daily said.

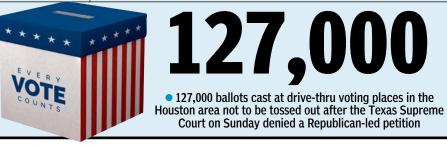
FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

11 precincts in New Orleons could still be without power on Tuesday • 1,100 prominent members of the Asian-American community endorse Joe Biden, Kamala Harris

 300 lawsuits already have been filed over the election in dozens of states across the country







Idli and any kind of 'Tikka' fav Indian dishes: Kamala

New York, Nov. 2: Democratic Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris has listed Idli with a "really good Sambar" and "any kind of Tikka" as her favourite Indian dishes. Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, Harris, is the first Indian-origin and first Black woman to be picked by a major American political party for the top post. Harris, responding to a question on what her favourite Indian dishes are,

have become a sign-

ature election event of the Democr-

atic Party whi-

ch has taken

the innova-

The 56-year-old California senator, after being chosen by Democratic Party's presidential candidate Joe Biden as his running mate in August, reflected on her proud Indian heritage during her maiden address to the Indian-American community and recalled how mother Shyamala Gopalan always wanted to instill in her a "love for good idli".

She had taken a trip down the memory lane, mention-

"heroes" responsible for the birth of the world's largest democracy. In a video posted on Twitter on Sunday, Harris answered some questions asked by Instagram users. On what she is doing to take care of her mental health on the campaign trail, she said that she works out every morning, speaks with her kids and loves to cook. Asked what her plan is to ensure a sustainable and eco-friendly future for the coming generations, Harris said Biden

by the local campaign offi-cials, every time Harris'

supporters got excited with

her remarks, they honked.

Every time she was critical

of Trump, they honked.

Every time she spoke about

COUNT: DON READY FOR LEGAL BATTLE

PROLONGED VOTE

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: US President Donald Trump has denied that he is planning to prematurely declare victory after the presidential polls are over on Tuesday and hinted that he is gearing up for a legal battle against a vote count that stretched past Election Day. "No, no that was a false report," Trump told reporters on Sunday at the Charlotte airport in North Carolina amidst a news report that he is planning to prematurely declare victory on the election night.

Americans have rushed to vote early, already casting nearly 92 million mail-in ballots that could take days or weeks to be counted in some states - meaning a winner might not be declared in the hours after polls close on Tuesday. Trump indicated that his team was gearing up for a legal battle. Trump lamented Supreme

Court's rulings that allowed for Pennsylvania and North Carolina to count absentee ballots that are postmarked before Election Day but arrive shortly after Tuesday. "I think it is a terrible thing when ballots can be collected after an election. I think it is a terrible thing when people or states are allowed to tabu-late ballots for a long period of time after the election is over because it can only lead to one thing," Trump said.

"We are going in the night of — as soon as the election

is over — we are going in with our lawyers," he said as he criticised the decision taken by the Supreme Court to allow ballots to be received after Election Day in several battleground states. -PTI

HARRIS SEEKS **DECISIVE MANDATE FROM AMERICANS**

Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: Democratic Vice Presidentiai nominee Kamaia Harris has sought a decisive mandate from Americans so that no amount of legal battle can overturn the poll results.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that he is planning to prematurely declare victory after the presidential polls are over on Tuesday, but hinted that he is gearing up for a legal battle in the counting of mail and absentee votes post the election.

He criticised the decision taken by the Supreme Court to allow ballots to be received after Election Day in several battleground states.

'Well, first of all, we plan to decisively win this election so I don't, I don't think we're going to need to get to that point," 56-year-old Harris told reporters during a day of hectic campaigning with stops in this North Carolinian

city and in Georgia.

Over the past few days, polls indicate that the November 3 presidential election is getting tighter, even though Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden continues to maintain substantial lead over Republican incumbent President Donald

are publicised locally much

in advance and people are

encouraged to participate,

Biden and Harris are by

ing her "long walks" in "So South Indian, it and she are prepared to would be Idli with... a real-Madras (now Chennai) make commitments with with her grandfather who would tell her about the emissions by 2050. — PTI ly good Sambar, and then North Indian — probably **ELECTION | EVENT** Drive-in car rallies are very selective in nature Honking gets new meaning Fayetteville (US), Nov. 2: wherein a select group of chant slogans like "We Love You" and "Four More years." Most of these drive-"Black Lives Matter", they honked. It was once in a while that some of the sup-Honking has got a new meaning in the US politics supporters gather in a parking lot to be addressed in car rallies are very selecporters peeked out of their with the annoying sound by the party's top leaderreplacing clapping, cheers ship as part of its efforts to car windows. Those who tive in nature and they are and even boos in election maintain social distancing not publicised. In their ralwere standing outside their campaigns, in particudue to the Coronavirus. lies, it's all honking. cars ensured that they were Both Biden, 77, and Harris, 56, ask their supportmaintaining social distancing as they clapped. The level of honking refllarly the drive-in car rallies of Democratic pre-sidential candidate Joe ects the sentiments, happiness and anger of their There were no cheers at ers sitting in their cars to supporters. On Sunday at a all. Same was the case with Biden and his running honk to express their sentimate Kamala Harris. ments. In fact, honking in drive-in rally attended by shouting slogans. Unlike Drive-in car rallies the election rallies of the less than 100 cars, invited the Trump rallies, which

Democratic Party has replace all kinds of emotion in

election rallies. In the elec-

tion rallies of Republican

incumbent President Dona-

ld Trump, thousands of his

supporters cheer, clap and



Chronicle

'Love jihad' is a diversion, enforce rule of law in UP

of Uttar Pradesh with its 20.4 crore people were a country, it would have been the seventh-most populous in the world. It is number two among Indian states when it comes to ease of doing business but languishes at the bottom in terms of governance, based on a transparent Public Affairs Index-2020, prepared by a non-governmental organisation headed by former ISRO chairman K. Kasturirangan. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanadh came to power with the promise of maintaining rule of law but reports of him undermining administration of criminal justice through encounter killings are plenty; data says more than 125 persons have been killed in more than 6,476 encounters in the last three years of his rule. The gang-rape and murder of a teenager and the inhuman treatment meted out to the girl even after her death and to her family has earned the state administration universal condemnation.

Such stark realities and contradictions notwithstanding, Adityanath has discovered a new enemy of his state: 'love jihad', the derogative term used

The right to freely profess, practise and propagate one's religion is a fundamental right guaranteed by **India's Constitution**

by the right wing for the marriage between Muslim men and Hindu women. The Chief Minister has even promised to bring in a law to fight such marriages. If that won't suffice, he has threatened those who "play with our sisters' respect: If you don't mend your ways your 'Ram naam satya' (chant associated with Hindu funerals) journey will begin." The Chief Minister has a judicial verdict to bank on: A single bench of Allahabad high court said conversion for the sake of marriage is not admissible before the law. The

Chief Minister of Haryana, a state which has the worst sex ratio betraying the poor rights women enjoy in the state, has joined hands with his Uttar Pradesh counterpart and is contemplating introducing a law to curb

The right to freely profess, practise and propagate one's religion is a fundamental right guaranteed by India's Constitution. Marriages in India are legalised by civil laws governing various communities and religions. Then there is the Special Marriage Act, 1954, that allows any two people to marry irrespective of their religious affiliations. Marriage, in the eye of the law, is a civil contract between two consenting adults and there are enough legal tools to punish fraudsters who enter into it with ulterior motives. The state has, and should have, very little role in what two adults do; it definitely has no business playing 'father' and 'brother' of damsels in distress

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is not only known for his hardline Hindutva ideology but also for his pro-business policies and actions. The state's ascent to the top in terms of ease of doing business is no accident. He has time and again talked about the importance of attracting investment, domestic and foreign. If he means business, then he would rather focus on creating an open and liberal environment that welcomes multinationals than plunging his state into the dark ages with its archaic mind-sets. It cannot afford to be a paradox any longer.

Economy: Hope, with caution

he Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection for the month of October — one of the two festive months for the Hindu community — has been on expected lines with the GST Council reporting a gross collection of a little over ₹1 lakh crore. The fact that the gross GST collection in October this year at ₹1,05,155 crores was 10 per cent more than ₹95,379 crore collected in the same month last year is very heartening. Other ecomposite indicators much be the effective party of the property of the same month last year is very heartening. nomic indicators such as the sale of automobiles and industrial growth

Corporation Limited, sumption rose by 13 per cent in October 2020 to 110.94 bil-

have been promising. Major carmakers such as Maruti Suzuki and According to Power
System Operation
Corporation Limited,
India's power consumption rose by 13

Major Carmakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motors have reported highest-ever monthly sales in October. The two-wheeler segment, which was considered to be badly affected by Covid-19 pandemic, appears to be wriggling out of comma, with Hero MotoCorp posting all-time high monthly sales in October. sales in October.

Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which tracks the manufacturing sector in the counlion units (BU) try, reported a historically-sharp monthly expansion in production by companies in

October. This is the consecutive third month of expansion in industrial turing sector as the severity of Covid-19 infections begins to wane in the country. Data from power consumption too validate the reports of economic revival. According to Power System Operation Corporation Limited, India's power consumption rose by 13 per cent in October 2020 to 110.94 billion units (BU) compared to 97.84 billion units in October 2019.

While all economic indicators paint a rosy picture of India's economic revival, the government must not get complacent in its efforts to support the economy in getting on its feet. Since the spike in demand is still driven by retail consumption, it could as well be a pent-up demand being released during the festive season. The government must, therefore, remain cautious and hold its horses till it hopefully sees a similar growth curve in the non-festive months

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As US votes today, the world holds its breath



K.C Singh

ing been formed as a union of independent

states, the smaller units

negotiated checks on the

power of the larger states.

India's states, contrari-

wise, were carved out

from a unitary India,

while merging en masse quasi-independent states

rulers,

Independence. In fact, a

major reorganisation of

states occurred only after

1956 on a linguistic basis.

This process continued till last year when Jammu

and Kashmir was reor-

The US system worked

fine till the white working

and middle classes felt threatened by demo-

graphic changes, and per-

ceived loss of their way of

life, and economic stagna-

tion caused first by the oil

crisis of the 1970s and

then by globalisation the

deindustrialisation of

vast areas. These states,

now referred to as the

Rust Belt, are like Michigan, the old car manufacturing hub of the

US, or the steel industry

in Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-

vania, which produced

one-third of the national

steel output in the 1920s

but collapsed in the mid-

1980s. This caused a geo-

graphical bipartisan split

in national politics, creat-

ing a wall of so-called "red" (Republican) and "blue" (Democratic)

states, with more or less

pre-determined voting

preferences. For instance,

California, with the lar-

gest haul of 55 electoral

college votes, is home to

technology innovation

and a growing Latino pop-

ulation, swung to the

Democrats in 1992. It has

since voted for them in

increasing numbers in

each successive election.

Similarly, the states of the

Northeast, including glob-

al financial centre New

York, favours the Demo-

crats. Large parts of the Midwest and beyond, con-

stituting America's food

Thus, presidential elec-

tions really boil down to

bowl, vote Republican.

after

under

Tuesday afternoon India is when he United States begins voting to decide whether President Donald Trump gets a second term or, like in his episode ending line in serial Apprentice, people say "you are fired". The stakes are high both for America and the world as policy between Democrats and Republicans has never been wider in decades, on a slew of domestic and

global issues. Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt in How Democracies Die devise four core behavioural warning signs in politicians that endanger democracy. These are when ruling politicians (1) reject in words or (1) reject, in words or action, the democratic rules of the game; (2) deny the legitimacy of opponents; (3) tolerate or encourage violence; or (4) indicate a willingness to iberties of opponents, including the media. Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States, wrote in the Federalist Papers: "History will teach us, of those men who have overturned the liberties of republics, the great number have begun their career by paying obse-quious court to the people: commencing dema-gogues, and ending

President Trump has displayed all these symp-toms and with the Supreme Court now in his pocket, with a 6-3 majority of conservative judges, he is likely to unravel the liberal-compassionate socio-economic order evolved since the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt in late 1930s.

American Presidents are elected indirectly by an Electoral College, created with graded advantage for smaller states, disproportionate to their population. The US hav-

The US system worked fine till the white working and middle classes felt threatened by demographic changes, and perceived loss of their way of life

the "swing states", which can tilt either way and impact the election result. In 2016, Mr Trump managed his 304 Electoral College votes, crossing the 270 required for a win, with 46.1 per cent of the popular vote. He did this carrying Michigan (16), Wisconsin (10) and Pennsylvania (20) by narrow margins, which in the past were pro-Democrat. In addition, he swept Florida (29) and North Carolina (15). But the election this time, conducted under the shadow of Covid-19, has seen almost 100 million people, nearly 70 per cent of the 2016 vote, do early voting. In-person early voting is fine but mailed votes have led to disparate rulings about their receipt deadlines. Emboldened by his sway over the higher courts, Mr Trump is preparing to tie up postal ballots in legal challenges he emerges ahead in votes cast in-person in crucial states.

Joe Biden needs to wrest one, or more, swing state early to stymie Mr Trump. Three states — North Carolina, Florida and Ohio — will be reporting early with their postal and in-person votes. A win in one of them can signal a change in the popular mood against the incumbent and the game is over. Three more states that Mr Trump carried in 2016 — Iowa, Arizona and Georgia — are in play this time as demographic changes are altering the electoral map in the socalled Sun Belt states in the South. That explains the Houston hoopla in September 2019 where the "Howdy Modi" rally saw President Trump's tango with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Texas has almost 125,000 Indian voters. However, a recent YouGov.com poll indicated that over 70 per cent were pro-Biden. The moral is that while the

diaspora may express nostalgic euphoria at essentially Indian political events on their soil, at election time they considbread-and-butter issues like immigration policies and inclusive pol-Mr Biden has led consis-

tently in national and crucial state pre-election polls, despite Mr Trump's aggressive attempt in two debates to kill the challenger's momentum. The race has narrowed in the last few weeks. Mr Trump's supporters may intimidate non-white vot-ers on election day to supress voting. But due to the pandemic or intimidation fears, many Democratic voters may have already cast their votes, as shown by the huge early voting numbers. But if an exceptionally heavy turnout on Nov ember 3 swells the overall vote, the outcome is more difficult to guess, as independents' voting intent is less decipherable.

Interestingly, Bihar's second polling phase is the same day as the US election. Major department stores in metropolitan cities, including the iconic Bloomindale's in New York, are shuttering stores fearing possible violence if Mr Trump trails or prematurely claims victory. This is more reminiscent of Bihar's electoral past than expected in the world's most powerful democracy. For India, the outcome will be a mixed blessing. Mr Trump, in a second term, may look to moderate his China-baiting, cut deals with Russia over West Asia, increase pressure on Iran and bring trade back to the India-US table. Mr Biden resurrect alliances, maintain a positive engagement with India, but also adopt a less confrontational China policy. India may also find his focus on democracy, human rights and the freedom of the media irksome, unless the government here curbs its religio-cultural evangelism. For the next 24 hours, the entire world will be literally holding its breath.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

GST COLLECTIONS gross GST collections have crossed one lakh crore mark in October 2020 that too in the Covid-19 pandemic situation (Indians begin to splurge yet again, DC, Nov. 2). It does not mean that the Indian economy has picked up in a right way but certainly is a big relief and hope for bright economic future. It is also happy to note that both the Telugu states are in the GST growth list particularly AP which is reeling under deep financial crisis. Once other sectors pick up gradually then Indian economy may reach its right destination.

Panchakarla.Govardhana Rao Kankipadu

CINEMAS

The reopening of cinema halls after a gap of over seven months is a very good sign for the economy. But at the same time this activity is wrought with threat to the wellbeing of people from health point of view, if the pandemic protocol is not adhered to in its entirety. Already America and several western countries are again going back to lockdown days due to the second wave of Covid-19. The responsibility to prevent such an occurrence in India would, therefore, squarely lie on the shoulders of not only the authorities concerned but also on that of the people in general. Govardhana Myneedu



NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 2 The Attorney-General, Mr. Niren De, argued in the Supreme Court today that the covenants and agreements between the Government of India and former rulers were an act of State which were political in nature and hence not enforceable in a court of law.

Resuming his arguments against the maintainability of the writ petitions moved by some for-mer rulers. Mr. De said the sanctions behind the covenants were political and not legal.

Any rights and obligations arising there from were not enforceable, he maintained.

Mr. De said the ex-rulers hand no legal right to continue to be recognised as rulers, to receive the privy purse or to enjoy the princely privileges.

Aakar



Is PM ignoring reality about our economy & Covid handling?

rime Minister Narendra Modi has recently given an extraordinary interview to a leading business newspaper. It is confident in outlook, breezy in tone and out of place with our current reality.

He assumes he had done not only the right thing in managing the Covid-19 pandemic but done something other nations have not done. This, according to him, has saved lives in this country. He says: "I am no health expert, but my assessment is based on numbers. I think we should assess our coronavirus fight against the metric of how many lives we are able to save.

He did not provide any numbers, but he doesn't need to because they are public. India has the second most infections in the world and currently has the third highest number of fatalities.

The one other nation India is comparable with in terms of population, China, controlled the epidemic in one stroke. Its peak came on one day, February 12, and then its spread was contained in some way

Our sister nations around us. like Bangladesh and Pakistan, culturally and geographically comparable, have fared more than twice as well as us both in terms of infections per lakh population and deaths. On what grounds can we assume that the Narendra Modi government has done comparatively well? He seems to think we should compare ourselves to Brazil, Italy and the United States. But why?

He makes the claim that India, the second most infected nation in the world, "is a world model of public participation without any coercive enforcement". India actually had the worst lockdown in the world, forced on it by the Union government which invoked the Disaster Management Act. People were punished and jailed by the State for going back home without work, food or shelter. People were run over by trains because they had walked on the tracks to avoid the

police on the highways. This is what coercive enforcement is. Perhaps the definition is different in Gujarat.

That unprepared, arbitrary lockdown did not save lives — there is no relation between the spread of infections and the weeks that India spent in forced hibernation — but it did help skewer the economy. The Prime Minister is confident that the August and September data shows that the economy is "back on track". Back on track to where?

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was in sequential decline for two years before the pandemic hit. It has been falling every quarter for 10 quarters since January 2018. Growth was three per cent before Covid-19 pandemic. What are we getting back on track to?

Also, if he seems to think that we will be back to where we were in February soon, he has the wrong advisers. One quarter of the GDP fell off between April and June. The best we can hope for in the July-

September quarter is that it doesn't decline further, but it will. Even if it doesn't, to recover the lost quarter of India's GDP will take two years. Meaning that, after two years, we may be back to where we were in February this year. That is

not "back on track".

The Prime Minister continues to speak of a \$5 trillion economy. On one hand, this is a banal thing. India's economy, at whatever pace, will reach there at some point (assuming no magical strokes like demonetisation or lockdowns are forthcoming to slow it down).

But to assume that it will happen in 2024, as Prime Minister Modi does, is to be unaware of what has happened in the past three years. He said in the interview: "Most people who are pessimistic remain in doubt. If you sit among them, you will hear only things of despair and

despondency."

No, it is called being in touch with reality and being able to read the

It is hard to tell whether the

Prime Minister is unable to confront the reality or whether he is so supremely confident in his abilities that he can convince the rest of us that the reality is different from our perception of it.

If we pretend that China hasn't occupied the lands that our Army was patrolling till February, then they haven't crossed the Line of Actual Control.

If we compare ourselves to Brazil and Italy and not China and Pakistan, our coronavirus numbers will look excellent. If we make up meaningless phrases like this one from the interview — "Atma Nirbhar Bharat is not just about competition but also about compe tence, it's not about dominance but about dependability, it's not about looking within but about looking out for the world" — then that is a substitute for trying to right an economy that has been in the doldrums for over 30 months.

> The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Chronicle

VISAKHAPATNAM | TUESDAY | 3 NOVEMBER 2020

quick

INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	39,757.58	0.36
Nifty 50	11,669.15	0.23
S&P 500*	3,309.28	1.20
Dollar (₹)	74.42	-0.42
Pound Sterling (₹)	95.79	-0.004
Euro (₹)	86.57	0.42
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	51,286▲103	0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	37.95	0.01
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.890	0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.838	-0.021
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

Singh to continue as NTPC chief till July 2025



The NTPC approved the extension of tenure of chairman and MD Gurdeep Singh till July

Gurdeep Singh Singh's extended term will start from February 4, 2021, Singh had taken over as the CMD of NTPC on February 4, 2016.

Aditya Puri to join Carlyle as senior advisor



Aditya Puri, who retired as HDFC Bank CEO and MD last week, will be guiding global private equity major Carlyle on investment opportunities across Asia as a senior advisor. Puri will advise the Carlyle team and provide guidance on the evolving market landscape and new investment opportuniiles, Carlyle said. He will also be advising Carlyle's investment professionals and portfolio management teams.

Tax payers generate 4.95 cr e-invoices: Govt

Tax payers generated 4.95 crore e-invoices in the first month of the launch of the service, the ministry of electronics and IT said. Besides e-invoices, 6.41 crore e-way bills were generated in October, which was highest in any month since the launch of the service. "According to NIC, within the first month of introduction itself, more than 495 lakh e-invoices were generated on the NIC portal by 27,400 taxpayers," the ministry said.

Coromandel Intl posts 17% rise in Q2 profit

Coromandel International reported a 17 per cent year-onyear rise in consolidated net profit after tax at Rs 589 crore for the September 2020 quarter. Total income was lower at Rs 4,620 crore against Rs 4,867 crore in the year-ago quarter. Standalone net profit after tax for the quarter rose to Rs 582 crore versus Rs 503 crore. Total income stood at Rs 4,605 crore against Rs



■PMI at a 13-year high of 58.9 in Oct.

Mfg sees fastest pick-up in decade

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

With rising demand and output amidst Covid-19 disruptions, India's factory activity, measured by the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), expanded to 58.9 in October- nearly a 13-year high and the fastest pace in over a decade. However, on the employment front, the numbers remain a concern, as companies cut more jobs, a private survey showed on Monday.

Even though the economy shrank at a record 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter, the latest PMI survey shows that Asia's third-largest economy is signalling a fast pace of recovery with several economic indicators turning positive.

"Rising from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October, the headline PMI pointed to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in over a decade, with companies raising output to the greatest extent in 13 years amid robust sales growth. The reading was the highest since May 2010 and above the 50-level separating growth from contraction for the third straight month. While firms purchased additional inputs for use in the production process, payroll numbers were lowered due to government guidelines related to the Covid-19," said the IHS Markit survey.

Commenting, Pollyanna

♥ Contraction 2020 Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun July Aug Sep Oct PMI: Purchasing Managers Index Source: Nikkei. IHS Markit/KBK Infographics

De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said, "Levels of new orders and output at Indian manufacturers continued to recover from the Covid-19 induced contractions seen earlier in the year, with the PMI results for October highlighting historically sharp monthly rates of expan-sion. Companies were convinced that the resurgence in sales will be sustained in coming months, as indicated by a strong upturn in input buying amid restocking efforts."

confidence towards the year-ahead outlook for production improved as firms hoped that fewer Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other businesses could boost output growth. There was disappointing news on the employment front though, with October seeing another reduction in payroll numbers," said De

With input and output prices rising at a faster pace last month, overall retail inflation could see a spike. Inflation rose to an eight-month high of 7.34 per cent in September could remain above the RBI's medium-term target of 2-6 per cent in coming months.

In the survey, hopes of an end to Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other sectors in the economy underpinned positive sentiment towards the yearahead outlook for production. The level of confidence was at a 50-month

confidence "Also. towards the year-ahead outlook for production improved as firms hoped that fewer Covid-19 cases and the reopening of other businesses could boost output growth," Lima said.

Reliance Cap in bid to sell stake in arms to cut debt

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL), part of debt-ridden Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Group, has invited bids for sale its subsidiaries, including Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, to repay loans of about Rs 20,000

According to sources, the process for inviting expression of interest (EOI) for its key assets was launched on October 31, with a view to unlock value of its underlying businesses and targets to make RCL debt free.

EOIs invited for all or part of RCL's stake of subsidiaries Reliance General Insurance, Reli-Nippon Insurance Company Reliance Securities, Re-Company, liance Financial Limited and Reliance Asset Reconstruction Limited.

The monetisation process is run under the aegis of Committee of Debenture Holders and the Debenture Trustee Vistra ITCL India Ltd, which represents 93 per cent of outstanding debt of RCL, sources said.

The company proposes to exit from its wholly owned Reliance General Insurance Company Limited with paid up capital of Rs 252 crore as September sources said, adding that 51 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company is also for sale. -PTI

Manipal to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals in India for ₹2,100 cr Hospitals

Leading multi-specialty healthcare provider Manipal Hospitals on Monday said it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals in India. According to sources,

the acquisition will be for Rs 2,100 crore.

The company intends to acquire 100 per cent stake Columbia Hospitals (Columbia Asia). The transfer of ownership to Manipal Hospitals is expected to be completed post regulatory approvals, the healthcare providers said in a statement.

'We are very pleased to welcome Columbia Asia Hospitals to the Manipal family and proudly acknowledge their outstanding track record of healthcare delivery of a very high standard over the years," Manipal Education and Medical Manipal



Group (MEMG) chairman Ranjan Pai said.

"This is the start of an exceptional journey for us together Columbia Asia, we are now bigger, stronger and uniquely positioned to meet the growing expectations of the communities we serve across the country," he added.

Together, the combined entity will have a presence of 27 hospitals across 15 cities with over 7,300 beds and a pool of more than 4,000 doctors and over 10,000 employees, the statement said.

commenced operations in India in 2005 in Hebbal, Bengaluru and currently operates 11 hospitals across the country,

"This combination of Columbia Asia and Manipal Hospitals is very exciting because of the strong cultural alignment between the two companies and the opportunity it provides for continued growth,' Columbia Pacific Management chairman Dan Baty said.

The acquisition of Columbia Asia offers a geographical and cultural fit, and provides Manipal Hospitals a larger national footprint, the statement

The advisor for Manipal Health Enterprise was Capital Columbia Pacific was advised by Stanley, it added. Morgan

Centre transfers ₹6,000 cr to 16 states, 3 UTs

NEW DELHI, NOV. 2

In an effort to meet the goods and services tax (GST) revenue shortfall, the Centre on Monday transferred loans worth Rs 6,000 crore as the second tranche to 16 states and three Union territories (UTs) under a special borrowing window. With this amount, the government has already facilitated total loans of Rs 12,000 crore till date under the special window to states and UTs to

meet the shortfall in GST compensation cess collec-

"The finance ministry said the "amount was raised at a weighted average yield of 4.42 per cent. This amount will be passed on to the states/UTs at the same interest rate, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the states and UTs, thus benefitting

The 16 states and three UTs that received funds include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa,

Gujarat, Haryana, HP, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand and the UTs of Delhi, J&K and Puducherry.

Twenty-one states and three UTs have opted so far for the special window under Option 1 presented by the Union government. "The loans raised by government are released on a back-to-back states/UTs, in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases," the ministry siad.

HDFC profit

more than

halves in Q2

Mumbai, Nov. 2: Mort-

gage lender HDFC Ltd's

profit after tax declined by

more than half to Rs 4,600

crore on a consolidated

basis in the September

quarter. It had reported a

orofit after tax of Rs

It said during the quar-

ter ended September 30, 2019, Rs 8,000 crore per-

tained to profit on loss of

10,389 crore in the year-

PNB profit rises 22% to ₹621 cr

New Delhi, Nov. Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Monday reported a 22 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 620.81 crore for the second quarter.

The lender had posted a net profit of RS 507.05 crore during the corresponding quarter a year

The bank's total income during July-September rose to Rs 23,438.56 crore as against Rs 15,556.61 crore in the year-ago period, PNB said in a regulatory filing. Gross non-performing

assets accounted for 13.43 per cent of the gross advances at the end of September, lower than 16.76 per cent a year ago. Net non-performing

assets (NPAs) declined to 4.75 per cent, compared with 7.65 per cent a year ago. However, provisions for

bad loans rose to Rs 3,811.17 crore in the quarter, against Rs 3,253.32 crore in July-September

Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India merged with PNB, effective April

MSME emergency loans available up to Nov. 30

government on Monday extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs by one month till vovember 30, scheme has so far failed to meet the target of Rs 3 lakh crore.

The scheme was valid till October-end. It was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirusinduced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium

enterprises (MSMEs). The scheme has been extended till November 30 or till such time that an amount of Rs 3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier, the finance min-

istry said in a statement. The step has been taken in view of the opening up of various sectors in the economy and the expected increase in demand tive season.

"This extension will provide a further opportunity to such borrowers who have not availed of scneme obtain credit under the scheme," it said.

According to data uploaded by member lending institutions on the ECLGS portal, an amount of Rs 2.03 lakh crore has been sanctioned under the scheme to 60.67 lakh borrowers so far, while an amount of Rs 1.48 lakh crore has been disbursed.

Under the scheme, fully guaranteed and collater-al-free additional credit to MSMEs, business enterprises, individual enterprises, loans for business purposes, and Mudra borrowers is provided to the extent of 20 per cent of their credit outstanding as on February 29, 2020.

Borrowers with a credit outstanding up to Rs 50 crore as on February 29, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs 250 crore are eligible under the scheme.

Essel sells Devanahalli, Dichpally tollways

Mumbai, Nov. 2: The National Investment and Infrastructure (NIIF) on Monday said it has acquired two assets— Dichpally and Devana-halli tollways—from Essel Group, marking its entry into the roads and high-

ways sector. The deal size was not disclosed by the fund.

The acquisition is done through the NIIF Master Fund, and the projects will be managed by Athaang Infrastructure, NIIF's proprietary roads platform backed by a team of professionals.

Subhash Chandra's debtladen Essel Group has



been in talks with NIIF to sell these assets since last year for an estimated Rs 1,500-1,800 crore.

Essel Dichpally Tollway is a 60-km four-lane toll road in Telangana and has been in operation for over seven years, connecting

Hyderabad and Nagpur.
Essel Devanahalli

Tollway is a strategic arteroad in Karnataka, connecting Bengaluru city and the airport and is a part of NH44 (erstwhile NH7). It has been in operation for over six years.

Vinod Giri, managing partner at NIIF, said this is the first investment that the fund has made in the roads sector

NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for international and domestic investors, anchored by the Centre and manages over \$4.3 billion of equity capital commitments across its three funds.

most powerful straight-six

The high-revving M

xDrive powertrain. The

X3 M can clock 0-100 kmph

in 4.2 seconds and achieves a top speed of 250

kmph. It offers four driv-

ing modes that optimise

control of a subsidiary, Gruh Finance. The stake sale of Gruh Finance by

ago quarter.

the housing finance player was to facilitate the merger of Gruh with Bandhan Bank. On a standalone basis, its net profit dropped 27.56 per cent to Rs 2,870 crore in the September quarter

as against Rs 3,962 crore in the previous year. It provided Rs 662 crore for tax in the reporting quarter.
"In reality, profit (in Q2
FY21) is higher by as

much as 27 per cent compared to last year after you remove dividend income, profit on sale of investments and expected credit loss (ECL) provisions," HDFC VC and CEO Keki Mistry said.

Its dividend income and profit on sale of invest-ments during the quarter stood at Rs 323 crore as against Rs 2,701 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

"In accordance with the directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, the Corporation has not received any dividend from its investments in banks and insurance companies during the current financial year so far, it

Provisioning, including provisioning for the impact of Covid-19, was Rs 436 crore compared to Rs 754 crore in the yearago quarter.

The net interest income (NII) for the quarter grew 21 per cent to Rs 3,647 crore compared to Rs 3,021 crore in the previous year. Net interest margin for the quarter stood at 3.3 per cent versus 3.2 per

HDFC shares ended at Rs 2,042.65 apiece, up 6.24 per cent on BSE. —*PTI* per cent on BSE.

BMW LAUNCHES X3 M IN INDIA, PRICES START AT ₹99.9 L

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, NOV. 2

India's second biggest luxury carmaker, on Monday introduced the first-ever X3 M in India for Rs 99.90 lakh to cash in on the festive season.

The X3 M is the first midsize SUV with German BMW's M package in India which would be imported into the country. The X3 M has no direct

rivals in India as there is

no mid-size SUV available

in India at this price point



with such performance in

The BMW X3 M is pow-

petrol engine in the entire M lineup. The engine manages to churn out 486 PS of power and offers 600 Nm of torque. engine is paired to an 8-speed M Steptronic transmission and sends power to all wheels with the M

ered by a new 3.0-litre, 6cylinder M TwinPower turbo engine, which is the

performance.

and bust many of the myths around remote working, he said. The policy will ensure better work-life balance, will give more flexibility to choose where one lives as the daily work commute shifts out of consideration, provides working opportunities to new parents at their convenience, and ensures continuity of work for persons with disabilities in their respective work

within an office environment

enabled environment. "Flexible working provides greater freedom to choose locations and make essential life decisions such as supporting families, be it ageing parents or spouses with non-transferrable jobs. This will help in retaining and enriching our key talent from across the country and attract workforce for location

TRADING HOURS FOR RUPEE, BOND **MARKETS EXTENDED**

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, NOV. 2

In view of the graded rollback of lockdown restrictions, the Reserve Bank of India on Monday decided to restore trading hours for the bond and currency market in a phased man-ner with effect from

November 9. The trading hours for foreign currency and rupee market—including forex derivatives, government commercial securities. paper and certificate of deposit, which had been amended to 10 am to 2 pm—can be conducted between 10 am to 3:30 pm

from November 9, the Reserve Bank said. The trading hours for various markets were amended from April 7.

AGILE MODEL Company moves to trust and outcome-based working culture Work from anywhere, Tata Steel tells staff

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Domestic steel maker Tata Steel on Monday announced a new work model for its employees which allows them to work from home for up to 365 days a year.
The new 'Agile Working

Models' policy is effective from Sunday, Tata Steel said in a state-Tata Steel said that it is moving towards a "trust and outcomebased working culture" and to

give more flexibility to its

employees Under the new models, effective November 1, even officers who are required to be based out of a particular location can now work from home for unlimited days in a year, it said.

Once the pandemic situation normalises, the policy will enable company's officers to move to a location of choice, giving the employee the flexibility



for a year and based on adaptability and feedback, the policy will be reviewed after one year. Suresh Dutt Tripathi, vicepresident, human resource management, Tata Steel, said that

flexible working not only por-

trays an organisation's intent to create a workplace for the upcoming generations but also solidifies its intent to cater to the needs of its diversified workforce across geographies.

The pandemic has helped move away from the traditional thinking of productivity being contingent upon fixed hours of work

agnostic roles," Tripathi added.
— PTI

TAKES

Watson set to

retire from cricket

Dubai: Top Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has decided to call time on his competitive cricket career after Chennai Super Kings' exit from the Indian Premier League. While Watson has not made any official announcement, it has been learnt that after CSK ended their IPL campaign on Sunday with a win over Kings XI Punjab, the senior player told his teammates about the decision to retire from all forms of

This season, he has scored 299 runs in 11 games. He was a star for Rajasthan Royals during the inaugural edition (472 runs and 17 wickets) and in 2018, his century in the final post his international retirement won it for CSK, who had just come back from a two-year ban. - PTI

Gagan's shooting range in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: India's emerging sporting hub, Odisha, on Monday made its foray into shooting as the state government joined hands with Olympic medallist Gagan Narang to set up a 10m and 50m range at the Kalinga Stadium here.

Also associated with the project is the Aditya Birla Group. The facility is called the Odisha Aditya Birla-Gagan Narang Shooting High Performance Centre, adding to the much acclaimed hockey and athletics infrastructure of the state. Further cementing Odisha's reputation as the sports capital of India and providing major boost to infrastructure in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated three state-of-the-art sports facilities in Hinjilicut, Chatrapur and Bhubaneswar.

Shooter tests +ve but camp to go on

New Delhi: An athlete training in the national capital's Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range has test-ed positive for Covid-19, the Sports Authority of India said on Sunday but maintained that it will not hamper the ongoing

national camp. Last month, SAI had approved a two-month long coaching camp for the Olympic core group shooters from October 15

to December 14. "An NCOE (National Centre of Excellence) athlete training at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in the 10 metre range has tested positive for the coronavirus. The athlete who last visited the range on October 28th in the second half of the day, intimated to his coach that his test result had come positive," SAI

Legend Chariton

has dementia

London: Manchester United and **England great Bobby Charlton** has been diagnosed with

dementia. "Everyone at Manchester United is saddened that this terrible disease has afflicted Sir Bobby Charlton and we continue to offer our love and sunport to Sir Bobby and his family," United said in a statement

The announcement came two days after Nobby Stiles, who won the 1966 World Cup and 1968 European Cup as Charlton's teammate, died after his own battle with the illness In July, Bobby's brother and fellow England World Cup winner Jack also died after being diag-

nosed with dementia The 83-year-old Charlton held England's goalscoring record of 49 until it was broken by Wayne Rooney. The striker also took his United record by eclipsing the 249 goals Charlton scored for the club.

Live on TV

IPL: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Hobart Renegades from 9 am on Sony Six

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Day 2 action from 3.30 pm on Sony Six

Champions League: Lokomotiv 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; RB Salzburg vs Bayern Munich from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Real Madrid vs Inter Milan from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2; Manchester City vs Olympiacos from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Atalanta vs Liverpool from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on

WIN-WIN GAME MPL to sponsor Team India kit

Delhi beat Bangalore but both teams make play-offs

Capitals qualified for the Indian Premier League play-offs at number two position with a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Monday.

RCB also entered the play-offs after DC took more than 17.3 overs to

complete their chase.
Invited to bat, Royal
Challengers Bangalore scored 152 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs. Young Devdutt Padikkal top

scored with a 41-ball 50. In reply, DC chased down the target with six balls to spare, courtesy calculative knocks from Shikhar Dhawan (54) and Ajinkya Rahane (60). Earlier, Padikkal, who

looked in good nick during his stay in the middle, smashed five fours and shared a 57-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli (29 off 24) for the third wicket.

The Capital pulled things back brilliantly in

the middle overs.

Pacer Anrich Nortje
(3/33) was the pick of the
bowlers for Delhi
Capitals, while Kagiso Rabada (2/30) picked up two wickets and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/18) took the important wicket of Kohli.

Padikkal and Josh Philippe (12) were circumspect in the powerplay overs. Rabada provided the Capitals with the early breakthrough off his very first ball, claiming the wicket of the Australian in the fifth



Ajinkya Rahane of Delhi Capitals plays a shot against Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

SCORECARD

Royal Challengers Bangalore: J. Philippe c Shaw b Rabada 12, D Padikkal b Nortje 50, V. Kohli c Stoinis b Ashwin 29, AB de Villiers run out 35, C Morris c Pant b Nortje 0, S Dube c Rahane b Rabada 17, W Sundar not out 0, I Udana c lyer b Nortje 4, S Ahmed not out 1. Extras (B-1, W-3) 4. Total (for 7 wkts in 20 overs) 152.

FoW: 1-25, 2-82, 3-112, 4-112, 5-145, 6-146, 7-150.

Bowling: Daniel Sams 4-0-40-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-18-1, Anrich Nortje 4-0-33-3, Kagiso

Rabada 4-0-30-2, Axar Patel 4-0-30-0.

Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw b Mohammed Siraj 9, S. Dhawan c S. Dube b Shahbaz Ahmed 54, Ajinkya Rahane c S. Dube b Washington Sundar 60, Shreyas Iyer c Siraj b Shahbaz Ahmed, R. Pant not out 8, M. Stoinis not out 10. Extras: (LB-3, W-3) 6. Total (for 4 wkts in 19 overs) 154. FoW: 1-19, 2-107, 3-130, 4-136,

Bowling: Chris Morris 2-0-19-0, Mohammed Siraj 3-0-29-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-24-1, Isuru Udana 2-0-24-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-29-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 4-0-26-2.

IPL POINTS TABLE							
Teams	Р	w	L	N/R	Pts	NRR	
Mumbai Indians	13	9	4	0	18	+1.296	
Delhi Capitals	14	8	6	0	16	-0.109	
Royal Challengers Bangalore	14	7	7	0	14	-0.172	
Kolkata Knight Riders	14	7	7	0	14	-0.214	
Sunrisers Hyderabad	13	6	7	0	12	+0.555	
Kings XI Punjab	14	6	8	0	12	-0.162	
Chennai Super Kings	14	6	8	0	12	-0.455	
Rajasthan Royals	14	6	8	0	12	-0.569	

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

TO BITE US, SAYS RAHUL

Kings XI Punjab skipper K L Rahul believes that the "short run" that played a part in their opening IPL loss to Delhi Capitals massively affected their play-off chances despite a remarkable comeback in the second leg of the tourna-

KXIP finished on 12 points after losing their last game against Chennai Super Kings after winning five games on trot to raise visions of a play-off

"It is disappointing. We had a lot of games in our pockets and we couldn't get over the line and we only have ourselves to blame. That short run game too (against Delhi Capitals on September 20), looks like it has come back to bite us,"

ated a stir on Monday by

social media only to follow

it up with a lengthy state-

ment declaring that she would actually be saying

goodbye to "the negativity, fear, and uncertainty"

triggered by the Covid-19

pandemic.
The Olympic silver-

medallist, who is current-

ly in London to work on

her nutrition and recov-

ery needs at the Gatorade

Sports Science Institute,

started her rather stun-

ning post by saying that

the final straw. I Retire".

She was referring to her

pullout from the event last

month due to the pandem-

Denmark Open was

posting "I Retire"

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 2: Rahul said at the postmatch presentation ceremony

Before that particular match went into Super Over, the TV footage showed that square leg umpire Menon had erred in calling Chris Jordan for a "short run" in the third ball of the 19th over, bowled by Kagiso Rabada.

The TV replays showed that Jordan's bat was inside the crease when he completed the first run, starting from the nonstriker"s end.

However to KXIP's horror, Menon gestured that Jordan has not completed the run and only one run was added to Mayank Agarwal and the Punjab team's total.

On their loss against CSK, Rahul said that it was all about not batting too well.

Open was the last straw,'

Sindhu's note on Twitter

"Today, I choose to retire

from this current sense of

unrest. I retire from this

negativity, the constant

fear, uncertainty. I choose

to retire from a complete

lack of control over the

unknown," she said.
"Most importantly, I

choose to retire from sub-

standard hygiene stan-

dards and our lackadaisi-

cal attitude towards the

The 25-year-old's post drew a response from

sports minister Kiren

Rijiju, who said he was

"You actually gave a

mini shock @Pvsindhu1

stunned for a moment.

New Delhi, Nov. 2: World being able to represent champion P V Sindhu cre- India in the Denmark

stated.

'SHORT RUN' CAME BACK Mumbai stand in between Sunrisers and play-off spot

Sharjah, Nov. 2: Riding high on momentum, resur gent Sunrisers Hyderabad will back themselves to topple the mighty Mumbai Indians and qualify for the IPL play-offs here on Tuesday.

Thanks to their healthy run-rate, a win against MIumbai Indians should be enough to send Sunrisers

into the final-four. After taking a tough call to leave out the dangerous Jonny Bairstow from the playing eleven, Sunrisers have managed to find out

the "right" balance. Wriddhiman Saha has made an instant impact as David Warner's opening partner and the inclusion of Jason Holder has given them an all-round option. and Pacers Holder

Sandeep Sharma were extremely impressive, both upfront and at the death, in the last game against RCB.

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL: Matches: 15 • Hyderabad: 7 • Mumbai: 7 • Tied: 1 (Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Hyderabad in Super Over after match

MI beat SRH by 40 runs in Hyderabad. MI beat SRH via Super Over in Mumbai **MEETING IN 2020**

Mumbai beat Hyderabad by 34 runs in Sharjah.

FOR THE RECORD

David Warner with 444 runs at an average of 37.00 in 13 innings of as many matches is the fourth highest run-getter in this IPL.

 Krunal Pandya, who has scored 986 runs at an average of 25.94 in 57 innings of 68 matches, needs 14 runs to become eighth batsman to complete 1,000 runs for MI in IPL.

- S. PERVEZ QAISER

Add left-arm pacer T. Natarajan and trump card Rashid Khan to their bowling attack, it makes up for a well rounded attack

Already assured of the top spot in the points table, Mumbai will be expected to

world tour comes to Asia

"This pandemic has

been an eye-opener for me.

in January.

put up another ruthless show against Sunrisers. The nature of surface in Sharjah has changed drastically with low-scores replacing 200-plus totals, which was the norm at the start of the season. -PTI

and take notice.

I retire: Sindhu drops shocker with twist requires unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up

Sindhu said she will con-I could train hard to fight the toughest opponents, tooth and nail, right till the final shot of the game. tinue to fight the circumstances created by the virus and her opponents on the courts. "That I have done it before, I can being said, we must be do it again. "But how do I defeat this hopeful about the light invisible virus that has the entire world in a fix? It shinning at the end of the tunnel. Yes, Denmark Open didn't happen but has been months at home and we still question ourthat won't stop me from selves every time we step training. When life comes

back twice as hard.
"So will I for the Asia Sindhu said the reason why she started the post with a shocker like 'I Open. I refuse to give up Retire' was to ensure that without putting a solid fight. I refuse to give up maximum people take note of the message she without conquering this was trying to convey on

at you, one must come-

"And will carry on doing "I might have given you so till we have a safer guys a mini heart attack; world," she concluded.

New Delhi, Nov. 2: Fantasy gaming platform Mobile Premier League's subsidiary arm 'MPL Sports Apparel and Accessories' is the new kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team for a period of

A member of the Apex Council confirmed the development on Monday that BCCI has inked the apparel and merchandise deal with MPL, replacing

"Yes, Apex Council has passed the sponsorship deal for apparel of Indian team (men, women, A and

"However the rate per match will be ₹65 lakh per game instead of ₹88 lakh that Nike was giving," the senior official said on conditions of anonymity.

It is learnt that BCCI will also get 10 per cent of the royalty from the sale of

merchandise. "MPL has formed an

apparel manufacturing company. They will also pay an amount for merchandise contract. The deal will end in November,

It is learnt that **BCCI** will also get 10 per cent of the royalty from the sale of merchandise.

While Puma and Adidas had earlier picked up the bid papers for apparel sponsorship, they didn't fill the bid as they felt that the deal needed to be reduced to one third from the origi-

nal bid.

Nike had a five year deal during which they paid ₹370 crore from 2016 to 2020 with a ₹30 crore royalty.

"No sporting apparel major was ready to pay that kind of money that Nike paid in current economic climate (due to

Covid-19).
"One of the major reasons being merchandise items being very costly for common public," the source said. MPL is currently associ-

ated with two IPL franchises (Kolkata Knight Riders and RCB), one CPL franchise (TKR) and the cricket boards of Ireland and the

New Beginning



Telangana Minister for Information Technology, Industries and Municipal Administration K. T. Rama Rao and former shuttler Jwala Gutta (right) take a tour of The Jwala Gutta Academy of Excellence at Sujatha School in Nagireddyguda in Moinabad Mandal near Hyderabad after its inauguration on Monday. Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud can be partially seen on the right.

Ronaldo returns with double in Juve's win

Milan, Nov. 2: Cristiano Ronaldo came off the bench to score a brace on his return from coronavirus as Juventus got back to winning ways in Serie A with a 4-1 victory against promoted Spezia on Sunday.

The champions ended a run of three consecutive draws to move third in Serie A, four points behind leaders AC Milan, who beat Udinese 2-1 earlier in the day thanks to a spectacular late winner from Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Sassuolo overtook

Juventus to reclaim second spot, two points behind Milan, after a 2-0 win over Napoli, their first ever success at the Stadio San Paolo. Ronaldo replaced Paulo Dybala in the 56th minute in Cesena with the match level after Tommaso Pobega had cancelled out Alvaro Morata's opener for

But the Portuguese striker put Juve in front just three minutes later.

Adrien Rabiot grabbed a third on 68 minutes, with Ronaldo scoring a second from the penalty spot with 15 minutes to go for his fifth goal in three league games this season.

"Cristiano is back. This is the important thing,' said Ronaldo, who had been furious at missing Juventus' Champions Juventus' Champions League 2-0 defeat in midweek by Lionel Messi's

IBRAHIMOVIC STUNNER

AC Milan extended their unbeaten streak Ibrahimovic scored an acrobatic late winner to seal a win over lowly Udinese. The 39-year-old has scored seven goals in four league games having missed the other two after contracting Covid-19.

BALE IS TOTTENHAM'S

London, Nov. 2: Gareth Bale soared into the air, connected with the ball and powered it into the net.

It's taken more than seven years but Bale was Tottenham's match-winner again. And they have only required three minutes on the field for the substitute to clinch a 2-1 victory over Brighton on Sunday.

A bit of relief and a lot of happiness, Bale said after being set up by Sergio Reguilon, who also switched from Real Madrid in September.

"It's an incredible feeling, personally. Obviously you wish the fans were here to be able to celebrate," he said after the match.

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"...I'm writing today to but I had unflinching faith



nation. I'm sure vou have

the strength and stamina

to bring many more lau-

rels for India," he tweeted.

last competed at the All

England Championships

in March, is targetting a

The star shuttler, who

P. V. Sindhu



dealing with the virus.

out," she wrote.











