

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32.2°C
Min: 15.3°C
RH: 32%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky with haze. Max/Min temperature 32/16 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+50,547)	(+728)
84,10,249	1,25,004
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,539)	(+5)
TS: 2,45,682	1,362
(+2,745)	(+13)
AP: 8,35,953	6,757

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,87,49,441
DEATHS
12,35,479
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
215

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwiniya Bahula Panchami till 6.35 am
Star: Ardra till 6.43 am
Varjyam: 7.23 pm to 9.04 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.36 am to 9.21 am; 12.22 pm to 1.07 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HILIRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 19, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.15 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.07 pm
Maghrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.16 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.42 PM
MOONSET 10.57 AM
MOONRISE 10.16 PM

COUNTER POINT



SHORT TAKE

Jharkhand ends consent for CBI

Ranchi: The JMM-led government in Jharkhand on Thursday withdrew the general consent accorded to the CBI to investigate cases, joining several other states ruled by non-BJP parties that have effected a similar move. From now on, the agency has to seek permission from the state government to probe each case, official sources said. The Chief Minister's Office issued a statement saying that the home department withdrew its consent granted on February 19, 1996 by the then Bihar government to the CBI to conduct investigations and raids.



Shah promises to create 'Sonar Bangla' in Bengal

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NATION | 4

Nepalese honour



Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari confers the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army on Indian Army chief General M.M. Naravane at the presidential palace in Kathmandu on Thursday. For the past 70 years, India and Nepal have a tradition of conferring honorary titles to each other's Army chiefs.

INDIA WON'T BACK DOWN, SAYS RAJNATH

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that "no matter what the sacrifice" India was "determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression", as the military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh is in the seventh month. Mr Singh's comments while India and China are due to hold the eighth round of corps commanders' level talks on Friday. Till now, the two countries have failed to reach any agreement on disengagement from the flashpoints and are gearing up to keep their troops at forward positions during the winter. Friday's meeting of the Indian and Chinese generals, which will be held at Chushul in Ladakh, will be the first under the new commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon.

NITISH'S 'LAST POLL' REMARKS CREATES FLUTTER

NAYEER AZAD and YOJNA GUSAI PATNA/NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

On the last day of the election campaigning for the third and final phase of polling in the state, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar made a fervent plea for votes with the announcement that this would be his last election. "A day after there is a poll in Bihar and this is going to be my last election. Now tell me, will you vote for our candidate," Mr Kumar said after listing his government's achievements while addressing a rally in Dhamdaha in Purnea district.

Full report on Page 4

Don't feed wrong data in Dharani: CS

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Chief secretary Somesh Kumar warned that serious action will be initiated if anybody was found tinkering with registrations by feeding wrong information on the Dharani portal. The state government had introduced registration of non-agriculture lands through Dharani after Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao formally launched the portal on October 29. On Thursday, Somesh Kumar, who has been monitoring the functioning of the portal along with IG Stamps and Registrations Seshadri, visited the Dharani Control Room set up at the BRKR Bhavan where a 100-member team is working on the technical issues.

STATING THAT the system has stabilised, the chief secretary said that the Dharani portal had 5.84 lakh views so far and 2,622 registrations and ₹7.77 crores amount has been paid

Stating that the system has stabilised, he said that the Dharani portal had 5.84 lakh views so far and 2,622 registrations and ₹7.77 crores amount has been paid. He said that till Thursday as many as 5,971 slot bookings have been done while 6,239 members have made payment so far. Earlier, the chief secretary held a teleconference with district collectors and directed them to ensure that the Dharani portal is used effectively in a transparent and simple manner.

Explain rationale behind LRS: HC

VIJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The Telangana High Court on Thursday criticised the Telangana state government's decision to regularise all illegal and unapproved layouts in rural and urban areas under the Layout Regularisation Scheme through GO 131. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy wondered as to which law enables the state government to issue the GO for the regularisation of unauthorised and unapproved layouts. Pointing to recent floods which hit Hyderabad and Warangal cities badly, inundating several colonies for weeks, the

CJ said it seems that the contention of the Telangana state government that the GO for regularisation was for the planned development is not correct. "It looks like encouraging lawlessness among the layout developers and violators," the Chief Justice said. Recalling that the LRS scheme was introduced once in every five or six years — like 2008, 2015 and 2020, the CJ asked the Advocate General that how an unauthorised layout developers, builders of unapproved constructions and buyers of such plots and buildings will have the right to not go for unapproved plots, if the government itself approves them.

Page 2: HC says LRS can submerge all of Hyderabad

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Sunak extends UK furlough wage plan

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Messi scores in Barcelona's victory



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Biden on cusp of making history; Don path bumpy

Razor thin margins put both contestants on tenterhooks

Washington, Nov. 5: US Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden appeared to be on the cusp of making history along with his running mate Senator Kamala Harris, while President Donald Trump continued to have a bumpy and narrow path to victory as counting of votes in some key battleground States entered its last stretch.

As per projections made by major media outlets, Biden has 264 electoral college votes, just six votes short of the magical number of 270 out of 538 required to win the presidency. However, for news outlets like CNN, Biden has 253 electoral college votes as it has still not called Arizona, which has 11 votes and counting of votes continued.

Trump is projected to get 214 electoral college votes, which is 56 votes less than the magical figure of 270. Races in some of the key battleground states have not been called yet. These



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden puts his face mask on after speaking in Wilmington on Wednesday. — AP

states are Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona and Nevada. In Pennsylvania, which has 20 electoral college votes, Trump is leading by 135,671 votes with 91 per cent of the votes being counted. Over the past one

day, his lead has reduced considerably. In North Carolina, which has 15 votes, the president has a lead of 77,337 votes with 95 per cent of the votes being counted so far. To reach the magical figure of 270, Trump needs to

win Pennsylvania (20), North Carolina (15) and Georgia (16) and either of Arizona (11) or Nevada (six), which appears to be a tall order.

Page 5: Path for victory is easier for Biden

HC stays building road via lake

VIJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The Telangana High Court has directed the district collector of Warangal Rural district to ensure that no construction takes place in the shikam land of Katta Mallanna Lake in Survey.No. 542 of Gorrekunta, Geesukonda mandal, Warangal Rural district until further orders.

The division bench comprising of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy issued this direction on Thursday while hearing arguments of Neeli Arjun Kumar, the counsel for Kuchana Venkata Narayana of Warangal town, challenging the action of the authorities in proceeding to construct the 200-feet wide and 13-km long Inner

Ring Road through the Katta Mallanna lakebed in a significant deviation of the sanctioned Warangal Master Plan, 1971. The counsel for the petitioner brought to the notice of the bench that the sanctioned master plan had the alignment in such a manner that the road passed outside the FTL of the tank, but the authorities are laying the road through the tank, in violation of law by

deviating from this plan. The counsel informed that the new Warangal Master Plan, 2041, has not yet been finalised and notified. He said the authorities have issued land acquisition notification wherein two acres 26 guntas of shikam land of the lake has been listed for acquisition, which was illegal.

Page 2: HC seeks more details from A-G on road

BACK TO LIFE Reduced class size, no sharing of hostel rooms key

Colleges get UGC's Covid rules

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Following a six-day schedule, reducing class size, setting up isolation facilities on campus, and COVID-19 screening of students, faculty and staff are among the guidelines announced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for reopening of universities and colleges closed since March in view of the pandemic. For central universities and other centrally funded higher education institu-

tions, the decision for reopening of campuses has been left to the Vice-Chancellors and heads. However, for state universities and colleges, the respective state governments will have to take a call, the guidelines said. "To avoid the risk of transmission, the students, faculty and staff should be screened and symptomatic ones be advised to get clinically assessed before allowing them entry into the

campus," guidelines said. "Isolation facilities for symptomatic persons and quarantine facilities for those who were in contact with the positively tested persons should be there on campus or a tie-up may be made in advance with some government hospital or approved premises or as advised by the local authorities so that, in case of necessity, prompt action may be taken." "Proper arrangement of

safety, health, food, water should be ensured for those in quarantine and isolation facilities," the UGC said. It has recommended that the teaching hours in a day may be extended according to the requirements of the institution. "Six-day schedule may be followed so that classes can be conducted in phases and the seating arrangement be made keeping in view the requirements of physical distancing," it said. — PTI

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SHORT TAKES

HC SEEKS MORE DETAILS FROM A-G ON ROAD

FROM PAGE 1

The bench asked Advocate-General B.S. Prasad as to how the government proposed to construct the road through the tank whether it was through a flyover or bridge and that it was not clear from the counter filed by Kakatiya Urban Development Authority.

The A-G sought time to get instructions and file a detailed counter-affidavit. The bench adjourned the case by three weeks.

HC SAYS LRS CAN SUBMERGE ALL OF HYDERABAD

FROM PAGE 1

“Surveys claimed that nearly 45 per cent of Hyderabad city was submerged due to the recent torrential rains and 80 per cent of water bodies disappeared in the city and full-tank levels of all lakes were mushroomed with constructions — either approved or unapproved.

If you allow them under the regularisation scheme, then by 2050, the whole Hyderabad will be flooded,” the CJ commented. Pointing out at GO 131 allows regularisation of unapproved layouts, which do not have open spaces for parks, schools and amenities, on paying extra, Justice B. Vijayeswari Reddy asked the Advocate General B.S. Prasad as to how will the government develop amenities in those layouts, when there was no land was provided for them.

However, the court asked an explanation from the government on the contentions raised in the PILs and directed the Advocate General to file affidavits in each PIL separately by explaining its stand. The bench was dealing with the five PILs, which challenged GO 131. The PILs were adjourned to November 12.

5 LVPEI SCIENTISTS RANKED AMONG GLOBAL BEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Five senior scientists from L V Prasad Eye Institute are listed among the top Indian researchers in a database of 1,00,000 scientists worldwide.

Those who achieved the distinction include Dr Gullapalli N. Rao, founder chair, Professor D. Balasubramanian, director-emeritus, Dr Savitri Sharma, director laboratory sciences, Professor Jill Keefe and Dr S. Shijivaji while Dr Virender Sangwan and Dr Santosh Honavar also figure in the list.

“Congratulations to everyone on the global eye researchers list. With LVPEI dominating the list from India, it is great going indeed for our Institute. “I am proud that LVPEI’s investment in research of nearly 13% of the budget annually is giving rich dividends,” said Dr Rao.

KAVITHA GREETS WOMAN FOR MINE AWARD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

MLC K. Kavitha on Thursday felicitated Sandhya Rasakatla, the first woman in the Indian mining sector to be awarded the Underground Second Class Manager’s Certificate Competency.

Ms Sandhya has created history by becoming the first woman in the Indian mining sector to be awarded Underground Second Class Manager’s Certificate Competency.

The Nizamabad MLC honoured Sandhya at her office by felicitating her for her incredible achievement. In her conversation with Sandhya, Kavitha said she was immensely proud of this daughter from Singareni and that she will always stand by her.

Two detained for gold smuggling

Hyderabad: Customs officials detained a passenger flying in from Dubai and seized 71.47 grams of gold, worth ₹3.67 lakh, from his possession at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad on Thursday morning. According to the officials, a case was booked and the passenger was detained for smuggling of gold.

Virus mutations high in women than men

High recovery rate attributed to less virulent virus strain

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Mutations are being noticed within SARS Cov 2 virus among asymptomatic and hospitalised patients within India, cutting across age and gender. Mutations, incidentally, are higher among females than in males, according to a study that appeared in peer review of bioRxiv.

According to the study, total 198 mutations among asymptomatic carriers and 83 mutations within hospitalised patients have been noted. Those among asymptomatic are termed neutral while those hospitalised are categorised as diseased. However, despite high

mutations, it has been found that virulence or physiology of virus has not changed. For this reason, the effect of SARS Cov 2 has been the same across different regions in India.

Significantly, there have been more asymptomatic carriers. At the same time, those who have recovered from the disease are also high. Incidentally, the recovery rate in India has been the highest at 92 per cent. This is being attributed to the virus being less virulent despite its variations.

The study collected and analysed genome samples from 11 states in India. This revealed the finding that females are

contributing more to accumulating mutations within the virus. However, females between age group 5-34 years are not adding as much to mutations as those above 34 years.

The question before researchers why is accumulation of mutation is more among females. Role of gender in mutation of the virus, where it is replicating faster and showing different behaviour, needs further analysis, say researchers.

When it comes to geographical distribution, it has been found that Telangana has had 154 variations in the virus, Maharashtra 203, Gujarat 199, Odisha 109 and Tamil Nadu 40. But

these are only from samples collected. They are hence miniscule among the number of actual variations that may exist.

There is a reference to sequence Genome ID 458080, which, researchers say, is found more in Telangana. This is helping them study the different variations. Researchers are very clear that mutation of virus is at a faster pace in some geographical locations than in others.

It is too early and difficult for researchers to ascertain what could be the reason for such mutation. They observe that more studies are required to understand reasons for variations in the virus.

WITH 510 FRESH CASES, TS STARES AT LARGER CRISIS

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Greater Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy district and Medchal-Malkajgiri district continue to log the highest number of new Covid-19 cases with the health department reporting that for Wednesday, between them, these three geographical areas accounted for 510 fresh Coronavirus infections, nearly a third of the total 1,539 cases found all over Telangana on Wednesday.

While the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area had 285 new cases, Ranga Reddy had 123 and Medchal-Malkajgiri reported 102 new cases. The department also reported that five more people died from Covid-19 taking to 1,362 the overall deaths in Telangana from the disease. The overall Covid-19 cases in the state now stand at 2,45,682, it said.

The number of people reported to have recovered from Covid-19 in the state, the department said, was 978 and the total recovered cases so far stands at 2,25,664.

There were 18,656 active cases in the state of whom 15,864 were in isolation, either at home or in institutions.



Duddilla Sridhar Babu

MANTHANI MLA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT
PEDDAPALLI, NOV. 5

Manthani MLA and former minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has tested positive for Coronavirus here on Thursday.

In a statement released over his Twitter account, the Congress legislator let it be known that both he and his personal staff have tested positive for Covid-19.

He said he is presently under home quarantine at his house in Hyderabad. He urged people of his constituency not to worry as he was safe and under treatment.

Sridhar Babu appealed to officials, leaders and people, with whom he had come in contact, to get tested for the virus and, if need be, go into isolation.

SCR TO OPERATE SPECIAL TRAIN TO BIHAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The South Central Railway will operate a special train from Secunderabad to Sitamarhi in Bihar on November 10. The train will leave Secunderabad at 10 p.m. and reach Sitamarhi at 6.45 the next morning.

According to SCR, the special train, with AC two-tier and sleeper class coaches, will have stops at Kazipet, Ramagundam, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Ballarshah, Gondla, Raipur, Bilaspur, Jharsuguda, Raurkela, Ranchi, Bokaro Steel City, Dhanbad, Madhapur, Jhajha, Barauni Junction, Samastipur and Dharbanga stations.

people prefer these, particularly the woven cotton blankets and the woolen ones for their homes. They cost around ₹1,000 and upwards. There is also a great demand for imported blankets during winter.”

He added “The blanket market season lasts for just about three months. Traders try to market their wares with pragmatism as the competition is cut-throat.”

New road laid



A new road under rail bridge is being constructed for techies travelling from KPHB Colony so as to lessen the traffic congestion when companies resume operations at Hitec City.

— R. PAVAN

NIMS DOCTORS NOT PAID DESPITE BUDGET SANCTION

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Senior resident doctors of Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (Nims) have protested against non-payment of their stipends for the past four months despite the budget having been sanctioned. They held placards and circulated their protest pictures on the social media demanding that their dues be paid forthwith.

Delay in payments is because the hospital administration is not releasing the amounts, sources at the hospital stated. Doctors say their dues have accumulated because their payments have not been made on a monthly basis.

With wedding and festival season on, resident doctors are finding themselves in a tight spot due to lack of money.

Grocery hoarding begins as lockdown rumours spread

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

With possibility of a lockdown being imposed once again with the number of Coronavirus cases increasing in many parts of India, traders within the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad are learnt to have started hoarding essential commodities, apart from cigarettes and tobacco products.

There are widespread rumours that the central government is proposing to announce Lockdown 2.0 starting as early as November 10.

This is following increased reports of Covid-19 becoming resurgent in several parts of the country. People have started believing the possibility of another lockdown as France, the UK and

Greece have already announced lockdown in their countries to avoid any outbreak spreading wide.

A trader in Nampally said he had recently read a report of AIIMS, Delhi, director Dr. Randeep Guleria warning that a second wave of Coronavirus could have already begun. The AIIMS chief also asked people to confine themselves to their houses and not move out needlessly. In this regard, he also referred to continuous spike of Covid-19 cases in Delhi and other northern states. The likelihood of the situation worsening is also high because of the winter.

The trader pointed out that anticipating the lockdown, wholesale traders have already hiked the prices of essential commodities. He said hoarding has

also started, so that an artificial shortage could be created and priced jacked up. “If we stock essential items now, we will not have shortage of goods once lockdown is imposed. The trader asserted that he is not stocking the items to sell them at higher prices, but to serve his customers in a way that they do not face any difficulties.

A pan shop owner in Abids said if lockdown is imposed, they will not be able to open their outlets as cigarettes and tobacco items do not come under essential items. “I have sold my wife’s jewellery to stock tobacco products in a large quantity. I will then be able to sell them at least to my neighbours,” he says. The pan shop owner did not mention the price at which he would be selling his hoard.

fied as Shekar, was a lorry driver by profession and was a resident of Jeedimetla. He was undergoing treatment for his lungs at the hospital, said the police, confirming that he was not Covid-19 positive.

“Unable to bear the pain, he jumped from the third floor of the hospital and killed himself. Upon receiving the information, a team from SR Nagar police station went to the spot and shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital

for postmortem examination,” said the police inspector of SR Nagar, K. Saidulu, adding that no suicide note was found at the scene of offence.

A case was booked under section 174 (suspicious death) of CrPC.

Man jumps from 3rd floor of ESI hosp

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD NOV. 5

A 32-year-old man jumped to death from the third floor of the ESI hospital in Erragadda on Thursday.

The deceased, identi-

Demand for blankets picks up in Hyd

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The drop in mercury levels and the slightly chilly winds over the city during night time have resulted in an increased demand for blankets. The rains that lashed the city and the rest of the state last month in which people lost their belongings has also contributed to more

● **AT PATHAR GATTI** and Dewan Devdi in Old City, the wholesale markets for blankets, traders said they have seen the market picking up with sales soon after the rains stopped.

people heading to stores to purchase blankets.

At Pathar Gatti and Dewan Devdi in Old City, the wholesale markets for

blankets, traders said they have seen the market picking up with sales soon after the rains stopped.

“Apart from the general public, even NGOs, social welfare organisations and religious institutions are buying them for distributions in flood-affected areas. We see such bulk purchases meant for distribution every year,” said Mohd Ahmed of Mustak Qudri Handlooms at

Pathar Gatti. Fleece blankets are a fairly recent addition to the market and they have effectively replaced the traditional cotton and even woolen blankets. Each fleece blanket costs between ₹100 and ₹300 and bulk supplies come from Delhi,” Ahmed said.

Mohammed Shoeb, a retailer, said “from the past two or three days the regular blanket sales too have been catching up. Most

Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge sees its first car accident

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD NOV. 5

The Durgam Cheruvu cable stayed bridge, inaugurated recently, had its first road accident on Thursday.

A student and his friend escaped unhurt from the accident when the car they were travelling in, and was being driven over the speed limit on the bridge, slammed into the road divider. The impact was such that it caused one of the tyres to burst and the vehicle overturned. The bridge, connects, Jubilee Hills and the Financial District.

According to the police, Iqbal, a BCom second year student of HITAM College, was en route to Gachibowli with his friend on Thursday afternoon at the time of the accident. “Iqbal lost control over the car as he was speed-

ing and rammed his car into a road divider, which caused a tyre burst. The vehicle turned upside down on the bridge. Other commuters who stopped their vehicles, rushed to pull Iqbal and the girl out to safety from the car. The two persons in the car sustained minor bruises,” said the police.

Upon information, the Madhapur police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital for treatment. The traffic police towed away the vehicle and eased the traffic congestion caused by the accident on the cable bridge.

“We booked cases under section 336 (endangering life and personal safety of others) of the IPC and Section 184 (dangerous driving) of the MV Act and arrested the 20-year-old,” added the police.

BJP activist dies after attempting suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The BJP activist who was undergoing treatment after attempting suicide by self-immolation at the party state headquarters earlier this week, breathed his last on Thursday night.

Srinivas had doused himself with diesel and immolated himself on Sunday, following which the security personnel at the party state headquarters promptly put off the fire and rushed him to hospital.

He was admitted with 58 percent body burns and was in a critical condition.

On Thursday night he suffered a cardiac arrest and

was declared dead at 9 pm by the duty doctors.

Srinivas had said he was protesting against TS party president Bandi Sanjay’s recent arrest in Siddipet. He alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu had harassed his party president. Srinivas, from Tammalani Gudem village in Yacharam Mandal, was stated to be active in the party’s local wing.

Police said he brought the diesel from a petrol bunk near MJ Market and came to the BJP office between 12.20 and 12.30 pm on Sunday, shouting slogans of ‘BJP Zindabad’ and ‘Sanjayanna Zindabad’, he set fire to himself using the diesel.



GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy issues permits to the transgenders community for management of the Loo Cafés on Thursday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Transgenders to manage Loo Cafés

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 5

The tri-cities of Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet have six Loo Cafe toilets set up. Of the six, two were given to the transgender community, two to the Urban Women’s Associations, one to Sanitary Employees’ society and one to the disabled.

The transgender community will maintain the Loo Cafe set up in the Warangal Urban Collectorate. On Thursday, the GWMC issued maintenance permits.

The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation commissioner Pamela Satpathy said that the cafe toilets are

set up for the convenience of the public.

The Loo Cafés have state-of-the-art technology. They have corporate-level lighting, design flooring as well as two she toilets, two men’s toilets, two bathrooms, spacious washbasin and a baby feeding room. The area outside each loo has a small garden for visitors to spend some time.

She advised the managers to maintain these toilets regularly, efficiently and hygienically. CMHO Dr Raji Reddy, Raja Mohan Reddy, Adepu Suresh, Women’s Associations, representatives from the transgender community were present.

11 schools to be penalised in Hyd

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

Explaining that it was strict in compliance with GO No. 46 not to collect any kind of fees from the students apart from tuition fees, but not to do so for the academic year 2020-21, the Telangana State School Education department submitted to the Telangana High Court that 11 popular schools in Hyderabad are to be punished for violation of the GO.

Sridevasena, Director of School Education, submitted that the enquiry committees constituted to trace the violators found that the schools found guilty were Mount Litera Zee School in Manikonda (for collecting caution deposit), Meridian

School, Banjara Hills (fabrication of fee structure), Oxford Grammar School, Himayatanagar (increase in tuition fee for 3rd Grade), Niraj Public School, (adding lunch fee to tuition fee and collecting admission fee), Narayana School at DD Colony (changing the name of tuition fees as total fee by a d d i n g other fees), Jubilee Hills Public School (adding 3D lab fees and computer lab fees), Geetanjali Public School (collecting tuition and annual fees), Little Flower Public School (increase in fee by adding other fees), KALPA School and St. Andrews Schools with branches at Marredpally and Bowenpally (collecting excess fee).

She submitted that action will be taken against all these schools.

OTHER STORIES

FORMER MSO
CHIEF KULDEEP
IS NO MOREDC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 5

The former state president of the Multiple Systems Operator Association (MSO), Kuldeep Sahani, 63, died while undergoing treatment at Hyderabad on Thursday.

He was suffering from various health problems for a while. He was known in undivided Nizamabad district and had actively participated in the separate Telangana statehood movement.

Kuldeep's family had migrated from Pakistan and settled in Nizamabad decades ago.

■ **HE WAS** known in undivided Nizamabad district and had actively participated in the separate Telangana statehood movement.

46 POLICE
CONSTABLES
DONATE BLOODDC CORRESPONDENT
KAMAREDDY, NOV. 5

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) organised a blood donation as part of the police commemorative celebrations on Thursday.

Superintendent of police N. Swetha inaugurated the blood donation camp. Police constables donated blood at the SP's office in Kamareddy.

She said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, blood in large quantities is needed, besides the health emergencies to save lives of victims.

The SP appreciated the 46 police constables who donated blood. DSP Laxminarayana, DSP (AR) K. Uday Krishna, IRCS Kamareddy district general secretary M. Rajanna, vice chairman Sanjeeva Reddy and others were present.



Panjala Sarvaiah

SARVAIAH IS
NEW SHO FOR
WOMEN PSDC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 5

Panjala Sarvaiah has been posted as circle-inspector cum station house officer of the women's police station in Khammam on Thursday.

Sarvaiah, has worked at various stations in the district and was in the vacancy reserved.

Sarvaiah called on Khammam police commissioner Tafseer Iqbal and Additional Commissioner of police Injarapu Pooja on the occasion.

Anjali, circle inspector worked in women's police station for five years and is in the vacancy reserved presently.

Farmer gives Dharani
portal a thumbs up

What took months was done in 25 minutes: Ellaiah

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 5

Warangal Rural district collector M. Haritha inspected the Dharani registration process at the tahsildar's office in Rayaparathi on Thursday.

A farmer Pogula Somaiah, of Kolanpalli village, came to get land registered. The collector examined his slot booking receipt, land documents and Aadhaar card. Pogula Ellaiah got registered his 4.12 acres in the name of his son Pogula Somaiah as a gift. The collector handed over the passbook document to Somaiah and informed, that he would receive the passbook related to the land via post.

The registration process began at 11:20 am and got over by 11:45 pm. Pogula Ellaiah expressing surprise said, "Earlier, it used to take months to complete a land registration. Now it took 25 minutes for the entire process."

The collector asked about the total registrations done for the day. Tasildhar K.

Satyanarayana informed that for the day, three farmers from Kolanpalli village had booked slots. The collector asked the staff to do the registrations following the Covid-19 rules and not to cause inconvenience to the farmers. RDO Mahenderji, Tahsildar K. Satyanarayana, computer operator Vijay Kumar and staff were present.

■ **TOTAL REGISTRATIONS** done for the day, three farmers from Kolanpalli village had booked slots.



Warangal Rural collector M. Haritha hands over the pattadar passbook to farmer Somaiah on Thursday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

All not happy, defects pop up

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 5

Defects within the much publicised Dharani portal are getting exposed one after another. This is because sale agreements of different land transactions made before Dharani have not yet been fully updated.

Persons, who had sold their lands and taken money mentioned on the sale deed documents, are trying to cash in on this lacunae. An example is the incident that took place at the tahsildar-cum-joint sub-registrar office in Khammam Rural mandal.

Certain persons booked a slot to sell their 0.11 acre land in Arempula and arrived at the tahsildar's office to register the land in the name of the buyer. Interestingly, they had already sold the land to another person by the same name.

A person N. Anand, who

■ **ABOUT 36** land registrations have so far taken place in Khammam district in the last two days.

had knowledge of the transaction, informed the buyer about the fraud being committed. When the buyer informed the tahsildar about this aspect, the transaction was stopped. The VRO, who had taken the sale deed document, had not updated it on Dharani and the mutation had not been done.

Similar and other complaints have been received from Kusumanchi, Errupalem, Madhira, Kallur, Enkooor and Penuballi mandals. Persons, who bought farmlands recently, are flooding the internet centres to check their names to ascertain if the lands are in their own names.

G. Sitaramulu, a farmer from Nelapatta in

Kusumanchi mandal, said he bought a two-acres eight months back and got it registered. But he was not given the pattadar passbook and the land is still in the name of the seller. His complaint is that village revenue officers are not serious about the mutation process since the past one year after news spread that they may not be holding their posts.

According to reports, about 36 land registrations have so far taken place in Khammam district in the last two days. Tahsildars are checking only the previous history of the land. They are unable to do anything about land registrations where mutations have not been done.

Khammam Rural tahsildar N. Srinivasa Rao advised, "Persons, whose lands have not been mutated should lodge a complaint with concerned mandal tahsildar office".

COPS NAB TWO
VEHICLE LIFTERS
IN PEDDAPALLIDC CORRESPONDENT
PEDDAPALLI, NOV. 5

Police apprehended two persons alleged to be involved in several vehicles lifting cases and seized five two-wheeler vehicles from their possession in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district on Thursday.

The Ramagundam Central Crime Station inspectors A. Venkateshwar and G. Venkateswarlu along with CCS Nasapur police personnel under the supervision of trainee IPS Ashok Kumar and Assistant Commissioner of Police P.V. Ganesh were conducting vehicle checks in Ramagundam.

The two persons seeing the police tried to escape on a two-wheeler. The police chased and apprehended them.

The two arrested are Theegal Rajinikanth, resident of Dharmaram mandal and Komire Pavan, resident of Nasapur of Mancherial district. Habituated to a luxurious life the duo began lifting two-wheelers parked in front of shops and houses in Mancherial, Bellampalli, Ramagundam and Godavarikhan regions.

The police registered a case against Rajinikanth and Pavan and sent them to judicial remand.

CCS ACP Ganesh urged vehicle owners to submit the registration papers of their vehicles to the court to get back their stolen vehicles.

Ganesh said that some of the youth addicted to ganja, liquor and cigarettes are involved in thefts and other criminal activities for easy money. Parents must observe their children and if they find their behaviour unusual, guide them properly.

ACP Ganesh and trainee IPS Ashok Kumar appreciated the CCS police inspectors Venkateshwar and Venkateshwaralu, SIs Kiran Kumar, Ashok, head constable Thirupathi Reddy, constable Devandhar, Sudhakar along with others.

TRS ASKS BJP
TO HIKE PADDY
PRICES IN FCIDC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 5

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaders have asked the BJP leaders to hike the prices of paddy given by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), instead of staging agitations in Telangana state.

They said, "FCI is under the control of the Central government. If it hikes the paddy prices, the state governments will follow."

On Thursday, TRS district president Eega Ganga Reddy, mayor Dandu Neethu Kiran, Nizamabad urban development authority chairman C. Prabhakar Reddy spoke to the media.

They came down heavily on the BJP and the Congress leaders, for instigating the farmers on paddy and maize issues. They said, "To show their political existence, the Congress and the BJP staged agitations in Nizamabad district."

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi-led government is a farmer-friendly state.

"We have initiated schemes such as the Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, Rythu Vedita for the benefit of farmers," they said.



Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar drops fish seedling in the Palair reservoir in Khammam district on Thursday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Check quality of
fish seedlings: AjayDC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 5

Fishermen societies have to check the number of fish seedlings, and its quality before dropping them into the tanks, said minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

The minister dropped fish seedlings into the Palair reservoir on Thursday. The government has allotted 2 lakh seedlings for Palair and 3.45 crore seedlings for Khammam district. Nearly 90 per cent of the fish seedlings have been dropped.

The minister added that

besides checking the quality of seedlings before dropping them, the fishermen societies should also check the number of fish seedlings.

The minister said, "It is the responsibility of the fishermen societies to pave the way for better fish production but also good quality fish. "The government has designed the programme so that fishermen will earn good revenues."

The fishermen are being given Tata Aker vehicles and mopeds at subsidy prices along with mobile tents distributed at ₹5,000 against the ₹20,000 of its original cost.

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Higher number of +ve
cases seen among youthNARENDER
PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY,
NOV. 5

Youths aged between 20 to 30 years across the state are at a higher risk of being infected with the Coronavirus. In Telangana state, 23.66 per cent of youth tested positive for Covid-19.

Kamareddy district medical and health officer Dr P. Chandrasekhar said, "Covid-19 cases have increased among the youth recently. Few of them are asymptomatic. However, the death rate is very low as they recovered fast. The exposure of youth to the Coronavirus is high, as their mobility is high".

The closure of schools and colleges has forced the youth as well as people to visit places in

Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Bodhan, Armoor and other towns.

As a result, the Coronavirus is fast spreading in the urban and rural areas in undivided Nizamabad district over the last few months. People ignored safety measures and gathered in large numbers to attend functions, visited eateries and shopping malls.

Recently Dominos and KFC opened their outlets in Nizamabad. Youths in large numbers gathered outside these eateries.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Rakesh Reddy (name changed) a B.Tech final year student said, "My college in Hyderabad will reopen on November 9 for semester examinations. College authorities have asked us to get Covid-19

certificate before we enter into the examination hall. He was giving his sample for Covid-19 at the urban health centre in Gouthamnagar on Thursday.

Latest data shows that 4.15 per cent of children in the age group of 10 years tested positive for Covid-19, in the 11 to 20 years 9.03 per cent, 21-30 years 23.66 per cent, 31-40 years 23.04 per cent, 41-50 years 17.20 per cent, 51-60 years 13 per cent, 61-70 years 6.94 per cent, 71-80 years 2.47 per cent, 81 and above 0.50 per cent. Among the youths, 14.65 per cent male and 9.02 per cent of females tested positive for Covid-19.

Dr P. Chandrasekhar said that deaths due to Covid-19 were witnessed among patients above 60 years having comorbidities.

JUSTICE SOUGHT Land owned by boy's mom encroached: Relatives

6-year-old does a pada yatra

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
SIRCILLA, NOV. 5

A six-year-old boy along with some of his relatives did a 'pada yatra' from his village Lingalapally to the collectorate in Rajanna Sircilla district on Thursday.

The group of people walked with placards, 'Modi thathaiyah and KCR thathaiyah naku Nyayam Chayyandi' (Modi grandpa and KCR grandpa do justice to me).

Six-year-old Naga Pranith's parents, Kumaraswamy and Mamatha died of health complications in 2017. Since then he is being looked after by his grandparent's in Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar district.

His mother, a native of Lingampally village in Vemulawada mandal, is said to own some land. The family on coming to know about this alleged that one Neduri Srinivas has encroached the land.

Meanwhile, Neduri Srinivas said that Pranith's relatives are making false allegations. Pranith's mother did not own



Six-year-old Naga Pranith walks with his relatives from Lingalapally to the collectorate in Rajanna Sircilla district on Thursday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

any land in the Lingampally village. "I took care of Pranith's mother since childhood. With the support of the villagers, we performed her marriage to Kumaraswamy. My family spent lakhs for her treatment," he said.

Pranith's relatives are making an issue without getting their facts right. In the past, they approached the MRO's

office. The officials enquired if any land in the village was in the name of Mamatha. The villagers also informed that Pranith's mother had no land in her name.

One villager of Lingampally, K. Malleshwar Chary speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* said that no one from Lingampally village has participated in the 'pada

yatra'. Pranith's relatives are blaming Srinivas for nothing. Let them come to the village and hold a *Praja Vani*. They will come to know the facts. Not only Srinivas but every villager and me will help Pranith if they ask genuinely. What is the use of making a scene when they do not own any land in the village," he questioned.

IN BRIEF

ODISHA FARMERS
OPPOSE NEW
FARM LAWSAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 5

Thousands of farmers under the banner of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan on Thursday marched to Bhubaneswar as a mark of protest against the three farm laws passed by the Narendra Modi government in the monsoon session of the Parliament.

The outfit leaders alleged that all democratic norms were flouted to get the three farm reform Bills passed in a hurry.

Before the farmers entered the heart of the city, the police swung into action and stopped the march at Hi-Tech Hospital Square and took into custody several leaders, including Akshay Kumar, Seshadeb Nanda and Manohar Ali.

Protesting the arrest of their leaders, the farmers sat on a dharna on the National Highway 6. A scuffle broke out between the outfit members and police, sources said.

"We are opposing the Central farm laws including the stoppage of the Minimum Support Price system. Due to such laws, the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply. We also demand amendment of the relief code to provide a compensation of ₹15,000 per acre to farmers for crop loss," said Akshay Kumar.

INDIA FUMES
OVER PAK'S MOVE
ON KARTARPURDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

India on Thursday strongly condemned Pakistan's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee — a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh Community — to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body.

Asking Islamabad to reverse its "arbitrary" decision, New Delhi said Pakistan's move "runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large", adding that it exposes the "tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities".

The Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara — now located close to the Indo-Pak border in Pakistani Punjab — is the site where the first Guru of the Sikhs and founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak had spent the last years of his life in the 16th century AD.

Both countries had inaugurated the Kartarpur Sahib corridor on both sides of the border (Indian and Pakistani Punjab) a year ago for the 500th birth anniversary of the Guru Nanak.

The MEA said, "This unilateral decision by Pakistan is condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large."

IJU CONDEMNS
ARREST OF
ARNAB GOSWAMI

Hyderabad/Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) strongly condemned the arrest of *Republic TV* Chief Editor Arnab Goswami in Mumbai on Wednesday in a closed and then reopened two-year-old case of alleged abetment of suicide. It termed it as an attack on freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) President K. Sreenivas Reddy and Secretary-General, and member of the Press Council of India Balwinder Singh Jammu said the action of the Mumbai Police smacked of political vendetta against a newsmen who was critical of the state government.

The IJU leaders said, "While we do not approve the brand of journalism Arnab Goswami and his Republic TV practice, the arrest and the way he was arrested exposes the political intent of the Mumbai Police, who are considered to be the best in the country. We would like to point out that attempts to silence criticism, however unreasonable it may be, violates the fundamental right of freedom of the press and freedom of expression."

This is going to be my
last election: Nitish

JD(U) says his statement can not be seen as retirement

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 5

On the last day of the election campaign, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar raised the political pitch by announcing that this was his last election. He gave the statement while addressing a rally in Dhamdaha in Purnea district on Thursday. "All is well that ends well", he said while addressing a gathering of his party's supporters during his public meeting.

While listing his government's achievements during the occasion he said that "a day after there is a poll in Bihar and this is going to be my last elections, now tell me will you vote for our candidate?" His sudden announcement has created a flutter in the political circles especially among NDA leaders who have been aggressively campaigning in Bihar for the last phase of assembly elections.

JD(U) spokesperson Ajay Alok said that "even if he has announced that this is going to be his last elections we know that he will continue to work for the welfare of people. His statement cannot be seen as his retirement, he has a long way to go".

Targeting the opposition alliance, BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel said that "we don't know what prompted him to announce this but I can say that people of Bihar will not let him retire. People want him because



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrives to offer prayers at the High Court Mazar during Urs festival in Patna on Thursday.

● The final phase of polls for 78 seats covers the 16 districts of Seemanchal region and north Bihar having a concentration of Muslims, Yadavs and Dalits.

● While addressing a rally in Madhubani onions were thrown at him. The incident had occurred when he was speaking about the issue of employment.

he has worked for the development of Bihar".

A section in the NDA feels that the aggressive campaigning against him by the Opposition camp may have prompted Nitish to take a decision.

Recently while addressing a rally in Madhubani onions were thrown at

I NEED NITISHJI'S GOVERNMENT
IN BIHAR, MODI TELLS VOTERSYOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

As the campaigning for the final phase of assembly polls in Bihar came to an end, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made an appeal to the voters for retaining Nitish Kumar-led government so as development related policies "atkae nahin bhatkae nahin" (do not get

him. The incident had occurred when he was speaking about the issue of employment. However, analysts are of the view that he may have said this to attract voters in his party's favour as he has been facing mas-

s stalled or astrayed).

"I am very much convinced about the development of Bihar. I need Nitishji's government in Bihar so that the all round development does not gets stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double engine will take Bihar to new heights of development in this decade," the Prime Minister wrote.

sive anti-incumbency in the polls. The final phase of polls for 78 seats covers the 16 districts of Seemanchal region and north Bihar having a concentration of Muslims, Yadavs and Dalits.

5- yr term not enough
to drive out 'Mughals'
from Assam: HimantaMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 5

Continuing his tirade against "Muslim Bangladeshi immigrants" defining them as "Mughals", Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Thursday said that five years term was not enough for the BJP-led alliance government to drive out the modern "Mughals" who have succeeded in establishing a very deep root in past 70 years in Assam.

Admitting that these "modern Mughals" have also found place in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Mr Sarma told reporters that his government has decided to approach the Supreme Court after the assembly polls next year for complete re-verification of the NRC.

Accusing former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela of messing up with the process of updating the NRC and misleading the apex court also, Mr Sarma said that they will bring all these anomalies to the notice of the apex

court besides taking action against Mr Hajela.

Asserting that BJP was committed to drive out "modern Mughals" from the state, Mr Sarma who was supervising the construction of a new six-lane bridge on Brahmaputra in Guwahati, came down heavily on All India United Democratic Front and accused them of patron of these "Mughals". "Mughals" have become a constant reference, a significant metaphor in Assam politics. It started recently with Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal referring it for AIUDF which allegedly carries the "Bangladeshi" party tag.

"The indigenous communities are not safe and secure as the Mughal aggression is still on," Mr Sonowal said. He had made an appeal to people to unite and defeat the illegal immigrants' conspiracy to take over Assam.

The BJP has upped the ante against the AIUDF amidst the talks about its proposed alliance with the Congress.

Shah begins WB visit, says
we will create 'Sonar Bangla'RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 5

Kickstarting the BJP's campaign for the next year's Assembly Election in West Bengal union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday declared the "wheels of oppression" by the ruling Trinamul Congress on the saffron party workers have rung the "death knell" of Mamata Banerjee government to pave way for the BJP to come to power with

two-thirds majority in the state.

Paying tribute to tribal icon Birsas Munda in Bankura on the first day of his two-day visit, Mr Shah told the media, "The way the wheels of oppression have been run over the BJP workers here, I can clearly see that the death knell of the Mamata Banerjee government has been sounded. In the coming days the BJP will come to power with two-third majority here."

He said, "Bengal is located on the boundary of the country. It's security is related to the internal security of the nation. I appeal the people of Bengal to oust the present government to ensure the nation's security, jobs to the unemployed youth and relief to the poor from their plight. Please give the BJP a chance. We will work all out to create 'Sonar Bangla' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership."

VIJAY SCOTCHES
REPORTS ON
POLITICAL PLUNGEANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

High drama prevailed on Thursday evening after K-town was agog with reports that its A-Lister Vijay is finally making his foray into politics and that his father, veteran film-maker SA Chandrasekar (SAC), had turned the actor's Makkal Iyakkam into a political party.

When DC contacted Vijay's spokesperson Jagadish, he rubbished the reports of the actor floating any party and added the buzz on it was untrue.

However, soon it was revealed that it was SAC who has enrolled the name All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, with the Election Commission of India, awaiting registration. SAC confirmed to DC that he had applied for registration of a political party in the name All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam. "It is my initiative. It is not Vijay's political party and he has nothing to do with this whatsoever," the ace director said.

Minutes after SAC stated that he had submitted the application to the ECI, Vijay dissociated himself with his dad's political party. In a strongly worded statement, the Sarcar star said, "I came to know through the media that my father

Mr. S A Chandrasekar has started a political party. I inform my fans and the public that there is no connection directly or indirectly between the political party that my father has started and me. By this, I mean that I will not be constrained by any actions that may take place in the future in connection with politics."

Vijay also urged his fans not to join or serve the party just because his father started it. "I request my fans to not join the political party that my father has started or work for it. There is no relationship between that party and our 'Iyakkam' (fan club)," he quipped.

In a warning tone the actor concluded his statement saying, "Strict action will be taken against anyone who uses or engage in any activities involving my name, pictures or my All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam."

Though the statement came sans the signature of Vijay, his publicist Riaz affirmed that it is an official note from the actor.

Maha may also
ban firecrackers
this DiwaliSONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday urged the citizens to celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The minister said that the issue has already been discussed in the cabinet meeting, but the decision on it is yet to be taken.

Rajasthan, West Bengal and New Delhi have already banned the firecrackers in view of the Covid-19.

Mr Tope held a meeting with officials of the state task force and death audit committee set up on the background of Coronavirus.

The state is taking precautions against the second wave of Covid-19, the minister said adding that as a precautionary measure, the state government has decided to increase fever surveillance in the state.

After the cabinet meeting, Mr Tope said that the second wave of infection is already in European countries including Spain, France, UK. He also said that if the precautions are not taken, it would have an adverse impact on the state's efforts to check the spread of coronavirus.

"The smoke emanating from firecrackers would weaken the respiratory system. We have held a discussion in the cabinet meeting. The people of the state should celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The people would respond to the appeal," the public health minister said.

Mr Tope said he would also take up the issue with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Firecracker emissions create a heavy

layer of smoke in the air, which can cause breathing problems, he said.

It has also been discussed whether environment friendly firecrackers can be used, Mr Tope added.

According to reports, the state health officials are bracing for a second wave in state, possibly in December or January when it gets cooler. "Considering the onset of winter, the state government plans to increase fever surveillance across the state for early detection of the Covid-19 infection," Mr Tope said.

The government will also increase testing at malls, shopping complexes, grocery shops and public transport, among others, as these locations have been identified as "super-spreader", the minister said. Apart from this, the state government has decided to extend the decision to reserve 80 per cent beds in private hospitals for Covid-19 patients, he added.

The number of daily coronavirus infections in Maharashtra have been falling constantly over the last 40 days.

The state's Covid-19 tally on Thursday crossed the 17 lakh-mark after it recorded 5,246 fresh cases, a state health department official said.

With the addition of the new cases in the last 24 hours, the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 17,03,444.

The state also reported 117 more deaths, taking the fatality count to 44,804.

Mumbai city reported 841 positive cases, which pushed its overall case count to 2,61,681, while its death toll rose to 10,377 with 25 more patients succumbing to the infection.

HARYANVIS FIRST: STATE ASSEMBLY
PASSES BILL ON 75 PC JOB QUOTA

Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Haryana Assembly on Thursday passed a bill to give 75 per cent reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the state, a key poll promise made by ruling alliance partner Jannayak Janta Party.

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 provides the quota for local people in private sector jobs

that offer a salary of less than ₹50,000 a month.

Only 10 per cent of the recruitment by a company needs to be from the district in which it is located — the rest of the quota can be filled from other districts in the state. The quota will initially apply for 10 years, according to the bill which now needs the assent of the state Governor to become law.

— PTI

No relief for Arnab, HC to hear bail plea today

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The Bombay High Court will on Friday hear a plea filed by *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami seeking interim bail in the 2018 abetment of suicide case in which he has been arrested. HC also directed Goswami's lawyer to make Akshata Naik wife of deceased Anvay Naik and the Central government as a party in the plea and serve a copy of plea to them. HC will also hear application of Adnya Naik, daughter of deceased Anvay Naik, seeking re-investigation of A summary report filed by Police in connection with the suicide of her father.

Mr Goswami's Counsel Harish Salve on Thursday argued that nothing will happen if applicant Goswami is allowed to go out on bail and sought an interim bail for him.

Mr Salve further sought that FIR against his client should be quashed and questioned illegal arrest

made by the police. Abad Ponda, second lawyer of Mr Goswami, termed re-investigation of abetment to suicide case illegal and pressed for interim relief. He further argued that commencement of new investigation after re-opening the shut case is contrary to the well settled principle of law.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik directed Mr Goswami to make the complainant in the case, Akshata Naik, Anvay's wife, and Central government parties in the case and said, "We have to hear all the parties concerned before considering the interim bail sought by the applicant. We have to hear the complainant who is family of the deceased. The family has also filed a petition seeking transfer of probe."

Mr Goswami was arrested on Wednesday from his residence at Lower Parel in Mumbai and was taken to the Alibaug police station in neighbouring Raigad dis-

trict. He was produced before a magistrate's court which remanded him in judicial custody till November 18. Mr Goswami then moved the High Court.

Mr Ponda informed the HC that a bail plea filed before the Alibaug magistrate's court has been withdrawn. "The magistrate had not given clarity on when the bail plea would be heard and had also expressed difficulty in hearing the same as the case lies in the jurisdiction of the sessions court. Hence, we are seeking for interim bail here in high court," he said.

The petition alleged that Goswami and his son were assaulted by the police team when it arrested the journalist in a motivated, false and closed case. This is another attempt of political witch-hunt and vendetta politics against the petitioner and his channel, it alleged.

A case that was decisively closed was reopened for forcibly arresting the petitioner "in a prima facie act

of revenge and vengeance for his news coverage", it said. It claimed that in May 2018, the police had recorded the statements of Mr Goswami and two senior officials of *Republic TV*, and he had also provided documents to the police about the business transactions with Naik's company.

Mr Goswami's company ARG Outlier had paid over 90 per cent of the amount due to Naik's firm Concorde Designs as per the contract, it claimed.

"In July 2019, the entire balance amount due was transferred to the bank account of Naik's company but the amount was returned because the account was inoperative," it said.

Meanwhile, the Alibaug police in Raigad district on Thursday filed a revision application before a sessions court challenging the order passed by the magistrate remanding Mr Goswami and two others to judicial custody in the case. Chief Judicial Magistrate

Sunaina Pingle had on Wednesday remanded Goswami and the two other accused in judicial custody till November 18.

After hearing arguments from both sides for almost six hours, the magistrate passed an order at around 11.30pm. After perusal of the case diary and other relevant documents, the magistrate noted that the prosecution has failed to prima facie establish a link between the deceased and the accused persons.

"Taking into consideration the reasons behind the arrest of the accused persons and the arguments put forth by the accused persons, the arrest appears to be prima facie illegal," the CJM said.

The police said the Chief Judicial Magistrate court had erred in not considering the submissions and grounds submitted by the prosecution while seeking custody of Mr Goswami and two other arrested accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitesh Sarda.

IN BRIEF

THREE HAFIZ SAEED AIDES SENTENCED

Lahore, Nov. 5: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday handed down up to 16 years' imprisonment to three top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in two cases of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore convicted Saeed's brother-in-law Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

The JuD leaders were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttair announced the sentence in two cases of 2019.

UK FURLOUGH WAGE PLAN EXTENDED

London, Nov. 5: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday extended the furlough, or taxpayer-funded wage support scheme, until the end of March next year.

Sunak, who has been leading the UK's economic response to the Coronavirus pandemic, made a statement in Parliament to confirm that the scheme will pay up to 80 per cent of employee wages up to £2,500 a month, with a review of the policy scheduled for January next year.

The revised version of the furlough or forced leave scheme, which is designed for employees to hold on to their jobs through lockdown, will mean that anyone made redundant after September 23 can be re-hired and put back on furlough. "I've always said I would do whatever it takes to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK," he said.

DUBAI DRAW: INDIAN EXPAT WINS \$1 MN

Dubai, Nov. 5: An Indian expat in Bahrain has won a whopping \$1 million in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire draw. Sunil Kumar Kathuria, 33, who works as a sales person for a private company in Manama, became the 342nd person to win the million dollars on Wednesday, *Gulf News* reported.

A resident of Manama, he won \$1 million with his ticket purchased online on October 17. He is also the 170th Indian to win \$1 million at the DDF Millennium Millionaire draw. "I am a second generation expat living here (in Bahrain). It has been almost 10-12 years since I visited Dubai. I will make a trip sometime," Kathuria was quoted as saying by the report.

"It (money) will be put to good use. I want to do some charity, perhaps buy a home. I will discuss with my parents and see what to do with it. Right now we are just excited with the win," he said. According to DDF organisers, Indian nationals make up the highest number of Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire ticket buyers.

VATICAN NOD TO PRIEST SEX ABUSE PROBE

Warsaw, Nov. 5: The Vatican has ordered an investigation into allegations that a now-retired archbishop in Poland was negligent in investigating reports of sex abuse of minors by priests in his Gdansk archdiocese.

The Vatican Embassy in predominantly Roman Catholic Poland said the archbishop of Warsaw had been assigned to conduct the probe and that the preliminary investigation into Archbishop Slawoj Leszek Glodz has been completed. The embassy provided no details about the outcome in a statement issued this week.

Pope Francis accepted Glodz's resignation on his 75th birthday in August, a sign he was taking the allegations against the archbishop seriously. Glodz, who had also served as the chief chaplain of Poland's armed force, denies any negligence. Abuse survivors included Glodz in a report identifying two dozen current and retired Polish bishops accused of protecting predator priests. The report was delivered to Francis on the eve of his 2019 global abuse prevention summit at the Vatican.

Oregon police face off with far-left protesters, arrest 10

Riot declared in Portland, emergency order extended fearing violence

Portland, Nov. 5: Oregon police and National Guard troops in camouflage trucks pursued far-left protesters around the US city of Portland as a riot was declared late Wednesday, making at least 10 arrests.

The northwestern city that has seen continuous protests since summer had been placed on high alert by Governor Kate Brown, who extended an election-night emergency order amid fears of violent clashes over the contested US polls.

A heavy law enforcement presence flooded the streets after a handful of demonstrators broke off from hundreds-strong anti-Trump protests to shatter storefront windows, and a man believed to have thrown a Molotov cocktail was arrested.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office cited "widespread violence" in the city's downtown area, including glass bottles thrown at police who advanced on demonstrators. An *AFP* journalist at the scene witnessed two arrests during a skirmish on a street corner that left protester Michael Ream with a bloodied face.

"It's the same thing it always is — just horrible conduct of the police force and the terrible legacy that they carry every day," the 38-year-old PhD student told *AFP* as police handcuffed him.

Asked whether this week's contested election had brought him to the streets, he replied: "More or less. I mean, I haven't been out (protesting) in a while." Portland has seen months of clashes between police and demonstrators, angered at the repeated killings of POC Americans by law enforcement officers across the country. — *AFP*



An Oregon State Trooper hits a protester with his baton while dispersing a crowd of protesters in Portland, Oregon on Thursday. Protests, some peaceful and others violent, broke out in Portland as the presidential election remained undecided. — *AFP*

No comments: UN spokesman

United Nations, Nov. 5: A spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said that he has no comments as of now on the 2020 US Presidential Election and the process is being watched closely. "No, not at this point. I mean, we're all watching, obviously, closely. The process is still... is

● **SPOKESMAN FOR the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric was responding to a question whether Trump's assertion that he won the poll is helpful or dangerous.**

playing itself out. We do not have a comment at

this point," Spokesman for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric said on Wednesday. He was responding to a question on if he has a comment yet on the US election and whether President Donald Trump's assertion that he won the election is "helpful or dangerous." — *PTI*

Over 12 Indian Americans win polls

Washington, Nov. 5: More than a dozen Indian Americans have won state-level elections. This is besides the four Indian Americans elected to the US House of Representatives: Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi.

The five women elected are Jenifer Rajkumar to

the New York Assembly, Nima Kulkarni to the Kentucky State House, Keshia Ram to the Vermont State Senate, Vandana Slatter to the Washington State House, Padma Kuppala to the Michigan State House, Niraj Antani to the Ohio State Senate, Jay Chaudhuri re-elected to the North Carolina State Senate,

Amish Shah to the Arizona State House, Nikil Saval to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Ranjeev Puri to the Michigan State House, Jeremy Cooney to the New York State Senate. Ash Kalra has been re-elected to the California State Assembly for the third consecutive term. Ravi Sandill has won the

District Court Judge polls in Texas. Keshia Ram is the first woman of colour elected to the Vermont State Senate, Nikil Saval is the first Indo-American elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Jenifer Rajkumar is the first South Asian woman elected to the New York state office. — *PTI*

UK min warns of virus fines

London, Nov. 5: The UK government on Thursday reminded people about the tough fines in place over severe breaches as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown in order to try and control the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, expected to last at least until December 2.

UK Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said that while the police forces of the country will continue to follow the principle of policing by consent, they would respond to "egregious breaches" and hand out fines where necessary. Under the legal requirements in place, people have been told to stay at home unless leaving for work if they can't work from home or to shop for essentials or a form of daily exercise.

All non-essential shops, pubs, bars, restaurants and gyms have been ordered to close and households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a so-called "support bubble". There is a £200 fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of £6,400 and organisers of large gatherings face a £10,000 fine.

U.S. SETS RECORD WITH OVER 1LAKH NEW INFECTIONS

Washington, Nov. 5: The United States set another record for daily confirmed Coronavirus cases as states around the country posted all-time highs, underscoring the vexing issue that confronts the winner of the presidential race. The surging cases and hospitalisations reflect the challenge that either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will face in the coming months over the pandemic, with winter and the holidays approaching. Public health experts fear potentially dire consequences. — *AP*

"Where a more intense intervention is needed then the police will be involved and of course the fine structure is still in force," Buckland told the BBC. "I think the message has to go out very clearly that this will only work if we all play our part," he said. — *PTI*

Don immigration rule takes effect

Chicago, Nov. 5: A federal appeals court has allowed a Trump administration rule that would deny green cards to immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps to go back into effect while it considers the case.

The Election Day development was the latest dizzying twist in a legal battle over the controversial rule that the Trump administration argues helps ensure those who are self-sufficient come to the country. On Monday, US District Judge Gary Feinerman in Chicago struck down

the rule and US Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped applying it to pending applications.

Government attorneys appealed, and the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals put a hold on the ruling the next day, allowing the restrictions to take effect again. USCIS spokesman Matthew Bourke said Wednesday that the agency would immediately restart applying the rule to pending cases, but not "re-adjudicate any applications or petitions that were approved" in light of Monday's decision.

Under the Trump administration rule, officials can deny permanent residency to legal immigrants over their use of food stamps, Medicaid or other public benefits. Green card applicants must show they wouldn't be burdens to the country, or "public charges". Immigrant rights advocates deemed it a "wealth test," while health experts warned of poorer health outcomes and rising costs as low-income migrants chose between necessary services and trying to stay in the country legally.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Cook County filed the lawsuit in Chicago and planned to submit arguments to the appeals court this month. "It's no surprise that Trump's team is attempting to remove barriers that wouldn't allow enforcement of his unlawful public charge definition, even after the courts clapped back at him earlier this week," Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, whose office argued the case, said in a statement. — *AP*

Despite virus, TJ Karachi meet today

Lahore, Nov. 5: Facing intense pressure from religious leaders, the Pakistan government has allowed thousands of Tableeghi Jamaat members to hold a three-day gathering in Lahore starting from Friday despite an uptick in the number of new Coronavirus cases. "The government has allowed the Tableeghi Jamaat to hold annual religious congregation in Raiwind with the participation of 54,000 followers," said a handout

issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government on Thursday.

It added that the three-day congregation will start on Friday and attendees have started to arrive from across the country. However, no one from outside the country is allowed to participate in the religious gathering, the statement read. The government said the COVID-19 rules will be strictly followed in the congregation. — *PTI*

Man charged under new Oz foreign laws

Melbourne, Nov. 5: A 65-year-old man has become the first person to be charged under Australia's foreign interference laws that were passed two years ago, police said Thursday.

Di Sanh Duong has a relationship with a foreign intelligence agency, an Australian Federal Police statement said. Police would not name the country, but the legislation largely targets China's growing influence. Duong was charged

in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on Thursday with preparing for a foreign interference offense, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

He was released on bail to appear in court again in March. The charge followed a yearlong investigation by the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force which was led by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's domestic spy agency. — *AP*

Extradite Nirav, Mallya from UK soon, says India

London, Nov. 5: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held talks with British Home Secretary Priti Patel in London during which he strongly underlined India's interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

"We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible," said Shringla. "Also, Nirav Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard," he said. Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts.

He is currently on bail, undergoing a "confidential" legal issue before Patel can consider sign-



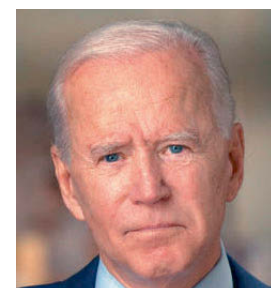
Vijay Mallya



Nirav Modi

ing off on his extradition order. On the other hand, Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant accused of fraud and money laundering in relation to the state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), is currently lodged in Wandsworth Prison in London as he fights his extradition to India at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Shringla arrived in London following visits to Paris and Berlin on Tuesday and has held a series of meetings to cover a wide range of issues, including the India-UK vaccine partnership in a post-Coronavirus world and climate change as well as highlighting India's outlook on the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region. On India-UK bilateral ties, he noted the backdrop of Britain's exit from the European Union. — *PTI*



Joe Biden

BIDEN VOWS TO REJOIN PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Washington, Nov. 5: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270. His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media. On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one. The US, under the Obama administration, had acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016. It was a signature achievement of the Obama administration.

The Paris accord committed the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures below 2C above pre-industrial levels and attempting to limit them even more, to a 1.5C rise. Trump argues that the agreement is disadvantageous for the US, while it gives benefits to countries like China, Russia and India. — *PTI*

FLOOD | FURY

28th storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, ties a record set in 2005

Eta: 5 killed, fishermen stranded in Atlantic

Tegucigalpa, Nov. 5: Honduras girded for further floods and landslides even as Storm Eta weakened into a tropical depression on Wednesday on its course towards Florida, after at least five deaths and dozens of fishermen left stranded in the Atlantic.

Eta, one of the most powerful storms to strike Central America in years, hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane before weakening as it swept over neighbouring Honduras.

Eta is forecast to return to sea and regain momentum as a tropical storm, reaching Cuba and south-

ern Florida this weekend, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Across swathes of Nicaragua and Honduras, the storm has damaged homes, roads and bridges, forcing thousands of people to flee to shelters.

With alerts active for "life-threatening" flash flooding, Honduras declared a state of emergency, allowing officials to order evacuations.

The most important thing is human life," government spokesman Carlos Madero told reporters.

By evening, Eta was about 70 miles (115 km) east of the Honduran capital of

Tegucigalpa, and blowing maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph).

Amid the pummeling rain, a 15-year-old boy drowned trying to cross a river and a 13-year-old girl died in a landslide on her home.

Dozens of people living along Tegucigalpa's Choluteca river evacuated as the water overflowed from the banks.

About 60 fishermen were trapped at sea in the eastern Mosquitia region of Honduras, possibly taking shelter on Caribbean keys, and had not yet returned by evening, said Robin Morales, a representative

of the local population.

The deluge was so extreme in the northern Honduran city of El Progreso that a prison flooded to waist level and 604 inmates were transferred to local gyms, officials said.

In Nicaragua, the storm downed trees and power lines and caused serious flooding. Local media reported that two wildcat miners were killed by a mudslide.

Eta is the 28th named tropical storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, tying a record set in 2005, the NHC said.

— *Reuters*



Officers of the National Police and residents rescue children at the Alemania suburb in the city of El Progreso, 260 kms north of Tegucigalpa in Honduras, which was flooded by the overflow of the La Arenera stream, due to the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Eta. — *AFP*

DECCAN Chronicle

6 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden or Trump? US is facing uncertain future

Three days after a deeply divided America went to the polls to elect its next President, we still don't know for sure if Donald Trump will stay at the White House for the next four years, or if his Democratic challenger Joe Biden – and his running mate Kamala Devi Harris – will take the oath of office on January 20 next. With this election having seen a record turnout, and over 100 million votes – close to half the total – being cast ahead of the actual date, not to mention the larger-than-usual number of mail-in ballots (particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in which the US recorded the largest number of cases), the counting is still going on relentlessly in several of the so-called “battleground” states.

At the point of writing while it does appear Mr Biden, the former vice-president who served under President Barack Obama, is likely to get a clear majority of the popular vote, and is far closer than Mr Trump, the incumbent, to reaching the 270 magic figure in the Electoral College, and becoming America's 46th President, nothing is ever certain till he actually reaches that mark. That might happen tonight, or sooner, or it may take many days, if not weeks, but the rules of the game require that all ballots must be counted.

Shockingly, however, the sitting President, who is sworn to uphold the US Constitution, doesn't seem to feel so, and in an outrageous statement at the White House on Wednesday demanded the counting be halted and declared that he had already won. This while votes were still being tallied in several states, and he himself was leading in some of them. He also threatened to move the Supreme Court to get the count halted, and by Thursday his campaign's legal teams followed through in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, and sought a recount in Wisconsin, which had gone in Mr Biden's favour, to stave off the President's defeat. We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority inclined towards Mr Trump's right-wing ideology), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy.

If Mr Biden does succeed finally in making it to the White House, despite all the impediments put in his way, he will find that governing will not be an easy task. Disappointingly for him, the vote on Tuesday was not the decisive rejection of “Trumpism” he and his party had campaigned for, and though the Democrats managed to retain control of the House of Representatives, their likely failure to wrest back control of the Senate means that a Biden administration will face roadblocks all the way, and perhaps be forced to resort to executive orders to deliver on its agenda. While a change of guard in Washington may be welcomed in most of the world, especially among America's closest allies, Mr Biden might find his diplomatic skills may first have to be deployed to work with the Senate's Republican leaders. The strong India-US strategic partnership is expected to remain on track, as it has bipartisan support in America, but New Delhi should be prepared for some pinpricks.

While a change of guard in Washington may be welcomed in most of the world, especially among America's closest allies, Mr Biden might find his diplomatic skills may first have to be deployed to work with the Senate's Republican leaders. The strong India-US strategic partnership is expected to remain on track, as it has bipartisan support in America, but New Delhi should be prepared for some pinpricks.

Alimony guidelines welcome

The Supreme Court's order laying down guidelines for the lower courts when deciding petitions for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases is a welcome step on many counts. First and foremost is that there is a set of guidelines to be followed by family courts, magistrates and lower courts to ensure uniformity and consistency in such cases. This should help early settlement of cases as the presiding judges have a solid base to build their orders on. The second is that maintenance will be paid from the date of filing of a petition in a court. This one norm will disincentivise husbands from prolonging such cases, which often end up in the Supreme Court. The court has observed that the pendency of the cases and the final settlement, could take years and the estranged partner would be living a miserable life, unable to meet life's expenses. The guidelines assure the woman a source of money even if it comes bit late. In economic parlance, she can monetise her petition and escape penury.

The apex court has taken care to make the process of deciding alimony as transparent and just as possible. The courts must henceforth take into account the financial position and assets of both the partners before deciding the quantum of maintenance; the expenses of the children and the basic needs, and the spiralling inflation should also be factored in while arriving at a sum. That the court has attached such orders the authority of an order of a civil court will enable the aggrieved partner to approach the authorities to enforce it, should there be a breach. In short, through a single order, the apex court has some shed light into the lives of thousands of women whom patriarchy had dumped into the dungeons of misery on the watch of a heartless judicial system. They can now hope for an escape.

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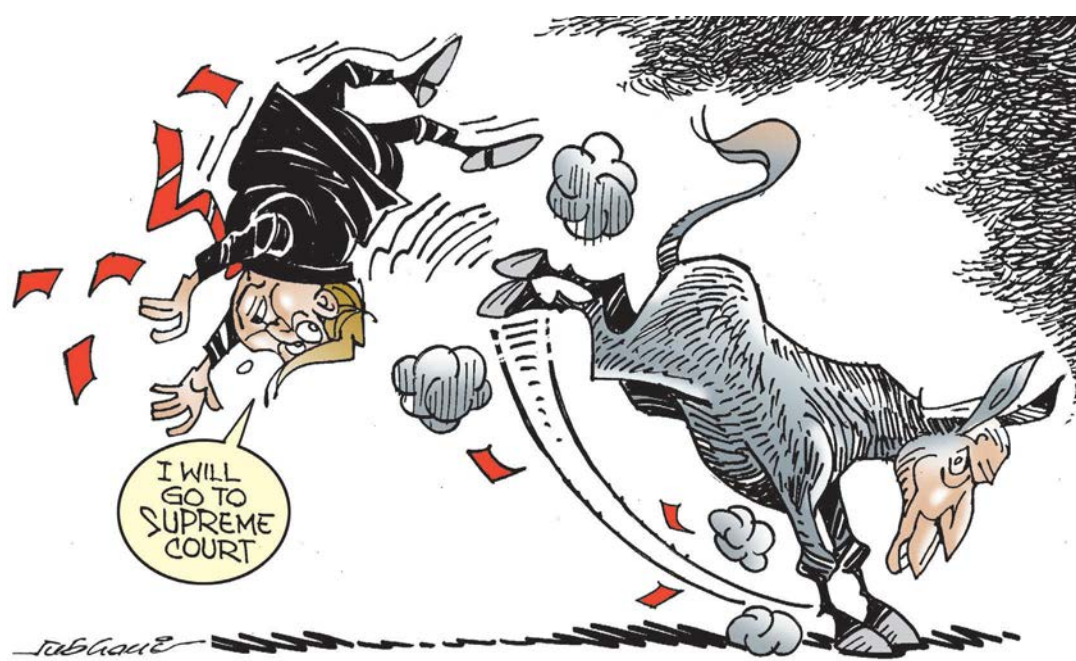
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Subhani



Pakistan in free fall is dangerous for India



Syed Ata Hasnain

Pakistan is in the news again, this time over looming threats to the Imran Khan government from a surprising united Opposition. Coupled with the bankruptcy of the economy, the cozying up to Turkey and Malaysia's wholly Islamist agenda, the fall-out with France over the recent terror and *Charlie Hebdo* cartoon issue, and its retention on the Financial Action Task Force's grey list; all these are creating a spectre of uncertainty and despair. The visible symptoms of the Opposition taking Imran Khan's government to the cleaners are there for all to see. Massive demonstrations under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) were held in Gujranwala and other cities. The PDM is an 11-party conglomerate (not an alliance yet) that has surprisingly seen Bilawal Bhutto's PPP and Nawaz Sharif's PML(N), represented physically on the frontlines by his daughter Maryam Nawaz, coming together with Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam. It includes Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal. The objective is to rid Pakistan of the rule of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that was catapulted to power by the Pakistan Army in 2018. The ultimate intent is, of course, to remove the all-pervasive hand of the Army from Pakistan's politics. These leaders hope to throw up a civil society movement to achieve that, but Pakistan's civil society along with its media have been emaciated over the years. In 1968, Ayub Khan could be overthrown partially due to the powerful civil society-led movement in the streets, although it did lead to the imposition of martial law. Ever

since the overthrow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, the powerful Pakistan Army has ensured the further weakening of civil society and the media to obviate the possibility of popular street revolts. The “Deep State”, which runs Pakistan, despite the front of so-called elected civilian governments, has cleverly used the draw of religion and ideology along with outsourced power to the clergy to keep intact its influence and power. But now things seem to be changing, with the altered circumstances. Can these circumstances make a difference in the internal power game in Pakistan?

We have earlier seen massive turnouts of people in Pakistan, but mostly on religious and ideological calls. Islamabad was blockaded by such calls many times in the past five years. This time it is for a political cause after long, and unity among political parties isn't something to be easily expected. Things appear much more serious with the two strongest parties PML(N) and PPP having set aside their differences for the moment and agreed upon a compromise leader in Maulana Fazlur Rehman. This unity may not last long due to their regional power bases attempting to upend each other. The PDM proposes to launch a mass protest campaign comprising public gatherings, political rallies, no-confidence motions, en masse resignations from assemblies and, finally, a long march in January that will culminate in a sit-in in Islamabad until their demands are met. Sticking together long enough to see it through will be a major challenge. The Army may have some ways of its own to break this unity; an offer of power to one

party may well be on the cards: anything is possible in Pakistan's fractious politics.

What does favour the Opposition is the abysmal state of the economy and the fact that Imran Khan and the Army have little clue on what to do about it. In addition, the most emotive issue of Kashmir seems to be slipping from the Pakistan government's hands after the Indian moves of August 5, 2019, which abrogated all special constitutional provisions for J&K. In a recent move, Saudi Arabia released a new banknote and the world map displayed on the obverse side of the note doesn't show Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir as parts of Pakistan. This coming from a nation that supported Pakistan for many years and was responsible for almost all its economic bailouts clearly shows that its interests do not lie with Pakistan's awkward internal politics or its inability to pursue American-Saudi interests. Pakistan's support to Turkey and Malaysia in an apparent bid to cultivate new power equations within the Islamic world is bringing it to grief with Saudi Arabia. Now with further efforts to be more Islamic than the others, by taking on France, Pakistan is actually falling foul with the Western world in general without considering the future of its economic bailouts; as China's largesse is not unending. China, that invested \$60 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, is also hand in glove with the Islamabad regime in exploiting Balochistan and Sindh, which is

When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution

fuelling discontent among the people of these provinces.

Where the Opposition has a slight advantage is that the Army may have no plan to step in to directly rule a nation with a bankrupt economy. Thus, martial law is a long shot and unlikely. The fairly professional Pakistan Army may appear to be united behind its chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. However, the ambitions that subordinate generals harbour are rarely known. The batches of generals who were overlooked for the top slot due the controversial three-year extension given to Gen. Bajwa by Imran Khan, would yet wish to see his back. With a new government there could be the possibility of a new Army leadership, though Gen. Bajwa will use all his guile to stay on and be the guiding light to a new dispensation if he ditches Imran Khan.

The Pakistan Army under Gen. Bajwa does not seem to be as intelligently energetic as in the past. Its handling of the Sindh police case in the totally unnecessary effort to intimidate Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, Safdar Awan, has badly let down its image. What also appears true is the inability of the Pakistan Army to push back sufficiently on J&K. It may rest content with what has happened in Ladakh but another year in J&K with the networks under strain, different leaderships wiped out and fresh ones unable to infiltrate, is likely to see much higher advantage to India. It is at such times that India needs its antennae up higher than usual. When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war which it intends fighting for long, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution. A Pakistan in free fall is always unpredictable and thus dangerous.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

LETTERS

COVID TESTING

We need to get serious about Covid (*Asymptomatic data stuns TS, DC, Nov. 5*). It is true that most senior citizens are unable to go to testing centres and prefer to stay home hoping they have no Covid-19. Will the TS government help get senior citizens tested at their homes instead of asking them to go to the testing centres and risking their lives among strangers? All above 50 must be tested at home.

Baru Rajendra Prasad
Hyderabad

Many people, especially the youth, are not taking precautions like wearing masks and maintaining physical distance. We see several youngsters on bikes and groups at eateries without masks. They are likely carriers of the deadly virus to their homes affecting children and elders. Unless strict action is taken against the offenders it is very difficult to contain spread of the infection.

S. Nageswara Rao
Hyderabad

AP GOVERNANCE

In AP, several structural and social changes are taking place. Decentralisation of administration with village secretariats, RBKs, village clinics, renovation of schools, 50 per cent jobs for women, leveraging technology to develop friendly police apps, skill training universities, new hospitals, port development, etc., are just a few additions. If these institutes work even with 75 per cent efficiency, it will go a long way in upliftment of people.

A.R.R. Datta
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Compensation to princes: Decision deferred

NEW DELHI, Nov. 5.

A special meeting of the Union Cabinet today discussed the draft scheme of compensation and transitory allowances to be paid to the former rulers but deferred a decision.

The matter is again expected to be considered by the cabinet in the next few days.

The main issue posed before the Cabinet was whether it was desirable to take a decision on the compensation question when the legality of the Government's derecognition order was being considered by the Supreme Court.

Raj Mohan Tella



IPL's purpose to boost talent, but cricket should always come first

For a cricket spectator like me, the IPL or the Indian Premier League presents long periods of intense self-absorption. But I am sometimes intrigued by what could have been the actual purpose of this greatly addictive tournament.

Great cricket, a revenue opportunity for the cricket board, advertisers getting to reach cricket-worshipping India, spectators banding together as fan armies — all of this, yes, but the one that appeals to me deeply is this — it is a platform for young cricketers to play, compete with some of the best players in the world and gain that much-needed international exposure.

Imagine a T. Natarajan bowling to Chris Gayle. Or an Ankit S. Rajpoot getting advice from Steve Smith. IPL seems to help in gaining confidence, earning a standing and possibly even bolstering their self-worth. For some of them, it has

paved the way to donning the India colours. If you ask me, this is the real worth of IPL.

“*Yatra pratibha ausara prapnoti-hi*”, which means “Where talent meets opportunity”. This is what is inscribed on the IPL trophy. And this rings so true hearing Hyderabad bowler Mohammed Siraj's down-to-earth articulation of his humble beginnings and passion for cricket. How cricket and his IPL earnings gave him an opportunity to provide basic creature comforts to his parents and brother. This season, Siraj has hit the headlines in IPL for several reasons. And now he is also a part of the Indian Test team. There are many more young cricketers who have stories similar to Siraj's. All of which reflect IPL's real brand purpose.

But does purpose really matter? Especially for brands and businesses? We hear so much talk from mar-

keting wizards that purpose guides brands and purpose it is when you have to connect with the new, thinking consumer. Some pundits even say that purpose means brands having a point of view and appeal to the higher, emotional needs of a consumer. No disagreements on that. But isn't the fundamental question the ability of a brand to deliver a functional benefit, solve a problem or meet a need? Certainly, a brand can advocate a purpose, but while doing that the assumption is that the functional aspects are getting delivered. Because that allows for basic survival of the brand. And purpose helps building on it with elements of emotion and differentiation.

In the difficult times we live in now, when survival of businesses seems to be paramount, functionality is at the core. It cannot be sacrificed for purpose. And merely having one is not enough. What pur-

pose does have a Parle G have, except to give us all a satisfying and value for money biscuit time? It is in fact one of India's most popular comfort food. Or for that matter isn't the purpose of all payment apps to deliver convenience and speed while protecting our details? But if you were to say a hospital brand or an organic food company needs to have a purpose, I would agree. Purpose is not a holy grail. Marketers need to prioritise functionality and layer this with the avowed purpose. I would suggest a four-point check list for deciding on the purpose — understand the functional benefits of your brand, assess the emotional dimensions your brand can shoulder, do a pulse check on your more vocal target audiences, their needs and aspirations, and draw a strong connection between the purpose and your line of business.

Switching back to IPL and brand

purpose in that context — don't we all need to have great, gripping and enjoyable cricket first, then as fans or rather as consumers of cricket, we move our attention to the other outcomes, like young names getting recognised and gaining a semblance of financial stability? Just imagine; if IPL were to only tell you they were bringing young cricketers together and providing them a platform. Would you watch IPL with the same enthusiasm? Well as a fan and cricket lover you would want the big names, the fanfare, the myths and stories that cricket creates and the nailbiting finishes — all of which are the promise of IPL. After that comes the purpose that has let a Mohammed Siraj bowl us over...

Raj Mohan Tella is the founder of Brandlogues, a global brand consulting firm. He can be reached at rajmohan@brandlogues.com.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,340.16	1.78
Nifty 50	12,120.30	1.78
S&P 500*	3,513.95	2.05
Dollar (₹)	74.39	0.48
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.84	-0.14
Euro (₹)	87.48	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,980▲158	0.30
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.86	-0.37
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.858	-0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.766	-0.002

* As of 8:30 PM IST

PLI scheme for agro-chemicals mfg on cards

The government will bring a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of agro-chemicals, minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said. "Like we brought in the pharma sector, we will bring a production-linked incentive scheme for chemicals which are used in agro. Some basic chemicals are the same for all," he said addressing a webinar.

Hyundai drives in all new i20 at ₹6.8 lakh



Hyundai, India's second biggest carmaker, launched its all-new fourth generation Hyundai i20 premium hatchback with prices for the petrol versions starting at Rs 6.80 lakh and the diesel version starting at Rs 8.20 lakh to aggressively push sales in the festive season. The new Hyundai i20 will take on Tata Altroz, Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Toyota Glanza, Volkswagen Polo and Honda Jazz.

Sebi ups foreign investment limit for MFs, ETFs

The Sebi enhanced foreign investment limit for individual fund houses to \$600 million from \$300 million now. The watchdog also increased domestic mutual funds' foreign investment limit in the overseas exchange-traded fund (ETF) to \$200 million. Currently, it is capped at \$50 million. The aggregate ceiling remains at \$7 billion for overseas mutual fund investment and \$1 billion for overseas ETFs.

Dalmia Bharat net rises over six-fold to ₹232 cr

Cement maker Dalmia Bharat reported an over six-fold increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 232 crore for the second quarter, helped by higher sales volume. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 36 crore during the July-September quarter a year ago. Its revenue from operations was up 7.78 per cent at Rs 2,410 crore. Total expenses were at Rs 2,083 crore against Rs 2,270 crore a year ago.



■ Recovery halts in Bharat; net 5.5L jobs lost 50L find salaried jobs in October

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Though close to 50 lakh jobs were created for the salaried class in October, huge employment losses in rural India has halted the job recovery seen in the country since May this year. October recorded the first fall in jobs since May, with around 5.5 lakh losing employment during the month, according to think-tank CMIE. Rural small traders and wage labourers accounted for most of the employment loss.

It looks the job scenario has deteriorated after seeing a rapid recovery from May onwards. CMIE says the process of recovery of jobs that was robust during May, June and July and slowed down in August and September has now reversed into a fall in employment in October.

Of the 121 million jobs lost in April, 110 million jobs came back during May, June and July. Then, August and September saw the addition of only 5 million jobs. Now, October recorded the first fall since the recovery began, according to CMIE.

The IHS Markit Services PMI survey too found that employment had declined in October, despite the optimism towards the year-ahead outlook strengthening. Amid reports of workers on leave failing to return and difficulties in hiring staff due to the pandemic, services employment decreased again in



October, the survey said.

Commenting on the CMIE survey, Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the job losses have happened among small traders and wage labourers in the rural areas. The employment among these categories dipped almost 10.6 million from 130 million to 120 million in a month's time. However, the salaried class added close to 5 million jobs and businesses and farmers another five million, which led to a net job loss of 5.5 lakh, she said.

"The job losses could have happened probably due to the migration of hawkers and wage labourers back to the cities. Due to this migration, rural jobs show a clear dip, but urban centres have not added jobs as companies are still working on limited manpower," Shah added.

This fall in employment has come at a time the demand for jobs is rising. The count of the unemployed who were willing to work increased by 12 million in October.

Accordingly, the employment rate—which measures the extent available labour resources (people available to work) are being used—deteriorated in October. It fell from 38 per cent in September to 37.8 per cent in October. This is an outcome of a combination of a stagnant labour participation rate and an increase in the unemployment rate.

The labour participation rate as of October 2020 remains significantly lower than the levels seen till February 2020. The employment rate had shed a massive 12.2 percentage points in April. Much of this, 10.4 percentage points, was recovered during May, June and July.

The employment rate has been falling every year since 2016-17. It fell by 1.13 percentage points in 2017-18, then by 1.46 percentage points in 2018-19 and by 0.46 percentage points in 2019-20. If this trend were to continue, 2020-21 would see another fall of about one percentage point in the employment rate even if there were no lockdown.

Saudi fund PIF puts ₹9,555 cr in Reliance Retail Ventures

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm on Thursday raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total fundraise in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.58 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore.

"This investment will further strengthen PIF's presence in India's dynamic economy and promising retail market segment," the statement said.

"The transaction is in line with PIF's strategy as a leading global investor with a proven track-record of investing in innovative and transformative companies globally and develop strong partnerships with leading groups in their respective markets," it said.

India's retail sector is one of the largest in the world and accounts for over 10 per cent of its GDP, which presents meaningful growth potential.

Ambani said: "I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance."

— PTI

RBI makes co-lending easier for banks & NBFCs

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 5



In a bid to improve the flow of credit to the unserved sectors of the economy and to make funds affordable for them, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday revised the guidelines for banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, to jointly lend to the priority sector. Analysts said the co-lending scheme would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their retail loan growth.

"The primary focus of the revised scheme, rechristened as "Co-Lending Model" (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and

greater reach of the NBFCs," the RBI said in a release.

The CLM is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018. Under CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, the RBI said, adding that "the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books. However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the

individual loans on their books. The guidelines state that if the bank can exercise its discretion regarding taking into its books the loans originated by NBFC as per the agreement, the arrangement will be akin to a direct assignment transaction. The NBFC will not have to maintain the minimum holding period (MHP).

Anil Gupta, vice-president and sector head—financial sector ratings, Icrs, said, "Under the CLM, if NBFCs and banks have a prior co-lending arrangement, NBFCs can immediately sell down their loan portfolio to banks without completing the minimum holding period requirement under the direct assignment transactions. This would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their ability to drive their retail credit growth."

Market excited over a likely Biden win

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The stock market surged for the fourth straight session to close at over eight-month high, with Sensex and Nifty-50 gaining over 1.75 per cent, in line with the gains in the global markets on emerging US presidential election trends showing Joe Biden leading the race for White House.

Foreign institutional investors were major buyers, by Rs 5,368.31 crore, in the Indian market as per provisional data.

Investors perceive a Biden victory to be good for the global markets and economies and this led to buying in equities all over the world, analysts said.

Following over two per cent gains in the overnight US market, the Indian market, like its peers Asia, made a gap-up opening with the Sensex opening 496 points up at

41,112 and rose steadily through the session to close 724 points up at 41,340.

After a long time, all the 30 Sensex constituents closed in the green led by big gains for the financials mainly banks, IT and index heavy weight Reliance Industries.

The broader market was equally euphoric, with BSE Mid-cap and BSE Small-cap indices gaining 1.74 per cent and 1.70 per cent, respectively.

Adani renames Oz unit to save skin

JAMES THORNHILL NOV. 5

Enterprises Ltd renamed its Australian mining unit in a move critics see as aimed at distancing the rest of the conglomerate from a contentious new coal development.

Adani last year won approval to proceed with the 10 million-tonne per annum Carmichael thermal coal project after a decade-long struggle with regulators and environmental protesters. Carmichael became a lightning rod for climate campaigners because it will open up a new region to coal mining, connecting the previously untouched Galilee Basin to Queensland's freight network via a new rail line.

The company has renamed itself Bravus Mining & Resources to mark the 10-year anniversary of its operations in the country, and the project's move into the construction phase, chief executive officer David Borshoff said in a statement.

"Adani knows its brand is toxic, which is why insurers, financiers and other contractors continue to abandon it," said Christian Slattery from the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Apollo Syndicate Management last week became the latest insurer to say it would not renew a policy for the project. Meanwhile, Siemens AG earlier this year said it would honor a contract to supply signalling systems to the Carmichael rail link, defying a backlash from activists in Australia and Germany. Adani is self-financing the mine after failing to secure external backing.

Borshoff said Carmichael was on track to produce its first coal in 2021, and had already secured a market for its output in India and Asia. "The quality of coal from the Carmichael Mine is better than the coal it will replace in the market," Borshoff said. "It will produce fewer emissions when burnt to produce electricity." — Bloomberg

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin likely in Feb: ICMR

KRISHNA N. DAS NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

A government-backed Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February— months earlier than expected—as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far showed it is safe and effective, a senior government scientist told Reuters.

Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing Covaxin with the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), had earlier hoped to launch it only in the second quarter of next year.

"The vaccine has shown good efficacy," senior ICMR scientist Rajni Kant, who is also a member of its Covid-19 task-force, said at the



research body's New Delhi headquarters on Thursday. "It is expected that by the beginning of next year, February or March, something would be available."

Bharat Biotech could not immediately be contacted. A launch in February would make Covaxin the first India-made vaccine to be rolled out.

The country's cases of coronavirus infections rose by 50,201 cases on

even before the third-stage trials are over.

"It has shown safety and efficacy in the phase 1 and 2 trials and in the animal studies, so it is safe but you can't be 100 per cent sure unless the phase 3 trials are over," Kant said. "There may be some risk, if you are ready to take the risk, you can take the vaccine. If necessary, the government can think of giving the vaccine in an emergency situation."

Health minister Harsh Vardhan said in September the government was considering granting an emergency authorisation for a Covid-19 vaccine, particularly for the elderly and people in high-risk workplaces.

— Reuters

Flipkart invests in USPL to lift up fashion portfolio

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The Flipkart Group on Thursday announced a strategic investment in USPL, a premium youth-focused fashion brand house, in an attempt to strengthen its fashion portfolio.

This is a Series F funding for USPL from the Flipkart Group along with participation from existing investor Accel Partners. This investment will significantly step up the online strategy of USPL by strengthening the existing long-standing engagement between the company and the Flipkart Group.

USPL has built a portfolio of premier fashion brands that uniquely cater to the sensibilities, design and fitment needs for the young Indian. Wrogn, USPL's flagship brand, is one of the fastest growing men's casual wear brands in India at scale and has been amongst the leading brands on Myntra over the last few years.

USPL brands are also present in more than 750 offline retail outlets in over 100 cities in India. USPL has been growing at 40-50 per cent year-on-year, a release said.

Ms Anjana Reddy, the founder & CEO of USPL, said, "Over the years, USPL has been home to some of India's best-known fashion brands for youth. The last few months have provided a great opportunity for us to consolidate our market leadership among home-grown brands catering to the youth and expand our market share."

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO, Flipkart Group, said, "USPL's unique brands, backed by celebrity endorsements, have a strong appeal for the young fashion-driven Indian consumer. This investment will help USPL and the Flipkart Group find deeper synergies."

FALLING | INVENTORY

Increasing use of bifacial panel raises demand for glass

Glass shortage threatens solar panel industry

Nov 5: The world's biggest solar power company says a shortage of glass is raising costs and delaying production of new panels, throwing a wrench into China's plans to accelerate its shift to clean power.

Prices for glass that coats photovoltaic panels have risen 71 per cent since July, and manufacturers are struggling to produce it fast enough to keep more than a week's worth of sales in inventory, according to Daiwa Capital Markets. The shortage comes as the solar industry turns toward bifacial panels, which increase both power output and glass requirements.

Solar panel producers like Longi Green Energy Technology Co have asked the government in China, home to most solar manufacturing, to address the situation by approving new factories. Otherwise price hikes may make solar power too expensive, halting the industry's momentum.



"If solar power generators see solar projects as uneconomical, they will delay investing in new projects and that will drag down solar demand," said Charles Jiang, general manager of the supply chain management centre at Longi, the world's biggest solar company by market capitalisation. "Solar power plant profits will drop below acceptable levels without government subsidies if glass makers go on to push up the

costs."

In 2018, with the energy intensive and polluting glass industry facing over-capacity issues, China's government forbade companies from adding new production capacity. Longi and five other major solar companies on Tuesday met with government officials and appealed for them to remove the restrictions, at least for solar glass.

Glass demand has also been rising within the solar industry because of the increasing prominence of bifacial panels, which coat both the top and bottom with glass, allowing for a slight uptick in power generation from sunlight reflected off the ground. Such panels are expected to make up half the market in 2022, up from about 14 per cent last year, according to analysts at Sunwah Kingsway.

Stocks of solar glass manufacturers have soared this year, with

Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd more than doubling and Flat Glass Group Co nearly quadrupling in market value in Hong Kong.

For panel makers, glass now accounts for about 20 per cent of the total cost of production, up from about 10 per cent, Longi's Jiang said. Because glass factories take so long to build, the solar industry could be 20 per cent to 30 per cent short of the glass it needs next year, with the market not being back in balance until 2022, he said.

The shortage is coming at an inopportune time as solar developers are rushing to finish projects by the end of this year to secure government subsidies. It also threatens to halt momentum just as the Chinese government considers increasing renewable power additions as the country aims to rein in pollution and become carbon neutral by 2060.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Usman's bro jailed for fake terror plot

Sydney: Australian international cricketer Usman Khawaja's older brother was jailed on Thursday after being sentenced for his actions in framing a colleague using a fake terror plot. Arsalan Tariq Khawaja admitted forging entries in the notebook of his University of New South Wales co-worker Kamer Nizamdeen in August 2018 after being jealous of Nizamdeen's contact with a mutual female friend. Nizamdeen was arrested, locked up in a maximum-security jail for four weeks and incorrectly labeled a terrorist in the media before police discovered he had been set up. Khawaja also admitted phoning authorities in 2017 about a love rival, another man of whom he was jealous, and made visa and terrorism accusations including that the man had trained overseas. In the New South Wales District Court, Judge Robert Weber jailed the 40-year-old Khawaja for four years and six months with a non-parole period of two years and six months. Khawaja made entries on at least 22 pages of a notebook and handed it to university staff. The notebook contained death threats against then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the governor-general, as well as lists to attack police stations, the Boxing Day cricket test match in Melbourne and landmarks. — PTI

1,000th win for Nadal in Paris

Paris: Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches on Wednesday by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters, while Diego Schwartzman and Alexander Zverev also reached the third round. The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark. The Spaniard had to fight back against fellow Spanish veteran Lopez, 39, but did enough to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week. Meanwhile, Argentinian Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of reaching the ATP Tour Finals for the first time thanks to a third-round thrashing of Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Paris Masters on Thursday. The sixth seed raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory in only an hour and will face either third seed Daniil Medvedev or Australia's Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals on Friday. — AFP

Bopanna-Marach make quarters

Paris: India's Rohan Bopanna and Austrian Oliver Marach stunned ninth seeds Fabrice Martin and Jean-Julien Rojer in a hard-fought second round encounter to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Paris Masters tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Austrian pair came from behind to defeat their fancied rivals 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the round of 16 tie Wednesday night. After losing the first set, the duo of Bopanna and Marach won the second to put the pressure on the French-Dutch pair. In the tie breaker, the 40-year-old Bopanna brought all his experience into play and was helped by Marach's resolve to win the match. The Indian-Austrian duo will face the eighth seed pairing of Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Jurgen Melzer in the quarterfinals on Friday. Bopanna and Marach had defeated the Serbian pair of Dusan Lajovic and Nikola Patic 7-5, 7-6 to move into the round of 16. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Eliminator — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Adelaide Strikers from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Quarterfinals from 6.30 pm (session 1) and 11 pm (sessions 2) on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Italian League: Sassuolo vs Udinese from 1.15 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

WWE

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

MIGHTY IN FINAL

Ishan, Suryakumar punch big as Mumbai mum Delhi

Dubai, Nov. 5: Defending champions Mumbai Indians reached their sixth Indian Premier League final beating Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in the first Qualifier on Thursday.

Batting first, MI scored 200 for 5 riding on half-centuries from Suryakumar Yadav (51 off 38 balls) and Ishan Kishan (55 no off 30 balls). Hardik Pandya also scored 37 off 14 balls.

In reply, Delhi Capitals finished on 143 for 8 with Jasprit Bumrah taking 4 for 14.

Suryakumar Yadav's near flawless half-century complemented by Hardik Pandya's death-over fireworks saw Mumbai Indians put up an above-par 200 for 5 against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier of the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Surya smashed his way to a 51 off 38 balls to lay a foundation that was enough for Hardik murder the bowling with five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

In between, Ishan Kishan was an ideal anchor with a priceless half-century (55 off 30 balls), adding 60 for the sixth wicket with Hardik in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with his cerebral bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics as far as his pace department was concerned.

Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office.

In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls bowled by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants,



Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Delhi Capitals during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

who were bowling short of length consistently.

At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)'s dodgy hamstring did play its part as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before. De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs. — PTI

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40, Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Nortje 51, Ishan Kishan not out 55, Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0, Krunal Pandya c Sams b Stoinis 13, Hardik Pandya not out 37. Extras (B-1, LB-2, W-1) 4. **Total (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200.**

FoW: 1-16, 2-78, 3-100, 4-101, 5-140. **Bowling:** Sams 4-0-44-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0, Axar Patel 3-0-27-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-50-1, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c de Kock b Boult 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Bumrah 0, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Boult 0, S. Iyer c Rohit b Bumrah 12, Stoinis b Bumrah 65, R. Pant c Suryakumar b K. Pandya 3, Axar Patel c Chahar b Pollard 42, Sams c de Kock b Bumrah 0, Rabada not out 15, Nortje not out 0. Extras (W-6) 6. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 143.**

FoW: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-20, 5-41, 6-112, 7-112, 8-141. **Bowling:** Boult 2-1-9-2, Bumrah 4-1-14-4, K. Pandya 4-0-22-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pollard 4-0-36-1, R. Chahar 2-0-35-0.

Sunrisers look for fresh push

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 5: With momentum on their side, a confident Sunrisers Hyderabad would look for another complete performance to continue their forward march in the IPL when they face a struggling Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator here on Friday.

Pushed to the wall after a slow start to the tournament, SRH produced a lion-hearted effort in the second leg and peaked at the right time to qualify for the play-offs by finishing third in the league standings, just ahead of RCB.

It has been contrasting results for the two teams in the business end of the tournament.

While RCB suffered four consecutive defeats to finish the league stage at the fourth spot, SRH registered a hat-trick of wins to edge past Virat Kohli's men in the standings.

NUMBERS GAME	
HEAD TO HEAD	
OVERALL:	
● Matches: 16 ● Hyderabad: 8 ● Bangalore: 7 ● Tied: 1	
(Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)	
MEETING IN 2020	
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai.	
● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Sharjah.	
FOR THE RECORD	
● Devdutt Padikkal with 472 runs at an average of 33.71 in 14 innings of as many matches is the top scorer for Royal Challengers Bangalore in this IPL.	
● Rashid Khan who claimed 19 wickets at an average of 15.57, is the highest wicket-taker for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL.	

— S. PERVEZ KAISER

SRH made a remarkable turnaround in their final three games — defeating Delhi Capitals, RCB and table-toppers Mumbai Indians to book their last-fourth berth.

And come Friday, SRH would be brimming with confidence, especially after their 10-wicket win

over MI in the last must-win game.

The credit for SRH's success in the past few matches goes to the opening pair of Warner and Wriddhiman Saha.

The duo has clicked upfront and has so far shared two century stands — 107 against DC

and then 151 against MI.

While Warner has led SRH from the front, scoring 529 runs from 14 games to occupy the second spot in the scorers' list, Saha (184 runs from 3 matches) has proved that the SRH team management has erred in benching him for 11 ties.

On the other hand, knowing very well that another blunder could send them packing, the Kohli-led RCB have a lot to ponder over.

Young Devdutt Padikkal, who scored his fifth fifty of the event in their last game, has been consistent at the top but Kohli needs to step up as of late, his strike rate has come under the scanner.

Kohli and AB de Villiers need to take responsibility in the big match for RCB, which also features the likes of Chris Morris, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar and bats quite deep. — PTI

'TEMPERATURE DROP MADE CHASE EASIER'

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Batting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that with temperatures dropping in the UAE, it has become easier to chase in the ongoing IPL as the tournament enters its business end during which the dew factor has also come into play.

"The tournament started six weeks ago. What the temperature was back then compared to what it is now, on an average it has dropped by six degrees," Tendulkar said on 100MB app.

"Also if you look at shadows, the positioning is such, sunset timing is different. All these things affect the pitch. The pitch temperature was earlier coming down only in the second innings," cricket legend Tendulkar further added. — PTI

Sophie trailblazes misfiring Velocity

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone grabbed four wickets for just nine runs in a sensational bowling display to help Trailblazers beat Velocity by nine wickets in their Women's T20 Challenge match here on Thursday.

Englishwoman Ecclestone, ranked number one in the ICC T20 rankings, was well supported by veteran Jhulan Goswami (2/13) and Rajeshwari Gaekwad (2/13) as Trailblazers dismissed Velocity in 15.1 overs.

Trailblazers then chased down the small target of 48 in just 7.5 overs with opener Deandra Dottin and Richa Ghosh remaining not out on 29 and 13 respectively.

Despite their win against Supernovas on Wednesday, Velocity's net run rate would take a beating after Thursday's loss and that could hit them hard.

It was, however, a quiet start in the run chase for the Trailblazers as the Velocity bowlers denied them any loose balls. Dottin and captain Smriti Mandhana (6) were finding hard to get the boundaries. Mandhana finally went for the aerial route but perished in the process.

The Trailblazers were 28 for 1 at the end of powerplay and they ended the match in quick time with Ghosh hitting a six to take her side to victory. Velocity captain Mithali



Sophie Ecclestone of Trailblazers in action against Velocity during their Women's T20 Challenge match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — BCCI

Raj's decision to bat first backfired as half of her batswomen were back in the dressing room inside powerplay for just 22 runs.

Shafali threatened to play a big innings as she hit a four and a six early one but the seasoned Goswami outfoxed the youngster, sending her stumps cart-wheeling. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES

■ Velocity 47 in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 13; Sophie Ecclestone 4-9, J. Goswami 2-13, RS Gayakwad 2-13) lost to Trailblazers 49/1 in 7.5 overs (Dottin not out 29)

Back-to-back games got to us: Mithali

Sharjah, Nov. 5: The legendary Mithali Raj, who is leading the Velocity team in the Women's T20 Challenge on Thursday, admitted the difficulty of play back-to-back matches with less than 12 hours of recovery time in sultry conditions.

Mithali said her side didn't have enough time recuperate as they crumbled to a nine-wicket defeat in the hands of Trailblazers.

"As far as playing in the afternoon definitely we haven't even got 12 hours to recover from yesterday's game."

"So clearly yes, it has been difficult for the girls to prepare themselves and come back and play the afternoon game after playing last night," Mithali

said in the post match press conference.

While the other two teams have rest days between their games, Velocity played two consecutive games in less than 24 hours in addition to the travel between Dubai and Sharjah.

As a result Velocity put up a disappointing show to be bundled for a paltry 47 in 15.1 overs as the Trailblazers chased down the target in 7.5 overs.

Talking about the top ranked ICC T20 bowler Sophie Ecclestone Mithali said the Englishwomen did well to quickly adapt to the conditions. That's why she's number one because she has come up with a game plan," Mithali said. — PTI

WORKING ON WEAKNESS, FITNESS HELPED: BISHT

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht said working on her bowling skills and fitness during the coronavirus-induced break helped her to execute the plans as she returned with a three-wicket haul to guide Velocity to a five-wicket win over Supernovas here.

Ekta (3 for 22) claimed wickets off successive deliveries in the last over as defending champions Supernovas could not accelerate in the death overs to be restricted for a paltry 126 for 8 in the opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge.

"In the lockdown, I stayed back in Almorah and worked on my bowling weakness with my coach. I also worked on fitness and it really helped. We had a long gap after a hectic season so it was good to be back," she said during the press conference. — PTI



Lionel Messi (right) of Barcelona vies with Dynamo Kiev's Illia Zabarnyi during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Wednesday. — AFP

Barca, Juventus clinch wins; PSG, Man U come croppers

Paris, Nov. 5: Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Viktor Tsygankov grabbed a consolation for Coronavirushit Dynamo as Barca, winless in four games in La Liga, recorded their third successive Group 'G' victory to stay three points clear of Juventus.

Cristiano Ronaldo made his first start for the Italian cham-

pions since September after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone in Budapest by Alvaro Morata, whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

Paulo Dybala added a third before an own goal from Lasha Dvali, with Franck Boli netting for the hosts in the final minute.

United lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir. Demba Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

Anthony Martial's header cut

the deficit before half-time but United saw their momentum in Group 'H' halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month.

Emil Forsberg's penalty earned Leipzig a 2-1 victory as they came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up. Angel di Maria had given PSG an early lead in Germany but Christopher Nkunku levelled before half-time for Leipzig and Forsberg converted from the spot in the 57th minute before the visitors had both Idrissa Gueye and Presnel Kimpembe sent off.

Meanwhile, Chelsea strolled to a 3-0 win at home against Rennes. — AFP

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