


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
NELLORE | SUNDAY | 8 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30.5°C

Min: 25.5°C

RH: 96%

Rainfall: 0.2 mm

Forecast: clear.

Max/Min temp. 30/25  C

COVID-19

COUNT

CASES

(+41,039)

84,97,319

DEATHS

(+588)

1,26,116

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,607)

TS: 2,48,891

(+2,367)

AP: 8,40,730

(+6)

1,372

(+11)

6,779

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,99,64,915

DEATHS

12,53,156

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

216

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana

Titthi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula

Saptami till 7.27 am

Star: Pushyami till 8.42 am

Variyam: 9.28 pm to 11.04 pm

Durmuhurtam: 4.08 pm to 4.53 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HLIRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 21, 1442 AH

PRAYERS(SHAHI MASJID)

Fajar: 4.55 am

Zohar: 11.54 pm

Asar: 4.05 pm

Maghrib: 5.41 pm

Isha: 6.53 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.08 AM

MOONRISE TODAY --

MOONSET TOMORROW 1.14 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

FASTags must for all four-wheelers

New Delhi:

The government on Saturday said it has made FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers including old vehicles from January 1, 2020. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a notification for promotion of digital and IT based payment of fees through FASTags. The government has issued a notification "making FASTag mandatory to be available by January 1, 2021 in old vehicles also i.e. M and N category (four wheelers) sold before December 1, 2017 through amendments in CMVR, 1989", the MoRTH said in a statement.

RED | TAPE NTR health varsity officials waiting for state to issue GO

## AP merit list worries Neet qualified

**SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC**  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

Students who have qualified in NEET UG – 2020 are a worried lot as NTR University of Health Sciences has not yet announced the merit list for AP.

Several students who have secured All India ranks will have to opt for their college for admission into MBBS/dental when Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) holds its second counselling from

● **APHC order last year is believed to be the cause for the delay in the varsity issuing a notification**

November 13 to 18. Once they exercise this option, they will not be able to change their option.

If the aspirants know that they have got a better rank at the state level, they will exercise the choice for a better college on the basis of their state rank rather than their nation-wide rank. Though neighbouring

Telangana has already announced its state merit list on November 1, NTR University has not yet issued a notification asking candidates to submit their details for counselling. The reason for this is said to be AP High Court's order from the last academic year when trouble broke out pertaining to counselling process for admission to NEET PG. The HC had then directed the state government to work out modalities for conducting counselling, which would not

lead to mistakes again.

Based on it, university authorities are eagerly awaiting issue of G. O. by the state government. Sources privy to these developments say though the Department of Higher Education has taken up the issue with Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney underlining the urgency of conducting counselling for MBBS/BDS courses, there seems to be some delay.

■ **Page 3: Need two weeks to make merit list after GO**

**NATION | 5**  
**Stan Swamy seeks court nod to use sipper**

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

**WORLD | 7**  
**Is Murdoch dumping Trump?**

**SPORTS | 8**  
**Djokovic equals Sampras's No. 1 record**



## Biden 46th US Prez, Harris 1st woman V-P

Washington, Nov. 7: Joe Biden on Saturday triumphed over incumbent US President Donald Trump in a divisive, bitter and closely-fought presidential election, to become the oldest man ever elected to the White House. The 77-year-old former US vice-president will become the 46th president of the US, after a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win. With Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, Biden now has a total of 273 electoral votes.

Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Biden served as vice-president under former president Barack



Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Senator Kamala Harris, 56, who is of Indian origin, has become the first ever woman vice-presidential-elect of the US. She would also be the country's first Indian-origin, first Black and first African American vice-president of the country. Biden and Harris would



be sworn in on January 20.

"America, I'm honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise you this: I will be a President for all Americans - whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have placed in me," Biden tweeted. —PTI

### FILM THEATRES IN TELANGANA CAN REOPEN: KCR

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced on Saturday that a film city of international standards would be set up on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The government would acquire 1,500 to 2,000 acres of land for the film city.

The Chief Minister also said that cinema theatres can reopen now that the unlock process has begun.

He was interacting with film actors Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna who met him to hand over cheques of ₹1 crore and ₹50 lakh respectively for flood-relief operations.

Rao said a delegation of officials and film personalities would visit Bulgaria and study the facilities offered by the renowned Nu Boyana Film Studios. The delegation would then prepare plans for the film city of Hyderabad.

The CM said about 10 lakh people were directly or indirectly dependent on the film industry in the state. Due to the cancellation of shootings and closure of theatres, they had lost their means of livelihood.



Isro launches the 51st mission of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) carrying the all-weather earth imaging satellite EOS along with nine international satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. — DC

## Earth imaging satellite in orbit

**PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC**  
NELLORE, NOV. 6

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

on Saturday.

Minutes before the launch, heavy downpour and lightning at the Sriharikota range (SHAR) caused some concern at the mission control in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC).

The countdown was halted 18 minutes before launch.

■ **Page 2: Launch put off by nine minutes**

## YSRC govt offers ₹143 crore for Kapu Nestam phase 2

**MD ILYAS | DC**  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

The YSR Congress government has earmarked ₹143 crore for Kapu Nestam phase 2, which was part of their commitment to ensure the betterment of Kapus.

Minister for BC Welfare Chelluboyina Venugopala Krishna on Saturday credited ₹143 crore

to the accounts of 95,245 beneficiaries under the second phase of the scheme.

He alleged that Kapus were neglected by the Telugu Desam government.

N. Chandrababu Naidu promised to provide reservations to Kapus even though it was not in his hands and created a rift between BCs and

Kapus, and tried to benefit from the situation. Speaking on the occasion, Venugopala Krishna said that all eligible women from Kapu, Balija, Ontari and Telaga communities, who were not included in the scheme in June, will now receive ₹15,000 as financial assistance.

■ **Page 2: ₹5,542 cr spent through Kapu corporation**

## Exit polls give RJD edge in hung Bihar Assembly

### Mahagathbandhan likely to go beyond magic number 122

**VINEETA PANDEY | DC**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

The Tejasawi Yadav-led Mahagathbandhan has an edge over the ruling National Democratic Alliance to form the next government in Bihar, several Exit Polls predicted on Saturday soon after the final phase of polling in the state for 243 Assembly seats ended.

The exit polls predicted that the RJD-Congress' Mahagathbandhan may get 123 seats and form the government. The magic number in Bihar Assembly is 122. According to Polls of Polls (which takes an average of various exit polls), the JD(U)-BJP's NDA, led by incumbent chief minister Nitish Kumar, will manage to get 110 seats, the Chirag Paswan-led LJP will bag just four and others put together with Independents will get five seats.

Some pollsters indicated the results, which will be out on Tuesday, could swing either way, even hinting at a hung Assembly.

However, Today's Chanakaya, which has sometimes been accurate and had completely missed the mark sometimes, boldly stuck its neck out to

EXIT POLL RESULTS	JD(U)+	RJD+
Chanakya	55 ± 11	180 ± 11
TN-CVoter	116	120
ABP Cvoter	104-128	108-131
RTV-Jan Ki Baat	91-117	118-138
IT-MyAxis	69-91	139-161

### BJP TO GAIN UPPER HAND WINNING 16-18 SEATS IN MP, SAY EXIT POLLS

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 7

Exit polls on November 3 byelections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh by two media organisations have predicted a robust show by the ruling BJP, enabling Shivraj government to gain majority in the House. The BJP requires nine MLAs to cross the halfway mark.

The exit polls have fore-

- **THE BJP** needs to secure 116 seats to gain majority
- **IT NEEDED** just nine MLAs to cross the halfway mark in the Assembly

cast a not-so-encouraging show by the Congress, indicating that the results may dash its hopes to returning to power.

The India Today-Axis My India exit polls predicted 16-18 seats for the BJP and 10-12 seats for the Congress.

while the NDA will get just 55 seats (plus or minus 11 seats), and others, including the LJP, will manage 8

declare that the Mahagathbandhan will sweep Bihar this year, bagging 180 seats (plus or minus 11 seats),

### Find the Taj



A couple poses for a photograph in the backdrop of Taj Mahal, amid hazy weather conditions, in Agra on Saturday. — PTI

## Experts suggest PVC to stop leakage at PABR

### TN project has successfully tried out system

**HOSKOTE NAGABHUSHANAM | DC**  
ANANTAPUR, NOV. 7

The 27-year-old Penna Ahobilam Balancing Reservoir (PABR), a major source of water in drought-hit Anantapur district needs 'PVC geo membrane pack' to arrest water leakage and water to its capacity of 11 tmc ft.

The reservoir provides facilities to 1 lakh acres along with drinking water till Pulivendula in Kadapa district.

The PABR was never full to capacity and was confined to 4.11 tmc ft.

The dam can have its full storage only with the geo membrane, as was successfully tested at the Kadamparai dam in Tamil Nadu five years ago.

The irrigation department formally approved a plan towards the experiment at an estimated cost ₹21.88 crore after floating

tenders online. A TN based company quoted the lowest amount. The government needs to clear the project. The irrigation authorities were waiting for administration approval as proposals sent on June 15.

The PABR located in Kudair mandal was completed in 1993 with actual storage capacity of 11 tmc ft under the Tungabhadra Project High Level Main Canal state-I across Pennar River.

It is the main head for the district irrigation and drinking water systems in Anantapur district and was also intended for production of 40 MW of hydro-electric power.

CPI state secretary K Ramakrishna observed the project had never filled with full capacity during the last two and a half decades.

"The governments neglected the leakage problem," Ramakrishna said.

Irrigation experts have suggested water proofing the upstream face with PVC geo membrane, packing of worn out areas. A report by the chief engineer of Projects Anantapur has submitted to chief engineer of Central Designs Organisation Vijayawada and to the water sources department recommending for the geo membrane in December 2017. The proposal was prepared after a special dam safety team inspecting in Kadamparai dam in Tamil Nadu. The membrane is easily filled, spliced with solvent welding. The PVC is also proven history of use in canal lining for several decades, HLMC superintendent engineer Rajasekhhar observed.

Anantapur urban MLA Ananta Venkatrami Reddy said the issue was brought to the notice of Chief Minister and incharge minister funds.

## EG officials turn strict on cracker units

**VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC**  
KAKINADA, NOV. 7

Officials of East Godavari are making arrangements to ensure that people of the district celebrate their Diwali on November 14 in a safe manner with reduced pollution levels in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Officials have laid down strict rules and are sensitising people to celebrate the festival with lights rather than sound and smoke to reduce pollution. Officials have not allowed opening of permanent cracker manufacturing units after the blast at a unit in Vetlapalem. In view of Diwali, they say licenses will be issued only if the manufacturers comply with guidelines.

District collector D. Muralidhar Reddy said East Godavari is yet to fully recover from Covid-19 pandemic. Under the circumstances, people should celebrate the festival only by lighting lamps. Bursting of crackers would lead to smoke, which would aggravate breathing problems and be dangerous for people already suffering from Covid-19.

Joint collector G. Lakshmisha said divisional and mandal level committees have been formed consisting of fire, police and revenue officials. They will ensure that firecracker manufactures in the district comply with the strict guidelines. Only four to five manufacturing have been issued licenses so far.

Lakshmisha said strict instructions have been issued to temporary cracker sellers to conduct business following the Covid-19 protocols like wearing masks, ensuring social distancing and using sanitisers. Like in the past, all shops will not be allotted at one place. They will be spread out and only a limited number of them will be allowed to open in view of the Coronavirus.



## OTHER STORIES

**₹5,542 CR SPENT  
THROUGH KAPU  
CORPORATION**

From page 1

He said that although the scheme was launched in June, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy gave an opportunity for those who were left out to apply within a month, and now all those eligible women are provided with financial assistance. He explained that a total of 3,30,605 women were benefited through Kapu Nesam scheme and ₹495.87 crore has been credited to their accounts.

The Minister said that over ₹5,542 crore was spent through Kapu Corporation in the last 16 months, which was way more than the actual amount promised by the Chief Minister during elections.

Kapu Corporation chairman Jakkampudi Raja said Jagan Mohan Reddy had fulfilled almost 90 percent of the poll promises in just 16 months of forming the government.

**CM SEEKS TOUR OF  
NORTH ANDHRA  
TO KNOW REALITY**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

On the directions of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, General Administration Principal secretary Praveen Prakash will be touring five north coastal Andhra districts to personally look into the functioning and work in progress of various schemes. The main purpose of his tour is to have a first-hand understanding of the works under Mana Badi, Rythu Bharosa Kendras, Village Secretariats and YSR Village Clinics.

Starting from Srikakulam, he will visit the villages for inspection in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts on November 9. The next day, he will tour East and West Godavari districts.

During his visit, he will inspect the works on Mana Badi-Nadu Nedu Programme, the functioning of Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) and Village Secretariats.

**CPM LAUNCHES  
CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST BJP**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, NOV. 7

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-CPM) launched a campaign against anti-policies of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the district. They took out procession and criticised the BJP-led NDA government.

CPM Rajamahendravaram district secretary T. Arunk, district secretary member T.S. Prakash garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Jampet on Saturday.

Addressing in a public meeting, Mr Arun said that the GDP has fallen to zero and unemployment has been abnormally increased due to GST and demonetisation which leads it to economic crisis.

He alleged that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was selling public sector units like LIC, BSNL, Banks, Airports, Ports and Railways and he was showing discrimination without giving Special Category Status (SCS) and not sanctioning funds to Polavaram Project. He alleged that the agriculture sector was being handed over to corporate companies.

**JAGAN WORDS  
ONLY WINDBAGS:  
TULASI REDDY**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, NOV. 7

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee working president Dr Tulasi Reddy said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's words were "windbags" and promises made before the elections were left in the air.

He criticised the Chief Minister for saying that he would give ₹12,500 under Rythu Bharosa and was now confining it to only ₹5,000.

Speaking to the media at Vempalli on Saturday, Tulasi Reddy said that the Chief Minister has assured that work on all irrigation projects under Jalayagnam would be completed on a war-footing but they were progressing at a snail's pace.

He said that contrary to the election manifesto assurance of a ban on alcohol, the government is opening wine shops in every village. He said that the money given under the Amma Odi scheme was being looted by the government.

# Isro getting ready for 3 more launches in 2020

Space agency taken 3 months for the launch of Saturday's mission

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has got a few more launches lined up after Saturday's successful mission placing an earth observation satellite in space.

Next in line are a PSLV mission carrying a CMS-01 satellite to space, the first developmental flight of an SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) carrying an EOS-02 satellite on board and the massive GSV hoisting the DOS-03 satellite into orbit.

Isro chairman Dr K. Sivan disclosed this while commending the employees for working under difficult conditions with skeletal staff in view of the Covid-19 regulations to launch Saturday's mission.

Speaking after the launch at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shar, Sriharikota, Dr Sivan said, "This mission is very special and unusual for Isro. The space activity cannot be done from 'work from home' mode. Each engineer has to be present at the lab. When talking about missions like these, each technician, employee has to come to Shar and work together. The employees worked very hard sacrificing their personal interests."

Stating that they had a successful rocket launch just one week before Diwali, in a lighter vein he told Isro staff to celebrate the success during the ensuing festival.

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan hailed the Isro scientists for successful launch of the PSLV C-49 launch vehicle and also for placing 10 satellites in the space orbit.

He wished many more successes to the scientists in the future.

## Launch put off by nine minutes

From page 1

After hectic deliberations, the scientists led by Dr K. Sivan and senior scientists S. Somanath and P. Kunhikrishnan decided to postpone the launch by nine minutes. The countdown resumed, and the rocket, designated PSLV-C49, blasted off at 3.11 pm instead of the scheduled 3.02 pm.

After 15 minutes and 20 seconds, EOS-01 was injected into its orbit. Subsequently, nine commercial satellites were released into their intended orbits.

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

"PSLV-C49 successfully placed all 10 satellites precisely into their 575-km orbit," Dr Sivan declared and congratulated the launch vehicle and satellite teams for rising to the occasion amidst the Covid-19 restrictions.

EOS-01, earlier known as RISAT-2BR2, is an earth observation satellite intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

The international satellites — one from Lithuania, four each from Luxembourg and the USA — were launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited

(NSIL), department of space.

The Lithuania satellite, R2, is a technology demonstrator while the Luxembourg satellites, Kleos (KSM-1A/1B/1C/1D), are designed for maritime applications. The USA satellites, named Lemur (Lemur-1/2/3/4), are meant for multi-mission remote sensing.

Isro used the PSLV-DL variant, which has two strap-on boosters with 12 tonnes of propellant, for the mission. This variant was first used to launch a Microsat-R satellite on January 24, 2019.

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

The success of the mission, the first since the Covid-induced lockdown in March, was a big relief to the Isro authorities whose plans to launch at least 10 missions this year were affected by the pandemic.

Isro took almost three months for the launch of Saturday's mission due to the Covid-19 regulations which mandated use of limited manpower. Isro closed the rocket launch viewing gallery for the public and the media was not allowed to witness the launch from the space centre.

In view of the Covid-19 guidelines, former chairmen of Isro and directors of various Isro units were not invited to witness the launch.

## ISRO TEAM STAYED AT SHAR TO PROTECT IT FROM COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

In view of the pandemic, the workforce involved in Saturday's launch of the PSLV-C49 rocket was confined to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota range (Shar), during the last 10 days.

More than 200 employees including scientists, engineers and administrative staff, were accommodated at the SDSC. "It is like living in a bio-bubble, similar to what the cricketers participating in the IPL are in," a senior official of Shar told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Nellore Collector K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu said the district administration had extended support for the launch since the last two months. "We had deputed a team of doctors to Shar and also sent buses equipped with testing kits to screen SDSC employees living in the Space Colony at Sullurpeta and Shar," Chakradhar Babu told this newspaper.

He said all engineers and scientists coming to Shar from other centres in the country for launch operations were screened by the medical teams he had stationed at the spaceport. "We also arranged security for the Earth Observation Satellite when it was brought to Shar by road from Bengaluru," the collector said.

● More than 200 employees including scientists, engineers and administrative staff, were accommodated at the SDSC.

## Protests against attacks on Dalits, minorities; police arrest leaders

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

AP police have arrested leaders of Dalit and minority organisations, who were organising a bandh protesting against the increasing attacks on Dalits and minorities under the YSRC government.

Activists belonging to Jaibheem Access Justice (JAJ), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), AP, and other organisations started a rally on Saturday and squatted at Tummalapali Kalakshetram in Vijayawada raising slogans against the government and demanding protection for Dalits, minorities and other suppressed sections of the society.

Following this, police took into custody JAJ president Jada Sravan Kumar, IUML, AP, leader Khaja Vali and others. Sravan Kumar said earlier, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, then as an Opposition leader, had without any difficulty conducted his padayatra. But he is now putting restrictions on holding of protests by others, which is highly objectionable.

IUML, AP, president Bashaer Ahmad said instead of protecting Dalits and minorities, the YSRC government was suppressing the bandh call

## CREDAI WELCOMES NEW SAND POLICY, SOUGHT PRICE CUT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai) welcomed the new sand policy of the AP government. The leaders hailing CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for taking the right decision on sand and sought the government to decrease the sand price helping to rejuvenate the construction sector.

## Dalits happy in YSRC govt, says MP Suresh

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

YSR Congress MP Nandigam Suresh lamented that some Dalit organisations did not raise their voice on the atrocities against Dalits during the previous Telugu Desam government but are now parroting Chandrababu Naidu's script for gaining sympathy.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Suresh questioned the silence of some Dalit leaders during previous government when Dalits were attacked many times and said that while Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been giving priority to

BC, SC, ST and minorities, the TD and some vested interests are conspiring against the government for their personal interests.

He said that unlike in the previous government, where Dalits were insulted and assaulted by TD leaders, they are happy under the rule of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Slamming some Dalit leaders who are claiming that they would unite all the Dalits against the Chief Minister, Suresh said all the Dalits are united and supporting Jagan Mohan Reddy, which was the reason why Chandrababu Naidu lost the elections in 2019.

ernment was suppressing members of the two communities using police. He demanded unconditional release of all the arrested leaders and activists.

TD AP president K. Atchannaidu strongly objected to the "highhanded manner" in which the YSRC government had suppressed the bandh call

given by Dalit organisations. He charged that women protesters, who were exercising their democratic right of protest in Vijayawada, were intimidated by the police.

He alleged that in the past 17 months, there have been over 1,200 cases of atrocities targeting Dalits in the state.

## YSRC doing vengeful politics, alleges Naidu

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday accused the YSRC government of resorting to 'midnight arrests, night time demolitions and issuing late-night notices' in its bid to take its unquenchable revenge against political opponents.

He claimed that in the latest example a fresh

notice was given to former MP Sabbam Hari despite the status quo orders issued by the High Court till Monday.

Naidu deplored that there was no focus on development as YSRC leaders were making it a single-point agenda to harass political opponents.

He said that the government was not hesitating to violate orders of the courts in its haste to intimidate opponents.

# We will allocate houses to beneficiaries: TD

VADREYU SRINIVAS | DC  
KAKINADA, NOV. 7

The Telugu Desam gave an ultimatum to the state government that unless the government allocates double bedroom apartments by Sankranti festival, the TD would forcibly allocate the apartments to the beneficiaries during Sankranti.

The TD leaders staged protests at Rajamahendravaram and Kakinada. The TD activists, led by Kakinada former MLA Vanamadi Venkateswara Rao (Kondababu) staged an agitation in Parlopet area. Kondababu said that double bedroom apartments were built during the TD regime and beneficiaries have been selected, but, meanwhile, due to elections, the TD government could not allocate it to the beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the government was changed, and the YSRC assumed power. He said that when Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy was the Opposition leader, he promised the beneficiaries that the beneficiary amount of ₹3 lakh each would be waived. Now, after becoming the Chief Minister, Jagan Mohan Reddy said that he would give only ₹1 lakh, the contribution of the beneficiary. He said that Jagan Mohan Reddy was cheating the beneficiaries.

In Rajamahendravaram, the TD activists staged a protest led by state TD organising secretary



TD leaders and activists stage a protest, demanding that the state government allot houses to people, at dharna chowk in Vijayawada on Saturday. — C. NARAYANA RAO

Adireddy Srinivas. The activists staged a stir in front of Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation.

Mr Srinivas said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy should allocate double bedrooms to the beneficiaries as early as possible.

He said that the YSRC made allegations against the TD on housing.

Mr Srinivas said that the TD was arguing that the housing should be given to the poor without harming the environment. The former MLC Adireddy Appa Rao, the TD state general secretary Ganni Krishna and others were among those present.

## Beneficiaries, TD activists stage protests near the Tidco houses

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, NOV. 7

Beneficiaries and TD cadre staged a protest at the Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation (AP Tidco) housing complex in Kadapa Industrial Estate on Saturday as part of the "My Home is My Own" programme.

TD state organising secretary Balisetty Hariprasad said that their government, with the help of Union government, had built houses with share wall technology for the poor spending crores of rupees.

TD state organising secretary Balisetty Hariprasad said that their government, with the help of Union government, had built houses with share wall technology for the poor spending crores of rupees.

spending crores of rupees. He criticised the YSRC government for not giving a single yard of land and not building a single house in 18 months, except to say that it would give a cent of the land to the poor.

TD state organising secretary Govardhan Reddy, Kadapa constituency in-charge Ameer Babu, former director of Fisheries Corporation Yatagiri Ramprasad were present in the protest.

## NELLORE TD LEADERS DEMAND HOUSES TO BENEFICIARIES IN TIDCO COMPLEX

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

Former mayor and TD Parliament constituency in-charge S.K. Abdul Aziz along with partymen and beneficiaries staged a protest at the Tidco housing complex in Allipuram near Nellore on Saturday demanding allocation of houses to the beneficiaries.

He took out a rally with the stakeholders and staged a demonstration in front of the complex.

Aziz said that former chief minister Chandra-

babu Naidu took the initiative to build the houses using the latest shear wall technology for the safety of the structures.

He rebuked the ruling party for not allotting the completed houses to the beneficiaries.

He took a dig on the state government while alleging that they are offering house sites to the poor in burial grounds and low-lying areas.

TD leaders J. Ramanaih, P. Bhulakshmi, Tirumala Naidu and others were present.

AP | IIITS

18,000 students are studying in the four IIITs across the state

# Salaries not paid to guest faculty

NAGESWARA RAO  
BALLEDA | DC  
KADAPA, NOV. 7

Guest faculty working in IIITs across the state has not been paid remuneration for the past six months. Authorities have also not continued their services since completion of the last academic year.

This is despite the High Court ordering that the government continue their

services and pay wages. The state government set up the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) with the aim of providing higher education to rural students. After formation of Andhra Pradesh as a separate state, in addition to the existing Nuzvid and Idupulapaya IIITs, additional institutes were established at Ongole and Srikakulam.

Although not required due to low number of students in the early days of these IIITs, guest faculty members were still recruited seven years ago.

Currently, there are 18,000 students studying in the four IIITs of the state. Idupulapaya and Nuzvid have 6,000 students each and Srikakulam and Ongole have 3,000 students each.

Around 225 guest faculty

members are working in these four centres with payment of ₹30,000 per month.

Until last year, their services were renewed at the beginning of each academic year. It was expected that their tenure will get extended this year too. However, in the wake of Covid-19 epidemic and announcement of holidays for educational institutions, the government

not extended their services.

Following this, the guest faculty filed a petition in the AP High Court seeking extension of their services in the IIITs. Even though the court has ordered that the faculty be taken back on duty and paid ages, RGUKT has not yet responded. The faculty members are thus facing severe financial problems since the past six months.



## IN BRIEF

## TTD CHIEF INSPECTS ELECTRICAL BUSES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Saturday inspected the eco-friendly electrical RTC bus operation at Tirumala on the second day of its trial run.

The RTC officials explained the advantage and convenience of operating the electric buses on the ghat roads to the chairman.

The TTD chairman said that the Bengaluru based M/s Veer Vahan Udyog Pvt Ltd was engaged by TTD to convert the diesel buses into electric buses.

As part of the trial runs, three trips of new electric buses are being operated every day between Tirupati and Tirumala on the ghat roads.

For one electrical charge, the buses would run for nearly 170 km. The chairman also travelled on the electrical bus from his camp office in Tirumala up to the Annamalai Bhavan.

RTC regional manager Chengal Reddy, CMEs Narasimhulu, Srinivas and Chandrasekhar were also present.

## NEED TWO WEEKS TO MAKE MERIT LIST AFTER GO

FROM PAGE 1

Authorities at NTR University maintain that once the GO is issued for conduct of counselling, it will take them two weeks to prepare the state merit list and announce it. This is because they will have to seek applications from students to submit their details, verify the details, and then prepare the merit list keeping in mind reservations pertaining to OC, BC, SC, ST, local and non-local categories.

University authorities also say that once a tentative state merit list is announced, they will have to give two days' time for students to verify the list and raise any objections. Only then can the final state merit list be announced.

## 2 DIE IN MISHAP AFTER ATTENDING MLA BIRTHDAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, NOV. 7

Two people died and five others were critically injured in a road accident after a four-wheeler overturned at Karidikonda village in Devanakonda mandal on Saturday while they were returning to their homes after attending the birthday function of Pathikonda MLA K. Sreedevi.

The deceased were identified as Devendra, 34, and Ramu, 35, a native of Veldurthi mandal headquarter. Seven followers of the MLA, including the deceased and the injured, attended the birthday function at Pathikonda.

## 2 MOTORCYCLISTS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, NOV. 7

Two motorcyclists died in a road accident after a lorry hit their motorbike. The incident took place on the National Highway 45 near Govindapalle village in Allagadda mandal on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as D. Dastagiri, 25, and D. Pullaiah, 24, natives of Chintakunta village in Allagadda mandal.

## WOMAN ENDS LIFE UNABLE TO BEAR TORTURE BY KIN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

A 28-year-old married woman committed suicide by jumping into a check dam at Chittalur in Chejerla mandal allegedly because of harassment by the in-laws on Saturday.

The woman identified as Bakkasani Suneetha belongs to Cheerlavarikandriga in Chejerla mandal. She married one Ravi of Vavileru village 13 years back, who is involved in the brick business in Warangal.

Ravi's parents have been torturing Suneetha as she failed to conceive even a decade after the marriage and he even forced her to return to her parents two years back.

## Clean air



TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy inspects the eco-friendly electrical RTC bus operation at Tirumala on the second day of its trial run on Saturday.

## Covid test must for Sabarimala

Pilgrims have to register on virtual queue portal <http://sabarimaonline.org>

MD ILYAS I DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

The rapid antigen test (RAT) for Covid-19 has been mandatory for all Ayyappa devotees at the entry points leading to Sabarimala.

This was stated by Girija Shankar, secretary, revenue (endowments), and endowments commissioner P. Arjun Rao during a virtual conference on arrangements for the Sabarimala pilgrimage, that was chaired by the Chief Secretary.

They said that pilgrims wishing to visit Sabarimala would have to register themselves with the police on the virtual queue portal <http://sabarimaonline.org>. Devotees should undergo the antigen test, and will have to pay for it.

They said that only 1,000 pilgrims on a week day and 2,000 on weekends would be allowed to register on a first-come-first-serve basis. Clearance will be given only if the devotees upload the Covid negative certificate obtained 48 hours before registration.

Children below the age group of 10, senior citizens above 60 years and those with co-morbidities are strictly barred, they added.

They stated that the pilgrims should carry with them the BPL and the Ayushman Bharat card. Green abhishek and bathing at Pampa River are prohibited. They mentioned that night halt at the Pampa river, Sannidhanam and the Ganapathi Kovil are also not allowed and pilgrims can enter the temple town only through Erumeli and Vadaserikara routes.

The state health authorities issued Covid-19 bulletin on Saturday reporting that out of 80,082 samples tested, 2,367 individuals were found infected with Covid-19. Out of a total of 85,87,312 samples tested, 8,12,517 patients were recovered while 21,434 patients were still undergoing treatment.

East Godavari topped the state with the highest number of the daily Covid-19 cases with 386 followed by 361 in West Godavari, 358 in Krishna, 255 in Chittoor, 226 in Guntur, 153 in Nellore, 135 in Visakhapatnam, 131 in Kadapa, 102 in Srikakulam, 84 in

## State records 2,367 Covid cases, 11 deaths

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN I  
DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

AP recorded 2,367 new Covid-19 cases rising tally to 8,40,730 and 11 deaths taking the toll to 6,779 in the last 24 hours in the state.

The state health authorities issued Covid-19 bulletin on Saturday reporting that out of 80,082 samples tested, 2,367 individuals were found infected with Covid-19. Out of a total of 85,87,312 samples tested, 8,12,517 patients were recovered while 21,434 patients were still undergoing treatment.

East Godavari topped the state with the highest number of the daily Covid-19 cases with 386 followed by 361 in West Godavari, 358 in

Krishna, 255 in Chittoor, 226 in Guntur, 153 in Nellore, 135 in Visakhapatnam, 131 in Kadapa, 102 in Srikakulam, 84 in

Prakasam, 78 in Vizianagaram, 61 in Anantapur and 37 in Kurnool.

East Godavari continues to be the worst hit as it recorded the highest cumulative confirmed Coronavirus cases of 1,18,401 followed by 88,297 in West Godavari, 80,437 in Chittoor; 69,232 in Guntur, 65,469 in Anantapur, 60,405 in Prakasam, 60,276 in Nellore, 59,698 in Kurnool, 56,667 in Visakhapatnam, 53,030 in Kadapa, 44,564 in Srikakulam, 41,527 in Krishna, 39,832 in Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

The rate of recovery of Covid-19 infected patients has been good in East Godavari with 1,13,333 followed by 85,559 in West Godavari, 77,711 in Chittoor; 65,802 in Guntur, 63,862 in Anantapur; 59,257 in Nellore, 59,015 in Prakasam, 58,916 in

Kurnool, 54,452 in Visakhapatnam, 51,524 in Kadapa, 43,445 in Srikakulam, 39,235 in Vizianagaram, 37,511 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Among daily cases of Covid-19 deaths, Krishna registered three followed by two each in Anantapur and Chittoor and one each in East Godavari, Kadapa, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari.

Chittoor recorded the highest of cumulative cases of deaths with 794 followed by 630 in Guntur, 618 in East Godavari, 586 in Krishna, 574 in Prakasam, 573 in Anantapur, 515 in Visakhapatnam, 505 in West Godavari, 487 in Nellore, 482 in Kurnool, 442 in Kadapa, 343 in Srikakulam and 230 in Vizianagaram. The state health authorities discharged 2,747 patients after recovery.

## WOMAN COP MURDERED IN VIZAG

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 7

A woman constable working at the Nakkapalle police station in Visakhapatnam rural district was allegedly murdered by her husband in the police quarters located in the front of the station. The incident took place late on Friday night.

Circle inspector K. Vijay Kumar said S. Durga Bhavani and her husband Simhadri, natives of Paykaraopeta, were daily wage earners.

They have been married for 12 years and have an 11-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. After marriage, Simhadri encouraged Bhavani to resume her studies to take up a decent job. After graduation, she became a constable and posted in Nakkapalle two years ago.

After joining Nakkapalle station, she allegedly developed an illicit affair with a local youth which was objected to by her husband. They were frequently fighting, and Friday night it touched a peak.

## 6 held in currency, gemstones deal

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 7

The Visakhapatnam police arrested six persons in two different cases in the city on Saturday. Two persons were held near Port Stadium when they were about to collect ₹5 lakh as advance from a person promising him to give currency notes of Turkey at a lower rate. They showed them the currency,

which was demonetised in Turkey. They were handed over to the Fourth Town police for further investigation.

In another case, the police arrested four people who tried to sell uncut gemstones for a premium. They told the victims that the precious stones were procured from agency tracts of Rampachodavaram in East Godavari district.

## Relaxation sought in firecrackers rule

VADREVI SRINIVAS I DC  
KAKINADA, NOV. 7

Though East Godavari is famous for the manufacture of many types of firecrackers, they are now largely depending on purchasing the crackers from other states like Tamilnadu (Sivakasi), Haryana (Rohtak) and Chhattisgarh (Raipur) since the state government has not given licences to the local manufacturers for the past one year.

The East Godavari officials laid guidelines strictly, and they are giving licences to the manufacturers only for those who abide by and fulfil the norms. Only four to six manufacturers out of 56 could get the licences so far as per the new guidelines.

The East Godavari Cracker Manufacturers Association founder president, Velugubanti Satyanarayana Murthy, said that as per the new norms, the storage capacity of water should be increased from 10,000 litres to 20,000 litres and 45-metre of distance should be maintained from the traffic road to the manufacturing unit, and 15-metre should be maintained between the unit and storage shed and the drying yard. "If we want to meet all these norms, less than 70 cents of land would be required and the manufacturers are not able to invest

such amounts during this Covid-19 crisis. The cracker manufacturers have also become retail traders by purchasing the crackers from wholesale dealers who are purchasing it from other states, mostly from Sivakasi," he added.

The Association vice president Inakoti Srinivas said that the cracker manufacturers have been requesting the officials for the past five months for the licences. Unless they start the business for even one or two months before, they can't supply and meet the demand to the customers. But, now the time is not sufficient to do the business entirely, he said.

It is said that the government may ban the cracker blasts during this Diwali due to the Covid-19 scare. He said that if the government takes such a decision, the cracker trader will incur significant losses. He noted that some relaxations should be given to the cracker manufacturers to do their business.

According to sources, nearly ₹3 to ₹4 crore business would be done during the Diwali festival and already the cracker goods have reached the district. The local traders are purchasing it to sell it on Diwali.

The cracker trade also expect that the sales might decrease this Diwali due to Covid-19 scare.

## 435 CASES SOLVED IN VIRTUAL LOK ADALAT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRIKAKULAM, NOV. 7

A virtual Lok Adalat held in Srikakulam on Saturday solved 435 cases, according to district judge G. Ramakrishna.

The judge said the 435 cases worth ₹1.68 crore and of them 117 compoundable criminal cases, 229 excise cases, 17 motor accident cases, civil cases 29 and remaining others.

He said 15 benches were arranged to conduct the Adalat.

The judge, who is also president of district legal services authority, announced that a micro-level legal awareness programme would be held on November 9 to mark the occasion of National Legal Services Day. The programme would be held at Government Degree College.

## ₹1 CR WORTH GANJA SEIZED IN AGENCY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 7

The agency police on Saturday seized ₹1 crore worth ganja near Kasturba School close to Livitiputtu village under Dumbbriguda mandal and arrested 12 persons including a leading smuggler from Odisha. The Circle Inspector of Araku Valley P. Pydaiah said the gang members packed the ganja in 35 bags each weighing 5 kg and 2.5 kg in a Bolero van and proceeding to Odisha in the early hours.

The police put a check post in Livitiputtu village as a routine task and found the ganja in the SUV. The leader of the gang B. Krishna Rao hailing from Gudding village of Ganjam district of Odisha was also taken into custody. They will be produced in the court on Sunday.

## NTPC MAKING HUGE INVESTMENT IN FGD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 7

The shore-based Simhadri super thermal power plant of NTPC is currently making huge investments towards deployment of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) equipment, whereby more than 60 GW capacity has been tendered for its various coal-based power plants, to cut down harmful emissions.

Executive director V. Sudarshan Babu, while hoisting the flag to mark the raising day in

Visakhapatnam on Saturday said NTPC has undertaken many 'firsts' for the environment protection sector and working towards utilising agro residue for power generation to discourage in-field crop residue burning. NTPC has pioneered co-firing of biomass pellets along with coal in the boilers, he said.

He highlighted the four-decade-long glorious history of the organisation and the journey till 62,910 MW.

The Raising Day was celebrated through online platforms.

## SAVING LAND Within four days, sub-collector has freed 350 acres land

## Kadapa land encroachments cleared

NAGESWARA RAO  
BALLEDA I DC  
KADAPA, NOV. 7

Sub-collector Kethan Garg of Rajampeta division has become a nightmare for land grabbers in the region. Within four days, he has freed 350 acres of government land from encroachers, who include local political leaders.

Mr Garg was appointed as sub-collector of Rajampeta revenue division a few months ago.

Since then, he has been receiving a large number of complaints regarding land disputes. He also learnt that with collusion of certain officials, people were registering government lands in their own names. Following this, he sought a list of government lands from tahsildars from all mandals. These were compiled and a comprehensive report was submitted district collector Chevuri Harikiran listing the

land grabs.

Following the collector's orders, a special drive was undertaken for taking back government lands from encroachers. About 350 acres of land grabbed were cleared of encroachers in two mandals within four days. Chitveli and Obulavari-palle tahsildars were transferred for letting encroachers grab these lands. A man had occupied government lands over hundreds of acres in Tippiyapalle and

Pullampeta mandals and installed six power transformers to irrigate the lands he had started cultivating. Power supply was cut, transformed removed and the land was seized. Likewise, land on which paddy was being cultivated in vicinity of Nagireddypalle and Thotapalam in Nandalur mandal on Survey No. 25/2 was seized. Similarly, lands on Survey Nos. 248 and 253 were seized. A local leader on Survey No. 1564

had gone ahead and planted a mango orchard on 10 acres of government land. The mango plants were razed and land seized by revenue officials.

Speaking to DC, sub-collector Kethan Garg asserted that within another 15 days he will clear encroachments from all government lands in Rajampeta division. "We will not hesitate to file criminal cases against land grabbers," he maintained.



## Funds matter much in this name game

The BJP is wondering how to stop state governments renaming Central government-funded schemes after its leaders. N. Chandrababu Naidu started the trend, which has been kept up by the YSRC government which is naming schemes after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy or his father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. The BJP cites the case of YSR Rythu Bharosa, offering ₹12,500 per head, of which ₹6,000 comes from the Centre's PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The Centre pays ₹10,000 per person under the PM Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi. It has been renamed Jagananna Thodu in AP, without any financial addition from the state government. The PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan has been renamed locally, AP BJP senior leader S. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy asked the CM to fund the schemes on his own and name them after himself or his late father.

## Naveen out, KCR's aide is top spy

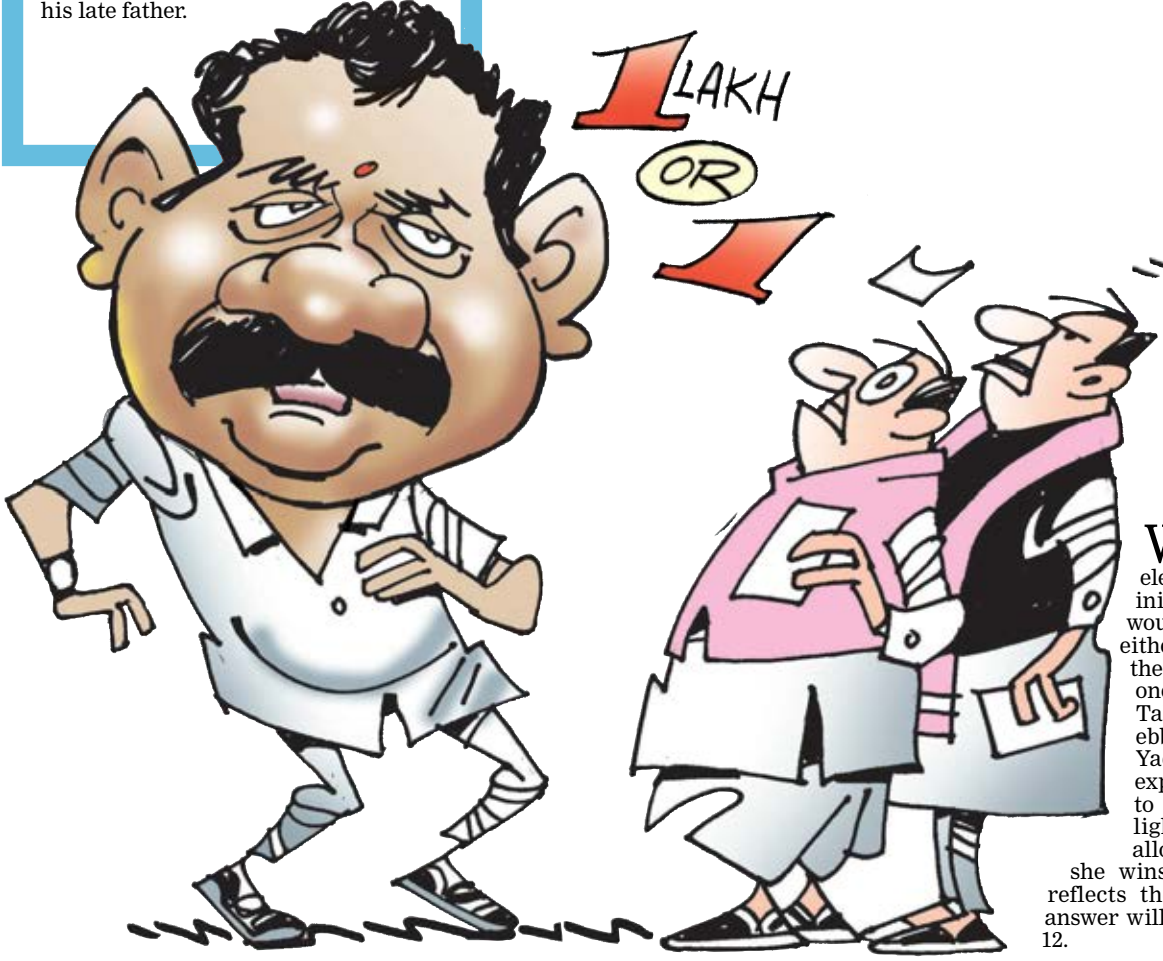
TS Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao sprang a surprise on babudom by dumping senior cop Naveen Chand, who recently retired as Intelligence chief. This is a crucial post — the incumbent moves closely with the political boss. At a time when babus were expecting Naveen to continue in office in one form or the other even after his superannuation, the Chief Minister decided otherwise. His confidant and retired intelligence official Prabhakar Rao was asked to manage the show till a regular officer is found for the job. There may be no surprise if the ad-hoc arrangement continues. There is another version that Naveen was not very keen on staying in the job because Prabhakar Rao wielded more influence with KCR than him in intelligence matters.

## Airbus needed for TD's jumbo panel

N. Chandrababu Naidu, a Congressman in his early days, has taken a leaf out of the party's book decades after leaving it. He recently announced the state executive committee with more than 200 leaders, something that has never happened in the TD. There are about 18 each of vice-presidents and general secretaries and 100-odd secretaries. It reminded everyone of the Congress culture in which everyone is a leader and the party has no cadre. Naidu's move left the leaders unhappy because they feel the sanctity of the post is lost. "As it is, we are in the Opposition and carry less weight. Having these many leaders leaves us in an awkward position," lamented a leader. "Naidu should have given us preference when in power," he said, reinforcing the criticism that Naidu doesn't believe in empowering the cadre with nominated posts while in power but remembers them only when out of power. "We need an Airbus to carry the state committee to the Mahanadu," quipped a leader.

## TRS discusses margin in Dubbak

While victory appears certain for the TRS in the Dubbak bypoll, there is some post-election uncertainty over the margin. In the initial days, it was stated that the party would get a one-lakh vote majority over either the Congress or the BJP. In fact, the popular narrative was that everyone else would lose their deposits. Talk of the margin has now ebbed. Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav seemed to inadvertently express these concerns. Replying to a journalist, he said, albeit in a lighter vein, "The winner will be allowed to enter the Assembly even if she wins by a margin of one vote." This reflects the mood, a party leader said. The answer will be available by noon on November 12.



## REGION

### SHORT TAKES

#### 24-YEAR-OLD YOUTH ARRESTED IN A KIDNAP CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, NOV. 7

A 24-year-old, Lanke Sriram, of Velpuru village in Kankipadu mandal of Krishna district was arrested on the charge of kidnapping a girl.

Eluru Circle Inspector M.R.L.S.S. Murthy said that a missing case was registered based on the complaint lodged by the girl's father on November 5. He said that the girl was traced out in a Residency in Vijayawada. He said that according to the girl, when she was waiting for auto to go to her house on the day, the youth came by car and took her. But, she became unconscious, and he left her at the residence. He said that the youth was arrested and sent to remand. The Eluru Three town police registered a case.

#### POLICE BODY REBUKES AMANCHI KIN FOR COMMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

Prakasam District Police Officers Association took strong objection to the alleged comments of Amanchi Swamulu, brother of former legislator Amanchi Krishna Mohan against the police in Chirala.

The association was reacting to the remarks of Swamulu blaming the police for taking sides after a showdown between two groups in Chirala on Friday.

In a press release on Saturday, the association said police function as per the constitution, and they are not working for any political party or group. The association found fault with Swamulu for his outburst against police in a public meeting.

Vice President of State Police Officers Association, Ch. Hazarattaiah said they would take the comments of Swamulu to the notice of higher authorities to take legal action for affecting the morale of police officers.

## Land to Shankar was conditional, HC told

Telangana says director had assured investment

VUJJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The state government told the Telangana High Court said five acres of land had been allotted to film director N. Shankar at Mokila village at ₹5 per acre on the basis of certain assurances provided by him.

Replying to questions posed by the court, Arvind Kumar, principal secretary, municipal administration, said Shankar was a well-known director from the state with 36 years of experience in the film industry. The land was allotted to him only on basis of his assurance that he will invest nearly ₹50 crore to set up a world-class film studio and training institute.

The government and Shankar filed the affidavits

● WITH REGARD to the apprehension that land worth around ₹5 crores per acre had been given to the director for ₹5 lakh, the government said that registered valuation was ₹20 lakhs per acre. It said that land along the Mokila main road was valued at ₹2 crore, but the land to Shankar was 2 km to the interior.

on a PIL which has challenged the allotment of the parcel of land. The PIL is coming up for hearing on November 18.

The government said that Shankar had committed to providing regular employment to 100 people and temporary employment to another 100, apart from recruiting cine workers. The government submitted that Shankar had already

deposited ₹4.40 crore to invest in the land as per his commitment.

With regard to the apprehension that land worth around ₹5 crores per acre had been given to the director for ₹5 lakh, the government said that registered valuation was ₹20 lakhs per acre. It said that land along the Mokila main road was valued at ₹2 crore, but the land to Shankar was 2 km to the interior.

In a separate affidavit, Shankar submitted to the court that he had not used his popularity or his local origins to get the land from the TS government. The then undivided AP government had agreed to give him the land in 2012, but it did not materialise. After the state formation, the government had allotted the land, he told the court.

#### CONTRACT EMPLOYEES PROTEST BEFORE GGH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

Contract employees hired to treat the Covid patients at the Government General Hospital attached to the Government Medical College resorted to a protest before the hospital on Saturday. The employees criticised the government for retrenching them before the completion of the contract period of six months and demanded to reinstate them.

Hundreds of employees gathered in front of the hospital, raising slogans against the government for terminating them from the services.

According to officials, most of the contract employees are paramedical staff, and they are appointed purely temporarily till the situation is controlled.

## Telangana suffers over ₹52K cr loss

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The state government has faced an overall loss of ₹52,750 crore revenue so far this financial year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdown.

This was informed by finance department authorities to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday. The Chief Minister was holding a meeting with officials of the finance department at Pragathi Bhavan on the state's financial condition following the pandemic and for a mid-term review of the 2020-2021 Budget.

The officials suggested revision of budget estimates and allocations in view of the heavy fall in the revenues. They were instructed to fix priorities and prepare a financial management plan. The officials said the government received ₹39,608 crore from April to October in the last fiscal through taxes and

## Aadhaar details relief to NRIs

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has directed officials not to insist that Non-Resident Indians (NRI) from Telangana state submit Aadhaar details to complete their agriculture land transactions through the Dharani portal.

other resources. In the current fiscal, it had received ₹33,704 crore in the same period.

The officials said that the 2020-21 budget proposals were prepared with an estimated 15 per cent growth in the state's revenue, but the pandemic had adversely impacted the projections.

They said that ₹1,15,900 crore revenue was estimated in the current fiscal but state could generate only

₹68, 781 crore by the end of the fiscal. Officials told the Chief Minister that there was a considerable decrease in the state government's share in the Central taxes.

They explained that the Union Budget 2020-21 had mentioned that the Centre would allocate ₹16,727 crore to Telangana state. The state has to get ₹3,363 crore from April to October, but it received only ₹3,339 crore.

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## ₹15 LAKH WORTH OF GOLD RECOVERED FROM OFFENDER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

The Gudur rural Police have apprehended an inter-district offender involved in 30-odd house breaking offences in broad daylight and recovered ₹15 lakh worth property from him.

The accused was identified as Chigurupati Parashuram, 33, of Jnanammakandriga in Thottambedu mandal of Chittoor district.

According to Mr Bhaskar Bhushan, Superintendent of Police, SPSR Nellore district, the police department was after Parashuram ever since he decamped with 15 sovereigns of gold and

other valuables from a house located in Anantamadugu village under Sydapuram mandal recently.

A special team formed by the SP with Sydapuram Sub-Inspector M. Siva Shankar, Gudur rural Sub-Inspector G.Pulla Rao under the supervision of Gudur rural Circle Inspector P. Srinivasa Reddy and Venkatagiri Circle Inspector N. Naga Malleswar Rao tracked down the accused.

The team collected evidence on the role of Parashuram behind the housebreak incident in Sydapuram mandal and the limits of other police stations before nabbing him

near Narayana Engineering College in Nellore city on Friday.

The team seized 316 gm of gold, two motorbikes worth ₹15 lakh from him, SP said.

He said there were cases against the accused in Gudur rural, Dakkili, Venkatagiri and also in Balayapalli police station limits.

The SP added that the accused had committed offences in Srikalahasti, Tirupati, Chittoor and also in other areas to live a lavish life.

Appreciating the investigation team for arresting the offender, Mr Bhaskar Bhushan presented cash rewards to members of the team.

## REOPEN YADADRI IN 2 MONTHS: CM

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday announced that the Yadadri temple will be renovated to become one of prestigious pilgrimage places in the country.

While reviewing the work with senior officers, the Chief Minister asked officials to expedite the works so that the temple could reopen for the devotees in next two months.

Rama Rao announced that seven acres of land at Yadadri would be donated to the Telangana State Road

Transport Corporation as the state government is utilising its land for the expansion of the temple.

He instructed the officials to ensure that the tourists from abroad felt comfortable during their visit to the temple. The Chief Minister suggested constructing food courts which would serve continental food to the tourists.

Chandrashekar Rao asked the officials to make use of 11 acres which were earmarked for parking, food courts and restaurants and ensure that parking facilities were created for 3,000 vehicles.

The Chief Minister said the Laxminarasimha Swamy temple complex should be made to reflect and highlight spirituality.

The Chief Minister said the infrastructure facilities should be created while keeping in view the several pujas performed at the temple, the services conducted for the presiding deity and the number of devotees visiting the temple. He also instructed the officials to ensure that the construction works epitomise beauty.

● CHANDRASHEKAR RAO asked the officials to make use of 11 acres which were earmarked for parking, food courts and restaurants and ensure that parking facilities were created.



IN BRIEF

STAN SWAMY SEEKS COURT NOD TO USE SIPPER

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

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

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

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

Swamy was arrested from his home in Ranchi last month in connection with the violence in Bhima Koregaon near Pune in January 2018.

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

ACTIVE COVID CASES STAY BELOW 6 LAKH

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

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,25,562 with 577 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

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

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

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

India’s Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

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

The 577 new fatalities include 161 from Maharashtra, 64 from Delhi, 55 from West Bengal, 52 from Chhattisgarh, 35 from Karnataka, and 27 each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Total 1,25,562 deaths reported so far in the country include 44,965 from Maharashtra, 11,347 from Karnataka, 11,299 from Tamil Nadu, 7,177 from West Bengal, 7,155 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,833 from Delhi, 6,768 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,295 from Punjab, and 3,748 from Gujarat. The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

“Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research,” the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification.

SHIVRAJ SAYS NATH WOING BJP MLAS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC Bhopal, Nov. 7

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

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

“It is Mr Nath who brought the culture of luring MLAs of the rival party to Congress in Madhya Pradesh. We have never approached the Congress MLAs who resigned from their party and joined BJP. They (Congress legislators) volunteered to join BJP”, Mr Chouhan said.

As many as 22 Congress lawmakers resigned from the assembly and subsequently from their party in March to pull down the Bihar government.

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

Earlier, Mr Nath has accused BJP of trying to ‘purchase’ Congress MLAs. “I have been informed by some Congress MLAs that they were getting offers from BJP to join the party”, Mr Nath said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

the Kosi region where Yadavs and Backwards are the deciding factors. Pappu Yadav contested from Madhepura.

A total of 1,204 candidates are in the fray for the 78 Assembly seats out of which the RJD had fielded the maximum (46 candidates), followed by LJP’s 42, JD(U)’s 37, BJP’s 35, Congress’ 25, the RLSP’s 25, BSP’s 20, AIMIM’s 16, VIP’s 5, CPI-ML’s 5, CPI’s 2 and HAM’s one candidate.

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

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

had won 23 out of 78 seats in the third phase of polls followed by BJP’s 20, RJD’s 20, Congress’ 11 and others four seats. In the previous two phases, the voter turnout was 54.26 and 54.05 per cent. The results will be declared on November 10.

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

Other Central leaders of the BJP who toured Bihar for campaigning were party’s national president J.P. Nadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh, MOS

home Nityanand Rai, Union ministers Giriraj Singh and Ashwini Choubey.

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

Meanwhile, the younger brother of jailed criminal Bittu Singh, wanted in more than a dozen murder and extortion cases, was shot dead on Saturday near a polling booth in the

district when he was going to cast the ballot, police said.

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

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

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

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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

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

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

The petition claimed that the company’s officials were being harassed and coerced into making false statements against a particular news channel and sought for the probe to be transferred to the CBI. The petition has named assistant police inspector Sachin Waze and assistant commissioner of police Shashank Sandbhor as the ones who were harassing them.

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

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

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

“They are the complainant and not the accused in the case. We are not saying stop the investigation, but call them only when required and on specific days and for reasonable time,” Justice Shinde said.

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

The bench then posted the petition for further hearing on November 25 and directed the respondents (the gov-

- Hansa Research Group had lodged a complaint against its employee Vishal Bhandari on October 6 after he was found allegedly accepting payments illegally to make certain households watch specific TV channels, allegedly to fudge TV TRP ratings.

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

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

ernment, Param Bir Singh, Sachin Waze and Shashank Sandbhor) to file their affidavits.

The petitioner’s advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan argued that the police were pressuring the petitioners to implicate certain news channels.

“The police were repeatedly coercing the petitioners to make false and incorrect statements. When the petitioners expressed inability to do so, they were threatened by the police saying they would be booked in the same offence and placed under arrest,” the petition said.

The company claimed that their senior officials are being harassed by the city police, which calls them for recording of statement at odd hours and then detaining them in the Crime Branch office for long hours and threatening that they would be placed under arrest.

“There has been a constant threat by the police that the petitioners would be arrested for conniving and being hand in gloves with *Republic TV*,” the petition said.

It also sought a stay on the investigation being conducted by the city police in the case and a direction to not take any coercive steps against the petitioners.

The plea claimed that the FIR was registered on

HC reserves order on Arnab’s bail plea

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 7

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the HC said Mr Goswami can move the sessions court for regular bail in the meantime.

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

After hearing arguments from all sides for more than six hours, the division

SOVAN TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN BJP AHEAD OF WB ELECTIONS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 7

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

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

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

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

On Mr Shah he said, “He wanted to know the situation. I tried to explain the issues to him. He tried to understand them during our exchange of opinion.”

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

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

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

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

It will be heard on December 8.

cials are suffering collateral damage as they are being used by the police to fight their battle against certain sections of the media.

Hansa Research Group had lodged a complaint against its employee Vishal Bhandari on October 6 after he was found allegedly accepting payments illegally to make certain households watch specific TV channels, allegedly to fudge TV TRP ratings.

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

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

TOUGH TALK Abdullah wants J&K’s special status restored

Raut tells Farooq to go to Pak

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 7

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

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

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

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

Article 370 had granted a

special status to Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Narendra Modi-led BJP government had abrogated law in August 2019 and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

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

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

The Sena few days back had also opposed the BJP over the recent decision of permitting people across the country to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Raut, in his weekly column in party’s mouthpiece *Saamna*, said that some days ago, the police stopped the youths who had gone to Srinagar’s Lal Chowk to hoist tricolor. “If we can’t hoist our national flag on that land, then what is the fun to invite countrymen for buying land in Jammu and Kashmir,” he asked.



## DECCAN Chronicle

8 NOVEMBER 2020



Shashi Warriar

Off the beaten track

## Plotting a son-rise on shifting sands

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

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

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

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

Murthy turned up one weekend. My wife, being aware of his habits, went off to watch TV, leaving the two of us to ourselves. I still haven't figured out how he managed to swallow, with no sign of haste, two large pegs of scotch, without giving me a chance to edge a word into the conversation. But then he bit into a samosa that was a little too spicy for him and had to shut up for a moment to let his tongue cool off and I grabbed the opportunity to present my case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Where?" I asked, surprised.

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

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

Subhani



## Biden takes high road, Trumpism is still alive



K.C. Singh

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

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

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

wash as Republicans have done well to keep Senate control and Mr Trump's votes exceed his 2016 tally. Mr Biden simply got more votes, breaking existing records. In a similar situation in 2016, Hillary Clinton was advised by then President Barack Obama to concede to avoid uncertainty. But Mr Trump has no adviser with the gravitas of James Baker, who convinced a cornered Richard Nixon that his only good option was to resign after the Watergate scandal. Mr Trump seems to think he can reel-back Arizona, where he's cutting Mr Biden's lead, see a turnaround in Pennsylvania as more votes are counted and keep Georgia logjammed in recounts or legal challenges. A protracted standoff, he hopes, can somehow retrieve the situation, maybe by going to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, even senior Republican leaders fear speaking the truth to Mr Trump as they can see his mesmerising grip on a huge electoral base, which many senators have just enashed.

After waiting unsuccessfully for the election to be called, Joe Biden finally addressed the nation. He chose the high road, promising to heal divides, promising to deal with the economy, climate change and the pandemic. He recommended patience, and unlike Mr Trump endorsed the integrity of the electoral process.

He assumed the posture of de facto winner by promising to again address the nation the following day. Slowly, senior Republicans are moving away from solidly backing

Mr Trump in his unconstitutional statements and unbecoming conduct. If Mr Biden widens his Pennsylvania lead to where it is seen as irreversible and the election is called, the wind may leak out of Trumpian bravado. A Biden presidency appears inevitable.

All nations are observing silently the high theatre in world's most powerful democracy. A senior BJP leader has written, as head of a party-linked think tank, to indirectly convey the government's thinking. He incorrectly claims no Republican President lost reelection in a century, forgetting George H.W. Bush's loss to Bill Clinton in 1992. Naturally, he ignores the "Abki baar" slogan Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised in Houston, crossing the line between personal friendship and political endorsement of Mr Trump. He now avows permanence of interests and not friends as the guiding principle.

A Biden presidency means both continuity and change. The basic trajectory of India-US relations will continue, but its momentum will be conditioned by how Mr Biden handles China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Trade ties would not be treated as Mr Trump did by seeking make-or-break solutions. Climate change provides a new area of convergence, which Mr Trump contemptuously ignored. But the Democrats would hold India to a higher standard of liberal democracy than the government in New Delhi is used to. Kamala Harris will remember the insulting treatment of her comrade Pramila Jayapal, convincingly re-elected, by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar. India has an outstanding ambassador in Washington, on a third posting there, having relationships with both sides. But then, as the BJP ideologue wrote, interests can outrank kinship or friendship.

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

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

## LETTERS

### CROWN OF THORNS

Just when the Democratic party candidate Joe Biden is all set to win the presidential elections in the US, the country has registered 1.27 lakh new Covid cases. And the count will rise unchecked even after vote counting stops. One cannot hope for any revolutionary steps other than maintaining status quo in the US to contain spread. A crown of thorns is awaiting POTUS.

**Dr D.V.G. Sankararao**  
Vizianagaram

### TRUMP'S SPEECH

Some of Trump's statements are undemocratic and unbecoming of his stature (*US TV networks stop airing Don's speech, DC, Nov. 7*). However, with all his idiosyncrasies and eccentric statements, one needs to appreciate the tough fight he has given Joe Biden in the elections. Further, it appears that there may not be a smooth transition of power and Trump's exit will not be ceremonious.

**Dr C. Ghanshyam**  
Visakhapatnam

### DIWALI CRACKERS

Eco-friendly festival celebrations are the need of the hour. Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations were low-key due to pandemic. So, there was no immersion of idols leading to reduced water pollution. Now, we are in the mood to celebrate Diwali with fire crackers which pollutes the air and causes sound pollution. In the midst of Covid, air pollution can do more harm to humans and animals. There must also be a ban on manufacturing of crackers.

**Pratapa Reddy Yaramala**  
Tiruvuru, Krishna district

Had the successive governments evinced interest in pollution control, the situation would not have come to this pass. Even today the pollution control boards are cutting a sorry figure as they are not able to do anything with the kind of pollution caused by the industrial sector, vehicular traffic and the rampant use of chemicals and plastic in public. Instead of promoting greenery, most successive governments turned a Nelson's eye to the deforestation.

**Govardhana Myneedu**  
Vijayawada

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### State to seek more aid for Pochampad

BY A STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD, November 7  
The State Government would ask the Centre to provide additional funds to meet the expenditure on Pochampad Project.

A minimum amount of six crore rupees is required this year to complete the target of work on Pochampad Project.

This, an official spokesman said, was in addition to the allotments already made for the year. "We are short of funds and unless the funds are augmented, it is difficult to achieve the target," the spokesman said.

He said that the State's finances were tied up with committed expenditure and it was not possible to divert funds from any other schemes for Pochampad. He also said that the Government was trying to get some amount for the project from the Telangana Regional Committee. The spokesman said that Mr. R. V. Raman, programme adviser to the Planning Commission, headed the Central team of officials to inspect the flood damage in the City.

Aakar Patel



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

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

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

Mr Jaishankar felt he could afford to do this as the US administration was headed by Republican Donald Trump, who doesn't care about human rights. It will not be possible for Mr Jaishankar to do what he did in December 2019 again. The BJP has invested a lot in doing what no other Indian government has done before — meddle in the US elections and try and get Mr Trump elected again. A group called the "Overseas Friends of the BJP" had registered itself officially as a foreign agent in the US in September. After this was discovered, the party instructed these Indian Americans to help Mr Trump in their "personal capacity" and to not use the BJP's name, but it is clear that they are all BJP supporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself asked Indians in the US to vote for Mr Trump at the "Howdy Modi" rally in September 2019. Or at least that is one interpretation we can give to his line "Ab ki baar Trump sarkar". What happens now that Mr Trump is on his way out? The BJP has begun backpedalling from its recklessness. It trotted out in-house intellectual Ram Madhav to write a newspaper arti-

cle on Saturday that "US-India ties stand on a bipartisan and strong footing". Mr Madhav wrote: "Some in India believe Biden-Harris would be bad news for US-India relations."

Actually, nobody believes that. Mr Madhav is confusing the BJP with India. There is no question that US India relations run deep and at times there is a civilisational connect between the two nations. This is not such a time. India has taken a turn towards majoritarianism. The Indian State is bullying and harassing its own citizens at a scale which has alarmed the world. Pramila Jayapal and Kamala Harris did not casually take up the issues they chose to. They will not stop taking them up now as the previously partisan BJP now pleads for bipartisan support. Events in America have strengthened the hand of those leaders there who wish India well but think of India as being a collection of Indians. If Indians are mistreated, they will object. The Democratic Party fought this election on a very liberal platform. On the question of human rights, the most powerful message they were aligned with was Black Lives

Matter. This part of the Democratic Party (which includes Ms Jayapal) has become stronger inside because of the success of the human rights messaging.

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

ments. Most important, it has recommended that the US administration act and impose "targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/or barring their entry into the United States under human rights-related financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations". India was able to ignore this till now because Mr Trump was running the administration and he was the one who would decide. India put out a statement that said: "We reject the observations on India in the USCIRF annual report. Its biased and tendentious comments against India are not new. But, on this occasion, its misrepresentation has reached new levels." This was also a form of running away. If you think you are friends with America, you have to convince them that their findings are wrong. Refusing to engage with them is not a solution. It worked when Mr Trump was in charge. It will not work now.

*The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist*



## IN BRIEF

### WH CHIEF OF STAFF TESTS VIRUS +VE

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

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

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

## BORIS HAILS DIWALI SPIRIT OF VICTORY

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

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

## RAPPER KING VON KILLED IN ATLANTA

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

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

## INDIAN ELECTED TO UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

The victory comes as India gets ready to sit in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 2021. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said that Maitra was elected on Friday to the UN ACABQ “in a strong display of support by UN member states.”

He expressed confidence that Maitra “will bring an independent, objective and much-needed gender-balanced perspective to the functioning of ACABQ”.

# Is Murdoch dumping Trump?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DePauw University com-

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

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

But Reece Peck, who wrote a book about Fox News called “Fox Populism,” said this distancing could alienate some viewers and prompt them to switch to another news source, such as OAN, a small new outfit, ultra conservative and extremely pro-

Trump. Behind Fox News, which chalked up 14.1 million viewers on US election night, is, of course, Murdoch. The 89-year-old media mogul is known for his conservative views but over the past few months has come to grips with the idea of a Biden win.

—AFP

“AMERICA, I'M honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead will be hard, but I promise: I will be a President for all Americans — whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you placed in me

JOE BIDEN, President-elect

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

DONALD TRUMP, outgoing Prez

## Don rages at ‘bad things’ inside counting rooms

Washington, Nov. 7: Donald Trump on Saturday declared himself as the winner of the November 3 presidential election, even as major American media outlets projected his Democratic rival Joe Biden as next president of the United States. “I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!”

Trump as major American media outlets declared that he has lost the election and Biden would be the 46th president of the United States. Twitter immediately flagged Trump's tweet

saying that “official sources may not have called the race when this was tweeted. Trump also repeated his allegations of electoral fraud by claiming without evidence that “bad things happened” inside the counting rooms and tens of thousands of votes were illegally received in the key battleground state of Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

## Bannon lawyer quits fraud case

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

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

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

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

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

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

—AP

## Protesters crying foul over vote counts simmer safety concerns

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

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

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

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

—AP



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

### MAIL BALLOTS

## 1942

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

## 2016

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

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

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

● 3 days after polls, mail ballots accepted in Georgia as long as they are postmarked by Election Day. North Carolina accepts them until November 12; and Nevada and Pennsylvania until November 10

● 8,900 ballots that have been transmitted to military and overseas voters could still arrive by close of business Friday in Georgia



## Why Nevada counting dragging?

Carson City (US), Nov. 7: The pace of vote-counting in Nevada is being criticised for taking too long and it's even become fodder for online jokes. But government officials say they are emphasising accuracy over speed in a year when processing an unprecedented flood of mail-in ballots under extended deadlines is taking more time.

“We told everyone early on that results would take

at least ten days,” Secretary of State spokeswoman Jennifer A Russell said in an email. The Legislature passed a bill in August to send all active voters mail-in ballots in hopes of curbing, or at least not fuelling, the spread of the Coronavirus. Those postmarked by Election Day can be counted if they arrive at election offices within seven days, which is Tuesday.

And they continue to

come in, though the number arriving each day is expected to dwindle.

“It's been a different year for us,” said Deanna Spikula, registrar of voters in Washoe County, the state's second-largest county that includes Reno. “The volume is definitely something that we've never seen before in the state as far as receiving and processing mail-in ballots.”

—AP

## Biden: Youngest senator to oldest Prez

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

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

hood seemed all but over for a third time until he won South Carolina's Democratic Party primary on February 29, forcing most rivals out of the race and making one of the most dramatic comebacks in American political history. Biden served two terms in the White House as former president Barack Obama's vice president, capitalised on that experience to portray himself as a tested leader and a better alternative to Republican incumbent President Donald Trump.

While accepting the Democratic presidential nomination in August,

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

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

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

Referring to his eight years as the vice president, Biden said that he

was proud to have played a role in securing Congressional approval for the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which he said was a “big deal”. “Helping open the door to great progress in our relationship and strengthening our strategic partnership with India was a high priority in the Obama-Biden administration and will be a high priority if I'm elected president,” he had said.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1942, Joe Robinette Biden Jr studied at the University of Delaware and then earned a law degree from Syracuse University in 1968.

—PTI

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is not likely to want the election to come down to himself and his colleagues. Roberts, who was not on the court for Bush v Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, has often tried to distance the court from the political branches of government and the politics he thinks could hurt the court's reputation.

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

—AP



SHORT TAKES

Saints top for 1st time in 32 years

London: Southampton swept to the top of the Premier League for the first time since 1988 with a 2-0 win against Newcastle, while Burnley remain without a victory this season after they were held to a 0-0 draw at Brighton on Friday. Goals from Che Adams and Stuart Armstrong ensured Southampton finished the day at the summit of the English top-flight table for the first time since Chris Nicholl's team 32 years ago. It is Ralph Hasenhuttl in charge of the Saints now and the Austrian has masterminded a remarkable revival on the south-coast. Just over a year after they were humiliated in a 9-0 thrashing by Leicester at St Mary's, Southampton have been transformed so thoroughly that they now look capable of beating anyone in the country on their day. Sustaining their place at the top is likely to prove a step too far, yet there is no reason why they shouldn't dream of European qualification and even a surprise bid to finish in the top four. — AFP

Ram reaches Challenger final

Eckental, Germany: Indian ace Ramkumar Ramanathan fought back from a set down to beat Germany's Marvin Moller 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 and enter the final of the Eckental Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday. Ramkumar fired 12 aces and won five of seven break points on his way to the final of the Euro 88,520 event. Ramkumar will face Sebastian Korda of United States in the final on Sunday. This is his fifth singles final on the Challenger circuit. He has never won a title. On Friday, Ramkumar achieved the best performance of the season by reaching the semifinals with a straight set 6-2, 6-1 win over Evgeny Donskoy of Russia. Before this event, making the Bangkok Challenger quarterfinals in January was the unseeded Indian's best result. Entering the last-four clash on the back of a convincing quarterfinal win over Donskoy, Ramkumar started the match on the wrong foot, losing the first set 4-6. — PTI

Azam leads Pak's rout of Zimbabwe

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Skipper Babar Azam smashed a robust half-century to lead Pakistan's six-wicket rout of Zimbabwe in the first Twenty20 international in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Azam proved yet again why he is one of the top batsmen in white-ball cricket with an attractive 55-ball 82 to anchor Pakistan's chase of a modest 157-run target in 18.5 overs. The win gives Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and a 12th straight win over Zimbabwe in all Twenty20 international cricket. Wesley Madhevere struck a maiden half-century to lead Zimbabwe to 156-6 after they won the toss and batted. Azam punched nine boundaries and a six during his 80-run stand for the third wicket with Mohammad Hafeez, who made 36. — AFP

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 156/6 (Madhevere 70, Rauf 2/25, 2/37) lost to Pakistan 157/4 (Babar 32, Hafeez 36, Muzarbani 2/26).

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

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

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Semifinal from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

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

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

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Thiago Santos vs Glover Teixeira and other bouts from 8.30 am on Sony Ten 2

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Can Delhi eclipse Sun?

Inconsistent Capitals face red-hot Hyderabad in Qualifier 2

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7 Peaking at the right time and with all their boxes ticked, Sunrisers Hyderabad are certain to hold sway over a dishevelled Delhi Capitals in the second Indian Premier League qualifier here on Sunday. The past couple of weeks have been a picture in contrast for the two franchises.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gavaskar blames Kohli's batting skills for RCB exit

Dubai, Nov. 7: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has partly attributed the Royal Challengers Bangalore's failure to go all the way in the 13th IPL to captain Virat Kohli's inability to live up to his high standards with the bat.

RCB were knocked out of the tournament after losing by six wickets to former champions Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

"Looking at the high standards that he sets for himself, maybe he would say he didn't quite match that and that's one of the reasons why RCB weren't able to go through," Gavaskar told broadcaster Star Sports. "...Because when he scores those big runs



Sunil Gavaskar

along with AB de Villiers, they invariably have big scores."

Kohli made a little over 450 runs in 15 matches at a strike rate of 121.35 and his team often struggled to get going in the

middle-overs.

The batting legend pointed out that the RCB's bowling lacked enough firepower to consistently challenge the opposition and prevail.

"If anything, their bowling has always been their weak point. Even now, in this particular team, they have got an Aaron Finch, who is a fine T20 player, young Devdutt Padikkal, who began well and then Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers, then you have really got it made," he added.

Gavaskar also believed that the RCB must find a player who can play the role of the finisher and suggested that Shivam Dube can fit into that role. — PTI



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

— BCCI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

- OVERALL:
- Matches: 17
- Hyderabad: 11
- Delhi: 6

MEETING IN LEAGUE STAGE

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

FOR THE RECORD

- Warner with 546 runs at an average of 42 in 15 innings is the second highest run-getter in this IPL.
- Kagiso Rabada with 25 wickets at an average of 19.48 in 15 innings is the second highest wicket-taker in this IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Holder praises his bowlers for 'using skills and brains'

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7: West Indies captain Jason Holder, whose late inclusion galvanised a much-improved SRH, praised his side's bowlers for "using brains" as much as skills which earned them a place in the second IPL qualifier against Delhi Capitals.

Sunrisers bowlers stifled RCB to a paltry score of 131 and won the 'Eliminator' by 6 wickets with Holder playing an important all-round role with 3 for 25 and 24 not out off 20 balls.

"For me, it's all about execution. We have had

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

The Caribbean skipper is happy that SRH have "peaked at the right time".

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

finals," he said.

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

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

RCB SHOULD REMOVE VIRAT FROM HOT SEAT: GAMBHIR

New Delhi, Nov. 7 Former India opener and two-time IPL champion skipper Gautam Gambhir feels Virat Kohli's non-performance as Royal Challengers Bangalore captain should lead to his removal from the hot seat as it is now a question of accountability.

Known for his straight-talking, the hero of India's two World title triumphs made it clear that Kohli's name as a leader shouldn't be taken alongside the likes of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who are IPL's most successful captains.

Asked if Kohli should be removed from RCB's captaincy, Gambhir told 'ESPNCricinfo', "100 per cent, because the problem is about accountability.

Eight years into the tournament (without a trophy), eight years is a long time.

"Tell me any other captain forget about captain, tell me any other player who would have got eight years and wouldn't have won the title and would have still continued with it.

"So it has to be accountability," Gambhir, who led KKR to two IPL titles in 2012 and 2014, said on the show 'Time Out'.

Gambhir has been a staunch critic of Kohli's IPL leadership over the years but he insisted that there is nothing personal. "...but somewhere down the line, he needs to put his hand up and say, 'yes, I am responsible. I am accountable'."

— PTI

Novak bags 6th year-end No. 1 spot

Djokovic equals Sampras' record

Paris, Nov. 7: Novak Djokovic on Friday emulated childhood hero Pete Sampras by claiming the year-end world number one ranking for the sixth time.

Djokovic, 33, was confirmed in the position after Rafael Nadal, the only man who could deny him top spot, opted not to play in the Sofia event next week.

Djokovic was also a season-ending world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018.

"Pete was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true," said Djokovic.

The Serb star, a winner of 17 Grand Slam titles, had already moved past Sampras' tally of 286 weeks in the top spot in September.

Djokovic can go past all-time record-holder Roger Federer's mark of 310 weeks on March 8 next year.

"To finish the year as No.1 is one of the most impressive achievements in our sport, one which requires sustained excellence across the season," said ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi.

"To see Novak achieve this for the sixth time and

Pete Sampras was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true.

— NOVAK DJOKOVIC  
Serbian tennis star

match Pete's record is simply incredible, and he continues to cement his place in the history books."

Djokovic has compiled a 39-3 winning season, picking up four titles — a record eighth Australian Open, Dubai, the Cincinnati tournament, which was staged in New York, and in Rome.

However, he was disqualified from the US Open for hitting a line judge with a ball before his bid to win a second Roland Garros ended in a tame defeat to Nadal in the final.

Djokovic was virtually assured of ending 2020 on top of the rankings when he reached the quarterfinals in Vienna last month.

He was stunned 6-2, 6-1 by Italian lucky loser Lorenzo Sonego in the Austrian capital, suffering the heaviest loss of his career in a best-of-three sets clash. — AFP



Supernovas edge past Trailblazers, in final

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

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

Trailblazers were then restricted to 144 for five in 20 overs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ayaz Memon  
Over The Top

Which team will play Mumbai Indians in the IPL final on Tuesday?

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

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

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

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

Cut to the last fortnight,

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

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

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

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

amply evident in the first qualifier against Mumbai when DC were reduced to 0-3!

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

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

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

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

Their next match, against RCB, was a cliff-hanger, victory coming only in the final over. The calmness of Williamson and the rich experience of Holder saw them through.

These two wins showed how quickly and well SRH could adapt to different pitches and situations. That's because they've struck a formidable combination nearing the end of the league phase.

Though hit by injuries (Mitch Marsh, Bhuvaneshwar Kumar, Williamson, Vijay Shankar, Saha have been casualties, long or short term), SRH have been able to find adequate replace-

ment, regroup in time, and now look like the team to beat.

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

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

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

Diminutive leg spinner Rashid Khan has been the stand out performer, with others only a whit behind.

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

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