

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 4 NOVEMBER 2020



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## WEATHER

**Max:** 31.6°C  
**Min:** 19.2°C  
**RH:** 48%  
**Rainfall:** Nil  
**Forecast:** Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 32/19 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+48,187)	(+554)
83,10,665	1,23,579
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,536)	(+3)
TS: 2,42,506	1,351
(+2,849)	(+15)
AP: 8,30,731	6,734

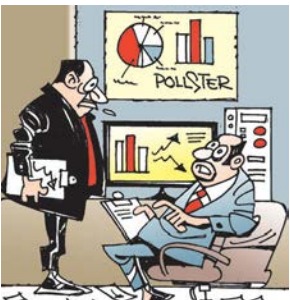
### CASES AROUND THE WORLD

**4,76,06,115**  
**DEATHS**  
**12,15,485**  
**COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES**  
**215**  
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Chavithi till 5.14 am (Thursday)  
**Star:** Mrigasira till 4.49 am(Thursday)  
**Variyam:** 8:37 amto 10:22 am  
**Durmuhurtam:** 11:36 am to 12:22 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 12 noon to 1:30 pm  
**HILARI CALENDAR**  
**Rabbi-ul Awwal 17, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.14 am  
**Zohar:** 12.10 pm  
**Asar:** 4.08 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.50 pm  
**Isha:** 6.59 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:16 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5:43 PM**  
**MOONSET 9:11 AM**  
**MOONRISE 8:32 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



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

## SHORT TAKES

## No hike in bank charges: Centre

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry on Tuesday said that there has been no increase in service charges by any public sector bank even as Bank of Baroda decided to withdraw changes made with regard to the number of free cash deposit transactions in a bank account per month. BoB had made certain changes with effect from November 1, 2020, with regard to the number of free cash deposits and withdrawals per month, a finance ministry statement said. "BoB has informed that in the light of the Covid situation, they have decided to withdraw the changes," it said.

## Ola talks to states on e-scooter plant

**New Delhi:** Ola is in talks with various state governments to set up India's largest e-scooter manufacturing plant, according to sources. Sources close to the development said Ola Electric, the EV arm of the ride hailing company, has been engaging with state governments, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, to set up an e-scooter manufacturing plant with an annual capacity of about 2 million units. The facility is proposed to be set up on a 100-acre land. — PTI



Samantha Jones, left, and Peter Vina take selfies near the Michael Jordan statue on US Election Day on Tuesday, in the atrium of the United Center, transformed into a super voting site in Chicago. — AP

# Americans begin to vote to choose new President

**Scranton/Washington, Nov. 3:** After a rancorous presidential campaign that exposed the depth of the political divisions in the United States, Americans streamed to the polls on Tuesday to choose either incumbent Donald Trump or challenger Joe Biden to lead a pandemic-battered nation for the next four years. Voters lined up around the country to cast ballots, with no signs yet of disruptions at polling places that some had feared after a protracted campaign marked by provocative rhetoric.

Ahead of Election Day, just over 100 million voters cast early ballots either by mail or in person, according to the US Elections Project at the University of Florida, driven by concerns over crowded polling places during the pandemic as

● **THE MOST** closely watched results will start to trickle in after 7 pm EST (5.30 am IST, Wednesday), when polls close in states such as Georgia

well as extraordinary enthusiasm. Biden, the Democratic former vice president who has spent a half century in public life, has held a consistent lead in national opinion polls over the Republican president. But Trump is close enough in several election battleground states. Supporters of both candidates appeared to agree the election was a referendum on Trump and his tumultuous first term.

Among the most closely contested states that are expected to determine the outcome are Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carol-

ina, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and Georgia, with Democrats hoping that Biden may even threaten Trump in states that once seemed like Republican lands such as Ohio, Iowa and Texas.

Voters on Tuesday will also decide which political party controls the US Congress for the next two years, with Democrats narrowly favoured to recapture a Senate majority and retain their control of the House of Representatives.

The most closely watched results will start to trickle in after 7 pm EST (5.30 am IST, Wednesday), when polls close in states such as Georgia. But it is possible that it could be days before the result is known, especially given the massive surge in voting by mail. — Reuters

■ **Full coverage on Page 5**

## PREZ DECLINES TO MEET PUNJAB CM ON FARM BILLS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Protesting over President Ram Nath Kovind's refusal to meet him over the Centre's new farm laws, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will lead a "relay dharna" of Congress MLAs from his state at Rajghat in the capital on Wednesday.

Mr Singh had sought an appointment with the President to seek his assent to the agriculture Bills passed by the Punjab Assembly which, if passed would negate the Centre's farm laws. But the state government said that the Rashtrapati Bhavan has declined his request for an appointment.

Following this, the chief minister decided to hold a relay dharna at Rajghat.

# IS sympathiser kills 5 in Vienna

**Vienna, Nov. 3:** Five people died, including an assailant, and 17 others were wounded in a shooting in the heart of Vienna, hours before a coronavirus lockdown started, Austrian authorities said on Tuesday.

The dead attacker was a 20-year-old Austrian-North Macedonian dual national who had a previous terror conviction. The suspected attacker was shot and killed by police. Vienna's hospital service said seven people were in life-threatening condition on Tuesday after the attack.

Meanwhile, world leaders voiced their condemnation over the multiple shootings in Vienna that killed four people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that he was "deeply shocked and saddened by the dastard-

ly terror attacks in Vienna".

US President Donald Trump said, "These evil attacks against innocent people must stop. The US stands with Austria, France, and all of Europe in the fight against terrorists."

"The fight against assassins and those who instigate them is our common struggle," said Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman.

"We French share the shock and sorrow of the Austrian people," said President Emmanuel Macron. Russian President Vladimir Putin "strongly condemned the cruel and cynical crime which once again confirmed the inhumane nature of terrorism", the Kremlin said.

■ **More reports on Page 5**

# 82.6% polling in Dubbak; all parties claim victory

**EVM glitches, Covid safety steps cause delay in voting**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

A brisk and peaceful polling was witnessed in the Dubbak byelection on Tuesday, after a high-octane campaign by all principal parties in the state. Chief Electoral Officer Shashank Goel declared that 82.61 per cent polling was recorded at the end of poll at 6 pm. The counting of votes will be held on November 10.

The polling, which started on a dull note early in the day, picked up momentum around lunch hour. When compared with the 2018 Assembly elections, the bypoll registered a 3.38 per cent lower voter turnout. The voter participation in the 2018 Assembly election was the highest-ever recorded in Dubbak constituency since it was created. During the 2014 Assembly election, the constituency had recorded 82.6 per cent voting.

The byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting TRS MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy.

Though the constituency witnessed a heavy turnout



Voters queue up to cast their vote in the byelection for Dubbak Assembly constituency in Dubbak town on Tuesday. — DC

of voters, polling booths did not wear an overcrowded look in view of Covid-19, as voters and party workers did not hang around polling booths or on its premises for a long time.

According to returning officer Bharathi Hollikeri, no untoward incidents were reported across the 315 polling booths in the

constituency.

Though Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) developed technical glitch causing delay in voting at some places, she said technicians fixed snags very soon and the polling resumed immediately.

She pointed out that delay in few places was inevitable as election offi-

cers were bound to impose Covid regulations.

Hollikeri said Covid-prevention steps like thermal screening, social distancing and the distribution of gloves increased the average time required for casting a vote.

■ **Page 2: Parties disown 'viral' video on social media**

# Bihar voters seal fate of key leaders

**NAYEAR AZAD**  
**with agency inputs**  
PATNA, NOV. 3

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

The second phase is crucial for both the NDA as well as the Opposition alliance being led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal. For one, it will decide the fate of Grand Alliance's CM face Tejashwi Yadav. In this phase the JD(U) has fielded candidates on 43 seats, the

● **IN THIS PHASE**, the JD(U) has fielded candidates on 43 seats, the BJP on 46. From the Grand Alliance, the RJD fielded candidates on 52 seats, Congress on 24 and three Left parties on 14 seats.

BJP on 46. From the Grand Alliance, the RJD fielded candidates on 52 seats, Congress on 24 and Left parties on 14 seats. The RJD is locked in a direct fight with the BJP on 28 seats and with the JD(U) in 24 seats. The Congress is contesting 12 seats each against the BJP and JD(U).

■ **Page 2: Patna records lowest voter turnout in Bihar**  
■ **More reports on Page 6**

# Booth-capturing mars MP bypolls

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDURY | DC**  
BHOPAL, NOV. 3

Incidents of firing and booth-capturing marked the 28 Assembly bypolls in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. However, they saw an impressive voter turnout of 65.39 per cent despite the coronavirus pandemic.

The Gwalior-Chambal region, where bypolls were held in 16 seats, and which is considered the stronghold of BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, however, witnessed a low turnout.

Official reports said miscreants opened fire outside polling booths at Jatabar and Pura in

Sumawali constituency in Morena district. Four people were arrested over the firing at Jatabar, but the police is yet to identify those behind the firing at Pura.

Elsewhere, miscreants stormed a polling booth at Lolai village in Mehgaon constituency in Bhind district, and tried to snatch an EVM, but officials there foiled the booth-capturing bid. This disrupted polling for some time, but it resumed after the police took control. Congress and BJP workers clashed at Malroad polling booth in Gwalior constituency and Tilabali Chanda in Sambre seat, leading to injuries to several people in both parties.

# Postman to help with pension docs

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3.

Pensioners, irrespective of whether they receive Central or state pensions, from now on, need not step out of their homes to submit their annual life certificates to their respective pension offices.

The Central government on Tuesday announced that Jeevan Pramaan, an Aadhaar-based Biometric Enabled Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners can now be generated through post offices or at

the doorstep of the pensioner through postmen.

A pensioner whose Pension Sanctioning Authority (PSA) is available on Jeevan Pramaan and is eligible for Jeevan Pramaan certification, can check if his or her respective PSA is listed for this facility at <https://jeevan-pramaan.gov.in/newassets/docs/List>.

Typically, the months of November to March are when pensioners queue up at their local pension office to submit a physical life certificate. However,

with the Covid-19 pandemic still raging across the country, with nearly all pensioners falling into the vulnerable age group of over 60 years, pensioners will now have an option to get their Jeevan Pramaan certification done at home by a postman. A service request for this can be placed through PostInfo app.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has called on all pensioners to stay safe and at home and said that it has put in place a multi-agency system that

allows EPS pensioners with a choice to select the service delivery agency as per their convenience.

EPS pensioners can submit Aadhaar-based Biometric Digital Life Certificate or Jeevan Pramaan at banks, nearest post office or at Mee Seva centres.

Pensioners only need to carry their mobile, bank pass book, Pension Payment Order number and Aadhar number. The EPFO also said alternately, they can contact their postman for submitting the Jeevan Pramaan certificate.

# TS MBBS, BDS admission process remains hassle-free

**N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

The registration of NEET candidates for admission into MBBS and BDS colleges in Telangana state took off to a smooth start much to the relief of students and their parents. The Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences began the registration process on November 2. Contrary to the technical

glitches that plagued the Centre's NEET portal, the state's website functioned smoothly.

"The Centre's portal let down students across the country at the time of release of result as well as during the first two days of registration. The payment gateway also didn't work because of which we couldn't raise objection to a question," said a parent.

The tsmedadm.tsche.in

was hassle-free and students could register themselves by submitting relevant details and paying registration fee.

"Steps taken by the TS government is laudable because the system worked without glitches though we have to upload about dozen certificates," said another parent drawing a comparison with NEET portal where there is no uploading of any certificate.



## SHORT TAKES

TS RECORDS  
1,536 NEW COVID  
CASES, 3 DEATHSBALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

New Covid-19 cases in Telangana state have shot back up to their pre-weekend low testing levels with the health department saying on Tuesday that the state found 1,536 more people infected by the Coronavirus on Monday. On Sunday, on account of very low number of tests, the number of new cases reported was 922. While 24,643 tests were conducted on Sunday, the number of tests rose to 45,021 on Monday.

Three more people also lost their lives to Covid-19 on Monday taking the tally of the dead from the disease so far in the state to 1,351 even as the total cases rose to 2,42,506.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area, which will soon go to elections to choose corporators for the civic body's City Council, continued to report the highest number of fresh Covid-19 cases in the state. The department said 281 more people were found diagnosed with Covid-19 in the city limits of Hyderabad city and the rest of the GHMC area.

A very steep rise in cases was reported from Bhadradi-Kothagudem district which reported for Monday 123 new Covid-19 cases compared to just 37 on Sunday. Kamareddy district that had just one new case on Sunday, saw new Covid-19 cases jump to 38 on Monday while in Khammam the cases rose from 31 to 97 over the these two days.

In Medchal-Malkajgiri, the cases rose from 40 to 96, in Nalgonda from 33 to 81, in Ranga Reddy from 56 to 92 and in Vikarabad from 2 to 22 from Sunday to Monday. The department said 2,827 Covid-19 patients were admitted to various hospitals in the state as on Monday for treatment while 14,915 were either in home or institutional isolation.

NURSES WANT  
FACILITIES TO  
UPGRADE SKILLSKANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

Nursing Association of Telangana has complained that nurses in the state are not being provided employment benefits or facilities to upgrade their skills. Their condition is thus much neglected when compared to nurses of other states.

Lack of elections for the nursing council and there being only a registrar is posing problems for nurses in terms of contract jobs, upgrading skills and availing Covid-19 incentives, said convener of nursing association Laxman Rudawat.

"Conducting elections is important, as the recognised body can then authoritatively work for welfare of the nursing community. After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, nurses have no representative body in the TS state. While in AP they have had two rounds of elections and have a fully functional nursing council," Laxman Rudawat remarked. He pointed out that though a building has been constructed for the nursing council, there has been no elective body since the last seven years to run the council.

On RTI queries filed by nurses over non-conduct of elections, the TS government has replied that no one had come forward to contest the elections. The Nursing Association of Telangana contested this stand saying there has not even been a notification for holding council elections.

Laxman Rudawat said due to these problems, the nursing fraternity has suffered in both the job sector and upgrading of skills.

VILLAGE  
SECRETARY, APM  
SUSPENDEDDC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 3

District collector C. Narayana Reddy suspended Bhairapur village secretary Padma Kumari in Mopal mandal and assistant project manager Sailoo in Yedapally mandal on Tuesday.

Following the charges of negligence in duties by village secretary and APM, collector ordered suspension of the duo who neglected avenue plantation and sanitation programmes.

Additional collector B.S. Latha, district panchayat officer Jayasudha were asked to take action in this regard.

## Poll process



Voters queue up outside a polling booth to exercise their franchise for the Dubbaka by-election on Tuesday.

— DC

Uttam files complaint  
against fake news

## Video claims Cong candidate for Dubbaka has joined TRS

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

Just a few hours before start of polling in Dubbaka by-election on Tuesday morning, a video clip with logos of prominent news channels went viral on social media saying Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, Congress candidate in the by-election, had joined ruling TRS.

Shocked Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and party working presidents Revanth Reddy and Ponnann Prabhakar released a video condemning the fake news displaying logos of two prominent channels. They demanded that the Police Department and Election Commission immediately take action against culprits trying to manipulate the poll outcome.

Congress leaders alleged the news could have been created and circulated by minister Harish Rao and



Congress MP and PCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with senior party leaders, meet DGP M. Mahender Reddy and Election Commissioner on Tuesday lodging a complaint to condemn the fake video clip on social media with fake logos of prominent TV channels regarding Congress candidate for Dubbaka by-election Cheruku Srinivas Reddy. — P. ANIL KUMAR

BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao due to fear of losing Dubbaka.

Congress candidate Srinivas Reddy also released a video describing the viral message as false propaganda and blaming Harish Rao and Raghunandan Rao for the same.

He urged Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan to immediately

"Bartaraf" (dismiss) Harish Rao from cabinet and demanded that the BJP suspend Raghunandan from the party.

Advising Congress cadre not to believe the fake news, the Congress nominee lodged a complaint with Siddipet police against the fake news.

Later, the TPCC president, along with senior

● CONGRESS LEADERS alleged the news could have been created and circulated by minister Harish Rao and BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao due to fear of losing Dubbaka.

leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy and former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav; met DGP M. Mahender Reddy at the Police Headquarters demanding against the offenders.

After meeting the DGP, the TPCC team went to office of the Election Commission and submitted a complaint to the additional election commissioner demanding that the culprits be arrested before the end of polling, so that justice could be better served.

Uttam Kumar Reddy recalled that a similar incident had happened in Kerala and the State High Court disqualified the winning candidate for spreading such false news against his opponent.

## Bandi: BJP to win Dubbaka

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar hoped that their party would win in the Dubbaka bypoll. He stated according to the the ground report from the constituency, their party cadres and leaders are very confident of victory in Dubbaka.

Sanjay Kumar said that the people of Dubbaka had warned Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao against his adamant and family rule and wanted to teach him a lesson in the Dubbaka bypoll. The same lesson they will give the TRS party in the upcoming Graduate MLC and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, he said.

Sanjay Kumar thanked the BJP cadre, leaders and the people who he said had worked hard to



State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar welcomes political leaders who joined the saffron party in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

ensure the victory of the party candidate in Dubbaka.

Sanjay Kumar lashed out at the Chief Minister for "pushing the state into debt". He accused the TRS leaders of spreading false propaganda against the

Centre and condemned the party leaders' for alleging that the Centre had not given funds to the state.

Several party leaders from Suryapet constituency joined the BJP at the party office in the city.

Patna records lowest  
voter turnout in Bihar

From Page 1

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

Another important leader whose fate will be decided in this phase of polling is Nand Kishore Yadav of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He is the sitting legislature from Patna Sahib Seat and a minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet. Janata Dal (United) leader

Parties disown  
'viral' video on  
social media

From Page 1

In view of a clash between BJP and TRS workers at a hotel in Siddipet on Monday night, the police took strict security measures to ensure that the polling goes on peacefully.

Ruling TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha cast her vote at Chittapur village in Dubbaka mandal while Congress candidate Cheruku Srinivas Reddy exercised his voting right in Thoguta Mandal headquarters. BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao cast his vote at Boppapur in Dubbaka mandal. Medak MP K. Prabhakar Reddy, who hails from the constituency, and his family members cast their votes at Potharam village in Dubbaka mandal.

Chief Electoral Officer Shashank Goel inspected the polling trend at various polling stations in Dubbaka town and also inspected the strong room at Latchpet, where the EVMs will be stored after receiving them from the polling booths on Tuesday night. The TRS, Congress and the BJP remained confident of winning the byelection.

Finance minister T. Harish Rao thanked the voters for turning up heavily to cast their vote despite the threat of Covid-19. The minister observed the polling trend from his camp office in Siddipet. He lashed out at the BJP for trying to confuse the voters ever since the bypoll was notified. He said even today BJP leaders tried to confuse the people by circulating a morphing video in social media wherein the Congress candidate is showing as joining the TRS.

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy thanked the voters and exuded confidence about the Congress winning the Dubbaka seat. He alleged that the BJP and the TRS circulated a morphed video to ditch the winning chances of the Congress.

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar thanked the voters and said that the victory of the BJP is imminent in Dubbaka. He said the people voted for the BJP with great hope as it is the only party that could bring a change in politics of Telangana in the future.

STUDENTS WANT  
TS TO ADDRESS  
THEIR ISSUESHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

Students in the state on Tuesday took to Twitter protesting against the TRS government for not solving their issues since the lockdown period and urged minister K.T. Rama Rama to solve them immediately.

Students from across the state latched on to the trending hashtag 'KTR Speak on Student Issues' on the microblogging site which saw close to 50,000 tweets till 7.15 pm on Tuesday filled with pleas as well as complaints. Most students have requested the minister to cancel exams in state. So far, there has been no response from the government.

TSBIE DECLARES  
27K ABSENTEE  
STUDENTS AS PASSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Tuesday announced that the state government has decided to declare absentee students in the exams held in March as passed by extending them grace marks.

At least 27,589 will be benefited by this decision and will be a one-time measure.

According to the Inter Board 27,251 students were marked absent during the March 2020 Intermediate public exams, whereas 338 students were exonerated by the Malpractice Scrutiny Committee.

NO AADHAAR  
FOR DHARANI  
PORTAL: HCVUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday directed the state government not to insist that persons possessing agricultural or non-agricultural lands provide their Aadhaar details. Further, no such information must be fed into the Dharani Portal and whatever data already gathered and uploaded on the portal must be kept safe, secure and out of reach of third parties.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy prima facie felt Telangana government collecting information from property owners about agricultural lands and non-agricultural property, apart from Aadhaar and caste details, for feeding into Dharani Portal is not backed by any law.

The division bench directed the government to file its counter affidavits by November 17 and adjourned the case to November 20 for further hearing. It ordered that till such time, the information cited should not be sought from the citizens.

The bench was hearing three petitions and similar pleas on the issue. Saketha Kasibathla, Advocate, and I. Gopala Sharma filed two public interest litigations aggrieved by action of Telangana government in obtaining various details including caste for uploading into Dharani Portal.

Another petition filed by Karre Anand Kumar sought direction to TS government not to collect such information from people.

While adjudicating the cases, the Chief Justice pointed to a news report in *Deccan Chronicle* on November 3, 2020, that the Dharani Portal had been hacked, which shows that adequate preventive measures have not been taken to protect data of citizens.

COVID-19 HITS  
TAX COLLECTIONS  
IN KHAMMAMA. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC  
KHAMMAM, NOV. 3

The lockdown has affected the collection of property arrears in Khammam Municipal corporation. Tax collectors have been unable to collect 30 per cent of the tax arrears in the corporation.

Property owners told bill collectors they could not pay taxes as tenants were not paying the rents.

There are 21,105 residential and commercial properties in the limits of Khammam Municipal Corporation.

Nearly 10,000 employees working in various private companies live in rented houses. Many of them either lost their jobs or received half salaries.

The tax arrears in Khammam are near ₹7 crores and the tax collection is only ₹2.22 crore so far. The government facilitated 'one time settlement' for property owners.

Under it, the KMC offered 90 per cent subsidy on the penalty interest on the tax arrears if paid one time. September was the deadline, but many owners did not come forward to pay the taxes.

Khammam mayor Papalal said, "We are asking the tax collectors to convince the owners to pay the taxes. A revenue mela will be organised to fulfill the task."

Interestingly, the tax collections in Madhira, Sattupalli, Madhira and Wyra are not impressive one.

The tax collectors collected only ₹5.5 lakhs against the arrears of ₹37.12 lakh in Wyra.

In Sattupalli, the tax collections are ₹27 lakh against ₹1 crore.

The situation in Madhira is no different. The tax collection is only ₹19 lakh against ₹75.12 lakh.



There are around 30-40 dental clinics in the Sardar Mahal area near Charminar.

## KEEP | SMILING | Dentists with just practical knowledge, charge reasonable rates, fee is just ₹100

## Roadside Sardar Mahal dental clinics are a hit

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 3

Saleem Khan, an auto driver in his late 40s, was finding that his toothache sometimes turned unbearable. One fine day, he dropped a passenger at 'Baldia Daftar' (municipal office) at Sardar Mahal in the lane on one side of Charminar.

This lane is famous for its local dental clinics, with 30-40 of them spread in the area.

Just out of curiosity, Saleem asked one of the guys in a clinic about his toothache. With a consultation fee of ₹100, Saleem got rid of his pain.

Sardar Mahal dentists

charge very reasonable rates. Consultation is just ₹100. Clean your teeth for just ₹200. Charges compared with dental hospitals are three to four times lesser.

The dentists here are those with only practical knowledge.

Services they provide include root canal therapy, tooth extraction, dentures and cleaning.

Most owners of the clinics have a Diploma in Dental Hygienist or Diploma in Dental Technician. These are two-year diploma courses after intermediate.

According to Aliuddin, a dental hygienist of Iqbal Dental Clinic, their investment is low and they work

on very less profit margins.

"Patients who come to us are mostly referred by those whose tooth ailments have been cured by us," Aliuddin said.

Bhaskar Patal is one who is a regular for cleanup of his teeth. He also brings his parents for treating their tooth ailments.

"I have total faith in these dentists. I recommend them to my friends too if they have any tooth problems," he said.

A medical practitioner by profession, on condition of anonymity, said, "I practice general medicine in one of the government hospitals in the old city. I have been visiting these dentists since a long time.

Their treatment is very professional and cost effective. You also do not have to wait for long."

Dr Moinuddin, a BDS, said, "I work as a consultant to a clinic here. The success rate of treatment in these clinics is 100 per cent. India is most negligent about dental hygiene. Though we have patients with tooth ailments, most clients are gutka chewers. They come here to get their stained teeth cleaned."

Before the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown, each clinic in Sardar Mahal area used to have around 50-60 patients.

"Now we get around just 5-10 patients," said Mohd. Mushtak.



## OTHER STORIES

## COURT: FILE A CASE AGAINST FORMER MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 3

The Junior Civil Judge Court in Yellandu directed the police to file a case against former MLA of Yellandu Ooke Abbaiah on the complaint of Chippa Ramprasada.

The court asked the police to file a case under IPC sections 379, 420, 294 (B), 403, 407, and 506 against Abbaiah and start an investigation.

The court responded to the petition filed by Ramprasada, a resident of Tekulapalli complaining that the former MLA has not only stolen his car by deceiving him but also threatening him.

The court directed the station house officer of Yellandu on the petition of complaint.

## FIVE MAOIST COURIERS ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHADRACHALAM, NOV. 3

Five persons working as couriers to the CPI-Maoist party leaders in Chhattisgarh were arrested at Gandhi Bomma Centre in Charla on Tuesday.

As per the details, the five persons have been identified as Koram Joga, Podium Joga, Badisa Lakshma, Sodi Lakma, and Korsa Suresh. They have been working as couriers, members of the local militia, and sympathisers of the party to the Maoist leaders of Jegurugonda Area Committee Jagadeesh and Nagamani for the last four years. They used to supply all types of material including medicines, essential goods, clothes, and others to these leaders.

The five were wandering suspiciously in Charla and the police took them into custody. They purchased olive green cloth at Bhadrachalam and came to Charla to go to Chhattisgarh.

## RICH TRIBUTES PAID TO KOMARAM SURU

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, NOV. 3

Top officials of the Adilabad district on Tuesday paid rich tributes to the Komaram Suru who was associated with Komaram Bheem in the fight for *jal, jangal and jameen*.

Collector Sikta Patnaik, SP Vishnu S. Warrior and project officer of ITDA, Utnoor Bhavesh Mishra, Utnoor DSP Uday Kumar Reddy attended the 23 death anniversary of Komaram Suru at Kolamguda in Danthanpalli mandal in Adilabad district. Officials garlanded the Suru's statue.

Addressing on the occasion, officials asked the Kolam to bring their problems, if any, directly to their notice so that they could solve them immediately and added that the state government was committed to the welfare and development of Kolam Adivasis.

Villagers accorded raising welcome with traditional drums beats to the top officials on their arrival at the event. Komaram Suru Yuva Sena district general secretary Komra Raju, Kolam Sangham state president Tekam Bhaskar, district president Kodapa Sone Rao, and Kolam Sangham senior leader Kumra Eshwari Bhai, Adivasi leaders Atram Bheemrao and Marsakola Tirupati, Vedma Bojju, and others were present.

## KOMARAM SURU

was associated with Komaram Bheem in the fight for *jal, jangal and jameen*.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 3

In a huge relief to the people, Covid-19 positive cases have gradually declined in the undivided Nizamabad district for the last few days. People are doing their routine work taking Covid-19 precautions like wearing face masks and applying hand sanitizers. As a result, Covid-19 positive cases sharply decreased and beds set up for Covid-19 patients are lying vacant in hospitals.

For the last one week, an average of 25 Covid-19 cases reported in Nizamabad and

Kamareddy districts respectively.

Due to mild symptoms, the patients are preferring home isolation instead of admitting in hospitals. Of the 45 beds in the district hospital in Kamareddy and area hospital in Domakonda, only three in-patients admitted for Covid-19 treatment.

In Nizamabad district, 400 beds are available for Covid-19 patients in the Government General Hospital in Nizamabad, district hospital in Bodhan and area hospital in Armoor. Only 80 in-patients

● **DUE TO mild symptoms, the patients are preferring home isolation instead of admitting in hospitals.**

are getting treatment for Covid-19 in these three hospitals in the district. Rapid Antigen Tests in primary, urban and community health centres, district hospitals and area hospitals are conducted.

In Nizamabad Government General Hospital alone, CBNAAT tests are conducted

for Coronavirus patients. However, 13 containment zones in Kamareddy district and 12 containment zones in Nizamabad district continued to curb the spread of Coronavirus. Few people are also joining private hospitals for Covid-19 treatment.

Speaking to this correspondent, Nandipet mandal education officer Srinivas Reddy said that they are conducting online classes with Covid-19 protocol. There is no need to worry and take precautions while discharging duties, he advised the teachers.

“If anyone contracts the virus, the patient should take the kit from government hospitals for treatment for early recovery,” he opined.

Nizamabad district collector C. Narayana Reddy repeatedly said on various occasions that Covid-19 patients could get the proper treatment only in government hospitals. There are full arrangements to treat the Covid-19 patients in government hospitals, where infrastructure like oxygen beds, medicines and proper diet is available for the patients, he added.

## Cong launches signature campaign against agri bills

Farmers would suffer losses at the hands of private traders, say leaders

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 3

The Congress party launched a signature campaign on a grand note against the agricultural policies that are adopted by both the state and Central governments at the district headquarters in Choppadandi mandal of Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

To make the programme successful, the party-appointed mandal coordinators under the leadership of DCC president Kavvampalli Satyanarayana. The mandal coordinators will create awareness among the people.

They will explain to them especially to the farmers about the demerits of the new agricultural policies that are introduced by TRS government in the state and BJP government at the Centre.

Launching the programme, the working president of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), Ponnamm Prabhakar alleged that the BJP government is trying to hand over the entire agriculture sector to the corporate companies, in part of it, the Central government introduced new Agricultural Acts.

With new agriculture reforms, the corporate companies will make the farmers who own their fields as labourers and will rob the hard work of farmers. That is why along with the Congress party around 25 other political parties present across the country are opposing the new agricultural Acts introduced by the BJP government. Even its alliance party Akali Dal which is in power in Punjab and one of its Union minister by resigning to the post started agitation against the BJP government.

In almost all parts of the country, the farmers will sell their produce in the market yards at their respective regions as per their convenience.

To create awareness among the farmers about the loss they would face with new agricultural bills introduced by the BJP government, the Congress started a signature campaign programme across the state.

Under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, several movements are going on across the country oppos-



TPCC working president Ponnamm Prabhakar and other leaders take signature from the farmers opposing the agriculture bills that are introduced by the BJP government, in Choppadandi in Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

— DC

## Cong mobilising farmers to support their agitation

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, NOV. 3

Congress party is using cotton purchases of this kharif season at market yards to opposing the three farming or agriculture Acts that were brought in by the Central government recently.

Congress party is mobilising the farmers' opinion with signatures campaign against the BJP-led Central government and also the anti-farmers policies of the state government.

Congress leaders have launched a signature campaign against the three farming acts and creating an awareness among the farmers about the adverse effect of the Acts on the farmers' interest.

Local Congress leaders have launched a signature campaign at Kagaznagar market yard and collected signatures

from the farmers who came to sell their cotton produce or other produce on Tuesday.

Senior Congress senior leader Sircilla Rajaiah attended the programme as a party observer.

Congress leaders said till recent past only farmers had the right to storage the agricultural produce but now businessmen got right to store the agriculture produce with the recent farming Acts.

Congress party Komaram Bheem Asifabad district committee president K. Vishwaprada said the existing market yards will gradually disappear and are facing the threat of closure in the future with the new farming Acts.

Congress leaders also criticised the ruling TRS government for not opposing the three farming Acts brought in by the Central government. Congress party Sirpur

(T) Constituency in charge

Palvai Harishbabu said they were trying to create awareness among the farmers about the ill effects of the three farming Acts and expose the double standards of the ruling BJP government at the centre as far as farmers welfare is concerned. He said that farmers would suffer losses at the hands of private traders with the new agriculture acts.

Congress party leaders are planning to intensify their agitations on the farmers' issues in the coming days since many farmers are in distress due to pest attacks to standing crop cotton, cotton crop damage due to heavy rains.

It is also said that farmers are being exploited by the private traders and offering low prices to the farmers for cotton produce.

## MAHA DHARNA FOR MSP IN ARMOOR TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, NOV.3

Farmers will stage a maha dharna in Armoor on November 4 demanding minimum support price for paddy and maize.

The District Congress Committee is making arrangements for the agitation.

In view of farmers' protest, police clamped prohibitory orders in the Armoor division.

However, few farmers under the aegis of BJP staged protests in Velpur on Tuesday.

Bharatiya Janata Party district president Baswapuram Laxminarsaiah, BJP Balkonda Assembly constituency in-charge Dr A. Mallikharjun and others took part in the agitation.

Police personnel took into custody some BJP leaders and shifted them to Morthad police station.

spokesperson Medipally Satyam, TPCC secretaries Bomma Sri Ram Chakravarthy, Padi Koushik Reddy, District president K. Satyanarayana, Choppadandi mandal coordinator Rehamaath Hussain were among those who were present.

## OFFICIAL INSPECTS BURIAL GROUND WORKS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
JAGTIAL, NOV. 3

District collector G. Ravi, on Tuesday, ordered the officials of the concerned department to coordinate with the sarpanches and local public representatives and speed up the construction works of burial grounds which are taken up in 18 mandals in Jagtial district.

The collector inspected the construction works of burial grounds which are under progress in Polasa, Gutrajipalli and Gullapet villages of Jagtial mandal and Arpapalli and Laxmidivepally villages of Sarangapur mandal.

Ravi said that the government had sanctioned ₹12.1 lakh for the construction of around 380 burial grounds for the district. Out of which the works around 292 burial grounds are under progress and the construction works of about 85 burial grounds are left in pending while works of three burial grounds have not yet started because of various reasons.

In some villages, public representatives are neglecting the works on burial grounds.



Additional collector Anudeep hands over the sale agreement deed along with the land pattadar passbook in the name of Buddavarapu Himabindu in Dammamet in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district on Tuesday. It is the first registration that was done in the Dammamet tahsiladhar office in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district after Dharani came into operation. Himabindu booked the registration slot for 32 kuntas that was sold by Sunnam Sujatha in Gandugulapalli village. The land is located in a non-scheduled area and there is no problem with land registrations there.

— DC

## ‘VRO’ thrashed for wrong entries in PB

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, NOV. 3

A woman farmer on Tuesday thrashed the former VRO Rohit of Kapparala for entering their land details wrongly (less than the actual land they had) in the pattadar passbook after conducting a land records purification. Recently, the state government removed the VROs from that post. The victim farmer said 3.25 acres was entered as 2.6 acres in the pattadar passbook.

According to sources, Rajavva, wife of Gangaram who owned the land, alleged that VRO Rohit made them

make the rounds from pillar to post for correction but he did not rectify the problem even after repeated appeals. Rajavva's is a native of the Vaddadi village of Tamsi mandal.

Rohit came to Tamsi mandal headquarters for programme organised to create awareness about the Dharani portal for officials and farmers on Tuesday. Rajavva picked up an argument with Rohit on her land issue and exchanged heated arguments.

Irate Rajavva thrashed Rohit with chappal for doing injustice to her being a responsible officer.

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## IN BRIEF

PROXY WRITER  
IN JEE MAINS  
SCAM HELDMANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, NOV. 3

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

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

Though NTA officials without thorough probe in the scam claimed that it took place only in the specific examination centre located at ION Digital Zone in the Azara area of the city and nowhere else in the country, sources admitted that the NTA was reluctant to hold any nation-wide probe into the scam as any such investigation by any competent agency may open Pandora's box.

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

COVID CASES  
LOWEST AFTER  
OVER 100 DAYSDC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

Central government officials on Tuesday said that a steady decline in daily fresh cases in India has been noted but a large part of the country's population is still susceptible to the coronavirus infection. On Tuesday, 38,310 new cases were detected which was lowest after over 100 days.

The national Covid-19 recovery rate is now 91.96 per cent.

"It is satisfying that there is an improvement in overall cases and there is a consistent decline in active cases. However, in some states it is a reverse trend and there is a rise in fresh cases. In Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi and Manipur we are noticing rise in cases. In neighbouring cities of Delhi – Gurgaon and Faridabad – there is a sharp increase in new cases," said NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul.

"We are susceptible to a very large extent and the situation in America and Europe is showing (that). We don't know the behaviour of the virus completely. So, we need to save the gains that we have earned in our fight against the pandemic till now," Mr Paul said.

BJP MLA FOR  
ACTION AGAINST  
BACHCHANBHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 3

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

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

On October 30, in the Karamveer special episode of KBC, Mr Bachchan, the host of the show, had asked contestants activist Bezwada Wilson and actor Anup Soni: "On 25th December 1927, Dr BR Ambedkar and his followers burned copies of which scripture?" The options given to the contestants were: Vishnu Purana, Bhagavad Gita, Rigved and Manusmriti.

Mr Bachchan said the answer was Manusmriti and then explained Ambedkar's actions. The BJP MLA said that all the four options of the question pertained to the Hindu religion. "It is clear that the motive behind this question was to hurt the sentiments of Hindus," he alleged.

## Record 89.8 per cent vote in Nagaland

Moderate to high voting in bypolls for 54 Assembly seats across 10 states despite Covid fears

**Lucknow/Ahmedabad, Nov. 3:** Moderate to high polling was recorded on Tuesday in by-elections to 54 assembly constituencies in 10 states despite the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic. Polling was by and large peaceful as voters, wearing masks and gloves, queued up at polling booths where election staff in personal protective equipment (PPE) suits assisted them during the first pan-India electoral exercise in the pandemic.

The bypolls coincided with the second phase of assembly elections in Bihar. Counting of votes will be held on November 10.

While Pungro-Kiphire seat in Nagaland saw the highest voting of 89.8 per cent, the turnout was the poorest in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Karnataka at 39.15 per cent, according to figures from officials of respective states.

In most of the other seats the polling figure was above 50 per cent.

**UTTAR PRADESH:** An average of over 53 per cent voters exercised their franchise in seven seats in Uttar Pradesh, where 88 candidates were in the fray, according to state election officials.

**GUJARAT:** Bypolls to eight Assembly seats in Gujarat witnessed 58.58 per cent voter turnout, officials said.

Bypolls in the state are being held in these seats after Congress MLAs resigned ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in June. Five of them later joined the BJP and are contesting again.

**HARYANA:** Nearly 68 per cent voters exercised their franchise in Baroda seat in Haryana which had recorded 69.43 per cent polling in the 2019 assembly polls. There were 14 candidates, including Olympian wrestler and BJP nominee Yogeshwar Dutt, in the fray for the seat, which has around 1.81 lakh registered voters.

**KARNATAKA:** Poor voter turnout was recorded in Raja-rajeshwari Nagar bypoll in Karnataka at 39.15 per cent, while 77.34 per cent of voters exercised their franchise till 5 pm in Sira constituency. The death of Sira JD(S) MLA B. Satyanarayana in August and the resignation of RR Nagar Congress MLA Munirathna from the assembly last year led to the bypolls.

**CHHATTISGARH:** A high voter turnout of 77 per cent was recorded in the bypoll to Marwahi Assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh. The death of former chief minister and JCC(J) legislator Ajit Jogi necessitated the by-election in the seat.

**JHARKHAND:** Around 62.51 per cent of total 5.63 lakh voters cast their ballots in the by-elections to two assembly seats in Jharkhand. The voter turnout was 65.27 per cent for Dumka reserved seat and 60.30 per cent for Bermo seat in Bokaro district, the Chief Electoral Officers office said. Chief Minister Hemant Soren's younger brother Basant Soren of the JMM is pitted against former cabinet



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

— PTI

Nitish attacked  
with onionsNAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, NOV. 3

While campaigning for the third phase of polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was attacked with onions and stones in Madhubani on Tuesday.

The incident occurred when he was talking about the state's development and employment during his public meeting. According to reports from Madhubani a group of youths present in the rally got angry with his comments and started throwing stones at him. This is probably the first time that stones and onions were thrown at the CM during an election campaign.

"You can keep throwing stones at me. But I ask you to beware of such people who have been promising 10 lakh jobs as they don't know anything about governance. I can tell you that they have no knowledge about the ABC of governance and cannot do anything. I also ask you not to indulge in all these anti-social activities otherwise nobody will be able to save you", Nitish Kumar warned those who were throwing stones at him.

Later when his security personnel tried to intervene and detain people who were involved in the attack, the CM stopped them and said, "Let them

do it. They are being misled by people who have done nothing for the state. I have already told you that I am working hard to create opportunities here so that people don't go out to other states for work. They got the opportunity for 15 years but they didn't give any jobs".

Nitish Kumar whose party is an ally of the BJP in Bihar has been facing criticism from the opposition parties including LJP Chief Chirag Paswan. On Tuesday Mr. Paswan while talking to reporters had said that "Nitish Kumar will not return as CM of Bihar. I can give you in writing as people are angry with him for not doing anything for the state".

Criticizing the grand alliance for the incident JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha in a statement said that "everybody is aware how Chief Minister worked hard for the development of the state. Such kind of incident is not good for the democracy".

The BJP also condemned the attack on the CM. Party spokesperson Sanjay Tiger in a statement said that "attack on CM during the campaign should be condemned. Violence has no place in democracy and those who are indulging in such activities should understand that they have the power of voting".

minister Lois Marandi of the BJP in Dumka.

**NAGALAND:** A total of 84.41 per cent votes were

cast in the 22 polling stations under Southern Angami-I constituency in Kohima district while

## Modi mocks at Congress' shrinking tally in House

NAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, NOV. 3

While Bihar voted for the second phase of polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed rallies in Araria and Saharsa and urged voters to "choose NDA for the overall development of the state".

During his speech at both the rallies, he also dismissed speculations about anti-incumbency against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his government and said that "last decade was spent in meeting the needs of the people".

He also used the occasion to mock at the shrinking tally of the Congress party in both the houses of parliament. He said that the current state of Congress shows how people have rejected the party.

"Look at the condition of the Congress today. Even if they combine the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha they won't find even 100 MPs. They are in such a state because people are not happy with them. Now they are trying to save the party by tagging with others," Modi said at a rally in Forbesganj.

During his public meetings, he also reminded people of the "jungle raj" and poor law and order scenario during the 1990s when the RJD was in

● **DURING HIS** speech at both the rallies, he also dismissed speculations about anti-incumbency against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his government and said that "last decade was spent in meeting the needs of the people."

power. He said that the turnout during the ongoing elections shows the mood of the voters in Bihar.

"Reports show what Bihar wants. The message is clear that people have rejected 'Rangbazi' and 'Rangdari' and development is winning. They have also rejected the dynasts and want only those to remain in power who work for the welfare of people", he said.

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

According to political analysts here, his public meetings in Araria and Saharsa hold significance as both the districts in Seemanchal are considered a stronghold of RJD led grand alliance. Forbesganj in Araria is a Muslim bastion while

Saharsa in Kosi is a Yadav stronghold.

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

The JD(U) is trying its luck on 20 seats and its ally BJP has fielded 13 candidates in the region. The NDA partner VIP is also contesting 3 seats and Jitan Ram Manjhi's party HAM has fielded one candidate from the region.

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

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

Adding further he said that, "some people have problems with the NDA winning elections. They keep asking why Modi win elections. The answer is simple Modi wins because he works for poor people, mothers and sisters. They bless me".

There were complaints from both Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party and Naga Peoples

Front under Southern Angami-I seat but it didn't disturb the polling, officials said.

— PTI

70.45% VOTE  
IN ODISHA  
BYPOLLSAKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BALASORE, NOV. 3

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

The Election Commission of India said at least 70.45 per cent of voters turned out to cast their ballots by 6 pm.

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

The locals gheraoed the woman when she was distributing cash alongwith her supporters. They later informed the police about the incident.

The woman hailing from the neighbouring Mayurbhanj district was questioned by cops regarding her act.

Chief Electoral Officer S.K. Lohani said the police questioned the woman and she was later let free after due to want of concrete proof.

"I talked to the Balasore district collector and local police there. They were probing into the matter. However, they said no concrete evidence with regard to distribution of money was available," the CEO said.

In Balasore town, tension prevailed as a policeman engaged in security duty was found circulating chits which contained the image of conch, the party symbol of the ruling Biju Janata Dal.

The CEO said the concerned police man and Booth Level Officer were replaced immediately resumed without any further hiccups.

The two constituencies went to bypolls as the sitting lawmakers died in July due to illness. While BJP represented the Balasore Sadar seat, the BJD held Tirtol seat.

In Balasore, the BJP has fielded lawmaker Madan Mohan Dutta's son Manas Kumar Dutta, ostensibly to cash in on sympathy factor. Similarly, the BJD has fielded Bijaya Shankar Das, son of MLA Bishnu Charan Das.

The Congress which was relegated to third position in the 2019 assembly elections, is also tying its luck in both the constituencies. The party has fielded Mamata Kundu in Balasore Sadar and Himansu Mallick.

The results will be declared on November 10.

## CRUCIAL | MOVE China confirms another round of Corps Commanders meeting on Ladakh issue

## India, US, Japan, Aus kickstart Malabar exercise

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 3

India and three other 'Quad' countries — US, Japan and Australia — on Tuesday started the naval exercise 'Malabar' in Bay of Bengal. Meanwhile, China confirmed another round of Corps Commanders meeting on Ladakh standoff and a mutual agreeable date is being worked out.

While India is trying to peacefully resolve the six month military stand-off with China through negotiations, it is also forming up strategic alliances with other nations.

This is reflected by India's invitation to Australia to participate in Malabar Naval exercise and signing Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Co-operation with the US last week.

This is a signal to China that India will not bow down to any pressure, even as it wants peace in the region.

The Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, and Royal Australian Navy on Tuesday carried out anti submarine warfare operations, cross deck landings and seamanship manoeuvres at sea.

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

China said on Tuesday that it hoped that the quadrilateral Malabar exercise would be conducive to the regional peace and stability instead of the contrary.

"We hope that relevant countries' military opera-

tions will be conducive to peace and stability in the region instead of the contrary," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

India, US, Japan and Australia are part of the 'Quad' alliance, which Beijing considers as an anti-China grouping.

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

During the 7th round of Corps Commanders meeting, India and China on October 12 had agreed not to turn differences into disputes and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Both sides had agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels.



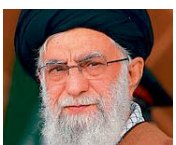
The four-day-long first phase of the Malabar naval exercise is seen as a prelude to future military cooperation among the member nations of the Quad Coalition.





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

— AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI, Iran's supreme leader



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

— ANGELA MERKEL, German Chancellor

# US votes: Long lines seen outside polling stations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

### ELECTION FIGURES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

100m

Americans had already cast ballots by Tuesday



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

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

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

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

### WHAT'S 270? THE MATH GAME BEHIND POLL

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

#### IT'S THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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

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

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



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

#### WHAT BIDEN NEEDS:

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

### TRUMP CLAIMS HARRIS WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT

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

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

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

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

— PTI

## Don, Joe woo undecided voters

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

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

### AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD FOUR MORE YEARS OF TRUMP, ASSERTS HARRIS

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

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

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

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

— PTI

## Dems back mail ballot delivery

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

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

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

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

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

— AP

### KEEPING TRADITION: 2 NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWNS CAST VOTES AFTER MIDNIGHT

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

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

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

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

— AP



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

— AFP

## Khamenei mocks US election

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

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

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

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

— AP

### ISLAMIST | TERROR

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

## 5 dead in Vienna attack; assailant had previous conviction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— AP



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

— AFP



## DECCAN Chronicle

4 NOVEMBER 2020

### Need to reform mindset of politicians and judges

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

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

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

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

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

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

### A win for diversity

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

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

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

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Subhani



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



Mohan Guruswamy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whatever be the Supreme Court's final decision, that is unlikely to come in time before January 20, 2021 when the US traditionally swears in the new President on the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C.

If that doesn't happen, the world will have to live with President Donald Trump for some more time.

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

#### LETTERS

##### FIGHT TERROR

We are seeing a spurt in Islamist terrorist activities to which several lives were lost in France and Austria. Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly expressed immediately solidarity with and promised all support to French President Emmanuel Macron in his fight against terrorism. Time was when the West displayed a 'couldn't care less' attitude towards Pakistan's atrocities in Kashmir. These countries have now woken up to the menace of terrorism.

**K. Srinivasa Charyulu**  
Hyderabad

##### MASKED KTR

It is a good move by MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao to form the Strategic Nala Development Plan to study and work for the development of nalas and storm water drains in the city to prevent flooding in the event of heavy rains that lashed the city last month inundating several colonies and low-lying areas. In doing so the government should not compromise in razing the encroachments on nalas and the plan must be meticulously done for the free flow of water to contain future flooding. The engineers concerned must make sure that genuine material is used by the contractors while widening nala and storm water drains and make them accountable.

**Bhavani Sishtla**  
Hyderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

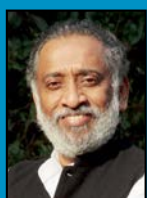
### LIC to give housing loans to policy holders

NEW DELHI, November 3. The Life Insurance Policy holders who want to own flats will be able to get loans from the LIC when a Bill submitted to the Centre goes through Parliament. LIC Chairman T.A. Pai told a news conference here today that he had already sent a draft Bill to this effect to the Union Housing Ministry and the State Government for their consideration.

LIC at present could advance loans only against plots or constructed houses but not against flats.

Mr Pai explained that proposal was to mitigate the sufferings of a number of houseless persons in congested cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi. Under the Bill the national title to the land on which the flat is constructed would be given to LIC to enable it to advance loans.

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



### Crunch time for officials preparing Budget 2021

The countdown to the annual Budget for 2021-22 has started amid the urgency to push economic growth badly mauled by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is already talk of a third stimulus soon, going by the recent utterances of the finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman. The Budget-making babus led by finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey have their work cut out. Sources say that the first meeting of the budget preparing exercise took place with officials of the department of financial services as well as MSME, housing, steel and power ministries in attendance. The almost one-month long exercise to finalize the Revised Estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and Budget Estimate for 2021-22 will conclude on November 12 after the expenditure secretary, T.V. Somanathan, completes discussions with other secretaries and financial advisors.

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

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

#### MAHARASHTRA'S BIG IPS MUDDLE

As many as 36 IPS officers in

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

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

Sources say that this situation has created unease in the force, since the state government's refusal to clear the air, has only led to more rumours.

It is well-known by now that Mr Thackeray wasn't too pleased with the transfer of cops effected by the Mumbai Police Commissioner in July when he reshuffled 10-DCP rank officers in consultation with the government. Later, the trans-

fers were put on hold. Clearly, there is uncertainty and perhaps sharp differences on the issue within the government, even as the wait grows longer.

The government says the "exercise" will be completed soon, but that may be little relief to the cops forced to cool their heels waiting for a decision.

#### IAS VS OTHERS IN HARYANA

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

of HCS officers in the state transport department.

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

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

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.*



## quick BITES

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

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Exports dip 5.4%, trade deficit narrows by 25%

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

## Zydus Cadila files Covid drug application



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

## Future Retail files caveat in Delhi High Court

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

## Singapore to discontinue S\$1,000 notes

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



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

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

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

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

India's foreign ministry and the Adani Group didn't respond to requests seeking comments. Adani, India's biggest ports and logistics company, had signed a preliminary agreement for the project last year.

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



## APSEZ Q2 NET PROFIT UP 32%

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

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

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

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

## Abu Dhabi fund first to get 100% tax exemption

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PSBs won't raise deposit, withdrawal charges: Govt

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 3

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

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

Alluding to media reports of steep increases

## STIMULUS SOON, SAYS SECY

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

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

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

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

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

## Lockdown hurts new investments

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## World's best-performing airline stock is Jet Air

ANURAG KOTOKY & NUPUR ACHARYA NOV. 3

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Govt investment in weather forecast pays off: Survey

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

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

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

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

A total of Rs 551 crore



Harsh Vardhan minister

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

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

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

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

## PERFORMANCE STREET

### SUN PHARMA Q2 NET PROFIT UP 70%

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

### GODREJ PROPERTIES Q2 NET DROPS 78%

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

### DEEPAK FERTILIZERS NET PROFIT SOARS

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

### MUTHOOT FINANCE Q2 NET RISES 2.5%

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



## SHORT TAKES

## Zimbabwe beat Pak in super over

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

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

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

**Super Over:** Zimbabwe 3 beat Pakistan 2

## Maradona shows sign of depression

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

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

## Covid-19 scare in archery camp

**Pune:** A support staff member of the Indian archery team training at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) here has tested positive for Covid-19 but the camp resumed after a two-day break, the Sports Authority of India said on Tuesday. The SAI said it is getting RT-PCR test conducted for all national campers as per the protocol. The support staff member, who tested positive for the virus on October 30, is undergoing treatment at a special Covid-care hospital in Pune outside the premises of ASI. Following the Covid-19 positive case, the training camp was suspended for two days — October 31 and November 1 — but resumed on Monday. "All precautions were taken with campers being isolated and restricted to their respective rooms for those two days. With due Covid precautions and monitoring of temperature, the camp has resumed with effect from November 2," the SAI said in a release. According to SAI, the said person underwent a 14-day quarantine after joining the camp on October 7 and was a part of training for nine days. — *PTI*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

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

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

## TENNIS

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

## FOOTBALL

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

## WWE

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

## Sun shines bright

## Hyderabad save best for the last to qualify for playoffs

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SCORECARD

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

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

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

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

**Bowling:** Dhawal Kulkarni 3-0-22-0, Nathan Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, James Pattinson 3-0-29-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-36-0, Krunal Pandya 3-1-0-37-0.

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

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

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

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

## Watson retires from competitive cricket

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

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

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

"It really does feel like the right time. Knowing



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

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

In his spectacular international career, Watson played 59 Tests,

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

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

## Leicester power into second place

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

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

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

Stuart Dallas got one back for Leeds but Jamie Vardy's eighth goal of the season and

a late Tielemans penalty wrapped up Leicester's fourth successive away league win.

After the disappointment of missing out on a place in the Champions League last term, Leicester have shown they are capable of mounting another challenge to make it to top four.

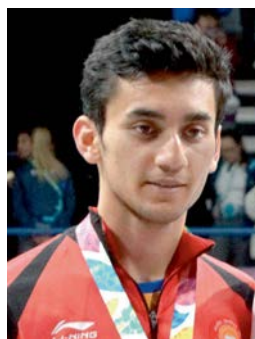
Even a title push might not be impossible given they have already thrashed Manchester City 5-2.

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

## Shuttlers return home after testing -ve

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

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



Lakshya Sen



Subhankar Dey



Ajay Jayaram

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

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

"We reached Bangalore at home this morning

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

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

While Lakshya, his father and physio reached Bangalore, Dey

## Make helmets must for batsmen: Sachin

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

of the batsmen.

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

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

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

## WOMEN'S T20 CHALLENGE

## Supernovas target third straight title

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

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

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

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

She had a forgettable out-

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

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

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

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