

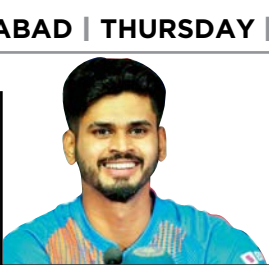
DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 5 NOVEMBER 2020



NATION | 6

**Army chief in Nepal
on three-day visit**



SPORTS | 10

**Mumbai take on Delhi
in IPL Qualifier-1 today**

TABLOID

**The pitch gets
murkier**



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WEATHER

Max: 31.8°C
Min: 17.1°C
RH: 40%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 32/17 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+49,037)	(+697)
83,59,702	1,24,276
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,637)	(+6)
TS: 2,44,143	1,357
(+2,477)	(+10)
AP: 8,33,208	6,744

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,81,73,631
DEATHS
12,25,309
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
215
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Titthi: Nija Ashwajuja Bahula Panchami full day
Star: Ardra full day
Variyam: 1.53 pmto 3.37 pm
Durmuhurtam: 10.06 am to 10.52 am; 2.38 pm to 3.23 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 18, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.15 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.08 pm
Maghrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 6.58 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.15 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.43 PM
MOONSET 9.11 AM
MOONRISE 8.32 PM

COUNTER POINT



Not police, it's IT, ED officials here for hoarding costly items!

SHORT TAKES

3 more Rafales arrive in India

New Delhi: A second batch of three Rafale fighter jets arrived at Jamnagar airbase in Gujarat on Wednesday after flying non-stop from France, in a further boost to strike capability of the Indian Air Force when India and China are locked in a bitter border row in Ladakh. With the arrival of the new batch, the number of Rafale aircraft has increased to eight. The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 aircraft at a cost of ₹59,000 crore.

■ Full report on Page 6

ED files charges against Kochhars

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed its first chargesheet against former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot on money laundering charges, official sources said on Wednesday. They said the chargesheet or the prosecution complaint has been filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). It was filed before a special court in Mumbai on Tuesday and the court is yet to take cognisance of it, the official sources said.

GHMC polls likely in Jan.

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The state government is said to have decided to request the State Election Commission (SEC) to conduct elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal on any date after January 15, 2021.

Sources close to the government disclosed that the decision was taken following requests from the authorities of the civic body and the municipal administration department to ensure that the Model Code of Conduct does not impair the ongoing restoration works in the flood-affected areas of the city. Several new projects are also scheduled to be grounded this month or in December.

The sources said the authorities had told the state government that if the SEC announced the schedule for the GHMC polls, a major portion of GHMC staff would have to be deputed for election-related works which will hamper the ongoing relief works in the city.

It was also pointed out that the state government

has already announced the completion of the construction of Double Bedroom houses in the GHMC limits and residential units would be handed over to beneficiaries by the end of December.

If the Moral Code of Conduct for elections comes into force, the officials said the government would not be able to hand over the residential units to the beneficiaries.

Apparently convinced with their reasoning, municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao is said to have taken the matter to the notice of Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu, who is likely to take a final decision.

As per law, the SEC requires 14 days from the date of election notification to complete the poll process. They felt that if the SEC announces the election schedule in the last week of December or the first week of January 2021, it could schedule elections on any date after January 15. A new elected council has to be constituted for the GHMC by February 12, 2021.

Women's quota gives a heartburn to men

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The policy of reserving one in every two Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) divisions for women candidates during civic body polls is causing resentment among men in the families of elected women corporators.

For instance, the All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), which holds 42 corporators in the current city council, has 18 women who were elected during the 2015 GHMC elections. However, most of them remained the proxies for the men in their families. Their male families, be

their husbands, fathers or brothers, who were the real force behind them, feel that they would continue to be a 'deemed corporator' or 'representative corporator' — the phrases that have no legal sanctity or recognition.

“We do the real work on the ground but we cannot attend the GHMC's official meetings,” they said.

The 50 per cent reservation for women for the first time was implemented in the GHMC polls in 2015. The Assembly has recently reaffirmed the 2015 policy by enacting a law providing the woman quota in the GHMC polls.

■ Page 2: Woman quota helps no one: Leaders

AIRLINES CAN OPERATE ONLY 60% OF FLIGHTS

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Indian airlines can operate maximum 60 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic passenger flights till February 24 next year due to the prevailing coronavirus situation, the civil aviation ministry has said.

The ministry had informed the airlines about the 60 per cent limit through an official order on September 2 but it had not told them the period for which the cap would remain in place.

On October 29, the ministry issued a new order clarifying that the September 2 order “shall remain in force until 2359 hrs on February 24, 2021 or until further orders” due to the “prevailing situation of Covid-19”.

On June 26, the ministry had allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of 45 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

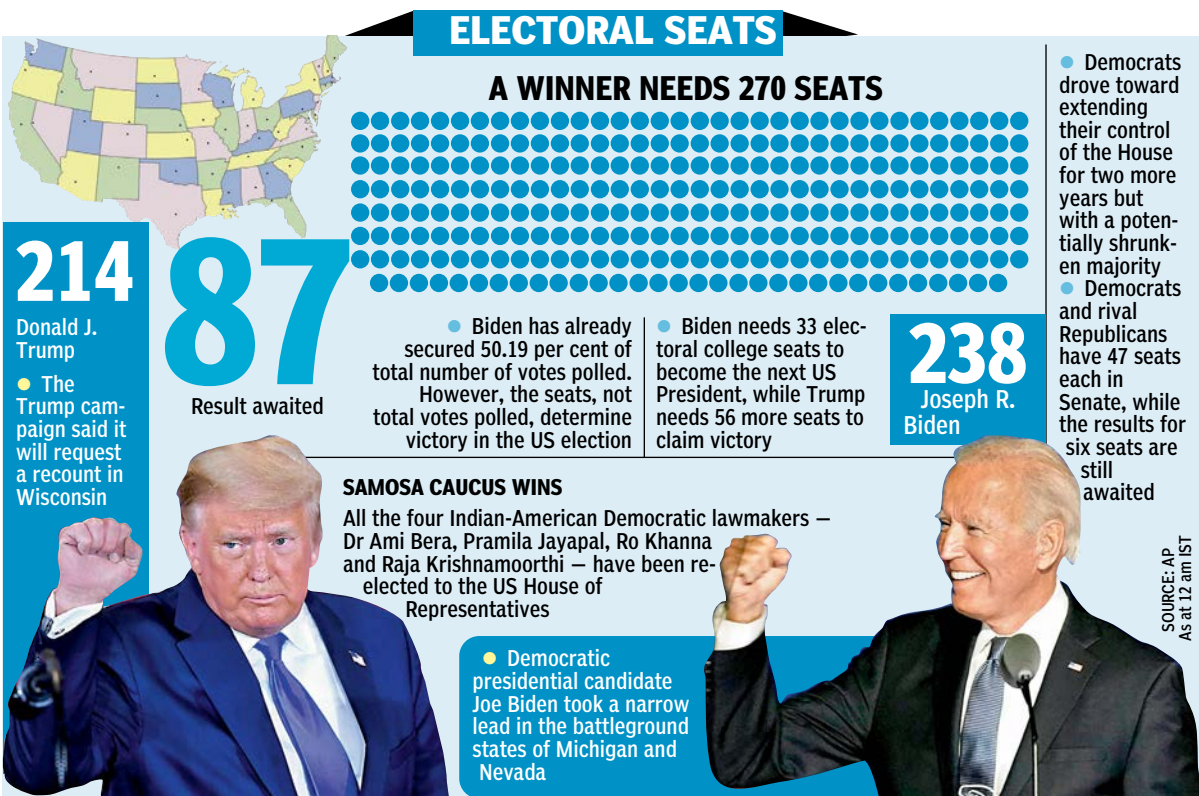
The ministry had resumed domestic passenger services from May 25 with a 33 per cent cap, after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country since March 23 due to the pandemic.

— PTI

US Prez poll turns cliffhanger

Biden ahead of Trump; three states key for win; counting to last longer



ing states. The margins were exceedingly tight in states across the country, with the candidates trading wins in battlegrounds. Trump picked up Florida, the largest of the swing states, while Biden flipped Arizona, a state that has reliably voted Republican in recent elections.

The high-stakes election

was held against the backdrop of a pandemic that has killed more than 2,32,000 Americans and wiped away millions of jobs.

Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, issued premature claims of victory and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to

stop the counting. It was unclear exactly what legal action he could try to pursue. The President stayed out of the public eye but took to Twitter to suggest, without basis, that the election was being tainted by late-counted ballots.

Biden, briefly appearing in front of supporters in Delaware, urged patience,

saying the election “ain’t over until every vote is counted, every ballot is counted.” “It’s not my place or Donald Trump’s place to declare who’s won this election,” Biden said. “That’s the decision of the American people.”

■ Page 5: Trump opposes counting of mail-in votes

Skywalk to unclog busy Mehdiapatnam junction

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will construct a skywalk and a commercial building, including five elevators, at Rythu Bazar in Mehdiapatnam to improve pedestrian movement at one of the busiest junctions in Hyderabad. The construction would entail a cost of ₹34.28 crore.

“Mehdiapatnam finally gets a pedestrian skywalk (to cross over one of most congested roads) & 500-metre steel skyway plus 16 lifts including two in Rythu Bazaar,” tweeted Arvind Kumar, principal secretary for municipal administration and urban development.

The site for the proposed skywalk/boardwalk abuts the P.V. Narasimha Rao flyover with military land at one side of the flyover

and commercial/residential buildings on the other side. The skywalk/boardwalk would have an overall travel length of approximately 380 metres which includes above-ground retail activity. It is expected to help pedestrians move across the road easily. As part of this project, bus shelters in the area would also be redesigned.

■ Page 2: Hawks under Expressway to be removed

SC to Centre: Life ban for convicted?

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Central government to spell out its stand on a plea seeking a lifetime ban on convicted politicians, including sitting lawmakers, from contesting elections as against the six-year ban from the date of release after undergoing sentence of two years or more under the prevailing law.

Justice N.V. Ramana, heading a bench also comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Aniruddha

● **APEX COURT** sought the Central government's reply on a PIL filed by a BJP leader seeking a lifetime ban on convicted politicians

● **THE POLL** panel has already backed the plea for the lifetime ban on convicted politicians

Bose, sought the Central government's reply on a public interest plea filed by Ashwini Upadhyay, a Supreme Court advocate and a BJP leader, seeking the deletion of the six-year

ban under Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act and it being substituted with a lifetime ban.

Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, reads: “A person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years... shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.”

The Election Commission has already backed the plea for the lifetime ban on

convicted politicians from entering the electoral fray.

The court, while dealing with the aspect of the PIL seeking special courts to fast-track trials of sitting and former lawmakers facing criminal cases, was told by the high courts of West Bengal and Kerala that warrants and summons issued by the trial courts were not being executed by the state police.

The apex court sought a reply from the two state governments, saying it should be filed by a senior ranking, secretary-level officer.

WEDDING | ISSUES

Husband will have to pay maintenance from the date of filing such petition

SC sets rules for courts on marital maintenance

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that maintenance to a wife and children in matrimonial matters should be awarded from the date on which the family court or other judicial foras were approached for seeking maintenance.

Heading a bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Justice Indu Malhotra framed the detailed affidavit of disclosure of assets and liabilities “to be filed by both par-

ties in all maintenance proceedings, including pending proceedings before the concerned Family Court or District Court or Magistrate's Court, as the case maybe, throughout the country.”

Speaking for the bench, Justice Malhotra has also laid down the criteria to be adopted by the courts for determining the quantum of maintenance payable to an application.

Issuing a series of directions, the court said that these are not exhaustive as the concerned court may

● **SPEAKING FOR** the Supreme Court bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Justice Malhotra has also laid down the criteria to be adopted by the courts for determining the quantum of maintenance payable to an application.

exercise its discretion to consider any other factors, necessary or relevant in the facts and circumstances of a case.

The court has directed its

secretary-general to communicate the copy of the judgment to the Registrars of all the High Courts, who would in turn circulate it to all the district courts in the states and “it shall be displayed on the websites of all District Courts / Family Courts / Courts of Judicial Magistrates for awareness and implementation”.

The court felt it necessary to bring uniformity in deciding the issue of maintenance in matrimonial cases across the country as at present they suf-

fer from a variety of discrepancies which the top court had noted in various orders and verdicts by the subordinate courts.

The case is rooted in a criminal appeal filed by the husband, Rajneesh, against his wife Neha and their minor son, as arising out of a case filed in 2018.

The wife had left the matrimonial home in January 2013, shortly after the birth of a son on September 2, 2013, and secured an interim maintenance from a family court in Nagpur on August 28, 2015.

The husband challenged the order before the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, which dismissed his petition on August 14, 2018, affirming the family court's judgment. He approached the top court challenging the High Court order rejecting his plea.

It was in this backdrop, that the top court decided to frame guidelines on certain aspects pertaining to the payment of maintenance that should be followed by the courts across the country.

**Special Deputy Collector,
LA, GHMC, Hyderabad.**

**Sd/-
Special Collector (LA) &
Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.**

DIPR R.O. No. : 796/LA/PP-Adv/Agency/2020-21

IN BRIEF



Maria Sultana

Nizamabad doc tops MPH entrance

Nizamabad: Practicing BHMS doctor, Maria Sultana from Nizamabad topped the national level entrance test for Master of Public Health (MPH) 2020-2021 academic year conducted by University of Hyderabad. Maria Sultana is granddaughter of veteran journalist MA Rasheed. Speaking to newsmen, her father MA Rafeeq Shahi said that the family was delighted with her achievement.

REGISTRATION FOR MBBS, BDS ADMISSIONS ON

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 4

The registration process for MBBS and BDS admissions in the state has begun. The last date for registration is November 8. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the application verification process will take place online.

The Vice-Chancellor of Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) Dr B. Karunakar Reddy said that candidates should upload the relevant certificates online. Those who do not upload full credentials will be declared ineligible. The merit list will be released after verification of credentials.

The Vice-Chancellor informed that the seats are being allocated based on Neet merit.

"Telangana candidates need not worry if they enter another state's name instead of Telangana state during the Neet registration. We will only consider the candidate's rank based on Neet data, not the registered state. Candidates from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will be certified in the local and non-local category based on the certificate uploaded on the notification issued by the University," he said. Mr Reddy added that the BC, SC and ST castes notified by the Telangana government are considered, the rest are considered in the open category. A total of 32 medical and 13 dental colleges in the state, including new colleges, were sanctioned for MBBS and dental admissions.

MANUU TO HOLD 1-DAY NATIONAL WEBINAR TODAY

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), directorate of physical education and sports, is organising a one-day national webinar 'Importance of Physical Fitness and Yoga during the Pandemic Situation' on November 5.

According to Prof. Abul Kalam, director, directorate of distance education and chairman, sports monitoring committee, MANUU, Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, vice-chancellor and Prof. Siddiqui Mohammed Mahmood, the registrar will grace the occasion. Dr K.V. Rajasekhara (HCU), Dr Arun Kumar Sao (DHGU-MP), Dr Ritu Sharma, Editor in Chief, Being Mindful (Bhopal), Dr Vijay Kumar Singh (DSVV), Haridwar are the guest speakers of the webinar.



Residents lose freedom as roads get closed for shooting of film in Sainikpuri, Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Roads in Sainikpuri closed for film shoot

Residents put to inconvenience for 15 days

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Residents of Sainikpuri, have lost their freedom of movement, owing to a film shoot that is taking place near the Brigadier MK Rao Hall. They are objecting to closure of a public road for a film shooting and for other reasons.

The residents point out that roads have remained closed for over a fortnight now.

"Our concerns are that during this pandemic, the authorities are letting teams of people come in from other areas to shoot a film in our localities. This is ill-advised as it makes a mockery of social distancing norms. That's not all. Closure of any road can delay ambulances rushing to the desired location on time. Several retired officers and senior citizens reside in the area. Such road closure can adversely impact movement of ambulances and other medical facilities," said Khordad Edulji, a resident.

Similarly, others like Supriya Sikka say that the area has become a nuisance for the residents. "There are so many people on the road, who are blocking access. They don't wear face masks and do not maintain social distancing. The authorities should have put up a notice board or informed people in advance."

As it turns out one resident complained that she could not leave her home for the whole day as the film set had blocked the road. There have also been concerns with regard to sound pollution, littering and other inconveniences, which are avoidable, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

When contacted, officials of the Neredmet Police said, "If people have problems with the shooting, they can register their complaint with us. We will look into the matter immediately."

In TS, the air quality in Hyderabad and Ramagundam fails to meet the permissible limits as set by the Central Pollution Control Board, Hyderabad, Nalgonda, Sangareddy and the Patancheru area in Telangana fall in the group of 122 non-attainment cities where air quality, as per record maintained by the CPCB, is generally beyond permissible limits.

"Accordingly, we consider it appropriate to issue a notice to all the states/UTs where the

join; or students with CGPA score of more than 8 who got Ph. D admission in one of the top 300 QS-ranked overseas universities but could not enroll due to the epidemic. The scheme will also be available to Indian students doing PhD in an overseas university but want to come back to their home country. The last date for application is November 15.

Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said, "Covid-19 pandemic has redefined the way

we live. So, IIT-H from August called back its PhD students to the campus so that their research remains unaffected while they adapt to the new normal. As a step forward, we at IIT Hyderabad have resolved to take under our wing the academically bright and committed scholars, whose doctoral / job prospects have been adversely affected by the pandemic. We are sure this initiative will brighten the future Indian young talent."

Fighting the odds



Two girls made their own mode of transport to navigate through the flooded water in Uma Maheshwar Colony at Kompally on Wednesday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Diwali fireworks in TS under NGT scanner: Pollution

BALU PULIPAKA
with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Diwali celebrations, particularly the bursting of firecrackers and setting off of fireworks in Telangana state, are under the National Green Tribunal's scanner.

During a hearing in New Delhi on Wednesday, the NGT's National Bench, sought responses from Telangana state government along with those of some other states saying the scope of its hearings that began with respect to air pollution from fireworks in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, "may need to be to be extended beyond NCR so as to suggest that in all the concerned states where air quality is not satisfactory may consider taking action on the pattern of action taken by the States of Odisha and Rajasthan".

Odisha and Rajasthan governments, have already issued notifications prohibiting the sale and use of firecrackers in their states. On Wednesday, the Bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, expanded the ambit of hearing cases on pollution by use of firecrackers beyond the NCR and issued notices to 18 states and Union Territories where air quality is beyond acceptable norms.

In TS, the air quality in Hyderabad and Ramagundam fails to meet the permissible limits as set by the Central Pollution Control Board, Hyderabad, Nalgonda, Sangareddy and the Patancheru area in Telangana fall in the group of 122 non-attainment cities where air quality, as per record maintained by the CPCB, is generally beyond permissible limits.

"Accordingly, we consider it appropriate to issue a notice to all the states/UTs where the

● **THE BENCH**, headed by headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, expanded the ambit of hearing cases on pollution by use of firecrackers beyond the NCR and issued notices to 18 states and Union Territories.

above cities fall, in addition, to notice already issued to the Governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

"Notice need not be issued to the states of Odisha and Rajasthan in view of the notification issued by the said States. To all other states/UTs where the above cities fall, notice may be issued by e-mail to the concerned Chief Secretaries returnable for tomorrow," the bench said.

In addition to Telangana state, the NGT sought responses from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Bengal.

In Andhra Pradesh, the list of air quality non-attainment cities as per CPCB are Guntur, Kurnool, Nellore, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur, Chittoor, Eluru, Kadapa, Ongole, Rajahmundry, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

The tribunal said it may have to consider prohibiting the use of firecrackers to protect the health of the vulnerable groups in 122 cities. The tribunal was hearing various pleas seeking action against pollution by use of firecrackers during the time air quality is unsatisfactory with the potential of the severity of Covid-19 pandemic.

TS SUCCESSFUL IN ATTRACTING GLOBAL INVESTORS, SAYS KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

IT and municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday said that Telangana state, with its immense investment potential, has attracted several global investors in a short period and will continue to do so to make more sustainable and disruptive technologies within the state.

He was inaugurating Knight Frank India's new office in Dallas Centre, Knowledge City, strategically located in the premier IT-Hub of Hyderabad.

Addressing on the occasion KTR pointed out that Hyderabad has transformed into the new tech hub of India in the last six years and IT sector presence in the city has also transitioned from mere backend operations to primary production and product development services.

● **KTR POINTED** out that Hyderabad has transformed into the new tech hub of India in the last six years and IT sector presence in the city has also transitioned.

TRS GETS LAND FOR DELHI OFFICE

Hyderabad: The ministry of housing and urban Affairs on Wednesday handed over the possession of over 1,100 square metres of land in Vasant Vihar in New Delhi to Telangana state roads and buildings minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy for the construction of the TRS office in the national capital.

Prashanth Reddy in a statement said, "The dream of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, was realised with the Centre giving land for the party office in national capital."

Autos in debt trap

Hyderabad: Autrickshaw owners who are worried over their inability to make monthly payments to financiers on Wednesday received an assurance from home minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali that their vehicles would not be repossessed till March 2021.

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Note: There are total ten fellowships out of which 4 fellowships are reserved for Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) one each for Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore.

davp-21104/11/0005/2021

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3	07th Batch M.E. Design for Manufacture (MEDFM)	B.E. / B. Tech. Mechanical/Production/ Mechatronics/ Automobile / Aeronautical or equivalent. Minimum of 55% of marks in the qualifying examination.		2 Years (4 Semester)

Important Dates:

- Availability of applications : **12-10-2020 (Monday)**
- Last date for receipt of online application : **22-11-2020 (Sunday)**
- Date of Entrance Exam (Tentative) : **29-11-2020 (Sunday)**

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FESTIVE | FERVOUR

Lockdown had made many households stop refurbishing

Diwali, a blessing for those in paint jobs

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

This Diwali festival has brought back some much needed light and colour back into the lives of those who paint houses and buildings.

Avadesh Yadav from Gorakhpur has been working in Hyderabad along with his father for the past 18 years, painting homes and buildings.

"From the past few days, we are finding work again. This is a good sign for us.

● **THOUSANDS OF** workers depend on wall painting jobs, including painters, helpers and unskilled labourers.

● **INNOVATIVE PAINTINGS** have been introduced in the market and those paints will keep moisture away from the walls, they are anti-bacterial and anti-pollutants, said Rajiv of Global Coating Products at Minister Road.

The outlook is so good that some other workers from my home town who went back during the lockdown, are returning to the city," Avadesh said.

Workers in this sector suffered severely during the lockdown, and store owners who supply the materi-

als have also been dealt a severe blow. Thousands of workers depend on wall painting jobs, including painters, helpers and unskilled labourers.

According to Ganji Kiran, proprietor of The Hyderabad Paint Company, the first paint shop in

Hyderabad that was established at Mozzam Jahi Market in 1938, sale of paints had a steep fall this year.

"In all our branches we used to sell around 50 to 60 kilolitres each year. This year we have only recorded 30 to 40 kiloliters. Many festivals have been celebrated within the walls and weddings have been low-key affairs. None opted for refurbishing."

But now, he said, things are beginning to look up. "For the past few days, people started walking in with orders. This is a positive

sign as many families are dependent on such works." Meanwhile, innovative paintings have been introduced in the market and those paints will keep moisture away from the walls, they are anti-bacterial and anti-pollutants, said Rajiv of Global Coating Products at Minister Road.

"The recent rains damaged the walls of buildings. However, water resistant coatings and colours will help the walls from getting affected and keep them moisture-free," he said.



SHORT TAKES

MAN ARRESTED
FOR SELLING
FAKE TIGER SKINNAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

A man who tried to sell dog skin disguised as that of tiger's was apprehended by the West Zone Task Force Police on Wednesday. Officials said that the man, Ahmed Shareef, had painted over the dog skin to make it look like that of a tiger's.

Ahmed, a resident of Golconda, tried to sell the skin for ₹5 lakh upon learning that there is a demand for such decorative products. Upon receiving the information task force team caught the man and seized the animal skin from him.

The accused, along with the property, was handed over to the Langer Houz police station for further action.

GHMC TO RUN
SANITATION DRIVE
TO AID FLOOD-HITMADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Following instructions from municipal administration and urban development minister K. T. Rama Rao, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is making elaborate arrangements for taking up a special sanitation drive within the city limits, particularly in the flood-affected colonies.

City mayor Bonthu Rammohan said huge quantities of debris, construction material, and discarded refuse had accumulated in colonies following the floods. All such garbage will be removed during the sanitation drive launched in all circles of GHMC, as it might otherwise spread infectious diseases. While GHMC already has 242 vehicles, the corporation will deploy an additional 536 vehicles to remove the debris and garbage.

"GHMC will be launching a mobile app to monitor the special sanitation drive. 960 team leaders and 30 supervisory officers will be deployed for cleaning up 5,733 colonies within the limits of GHMC," Rammohan added.

● **CITY MAYOR** Bonthu Rammohan said huge quantities of debris, construction material, and discarded refuse had accumulated in colonies following the floods.

ADIVASI YOUTH
LAUNCH COUNTER
TRAILER FOR 'RRR'DC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAMBHEEM
ASIFABAD, NOV. 4

Some Adivasi youth have created history by launching an 'original trailer' on legendary Komaram Bheem as a counter to Rajamouli's *RRR* movie trailer released a few days ago.

Komaram Bheem had fought for Adivasis' rights over Jal, Jangal and Jameen and died fighting the forces of Nizam at Jodeghat in Kerameri mandal of erstwhile Adilabad district in 1940.

Adivasi youth made a trailer using their cell phones and uploaded it on YouTube, drawing the attention of many people and receiving laurels. This is the first time that tribal youth have launched a counter version against the trailer of popular director Rajamouli, who, the youth allege, showed their community icon Komaram Bheem in poor light and distorted history.

The *RRR* trailer faced criticism after it showed Komaram Bheem in a skull cap, wearing kurtha and applying surma. The youth tried to show the legendary leader in the traditional attire.

Vedma Venkatesh of Mangi village in Tiryani mandal, who is the brain behind the trailer, said they want to tell Rajamouli and larger audience the real story of the Komaram Bheem and how he actually looked in reality.

The youth depicted original costumes, traditional weapon (barise) and other items used by Komaram Bheem in his fight against the forces of Nizam. Significantly, the youth used the same voice-over given in Rajamouli's *RRR* trailer by Rajamouli in their video too.

● **VEDMA VENKATESH** of Mangi village in Tiryani mandal, who is the brain behind the trailer, said they want to tell Rajamouli and larger audience the real story of the Komaram Bheem and how he actually looked in reality.



AICC TS in-charge Manickam Tagore, TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and others attend the core committee meet at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday.

— P. ANIL KUMAR

PCC allots 50% seats
to BCs in GHMC pollsIREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) on Wednesday decided to focus on Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections and allocate 50 per cent of seats to Backward Class candidates.

These decisions were taken by PCC's core committee at a meeting that was graced by party affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore and TPCC Chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

After a threadbare discussion on reservations, they have decided to approach the High Court with regard to reservations for BCs in GHMC. TPCC will launch protests against attacks on women and dalits in the state with a dharna at Indira Park on November 7.

Taking their opposition to the New Agri laws introduced by the

● **MEANWHILE**, THE meeting resolved to collect ₹10,000 and ₹5,000 from official nominees based on Open and reserved categories in the ensuing GHMC elections.

Centre, the party will organise a tractor rally at Khammam on November 11 and follow it up with a hunger strike across the State the next day.

Meanwhile, the meeting resolved to collect ₹10,000 and ₹5,000 from official nominees based on Open and reserved categories in the ensuing GHMC elections.

Apart from urging the government to announce ₹2,500 for fine variety rice, the party decided to constitute a committee that will draw a roadmap for pro-farmers agitations.

Later, Tagore lauded the party cadre for their committed work during the Dubbak by-elections.

CONG HIGHLIGHTS IRREGULARITIES
IN FLOOD RELIEF FOR VICTIMSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Senior Congress leaders have in a letter addressed to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner D. S. Lokesh Kumar highlighted widespread irregularities in disbursement of funds related to flood relief in the city. They wanted to know under what rules and guidelines were compensation amounts distributed to flood victims by TRS leaders.

"Though the extent of loss was enormous, the state government released ₹550 crore with an instruction that a pittance of ₹10,000 is paid per affected family, ₹1 lakh to a fully destroyed house and ₹50,000 to a partially destroyed house," reads the letter written by former MP M. Anjan Kumar Yadav,

Dr Sravan Dasoju and other Congress leaders.

They asked which law permitted them to handover such huge amounts of money to ward and booth-level agents of TRS party. Further, they wanted to know how the GHMC arrived at the number of victims in the city being 3.9 lakh.

Congress leaders demanded that ₹50,000 be paid to every flood victim's family, ₹5 lakh to houses fully destroyed and ₹2.5 lakh to those partially destroyed. In the letter they went on to point out that municipal and urban development minister K. T. Rama Rao had distributed cheques to a few flood victims in M. S. Maktha, Khairatabad, and from the next day, all TRS legislators and corporators started distributing cheques as per their whims and fancies.

Kishan Reddy assures
help to street vendorsDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday distributed Prime Minister Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi cards to beneficiaries at Chintal Basti in Khairatabad Assembly constituency.

The Minister said that this would help street vendors to get loans of up to ₹10,000 without any guarantee so that they can start their own businesses. He expressed regret that street vendors had lost their livelihood because of Covid-19. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was taking measures to revamp their business with Atma Nirbhar Nidhi.

Kishan Reddy said that Modi, who belonged to an econom-



Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy distributes PM SVANidhi cards to street vendors at Chintal Basti in Khairatabad on Wednesday. Former legislator of Khairatabad, Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, is also seen.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

ically poor family, understood the travails of backward and Dalit families. This helped him conceptualise the scheme, he said and added that Modi's regime promised better

days for all sections.

He recalled that the Centre had distributed free rice and dal to migrant workers as well as daily labourers during the lockdown period.

Mahbubnagar 'bombs'
seed balls in wild areasD. SIVA RAMI
REDDY | DC
MAHUBUNAGAR, NOV. 4

Mahbubnagar district experiment with seed balls to propagate plant species in wild areas is paying off. More than one crore seed balls were "bombed" by women groups enriching the hill slopes and forest lands to grow 10 species of plants.

District collector S. Venkata Rao said seed "ball bombing" was a massive task taken up by the women self-help



Drones help in dropping 1.14 crore prepared seed balls in wild areas in Mahbubnagar district.

groups as they prepared 1.14 crore seed balls in a

Toddy laced with narcotics sold, 1 held

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

A toddy shop owner from Tandur was arrested by the Vikarabad police for selling the product laced with marijuana to the customers. As per sources, Goud had sold over 200 bottles of toddy for ₹20 per bottle in the past few weeks.

The accused, K. Suresh Goud, 21, a resident of Malkapur village of Tandur mandal in Vikarabad, had a connection in Gulbarga area of Karnataka, from whom he used to procure the marijuana.

"Goud started mixing the toddy with marijuana powder in his shop at Malkapur

and after gaining popularity among his customer base, he named the product 'Black Dog,'" said the police.

When other businessmen realised about the special product, the local police were informed, leading to an investigation and the arrest of Goud under the NDPS Act.

TAGORE URGES
VIJAYASHANTI,
TO DROP BJP
'SWITCHOVER'DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore met Congress campaign committee Chairman Vijayashanti at her residence here on Wednesday. This assumes significance as it comes amid speculations that Vijayashanti is likely to join BJP in the next couple of days.

Tagore pacified her and urged her to stay back and strengthen the Congress party prospects in the ensuing GHMC elections.

Vijayashanti also raised several issues with Tagore, particularly with regard to neglecting her. She pointed out that Rahul Gandhi had given permission for her state tour but the party leaders did not cooperate with her. Her tour was to expose Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's failures, she said.

Party sources said that Tagore appealed to her to stay in the party and boost the cadre for Mission 2023.

FARMERS BLOCK
NH-63, SEEK
HIGHER COST FOR
PADDY, MAIZENARENDER
PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 4

Despite prohibitory orders, farmers in large numbers blocked National Highway-63 between Nizamabad and Jagdalpur at Mamidipally crossroads in Armoor on Wednesday demanding remunerative prices for maize and paddy.

Congress party and its frontal organisation Kisan Keth Congress organised the Maha Dharna. Agitating farmers put on display discoloured and damaged paddy as part of their protest.

Farmers say they have incurred heavy losses after sowing fine variety of paddy as suggested by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Maize farmers also complained that they are facing losses due to delay by the government in setting up of maize procurement centres.

Former government whip Eravathi Anil, Nizamabad district Congress committee president Malala Mohan Reddy, Kisan Keth Congress district president Anvesh Reddy and others participated in the rasta roko.

Highway traffic was blocked though Nizamabad commissioner of police and district additional magistrate Kartikeya clamped prohibitory orders in Armoor division citing Covid-19 and law and order issues. Due to the blockage, police had to divert vehicular traffic.

● **CONGRESS PARTY** and its frontal organisation Kisan Keth Congress organised the Maha Dharna. Agitating farmers put on display discoloured and damaged paddy as part of their protest.



2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing Prov. 10:7

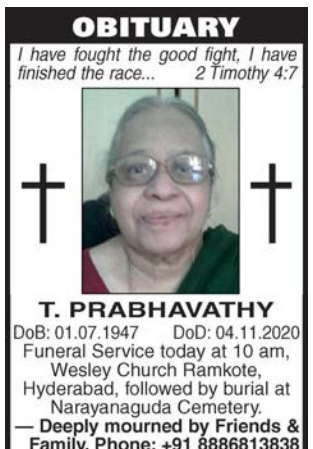
Mr. MALAPATY JAYA SINGH (BABJI)

Retired Registrar AC College, Guntur.

DOB: 15-06-1946 DOD: 05-11-2018

The pain of losing you is immeasurable. Every day we remember you in our prayers, in our thoughts. Your memory can never be forgotten. We love you so much and miss you.

PH: 9885045900/9885190536



OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race... 2 Timothy 4:7

T. PRABHAVATHY

DoB: 01.07.1947 DoD: 04.11.2020

Funeral Service today at 10 am,

Wesley Church Ramkote,

Hyderabad, followed by burial at

Narayanaaguda Cemetery.

— Deeply mourned by Friends & Family. Phone: +91 8886813838



10th ANNIVERSARY

Late Dr. C.G.V. DANIEL

Asst. Professor (O.U.)

S/o C.G. Deivadeenam

DOB: 21-06-1973 DOD: 05-11-2010

Time passes, memories stay...

Loved and remembered everyday.

Inserted by Wife: Dr. SHARMILA

Daughter: DONNA, Son: DENNIS

PH: 8074762716



1st VARDHANTHI

KANAKANTI ABHILASH

M.Tech., Gold Medalist, Software Engineer in Amazon

D.O.B: 18-08-1992 D.O.D: 05-11-2019

Shantinagar, Near Shivalinga Temple (Kalvanchi Vii) Hayathnagar (M)

Your Memories are always remembered in our hearts forever

Mother: K. Rajeshwari - Father: K. Ramesh

Grandfather: K. Veerappa - Grandmother: K. Pushpalatha

Grandfather: B. Eshwararath - Grandmother: B. Susheela

& All Family Members

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
My Beloved Son

Neil Raghunath

DOB: 11.05.1986 DOD: 04.11.2020

Funeral at Ammuguda Cemetery at 3.00 pm.

With Great Pain Mom: Daphine,

Sister Divya, David and Loved ones

Ph: 9573124807 / 9701552960



SHRADHANJALI

SHRADHANJALI

Ex-AGM, BHEL

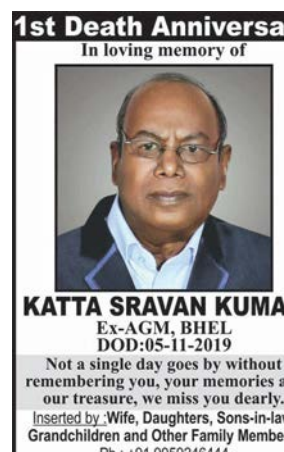
DOB: 13-08-1947 DOD: 31-10-2020

You will remain with us forever

in our hearts & memory

Inserted by:

SALIKE FAMILY



1st Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

KATTA SRAVAN KUMAR

Ex-AGM, BHEL

DOB: 05-11-2019

Not a single day goes by without

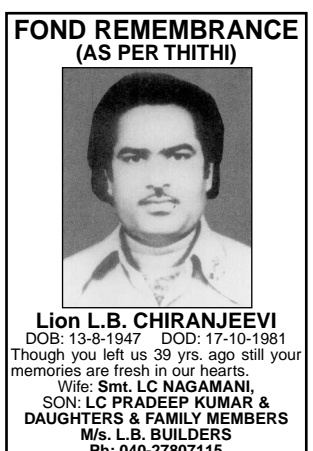
remembering you, your memories are

our treasure, we miss you dearly.

Inserted by: Wife, Daughters, Sons-in-law,

Grandchildren and Other Family Members.

Ph: +91 9959246444

FOND REMEMBRANCE
(AS PER THITHI)

LION L.B. CHIRANJEEVI

Asst. Professor (O.U.)

S/o C.G. Deivadeenam

DOB: 13-8-1947 DOD: 17-10-1981

Though you left us 39 yrs. ago still your

memories are fresh in our hearts.

Wife: Smt. LC NAGAMANI,

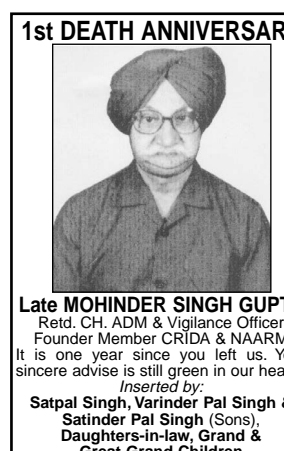
SON: LC PRADEEP KUMAR &

DAUGHTERS & FAMILY MEMBERS

Mrs. L.B. BULLDERS

Ph: 040-27807115

(S/2021/D00788)



1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of

Late MOHINDER SINGH GUPTA

Retd. CH, ADM & Vigilance Officer

Founder Member CRIDA & NAARM

It is one year since you left us. Your

sincere advise is still green in our heart.

Inserted by:

Satpal Singh, Varinder Pal Singh &

Satinder Pal Singh (Sons),

Daughters-in-law, Grand &

Great Grand Children

(S/2021/D00787)



10th ANNIVERSARY

Late Dr. C.G.V. DANIEL

Asst. Professor (O.U.)

S/o C.G. Deivadeenam

DOB: 21-06-1973 DOD: 05-11-2010

Inserted by Mother:

M.M. CLARA SUSEELA AND

FAMILY MEMBERS

PH: 9866044978



13TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with

Christ in God. Col. 3:3

Late Ms. T.V. PHYLLIS

M.Sc., M.Ed.

D/o Late Mr. T. Vandanaam

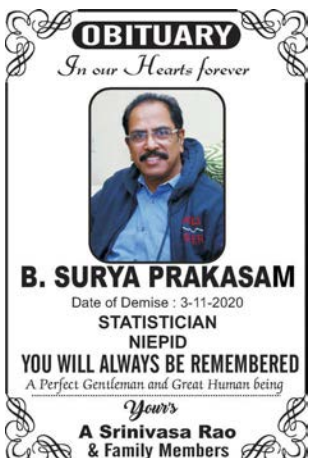
& Late Mrs. T.V. Marthamma

Fondly Remembered by:

Mr. & Mrs. T.V. Prem Kumar

Mr. & Mrs. T.V. Vijay Kumar &

Family Members



OBITUARY

In our Hearts forever

B. SURYA PRAKASAM

Asst. Professor (O.U.)

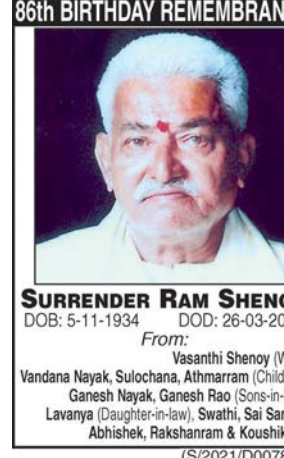
S/o C.G. Deivadeenam

DOB: 21-06-1973 DOD: 05-11-2010

Inserted by Brother: CHRISTOPHER ROY

G. PAUL RATNA RAO

PH: 8008849408



86th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

SURRENDER RAM SHENOY

Asst. Professor (O.U.)

S/o C.G. Deivadeenam

DOB: 5-11-1934 DOD: 26-03-2008

SHORT TAKES

AP RECORDS 2,477
NEW COVID CASES,
10 DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 4

AP registered 2,477 new Covid-19 cases raising tally to 8,33,208 and 10 deaths taking toll to 6,744.

Among daily cases of Covid-19, East Godavari topped the state by registering 424 followed by 375 in West Godavari, 332 in Krishna, 323 in Guntur, 321 in Chittoor, 127 in Kadapa, 122 in Visakhapatnam, 117 in Srikakulam, 94 in Nellore, 85 in Vizianagaram, 70 in Prakasam, 52 in Anantapur and 35 in Kurnool.

East Godavari continue to be the worst affected by registering 1,17,207 cumulative confirmed Covid cases followed by 87,210 in West Godavari, 79,643 in Chittoor, 68,386 in Guntur, 65,029 in Anantapur, 60,089 in Prakasam, 59,872 in Nellore, 59,600 in Kurnool, 56,270 in Visakhapatnam, 52,642 in Kadapa, 44,300 in Srikakulam, 40,473 in Krishna, 39,592 in Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

KURNOOL TOPS
NATIONAL AVERAGE
IN COVID CONTROLDC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 4

Covid cases in Kurnool district are being strictly monitored as the district prepares to hold Tungabhadra Pushkarams. Many pilgrims are expected to converge at the bathing ghats as Karthik Masam coincides with Pushkarams. Health officials said volunteers were drafted to help ease the rush of pilgrims.

District collector G. Veerapandian said that out of the 7.3 lakh total Covid tests conducted in Kurnool district, 59,508 were found to be positive. The district has just 377 active cases while the recovery rate is 98.56 per cent. He compared it to the national average and claimed Kurnool has the highest rate of recovery compared to the State average of 96.30 per cent and the National recovery rate of 91.65 per cent. The fatality rate is 0.81 % which again is below the national average of 1.49 percent, he said.

The district medical and health officer Dr Rama Giddaiah said Tungabhadra Pushkarams is a challenge for the district health officials as the number of pilgrims arriving would have a direct impact on the medicare facilities. He said each ghat has a dedicated team of health officials with all the required medicines besides testing facilities.

TRUMP OPPOSES
COUNTING OF
MAIL-IN VOTES

FROM PAGE 1

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In Presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors met. That's set by federal law.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day, as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by November 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days after the election.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf said he had "promised Pennsylvanians that we would count every vote and that's what we're going to do."

Trump appeared to suggest those ballots should not be counted, and that he would fight for that outcome at the high court. But legal experts were dubious of Trump's declaration. Trump has appointed three of the HC's nine justices including, most recently, Amy Coney Barrett. Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states. Throughout the campaign, Trump cast doubt about the integrity of the election and repeatedly suggested that mail-in ballots should not be counted. Both campaigns had teams of lawyers at the ready to move into battleground states if there were legal challenges. Trump kept several states, including Texas, Iowa and Ohio, where Biden had made a strong play in the final stages. But Biden picked off states where Trump sought to compete, including New Hampshire and Minnesota.

Work in progress



New pavements and designer street lights are part of the project to give Tank Bund the much needed facelift.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

AP registers 19.40%
rise in property tax

Authorities collected ₹752.62cr from April 1 to Nov. 4

SAMPAT G.
SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 4

Andhra Pradesh registered a 19.40 per cent rise in property tax collection in the current fiscal up to November 4 despite Covid-19 affecting the economy badly. The municipal administration authorities collected ₹752.62 crore from April 1 to November 4, 2020 against ₹630.26 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. The authorities had set a ₹1,958.88 crore tax collection target in the current fiscal and have so far managed to collect 38.40 per cent of it. On November 4 alone, the state collected ₹1.97 crore in tax against ₹1.36 crore

● **MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES** credit this rise in tax collections to the 3,913 ward secretariats in 120 urban local bodies.

on November 4, 2019.

Municipal authorities credit this rise in tax collections to the 3,913 ward secretariats in 120 urban local bodies that were created newly in the state. With each ward Secretariat having an administrative secretary, it had become easy to collect property tax. The secretary took up an awareness campaign among property owners about the series of incentives being offered by the government to taxpayers. They were also entrusted

with the task of door-to-door visits to collect tax and this enabled some people who were unable to visit municipal offices for the same. Online payment of taxes also boosted property tax collections.

In addition to this, the state government extended early bird rebate of five per cent on property tax up to July 31, 2020 even though such rebates used to be limited to only the first month of April in the current fiscal. Property owners who could clear tax dues for the current year at one go were offered rebate. Municipal administration authorities maintain that a good number of people availed the extend-

ed rebate.

The civic authorities also did not levy two per cent interest per month on late payment of property tax in order to encourage payment.

A senior official from municipal administration said, "We have witnessed 19.40 per cent rise in property tax collections so far in the current fiscal when compared with the last year for the same period as the state government came up with a series of initiatives like introduction of ward secretariats. The secretaries are playing crucial role in educating the property owners to pay taxes and they are also collecting taxes door-to-door."

50 YEAR OLD
DIES BY SUICIDE
AT EXCISE OFFICEDC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 4

A 50-year-old man dies by suicide in front of the Prohibition and Excise department station in Narsampet in the early hours of Wednesday allegedly because of harassment by department officials.

The deceased, Udugula Rajaiah, was a native of Sooripelli village of Nekkonda mandal in Warangal Rural district. His family members alleged that Rajaiah took the extreme step due to harassment by the excise staff. They staged a protest with his body in front of the excise station demanding action against the station staff. Local police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to MGM Hospital here for post-mortem.

Rajaiah's family members alleged that a letter was found in his pocket, in which he had written that the local excise staff is responsible for his death.

Warangal Rural district prohibition and excise officer, P. Srinivas Rao said, "Rajaiah was running a belt shop in the village. Excise officials raided it on March 28 and seized bottles from his house. He escaped from the house and a case was registered against him. Two days back, he approached the excise officials and asked them to return his seized liquor bottles. His request was rejected as the matter was to be dealt by the court."

Rao said that the Narsampet excise station inspector had filed a case with the local police that the person had died at some other place, but the family was making false allegations against the officials.

Narsampet police inspector K. Karunasagar Reddy said a case under Section 306 of IPC has been registered and investigation is underway.

● **RAJAIAH'S FAMILY** members alleged that a letter was found in his pocket, in which he had written that the local excise staff is responsible for his death.

Wakf Board seals
late Mutawalli's
house, libraryATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 4

Telangana State Wakf Board has taken possession of the residential premises belonging to the late Mutawalli of Dargah Yousufain Moulana Faisal Ali Shah and sealed it along with the Mutawalli's library.

The Wakf Board's action came following a news item in *Deccan Chronicle* about increasing involvement of unsocial elements in the Dargah.

Officials of Wakf Board led by OSD Mohammed Ilyas Ahmed reached the Dargah premises on Wednesday and removed the locks put by the Mutawalli's family. They sealed the residential premises after placing their locks on doors.

Wakf Board chief executive officer Mohammed Qasim said a memo had been issued by secretary, Minorities Welfare, Ahmed Nadeem seeking clarification

over the news item published in DC. Following this, they sent a team of officials headed by the OSD, auditor Syed Jaleel Ahmed and Dargah caretaker Mohammed Mastan

Mohammed Ilyas said shelves of the library were empty while antique articles in the household were found missing. A few empty almirahs with useless old items were there. Apparently, the family of the late Mutawalli had emptied the house before leaving the premises. Moulana Faisal Ali Shah allegedly committed suicide two months ago. After his demise, his family members allegedly shifted valuables from the house, including rare books kept in the library.

"We will take appropriate action to revive the library by obtaining books from family members of the late Mutawalli," a Wakf Board official remarked.

PROPERTY DAMAGED IN WINE SHOP FIRE

Hyderabad: Property worth about ₹20 lakh was damaged in a major fire reported at a wine shop near Medchal crossroads in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Fire officials said that they got a call around 5 am and sent a fire tender to the spot to douse the flames. "It took

us almost two hours to extinguish the fire and get the situation under control. No casualties or injuries were reported," said the officials. Officials are suspecting short-circuit to be the reason behind the fire. However, the exact reason is yet to be ascertained.

Career Chronicle

TKR College of Engineering & Technology K9)
(AUTONOMOUS, ACCREDITED BY NBA & NAAC 'A' Grade)
Teegala Krishna Reddy Engineering College (R9)
(ACCREDITED BY NBA & NAAC 'A' Grade) (Sponsored by TKR Educational Society)
Medbowli, Meerpet, Hyderabad-500097, Telangana. E-Mail: info@tkrce.ac.in

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

For Ph.D Faculty as Professor, Associate & Assistant Professor A Premier group of engineering colleges (Autonomous, Accredited by NBA & NAAC 'A' Grade) located in the heart of Hyderabad city requires well qualified Ph.D faculty for the post of Professor, Associate & Assistant Professor in the following branches of engineering.

Department	Designations	Date
Civil, EEE, ME, ECE, CSE, AI&ML, DS, IT, Physics, Chemistry, Maths, English & MBA	Professors, Assoc. Prof & Asst. Prof	5 th & 6 th November 2020

Qualification Ph.D / ME/ M.Tech Engineering Degree holders and 1st class either BE/B.Tech or ME/M.Tech are only considered.

• The candidates have to attend the interview along with Original copies of certificates and Passport size photos, PAN Card & Adhar Card, should be willing to join immediately.

Venue: TKRES Medbowli, Meerpet, Hyderabad-500097, Telangana
Contact No: 9849477550, 9949665436, 8498085218, 9666573666 Sd/- Secretary

OPPORTUNITIES FOR
TEACHERS & LECTURERS

Having nearly 46 years of rich experience in the field of education, SR Educational Academy, is considered one of the most reputed educational academies in the states of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

SR Educational Academy comprises of various institutions i.e. schools (SR Digi Schools), junior colleges (SR Junior Colleges), degree, engineering, medical & PG colleges and also a prestigious university i.e. SR University.

We are on the look out for smart educators and talented teachers with a modern and flexible outlook toward preparing digital content for Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Telugu, Hindi, Sanskrit & Social Studies.

If you have good communication, fluency in English, approachable, subject matter expertise, and are under 45 years of age, then you may be a perfect fit.

Walk In on 8th Nov. between 10 am – 4 pm at :
SR Digi School, 1-62/K/240, Kavuri Hills, Opp Madhapur Police Station, Pillar # 24, Hyderabad.

Call us for any queries at :
+91 8886609261 | +91 8886077877
Mail us at : opportunities@ekuluvya.guru

SR Educational
Academy

PROJECT | PREP

Plan to include ultramodern facilities for pilgrims

Srisaillam gets a master plan for facelift

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, NOV. 4

The master plan for development of Srisaillam, keeping in view the expansion needs over the next 25 years, is underway. New Delhi-based Aecom project planners have arrived to assess the needs of the temple town, said Sri Mallikarjuna Brhamaramba Swamy temple's executive officer K.S.

Rama Rao. He said the plan is in its preliminary stage and involves widening of roads, increasing accommodation, pilgrims' convenience outlets and rationalising queuing systems.

He said a master plan was developed in the year 2013 but could not be taken up due to various hiccups. One of the constraining factors was lack of free accommodation for pilgrims and that

need is being addressed now. We are also planning donor cottages, he said.

In the digital era, robust systems for e-ticketing and seamless darshan facilities are also being worked out, he said. Another proposal is to provide glider paths on the queue complex to help the old and differently-abled pilgrims to have a quick and happy darshan, he said.

Further, accommodation complexes and shopping malls and widening of the existing roads besides developing infrastructure in Srisaillam temple town expecting more devotees to turn up is on the cards, he added. A high-security zone within the temple complex and a commercial complex for locating shops away from the security zone would also be part of the develop-

ment activity. The EO further said that queue complex, dormitories, choultries, public utilities, open theatre for cultural activities will be constructed as per needful.

They will develop Srisaillam temple on the lines of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam to attract more devotees from various states, stated the executive officer.



IN BRIEF

KERALA CONG CHIEF BOOKED FOR RAPE JIBE

GILVESTER ASSARAY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 4.

Kerala Pradesh Congress committee president Mr Mullapally Ramachandran was booked by police for his offensive remarks against rape victims which had triggered angry reactions from women organisations in the state.

Even though the KPCC chief had withdrawn the remarks and tendered an unconditional apology, various women organisations lodged a strong protest against him demanding legal action. The case was registered with the women police station here under various sections of IPC following a complaint forwarded by city police commissioner.

The KPCC president has been slapped with section 508 and 354 sections of IPC which pertains to insulting the modesty of any women and outraging the modesty of a woman respectively.

Mr Ramachandran made the controversial remarks on November 1 while inaugurating a protest meet against the government. The following statement triggered the controversy "Everyday this woman wakes up saying she has been raped by someone. It is a desperate attempt by the LDF to dress up a prostitute and make her tell tales standing behind the curtain. This game plan will not work," he said.

He further had said, "one can understand when a woman is raped once. But what if she repeatedly says this. A woman with self respect will either die by committing suicide after she is raped or else try not to be sexually assaulted again."

2ND BATCH OF 3 RAFALE JETS LANDS IN INDIA

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

The second batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets for Indian Air Force landed in India on Wednesday evening after flying non-stop from France.

The fighter jets landed in Jamnagar at 8.14 pm after three mid-air refuelling en route. These aircraft took over 8 hours to reach directly from France.

This will take the total strength of Rafale fighters with IAF to eight to take on threats emerging from China.

Indian Air Force will like to operationalise the second batch of Rafale jets as soon as possible.

In the first batch India had received five Rafale aircraft in July and these were inducted in IAF in September. The first batch has already been operationalised and has carried out sorties in Ladakh sector. In 2016, India had signed a ₹59,000 crore deal for 36 Rafales which will be based in Ambala and Hasimara (West Bengal) air bases.

The 4.5 generation fighter aircraft, capable of carrying nuclear weapons provides IAF unmatched air superiority in the region with its advanced avionics.

MADHYA PRADESH BANS CHINESE CRACKERS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 4

Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday imposed a ban on storage, transportation, sale and use of Chinese crackers in the state ahead of festival of lights.

Chief minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan told reporters here that restrictions on storage, transportation, sale and use of crackers manufactured in other countries like China have been imposed in the state.

He said those who would violate the order would attract provisions of section 9(B) and 1(B) of the Explosive Act, providing a minimum of 2 years of imprisonment.

Mr Chouhan, however, said there would be no restrictions on sale and use of crackers manufactured in India, in the state. The state government has also decided to impose a ban on crackers having pictures of Hindu deities.

"It has been decided to impose restrictions on sale of crackers having pictures of Hindu deities since they hurt religious sentiments of a particular community," Mr Chouhan said.

Chief protest



Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu greets Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh during a protest against the recent farm reform Bills at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday. Amarinder Singh sat on a protest demonstration against what he called was "step motherly" treatment towards his state. He said he wanted to save Punjab and its farmers. — PTI

It's 'third wave' in Delhi, but no need to panic: Kejriwal

With over 46K cases, India records 20% increase in daily Covid cases

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

Kerala and Delhi are registering the highest number of daily fresh cases in the country at present even as active cases of coronavirus in India continue to be on a decline.

While Kerala on Tuesday had 8,516 fresh cases and 28 new deaths, Delhi recorded 6,842 new cases and 51 deaths in one day prompting Delhi Chief Minister Mr Arvind Kejriwal to declare that the national capital is going through the "third wave" of the pandemic.

"For some time now, Delhi has seen an increase in the number of the coronavirus cases. We may refer to it as the third wave. We are holding a review meeting on Thursday over this. We have been monitoring the situation continuously and there is no need to panic. We will take whatever steps are needed," Mr Kejriwal said.

The Delhi government has decided to intensify testing in markets, restau-

● ON OCTOBER 6, CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that Delhi is past the peak of the second wave of coronavirus and the situation has been controlled to a large extent.

rants and other places that register heavy footfall.

Mr Kejriwal said his government intends to challenge the Delhi High Court decision to cap 80 per cent city beds for Delhi residents as a huge number of Covid patients from neighbouring towns like Faridabad, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad are rushing to Delhi for treatment putting pressure on already stretched Delhi health infrastructure.

As active cases continue to decline, a 20 per cent rise in daily fresh cases was seen on Tuesday.

The total numbers of Covid-19 cases in India have reached 83.14 lakh after 46,253 fresh cases were registered in the last 24 hours. So far 1,23,611 people have died due to the virus out of which 514 are

fresh fatalities.

India's fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent. According to Union health ministry there are 5.34 active cases of Covid-19 infection in the country as on date which comprise only 6.42 per cent of the total caseload, while the total number of recoveries has surged to 76.56 lakh, taking the national recovery rate to over 92 per cent.

The ministry added that 17 states and Union Territories have recovery rates more than the national average while 16 states and Union Territories, including Assam, Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, have cases per million lower than the national average.

The officials said that 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are from 10 states and UTs, with Kerala recording the highest — more than 8,000 single-day recoveries — followed by Karnataka (7,000).

Theatres, yoga centers to 'unlock' in Maha

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 4

The entertainment-starved people in Maha-rashtra can now enjoy movies and plays during the festive season of Diwali as the state government has allowed cinema halls, drama theatres and multiplexes to reopen from November 5.

However, the cinema halls, drama theatres and multiplexes will be open only in areas outside the containment zones.

The Thackeray-led government has also put a cap of 50 percent seating capacity on them with no eates allowed inside.

The development comes after the Central government said last month that the cinema halls and movie theatres across the country can reopen from October 15. However, the lockdown guidelines will

strictly be followed in containment zones.

As per the latest government guidelines, swimming pools used for training of state, national and international-level sportspersons and located outside containment zones can operate from November 5.

Yoga institutes, indoor sports facilities such as badminton halls, tennis, squash courts, indoor shooting ranges will also be allowed to operate from Thursday. Physical distancing and sanitization must be ensured, the guidelines said.

Under unlock guidelines, the state had allowed restaurants, bars, food courts to open with 50 percent capacity from October 5. All industrial and manufacturing units of non-essential items in Mumbai Metropolitan Region will be open.

Arnab arrested in suicide case

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 4

The Alibaug police arrested Arnab Goswami, editor in chief of *Republic TV*, in connection with a suicide of 53-year-old interior designer who ended his life in 2018 naming the senior journalist as one of the persons in his suicide note.

Architect Anvay Naik and his mother Kumud had committed suicide over non-payment of dues by Goswami and two others.

The police landed at his Lower Parel residence and after much resistance, arrested Goswami and took him to Raigad.

The Mumbai police has now filed a fresh case against Goswami, his wife, son and others for resisting arrest and allegedly manhandling the police personnel.

Goswami and his wife alleged of manhandling and assault in the process of the arrest, whereas, the Editors Guild and several quarters criticized the arrest and blatant use of state power. The police stated that Goswami's wife tore the arrest warrant when they presented the same.

The arrest comes weeks after the war of words between Goswami and the Mumbai police and the state government after the TRP manipulation case was filed naming the news channel.

The probe in the said case is also underway in connection with which the channel approached the Supreme Court and sought for transfer of probe to the central investigation agency.

"The family was not cooperative and Goswami tried to evade arrest. Goswami was taken to Civil Hospital in Alibaug for conducting a medical check-up," said a police officer.

The police had begun a probe in the case after the state home minister ordered the same in May following a complaint from Adnya, daughter of deceased Anvay Naik. She alleged of substandard investigation by Alibaug police in the case, despite her father leaving behind a suicide note naming Goswami, Feroz Shaikh of Icast X-Skimedia and Niteish Sarda of Smartworks. Shaikh and Sarda were arrested on Wednesday by Raigad police.

Naik owned Concorde Designs Pvt Ltd and in the suicide note he claimed that he was ending his life due to non-payment of his dues by Goswami, Shaikh and Sarda. Police said that as per the note, the three firms owed Naik's company ₹83 lakh, ₹4 crore and ₹55 lakh respectively.

The Alibaug police's case is under sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 34 (acts of common intention) as per the Indian Penal Code. The police have got his custody for further investigation in the case.

The central government has criticised the state administration over the action against the senior journalist.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed Goswami's arrest as 'blatant misuse of state power and attack on free press must be and will be opposed'.

However, the Naik family stated that Goswami had tried to derail the probe in the 2018 case.

SENA: CASE NOT RELATED TO PRESS FREEDOM

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 4

The war of words has escalated between the Shiv Sena and the BJP over the arrest of editor-in-chief of *Republic TV* Arnab Goswami in connection with a suicide abetment case. The Shiv Sena denied the accusations of attack on free press while Congress called BJP's criticism a "selective outrage".

Senior BJP leaders and several Union ministers, including Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda, rebuked the Congress over Mr. Goswami's arrest and called it an "attack on freedom of press".

Sena leader and minister Anil Parab said the police has arrested Mr. Goswami for the enquiry. "This case is not related to freedom of the press. The BJP leaders and workers are making hue and cry for the arrest of Mr. Goswami. They are giving a different colour to the arrest," he said.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the rule of law is in Maharashtra. The state has not acted against anyone in vendetta since the formation of the MVA government.

Mumbai Congress spokesperson R.K. Trivedi condemned the selective outrage of BJP on the arrest. "The arrest of Arnab Goswami in a suicide abetment case is not at all an assault on media or on freedom of press under any circumstances."

Naik's daughter Adnya and wife Akshata claimed they had sent applications seeking justice to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Raigad SP however in vain.

"We had made applications to various people including the PMO and SP, Raigad, to get justice for my father. Investigation into the case was suppressed only because of Arnab Goswami," said Adnya, the deceased architect's daughter.

Akshata Naik, wife of the deceased said, "My husband had mentioned names of three persons including Arnab Goswami in his suicide note but no arrest was made then. He committed suicide only because his legitimate dues were not paid by the accused persons."

Meanwhile, leading the attack against the Maharashtra government, BJP president J.P. Nadda tweeted "India didn't forgive Indira Gandhi for the Emergency. India never forgave Rajiv Gandhi for his assault on press freedom. And now, India will again punish Sonia-Rahul Gandhi for their brazen and intimidating use of state power to get equal with journalists."

Information and Broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar said it is reminiscent of "Emergency days" and also hit out at the Congress, saying its "fascist and Emergency mindset" is on display in Maharashtra.

After WB, Kerala revokes nod for CBI probes without its consent

JD(U) SUBMITS MEMO AGAINST TEJASHWI

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 4

Ahead of the third and final phase of polls, the JD(U) has submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission seeking action against RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and his brother Tej Pratap for allegedly concealing facts about their properties in the affidavit.

"We have submitted documentary proof about properties which both the brothers Tejashwi and Tej Pratap did not mention in their affidavit. We have also urged the Election Commission to investigate the false affidavits and take action under section 123 (2) of the Representation of People's Act", JD(U) leader Neeraj Kumar said.

The JD(U) leader said that the state Chief Electoral Officer H.R. Srinivas has assured the delegation that the details furnished in the memorandum would be sent to the election commission for further action. The NDA has been raising the "corruption, land grabbing and jungle raj" issue against the opposition coalition led by RJD in almost all their rallies.

GILVESTER ASSARAY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 4

The LDF government in Kerala on Wednesday decided to revoke the general consent required by the CBI under the Delhi Special Police

Establishment Act, for probing cases in the state.

From now on the central investigation agency will have to take permission of the state government for

conducting investigations in fresh cases. The Kerala government move comes in the wake of CBI's decision to register a case in connection with the alleged corruption in Life Mission housing scheme.

With Wednesday's Cabinet decision, Kerala joined the league of opposition ruled West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra which have withdrawn the general consent required by the

CBI under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to act in states. The state government move, however, will have no impact on the cases which are already being investigated by the CBI.

The CBI had initiated a separate probe into the housing scheme following a complaint filed by Congress MLA Anil Akkara regarding violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation

Act. The legislator had alleged that the foreign funds for the housing project were received by private construction companies, Unitac Builders and Developers and its subsidiary Sane Ventures which amounted to violation of the provisions of FCRA.

However, the high court stayed the CBI probe for two months following a petition filed by the state government.

RESETTING | TIES Gen Naravane will be conferred with the honorary rank of General of Nepal Army

Army Chief arrives in Nepal on crucial 3-day visit

Kathmandu, Nov. 4: Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane arrived in Nepal on Wednesday on a three-day crucial visit that is largely aimed at resetting the bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries.

Gen Naravane is visiting Nepal at the official invitation of Nepal Army chief Gen Purna Chandra Thapa.

He was accompanied by his wife Veena Naravane, who is the chairperson of the Army Wives Welfare Association of the Indian

Army. They were received by the Chief of General Staff, Lt.Gen Prabhu Ram upon arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport around noon.

The Nepali Army believes that exchange of such high-level visits and continuation of tradition helps in strengthening relations between the two armies, contributing to enhancing the relationship between the two countries, reads a statement issued by the Nepal Army.

Gen Naravane on Tuesday said he was

eagerly looking forward to the visit and exuded confidence that it will go a long way in strengthening the "bonds of friendship" between the armies of the two countries.

His engagements in Nepal include a visit to the headquarters of the Nepalese Army, an address to the young military officers at Nepali Army's Staff College and attending a banquet to be hosted in his honour by Chief of Nepalese Army Gen Purna Chandra Thapa. He will hold formal talks with his Nepalese

counterpart at the Nepal Army headquarters on Thursday. The Indian Army Chief will be conferred with the honorary rank of General of Nepal Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari amidst a special ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He will also pay a courtesy call on President Bhandari after the ceremony on Thursday. He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday.

India's decision to send the Army chief to Nepal to reset the ties is seen as

part of a larger exercise by New Delhi to rejuvenate relations with Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan in the wake of greater efforts by China to expand its influence in the region.

The ties between the two countries came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.

Nepal protested the inauguration of the road

claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories. After Nepal released the map, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and cautioning Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it. In June, Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring areas which India maintains belong to it. — PTI

US Prez poll headed into uncertain phase

Projections awaited for key states like Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia, Nevada

Washington, Nov. 4: The closely-fought US presidential election appeared to be headed into an uncertain phase with Republican incumbent Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden fighting it out in the key battleground states. When reports last came in, Biden had earned 220 electoral college votes, with Trump following closely with 213 votes. As per *Fox News*, Biden has 238 of the 538 electoral college seats, while Trump has 213. On the other hand, *CNN* has projected 220 electoral college votes to Biden and 213 to Trump. *The New York Times* reported that Biden has earned 224 electoral college votes and Trump 213. The winner needs at least 270 electoral college votes.

Officials in Pennsylvania, which many say now holds the key to the White House for both the campaigns, announced in the wee hours of Wednesday that their next update would be only after 9 AM (local time), indicating that the suspense over the election results would continue for at least one more day. Pennsylvania has 20 crucial electoral college votes.

Major American media outlets are yet to declare their projections for some other key battleground states like Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada. "Race Tightens Between Trump and Biden, Key States Still Counting," *The Wall Street Journal* reported. "It has become clear that most Americans will go to bed without knowing who won the presidency, as vote counting in crucial states including Pennsylvania and Michigan may take



Ballots are counted at the Los Angeles County Regional Offices in Downey, California.

— AFP

days to complete. The results that are in show a nation still divided," the daily said. "All eyes on swing states as counting continues in key battlegrounds," *The Washington Post* said. "Election turns into nail-biter that may extend for days," *The NYT* reported.

President Trump held several states he won in 2016 that Biden had hoped to flip, but other battlegrounds were too close to call.

Democrats gained a Senate seat in Colorado but lost one in Alabama, the daily reported. "In a briefing for donors on Tuesday night, Biden campaign officials acknowledged underperforming among Cuban-Americans in the Miami area, but saw positive signs with their strength in some suburbs in Ohio that they said could be predictive across the Midwest, according to two people familiar

with the matter," the daily reported.

"Campaign officials signaled that Biden's team was preparing to wait for votes to be counted in three Northern battlegrounds that Mr Trump carried in 2016 — Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — where it still feels bullish," *The NYT* added. The Biden campaign tried to downplay its electoral performance in Florida, which has 29 electoral

college votes.

"We said Florida was going to be close and... it is! We also said we didn't have to win it, and that remains true," the campaign said in a statement, reiterating that it has multiple paths to victory. Biden won New Jersey and New York in a tight race with President Trump also registering early wins in key states. The former vice president got 2.2 million votes in New York.

— PTI



Donald Trump

TWITTER HIDES TRUMP'S BIDEN POLL STEAL TWEET

Washington, Nov. 4: Twitter on Wednesday placed a "disputed" label on a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he accused the rival Biden campaign of trying to "steal" the tightly-contested 2020 presidential elections.

In his first reaction to the election results, Trump tweeted, "We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election. We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed!"

The tweet was placed behind a warning on the president's account that the content shared is "disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process." Twitter has taken similar action against Trump's account in the past.

Facebook also flagged the post of president Trump. "Final results may be different from initial vote counts, as ballots counting will continue for days and weeks," Facebook said, quoting Bipartisan Policy Center.

The social media giant also flagged the second post by Trump in which he claimed that he is winning big and will soon make a statement. "I will be making a statement tonight. A big WIN!" he said.

Flagging the post, Facebook said, "the winner of the 2000 US Presidential Election has not been projected."

— PTI

World waits nervously for US vote count

Washington, Nov. 4: From Ford Model T cars that popped off the assembly line in just 90 minutes to 60-second service for burgers, the United States has had a major hand in making the world a frenetic and impatient place, primed and hungry for instant gratification.

So waking up to the news on Wednesday that the winner of the US election might not be known for hours, days or weeks — pundits filled global airwaves with their best guesses — came as a shock to a planet weaned on that most American of exports: Speed. "We have to have a little patience, almost certainly a lot of patience," said the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, as the nail-biting contest for the White House increasingly focused on three states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pen-

nsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining whether President Donald Trump or challenger Joe Biden wins.

"In the American system, the last vote counts, and maybe the last vote changes the result," Borrell told Spanish National Television. But as world leaders generally refrained from commenting on the outcome until it was clear, the particularly fractious and contested nature of the vote was already sparking concerns overseas that the superpower's sharp divisions and internal conflicts exposed by the election might endure long after the winner is declared. "The battle over the legitimacy of the result — whatever it will look like — has now begun," said German defence minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

— AP

Celebrating win without victory

Washington, Nov. 4: It was a victory celebration without a victory.

Empty wine glasses littered a table in the East Room of the White House. Pizza boxes and cans of White Claw hard seltzer abounded elsewhere in the complex. As Election Day came and went without a verdict in the presidential race, President Donald Trump grew agitated. At 2:21 a.m., the president took the stage before a well-lubricated crowd in the East Room and falsely claimed he had won. He vowed to take his case to the Supreme Court.

"We were getting ready for a big celebration," Trump said. "We were winning everything and all of the sudden it was just called off." He added, "We will win this and as far as I'm concerned we

already have won it." That was not true. In fact, 102 million Americans spooked by the coronavirus pandemic had shattered records to vote early, and millions of ballots had yet to be counted in key battleground states. Neither Trump nor Biden had yet reached the 270 Electoral College votes required to win the presidency.

Biden, too, felt the need to respond to the indecision. Just after midnight, the former vice president's motorcade abruptly shuttled him from his house in Wilmington, Delaware, to an outdoor speaking venue nearby, where he cautioned that a result might not come for a few days. "We're going to have to be patient," Biden said around 12:30 a.m., as supporters honked their car horns. — AP

TRUMP TO FIGHT ELECTION IN US SUPREME COURT

Washington, Nov. 4: In an unprecedented claim in US politics, Donald Trump on Wednesday falsely asserted "fraud" in the counting of votes and said he would approach the Supreme Court to stop it, as the race between incumbent Republican president and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden was poised for a photo-finish. In one of the most divisive and bitter presidential elections in American history saw tight races in many key battleground states with Biden winning 224 electoral college votes and Trump closely behind with 213. The winner of the 2020 presidential election should have at least 270 electoral college votes out of the 538-member electoral college.

Fox News, considered to be the favourite news network of the president, gave him only 213 electoral college votes while crediting 238 votes to Biden. It also gave 50 per cent of the popular vote to the Democratic challenger and 48.4 per cent to Trump. Trump called the election "a fraud on the American public" and said, "Frankly, we did win this election." He also said he planned to take the battle to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes.

"All of a sudden everything just stopped. This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election," Trump said, without citing any evidence of a fraud in the electoral process. "We will win this, and as far as I'm concerned, we already have won it," Trump, 74, said in remarks to supporters in the White House East Room at 2 a.m.

"Our goal now is to ensure integrity, for the good of this nation. This is a very big moment. This is a major fraud on our nation. We want law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. "We want all voting to stop. We don't want them to find any ballots at four o'clock in the morning and add them to the list," Trump said, amidst applause from his supporters.

Biden's campaign manager called Trump's statement as "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect." "If the president makes good on his threat to go to court to try to prevent the proper tabulation of votes, we have legal teams standing by ready to deploy to resist that effort.

— PTI

Torres 1st gay man elected to Congress

Washington, Nov. 4: Democrat Party's Ritchie Torres has made history by becoming the first openly gay POC man elected to the US Congress.

Torres, 32, a New York City Council Member, won the election from New York's 15th Congressional District, defeating Republican Patrick Delices to become the next representa-

tive, *New York Daily News* reported. "Tonight, a new era begins for the South Bronx," Torres said in a statement.

"It is the honour of a lifetime to represent a borough filled with essential workers who have risked their lives so that New York City could live. "The Bronx is essential, and the vibrant, loving and talented people

who live here have shown time and again their power, fortune and perseverance. The Bronx is the heartbeat of New York City," he said.

Torres, who identified himself as an Afro-Latino, has served in the City Council since 2013. He defeated nearly a dozen other Democrats in the June primary after Republican Jose Serrano announ-

ced his retirement earlier this year. Torres is expected to be joined by another POC gay man, Mondaire Jones, in the US House of Representatives as results were pending in the race to replace retiring Republican Nita Lowey from Westchester county. The seat is expected to go to 33-year-old Jones, a Harvard Law School graduate.

— PTI

VOTERS RECEIVING ROBOCALLS: NY CONDUCTING PROBE

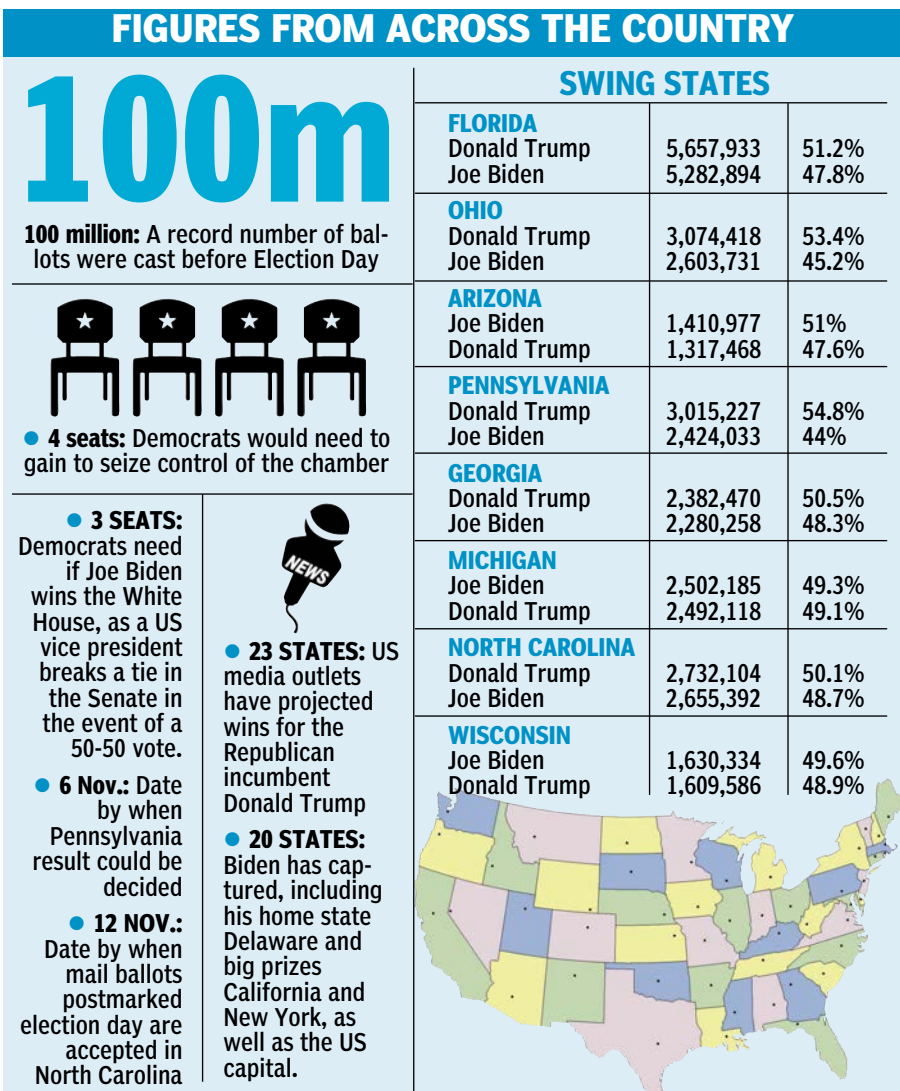
New York, Nov. 4: New York Attorney General Letitia James on Tuesday said her office is actively investigating allegations that voters are receiving robocalls, spreading disinformation and encouraging people to stay home on Election Day.

"Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy," James said. "Attempts to hinder voters from exercising their right to cast their ballots are disheartening, disturbing and wrong. What's more is that it is illegal and will not be tolerated." James said every voter must be able to exercise his fundamental right to vote without being harassed, coerced or intimidated.

"Our nation has a legacy of free and fair elections and this election will be no different. Voters should be rest assured that voting is safe and secure, and they should exercise their fundamental right to vote in confidence," she said.

James added that state leaders across the nation are working hard to protecting "your right to vote and anyone who tries to hinder that right will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law".

— PTI



POLL | SURVEY In 2016, 13% Muslims had cast ballots for Trump

69% Muslims vote for Biden

New York, Nov. 4: Nearly 69 per cent Muslim voters cast their ballot for Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden while 17 per cent supported President Donald Trump, according to a survey conducted by Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organisation in the US.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation, released the results of its 2020 Muslim

Voters Presidential Election Exit Poll on Tuesday. CAIR's poll of 844 registered Muslim voter households found a high Muslim turnout with 84 per cent reporting that they voted in the US election, with 69 per cent voting for Biden and 17 per cent for Trump. CAIR said more than one million American Muslim voters turned out in "record-breaking" numbers this election cycle.

CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said

the "Muslim community's significant ability to impact the results of numerous races across this country, including the presidential election, was recognised nationally." CAIR Director of Government Affairs Robert S. McCaw said there was no denying the role the Muslim community plays in local, state and national politics.

"Now is the time to hold the politicians we elected to office accountable to ensure that the civil and religious

rights of all Americans are being upheld and protected," McCaw said. Compared with the 2016 election, in which then President-elect Donald Trump received a 13 per cent of the Muslim vote, Trump in 2020 received 4 per cent more support.

According to Pew Research Center, there were about 3.45 million Muslims living in the US in 2017, and that Muslims made up about 1.1 per cent of the total American population.

— PTI



Jill Biden waves as her husband Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden speaks during election night at the Chase Center in Wilmington, on Wednesday.

— AFP

IN BRIEF

DELAY U.S. LNG DEAL, ENGIE TOLD

Paris, Nov. 4: The French government asked power group Engie ENGIE.PA to hold off on signing a multi-billion dollar U.S. liquefied natural gas import contract on concerns over the environmental implications of the deal, a source familiar with the matter said.

The contract would be with NextDecade, which is due to decide on whether to go ahead with plans to build its proposed Rio Grande export plant in Texas, and comes amid scrutiny over emission levels at US gas producers.

The request came from the economy ministry, the source added.

A spokeswoman for Engie said the company's board had decided to give itself more time to study the NextDecade contract, saying "the project required a more detailed examination". The spokeswoman declined to comment on whether this followed a request from the state.

RIGHT WHALE NUMBERS FALL TO 366

Portland (US), Nov. 4: The population of North Atlantic right whales, an endangered species that has been the focus of conservation efforts for decades, has dipped to less than 370, officials said. The whale numbers at only 366, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday in an estimate that reflects the population as of January 2019.

The previous estimate, which reflected January 2018, was 412. The whales have struggled with poor reproduction and high mortality over the last decade, especially the past few years. They're vulnerable to ship collisions and entanglement in fishing gear.

The population was more than 480 in 2011, the *Portland Press Herald* reported. A NOAA team is working on a plan designed to reduce the risk the whales face due to fishing gear. Conservation groups sounded the alarm about the drop in population Monday. Erica Fuller, an attorney with Conservation Law Foundation, said "the outlook is grim if we do not act today."

The population of North Atlantic right whales was devastated during the commercial whaling era. It has been a federally protected species since 1972.

SYRIA GOVT SHELLING KILLS SEVEN

Beirut, Nov 4: Syrian government on Wednesday shelled the last rebel last enclave in the country's northwest, killing at least seven people, including three children, rescuers and activists reported.

The attack came during a day of heavy rain, and targeted the city of Idlib city and two towns, to the north and south. A child was killed when a shell landed near a weekly market in the city of Idlib, according to the Syrian Civil Defence, a volunteer rescue team also known as the White Helmets, and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor.

In Ariha, a town to the south, shells killed four people, and in Kefraya to the north, two children were killed, the Observatory said. The shelling comes as an eight-month truce negotiated between Turkey and Russia is unravelling.

Government and allied forces resumed operations in recent weeks, including carrying out an airstrike in late October on rebels in the area that killed dozens of Turkey-backed fighters at their training camp. The attack sparked retaliation, restoring a cycle of violence that had previously displaced hundreds of thousands of residents fleeing the fighting and government advances.

The northwestern rebel-held enclave is home to more than 3 million people and remains the last area in opposition hands. The international community, including the US, are calling for a nationwide cease-fire and resumption of peace talks, saying no military operations would bring about peace to war-torn Syria.

The nine-year war has displaced millions, and killed nearly half a million people, leaving Syria torn in rival areas controlled by different groups, backed by regional or international powers. Turkey, which backs the Syrian opposition, has reached a cease-fire agreement with Russia.



A man looks for the grave of a relative, victim of the Coronavirus pandemic, in the cemetery "Covid-19", on the Day of the Dead, in Tegucigalpa.

— AFP

WHO: Covid spread in Europe accelerating

Half of the globe's new cases reported last week: Health body

Pope returns to private library for audience

Geneva, Nov. 4: The World Health Organisation says there has been a "further acceleration" in the speed of Covid-19's spread in Europe, which was responsible for about half of the globe's new cases reported last week.

The UN health agency said in a weekly report published late Tuesday that European countries also recorded a 46% increase in deaths compared with the previous week. Although deaths also rose in the Americas, the rate of increase there was only 2%. In Europe, France, Italy and the UK reported the highest numbers of new cases while Andorra, the Czech Republic and Belgium reported the highest rate per capita.

Thirsty drinkers in England will be enjoying their final freshly poured pints in a pub for a month Wednesday while shoppers will get one last dose of retail therapy as the country prepares to join large swathes of Europe in lockdown as part of intensified efforts to contain the resurgent Coronavirus. Pubs, along with restaurants, hairdressers and other retail-

ing outlets deemed to be selling non-essential items, such as books and sneakers, will have to close their doors Thursday until at least Dec. 2 following a sudden change of course last weekend by the British government.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson had for weeks

Arctic oil drilling matter in court

Oslo, Nov. 4: Norway's top court began to hear arguments on Wednesday on the legality of awarding offshore oil licenses in the Arctic, in a landmark case that could stop the industry's expansion.

The lawsuit, led by environmental groups Greenpeace Norway and Nature and Youth, is part of an emerging branch of law worldwide where plaintiffs seek to use a nation's founding principles to make the case for curbing emissions.

"The Constitution says that everyone has a right to healthy environment, and we will not secure it if we continue to drill for more oil," Frode Pleym, head of Greenpeace Norway, told *Reuters*. "We do hope and expect the supreme court to rule in (our) favour."

Two lower courts, however, have found the gov-

ernment's 2016 decision to award 10 licenses to oil firms, including Equinor, in the Barents Sea to be legal. "The decision was made after thorough professional, administrative and political processes, which were fully in line with Norwegian law and the constitution," Norway's Attorney General Fredrik Sejersted, who represents the government, said in his submission to the top court.

The oil and gas industry, which made Norway one of the richest countries in the world, is also the largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO2) which causes dangerous climate warming. Norway has pledged to reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 1990.

Pleym said the country will not be able to meet its pledge under the 2015 Paris Agreement. — *Reuters*

Fu Bao: 1st panda born in S. Korea

Seoul, Nov. 4: The first panda to be born in South Korea was introduced to a group of lucky children and reporters on Wednesday and given a name — Fu Bao.

The name given to the panda means lucky treasure.

Fu Bao, born three months ago, appeared healthy and happy, if a little shy, as zookeepers presented her to the children, who were wearing panda T-shirts and masks, at her home at the Everland theme park.

"We love you Fu Bao," the

■ **FU BAO'S** parents, seven-year-old female Ai Bao and eight-year-old male Le Bao, arrived in 2016 from China's Sichuan province, the home of giant pandas, as part of China's "panda diplomacy".

children shouted.

Fu Bao's parents, seven-year-old female Ai Bao and eight-year-old male Le Bao, arrived in 2016 from China's Sichuan province,

the home of giant pandas, as part of China's "panda diplomacy".

Giant pandas are one of the world's most endangered species and the birth of a cub is something to celebrate.

Female pandas can only conceive once a year for a limited period, and cubs have very low chances of survival as they are often born prematurely, usually weighing less than 200 grams (0.44 lb).

Fu Bao weighed 197 grams (0.43 lb) and was 16.5 cm (6.5 inches) long at birth but has grown fast

and now weighs 5.8 kg (12.8 lb) and measures 58.5 cm (23 inches), Everland said.

"She's growing rapidly and started cutting teeth and sitting up on her own ahead of her 100th day," the zoo said in a statement.

Some 50,000 people took part in a poll to choose Fu Bao's name.

The zoo said she would make her public debut in coming weeks, when she can walk and eat bamboo. She is expected to return to China in three or four years. — *Reuters*

Temple vandalised in Pakistan, Hindus saved by Muslims

Karachi, Nov. 4: A Hindu temple in Pakistan's Sindh province was vandalised by an angry mob that also attempted to attack over 300 Hindu families, but were stopped by Muslims from entering the century-old neighbourhood, a media report said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Sunday in Sheetal Das compound, housing 300 Hindu and 30 Muslim families. Residents of the neighbourhood said that scores of men had assembled outside the compound's only gate and many of them intended to attack the Hindu families.

However, the Muslim families, residing in and around the compound, were quick to reach the gate and stop the mob from entering the area. "Police, too, reached the spot within a few minutes after they were informed," a Hindu man, requesting anonymity, told *The Express Tribune*.

Another Hindu man said: "Some of the angry men had managed to reach the temple and tried to vandalise it". They wanted to attack the compound's Hindu families, but the police foiled their attempt.

However, other eyewitnesses, said that three pre-partition idols were destroyed during the

ence Wednesday in his private library with around 10 priests to translate summaries of his catechism lesson, which was livestreamed. It was the same setup Francis used during the Vatican's nearly three-month Covid-19 lockdown in the spring and summer. Then, he complained it felt like he was in a "cage" and unable to mingle with his flock. In his opening remarks, Francis said "unfortunately" it was necessary to return to the library to prevent infections. — *AP*

lightly, or any parliament would want to impose these measures lightly on the people of this country," Johnson said.

England's lockdown follows similar restrictions elsewhere in the UK and across Europe, as nations grapple with mounting new Covid-19 infections. — *AP*

■ **THE INCIDENT** took place on Sunday in Sheetal Das compound, housing 300 Hindu and 30 Muslim families. Residents said that scores of men had assembled outside the compound's only gate and many of them intended to attack the Hindu families.

episode, the report said. "I never felt that fearful," said a teary-eyed resident, while sharing the ordeal. An official from the police also confirmed that it was the Muslim families of the area whose resilience stopped the mob attack on the minority Hindu community. "Had it not been for the Muslim families, it would have been very difficult to thwart the attack," said the senior police official.

Following the incident, over 60 Hindu families had shifted to other areas of the city by Tuesday. "The fear still lingers and the people have left their homes and shifted women and children to locations they deem safe," said a resident. One of the elders from the Hindu community, said that he "had never seen an attack of the sort". — *PTI*

Aegean quake toll rises to 115, search continues

Ankara, Nov. 4: The death toll in last week's Aegean Sea earthquake has risen to 116 on Wednesday as rescuers in the Turkish city of Izmir focused on the final two collapsed buildings.

All but two of the victims were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city. Two teenagers died on the Greek island of Samos, which lies to the south of the epicentre of last Friday's earthquake.

Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD, said search and rescue operations had been completed at 15 of 17 buildings that fell as the violent quake

shook Izmir. Of 1,035 injured people, 137 remained in hospitals, the agency added.

More than 100 people have been pulled from the rubble of apartment buildings. Following a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged not to give up until the final person was recovered. Rescuers' spirits were raised on Tuesday when they pulled a 3-year-old girl from the wreckage of her family home 91 hours after the quake.

The US Geological Survey registered the quake's magnitude at 7.0, though other agencies

recorded it as less severe. The tremors were felt across western Turkey, including in Istanbul, as well as in the Greek capital of Athens. Some 1,700 aftershocks followed, according to AFAD, 45 of which were greater than 4.0 magnitude.

In Izmir, the quake reduced buildings to rubble or saw floors pancake in on themselves and authorities detained nine people, including contractors, for questioning over the collapse of six of the buildings. Turkey has a mix of older buildings and cheap or illegal constructions that do not withstand earthquakes. — *AP*

BRAZIL VP DEFENDS RAIN FOREST POLICY

Brasilia, Nov. 4: Vice-President Hamilton Mourao on Tuesday defended Brazil's environmental policies, saying the country was working to protect the Amazon rain forest and adding nothing will change if Democrat Joe Biden wins the US presidential election.

Biden, who has the backing of environmental groups, has criticized Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of deforestation in the Amazon. A Biden administration would be expected to put the environment and human rights at the top of the bilateral agenda, complicating relations and jeopardizing trade, diplomats and analysts have told *Reuters*.

Destruction of the rain forest has soared under the right-wing Bolsonaro, an ally of Republican US President Donald Trump who plans to develop the Amazon saying this will reduce poverty. Environmental advocates say his policies exacerbate climate change and embolden illegal loggers, miners and ranchers.

Mourao said Brazil is doing its best to look after the forest and will continue doing so whoever is in the White House. "We have put out more than 7,500 forest fires," he told reporters. "I would like to show better results, we have not managed yet, but we will persist." He acknowledged that there would be "some changes" in US policy if Biden wins, but no radical change on the Brazilian end. — *Reuters*



Residents stand outside a home surrounded by floodwaters brought on by Hurricane Eta in Wawa, Nicaragua, on Tuesday.

— AP

landfall, two gold miners were killed when a mountainside unleashed tons of mud Tuesday morning.

A third miner escaped the slide and sought help. One body was recovered before rescuers had to suspend recovery efforts due

to nightfall and fears that more slides could occur as the rain continued, said Lt. Cesar Malespin of the Bonanza Fire Department. He said recovery efforts would continue Wednesday. Bonanza was getting lashed by strong

winds and torrential rain, he said.

The storm has been drenching neighbouring Honduras with rain since at least Sunday and the country reported its first death attributed to Eta early Tuesday. — *AP*

Britain's new polar ship heads for seas

New Brighton, Nov. 4: Britain's new polar ship, the Sir David Attenborough, headed for the open seas on Tuesday to start trials after a storm delay, before making its maiden voyage to Antarctica next year for climate change research.

The 200 million pound (\$260 million), state-of-the-art, polar research vessel, with its red hull and a bright yellow crane on its stern, sailed past Liverpool's historic docks

and out into the sea, headed for north Wales.

Officially the ship is named after the veteran BBC naturalist David Attenborough, but to many Britons it will always be known as "Boaty McBoatface", after that suggestion topped a public poll to name the vessel in 2016.

Its departure from Liverpool was delayed by around a week due to stormy weather. — *Reuters*



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	40,616.14	0.88
Nifty 50	11,908.50	0.80
S&P 500*	3,466.26	2.88
Dollar (₹)	74.74	-0.44
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.60	-0.12
Euro (₹)	87.17	-0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,743,111	0.21
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.88	1.17
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.886	-0.012
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.770	-0.111

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Fund raising via capital markets dips 31% in Sept.

Companies garnered over Rs 75,000 crore from capital markets in September, a decline of 31 per cent from August, with private placement of debt instruments remaining the most preferred route. By Sebi data, companies raised Rs 75,230 crore in September as compared with Rs 1.1 lakh crore in August by issuing equity and debt securities. Out of this, Rs 64,389 crore was raised by private placement of debt.

OnePlus unveils largest Experience Store in Hyderabad



Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus unveiled its largest experience store globally in Hyderabad. Spread across 16,000 sq.ft, the experience store "OnePlus Nizam Palace" also includes a large customer service centre with dedicated glass cubicles for customers to meet and consult service executives, thus, ensuring transparency in the service provided, a company release said.

FlyDubai to start daily flights to Tel Aviv from 26th

FlyDubai will start scheduled flights between Dubai and Tel Aviv on Nov. 26 in line with strengthening ties between the United Arab Emirates and Israel following a diplomatic breakthrough in August. The carrier will operate two trips a day between Dubai International Airport and Tel Aviv Ben Gurion, a statement by the state-owned airline said. The price for a return ticket starts at 1,651 dirhams (\$450).

Jyothy Labs Q2 profit rises 12% to ₹60 crore

Jyothy Labs reported a 12.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 60.13 crore for the September quarter. Its total income stood at Rs 508.51 crore, up 5.86 per cent. M. R. Jyothy, MD, said the company's focus on execution combined with its portfolio comprising daily use 'essential hygiene' has delivered strong sales and profitable growth. There is strong demand acceleration in general trade, the firm said.

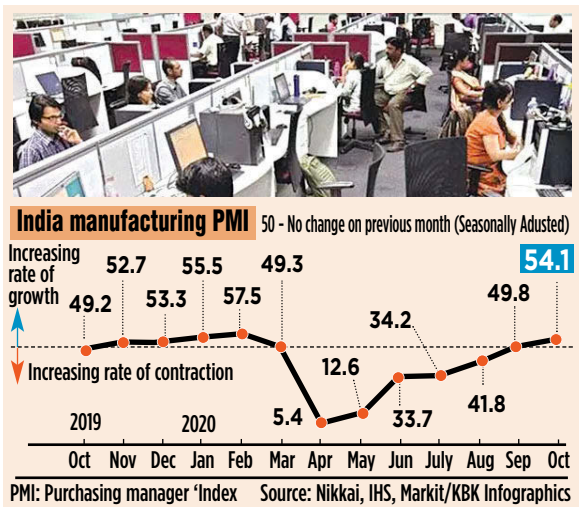
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Index marks first growth since lockdown Services PMI too expands in Oct.

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 4

India's dominant services sector registered growth for the first time since the lockdown began, as relaxation in movement restrictions supported business activity. Services growth, along with factory production, helped IHS Markit's composite Purchasing Managers' Index grow the fastest in nine years.

Rising to 54.1 in October, from 49.8 in September, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index moved above the 50-mark that separates growth from contraction for the first time since February. Earlier IHS Markit had released the manufacturing PMI, which recorded the strongest growth in 13 years at 58.9 points. Services companies reported an increase in new work intakes, which they attributed to successful marketing efforts and strengthening demand. The upturn in bookings ended a seven-month sequence of contraction. Further, the domestic market was the key source of new business gains, as new orders from abroad declined further. The deterioration in international demand for Indian services in October was the slowest since March, but nevertheless sharper than pre-Covid times. Amid reports of workers on leave failing to return and difficulties in hiring



staff due to the pandemic, services employment decreased again in October. The pace of job shedding matched the September levels. As a result of falling employment and rising orders, backlogs of work increased. Services companies continued to report rising expenses at the start of the third quarter of the fiscal, taking the current sequence of cost inflation to four months. The latest increase was the strongest since February. Fuel, maintenance and material prices continued to increase. Some service providers lifted their fees, passing on the rising cost burden to their clients. "While new business spending showed a reasonably big improvement, it is still not feeding into employment within the service sector, although backlogs are rising, which may boost employment in coming months. Given that pricing pressures from fuel and material prices remain, there was an increase in the cost burdens and some reports of pass-through beginning to emerge. While output prices remain low, we will monitor this dynamic over the coming months as the economy normalizes," said Rahul Bajoria, chief India economist, Barclays. The Composite PMI Output Index too rose from 54.6 in September to 58 in October, signalling the strongest increase in private sector output in close to nine years. A sharp rise in factory production accompanied by a return to growth of services activity reflected in the growth of composite index.

SAUDI ARABIA TO RELAX RULES FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

MARWA RASHAD NOV. 4

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday announced new plans to ease foreign workers' contractual restrictions, improving a controversial seven-decade-old sponsorship system known as kafala. The plans, to take effect in March 2021, aim to make the Saudi labour market more attractive, the deputy minister for human resources said, by granting foreign workers the right to change jobs by transferring their sponsorship from one employer to another, leave and re-enter the country and secure final exit visas without the consent of their employers. "Through this initiative we aim to build an attractive labour market and improve the working environment through three main services...available to all foreign workers in the private sector," Abdullah bin Nasser Abuthun-ain told reporters. Saudi Arabia, which chairs the Group of 20 major economies (G20) this year, is seeking to boost its private sector, part of an ambitious plan to diversify its oil-dependent economy. The currently applicable kafala system generally binds a migrant worker to one employer. Rights groups have been calling on Saudi authorities to end that system. —Reuters

Gland Pharma mega IPO priced at ₹1,490-1,500 per ₹1 share

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 4

Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma's mega initial public offering (IPO) that aims to raise nearly Rs 6,500 crore opens on November 9. The price band for the public offer has been fixed at Rs 1,490 to Rs 1,500 per equity share of Re 1 face value. Gland Pharma's Rs 6,479.55 crore public offer is the largest pharma sector IPO in recent times, far bigger than Alkem Laboratories (Rs 1,349 crore in 2015) and Eris Lifesciences (Rs 1,741 crore in 2017). The public offer that opens next Monday closes on Wednesday, November 11, the company said at a virtual media meet. Gland Pharma is a generic injectables-focused company that sells its products primarily under a business to business model in over 60 countries, including the United States, European countries, Canada and Australia. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares aggregating up to Rs 1,250 crore and an offer for sale of over 3.48 crore equity shares worth Rs 5,229.54 crore at the upper price band by the promoter selling shareholders. Gland Pharma's foreign promoter China-based Fosun Pharma Industrial PTE will be selling over 1.93 crore shares. Gland Celsus Bio Chemicals, Empower Discretionary Trust, Nilay Discretionary Trust are the other selling promoter shareholders. Citigroup, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, Haitong Securities India



FIRM ASKED TO TRANSFER RAMALINGA RAJU FAMILY'S SHARES TO ESCROW A/C

Hyderabad, Nov. 4: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has instructed Gland Pharma to transfer its six million shares owned by companies promoted by Satyam Computers' B. Ramalinga Raju and his kin to an escrow account following the city-based drug company announcing its initial public offering (IPO), a senior executive of the Gland Pharma said on Wednesday. Ten firms owned by Raju and his family members held six lakh shares with Rs 10 face value each, which later became six million at face value of Re 1. After the Satyam multi-crore scandal broke out in 2009 and the subsequent developments, the ED, which filed cases against Raju and others, had attached the shares and directed Gland Pharma not to transfer, dispose, remove, part with or otherwise deal with them in any manner until further instruction from it. "There is no risk in terms of Ramalinga Raju's shares, because they invested in the company (Gland Pharma) in the late 90s. And then they offloaded a few of the shares. And these are the leftover shares when the issue happened and they were attached by the Enforcement Directorate" Srinivas Sadhu, MD and CEO of Gland Pharma said in a virtual press conference. He was responding to a query about the risk factors of the shares being held by Raju's firms. The attached shares represent 3.87 per cent of the pre-offer paid-up equity share capital of the company. Gland Pharma was founded by P. V. N. Raju in 1978 and Chinese Fosun Pharma acquired 74 per cent stake in the company in 2017. —PTI

SBI net jumps 52% on lower provisions

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 4

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), on Wednesday reported a 52 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 4,574 crore for the September 2020 quarter compared to the year-ago period on account of lower provisioning and higher core income. The bank had clocked a net profit of Rs 3,012 crore during July-September last year. The bank's operating profit, excluding exceptional items, increased to Rs 16,460 crore in Q2FY21 from Rs 14,714 crore in Q2FY20, a rise of 11.86 per cent year-on-year. The net interest income or the difference between interest earned and expended grew 14.56 per cent YoY. The domestic net interest margin improved to 3.34 per cent, registering an increase of 12 basis points YoY. SBI's provisions fell 49 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,619 crore in July-September. During the



Dinesh Khara

quarter, the bank made additional provisions worth Rs 239 crore against accounts that may be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Slippages declined to Rs 2,756 crore compared with Rs 8,805 crore a year ago. But the bank said that loans worth Rs 14,388 crore would have slipped to NPA, if the Supreme Court instructions were not in place. Of the accounts that have received classification benefit from Supreme Court's instructions, Rs 5,965 crore worth of loans were upgraded in October itself. The bank holds provisions worth Rs 3,194 crore against the pro forma accounts. The lender said its gross non-performing asset (GNPA) would have been at 5.88 per cent and net NPA at 2.08 per cent if the bank had classified the loan accounts as NPA after August 31, in accordance with RBI's norms. It should be noted that the Supreme Court in an interim order on Sept. 3, had directed that the accounts which were not declared NPA till August 31, shall not be declared NPA till further orders. "We are expecting further Rs 20,000 crore worth of slippages in the second half of this financial year. This has been calculated keeping in mind our usual run rate of Rs 10,000 crore worth of slippages every quarter. We do not think we will deviate from this," Dinesh Khara, SBI's new chairman told reporters. The bank has received restructuring requests worth Rs 6,495 crore in Q2 under the one-time restructuring scheme.

Expect 7.3% pay hike next year

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 4

After all the reports of job losses and salary cuts, there is something employees of India Inc can look forward to. Global professional services firm Aon's salary trend survey has found that 87 per cent of surveyed companies plan to give salary hikes to their employees next year compared to 71 per cent this year. Companies intend to increase compensation by an average 7.3 per cent in 2021 compared to 6.1 per cent this year-- the lowest in the history of the survey, even lower than 6.3 per cent recorded in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2008. In 2021, roughly 61 per cent of the companies are planning increments of 5-10 per cent compared to 4.5 per cent in 2020. Around 26.7 per cent companies may offer higher salary increases over last year, another 39.8 per cent plan to offer the same hike and 33.5 per cent companies intend to offer lower salary hike in 2021 over 2020, said Navneet Rattan, director, performance and rewards solutions practice, India. The

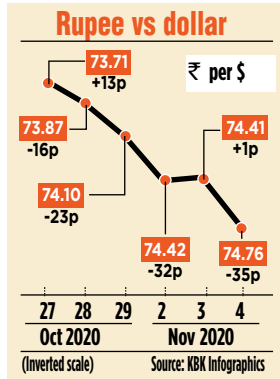
Aon Salary Trends Survey analysed data across 1,050 companies from more than 20 industries. Commenting on the survey, Aditya Narayan Mishra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services, said during the festive season several companies have started restoring the salary cut implemented

earlier. "Many of the organisations had laid off employees and effected salary cuts. Of this, around two-third are in the process of restoring salaries. As the business outlook is better now, it is likely that companies might provide at least single digit increments in 2021," he said.

HIRING FOR FRESHERS IMPROVING

Mumbai, Nov. 4: Demand for freshers has seen an uptick since June and this trend is likely to continue till the end of this financial year, say experts. The sectors that are seeing significant uptrend include EdTech and e-Learning followed by healthcare, HR Tech and FinTech. "Freshers hiring had dropped down to mere 1.5 lakh during March 25-April 30, from the average 5 lakh per month. However, the scenario is improving and currently there are around 3.5 lakh fresher job openings listed on the portal, Team-lease.com and Freshers-world.com VP and business head Kaushik Banerjee said.

Hiring began to look up for freshers in late June and is likely to gather strength in September-November, he noted. The other sectors where freshers are being hired include FMCG, IT and ITES, manufacturing, BFSI, telecom, and semiconductor; he added. CIEL HR Services director and CEO Aditya Mishra says most companies are betting on recovery and are hoping to witness pre-Covid levels of demand in January-March 2021. "About 65 per cent of the freshers who were holding offers slated to join in May-September have found placements. However, the remaining ones are struggling to find work," he said. —PTI



Adani to acquire 3 city gas licences from defaulter

New Delhi, Nov. 4: Adani Gas Ltd on Wednesday announced the acquisition of city gas licences for Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Kutch (East) from Jay Madhok Energy for an undisclosed sum of money. Jay Madhok Energy Pvt Ltd has been issued show cause by the oil regulator Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) over defaulting on timelines and alleged irregularities in the acquisition of the city gas licence. "Adani Gas Ltd has signed a definitive agreement for acquisition of three Geographical Areas, namely Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Kutch (East)," the firm said in a statement. It, however, neither disclosed the name of the city gas licence holder for the three cities nor the acquisition price. "All 3 GAs have high volumes potential in terms of demand of over 6.5 million standard cubic metres per day over a period of 10 years. These geographical areas (GA's) are under Phase 1 of Bharat Mala Pariyojana by NHAI which will further boost the development and volume growth," it said. Jay Madhok had in 2013 won the licence to retail CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas in Jalandhar in Punjab and two years later it got a licence for Ludhiana and Kutch (East) in Gujarat. —PTI

Unhappy with bank returns, billionaire takes things into his own hands

He has no regrets about pulling money out of banks

BEN STUPPLES NOV. 4

Mohamed Mansour enjoys the challenge of managing his own fortune. The 72-year-old billionaire set up an investment firm a decade ago to oversee his family's wealth the same way he and his brothers built their closely held business into a global firm with operations, including McDonald's Corp restaurants and a General Motors Co dealership. Mansour Group's proceeds have allowed the Egyptian dynasty behind it to invest through their family office in firms such as Airbnb Inc, Twitter Inc and Snowflake Inc, the maker of cloud-data soft-

ware that popped 104 per cent on its first day of trading this year. With those sort of results, Mansour isn't missing someone else managing his money. "I used to leave my money with the banks, but I wasn't pleased with the returns I was getting," he said in a recent interview. "They always have an A-team that meets you at first, and you think, 'Wow! But you don't really know who manages your money, and then you get a 2 per cent one year." "Now I can say, 'It's my money and I'm going to invest it.' And if I lose, I lose," he added. Mansour helped lead his family's conglomerate—founded as a cotton exporter in 1952—follow-



Mohamed Mansour

ing his father's death in 1976. It's now worth about \$7 billion, according to Bloomberg calculations. His son Loufty is chief executive officer of their London-based family office, Man Capital, which also has a venture capital business in San Francisco. Bloomberg spoke with Mansour about how he

became an early Facebook Inc. investor, his exercise regime and why he's waiting for the outcome of the US election. Did the pandemic hit your wealth? I reduced my exposure maybe 75 per cent at the end of February. I saw Covid was in China. When it started hitting Europe and the numbers started doubling every five or seven days, I went to my office and told my team we needed to exit any stocks not in the technology sector. We've gone into the market a bit since then, mostly in tech, but we have quite a bit of cash as we're waiting to see what happens. It'll be interesting to see how the US election

affects the markets.

Why did you set up a family office? After serving in government from 2005 to 2009, I was starting a new career. The companies in Mansour Group were solid, and we had liquidity. When you run a business, you really don't pay attention to your wealth, and I wanted to be able to manage my own money. We used to give it to X or Y bank, but I said, "This doesn't take rocket science. We could hire bright young men and women that can manage our money. If the bank can do it, why can't we do it ourselves?" We now have a team of 14 people, including my son, and we've established a

reputation. The deal flow comes to us, and we do one or two deals a year. It was definitely the right decision, and family offices are the future. Why so much focus on technology? I was at a conference about 15 years ago, when I heard a guy say the world will change: one day, you won't need to go and see a doctor in person. Instead, you'll just need a screen and the doctor will look and just give you a prescription. After hearing that, I said technology is where the future is, and we invested early in Facebook, Twitter, Uber, Spotify and more recently in Snowflake and Adyen. —Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

VK, Rohit dominate ICC ODI rankings

Dubai: India skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma continued to dominate the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen by occupying the top two positions, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained static at the second spot in the bowler's list. Kohli (871) and Rohit (855), who have not featured in any one-day game since the Covid-19 pandemic suspended all cricket activities across the globe, are ranked one and two respectively in the batting chart.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, however, has bridged the gap with the Indian pair after amassing 221 runs, which included a knock of 125 in the third match against Zimbabwe recently. In the bowling chart, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (722) held on to his top spot, followed by Bumrah (719). — *PTI*

Samuels bids adieu to cricket

Kingston: West Indian batsman Marlon Samuels, who top-scored in both of the team's T20 World Cup final wins during a career that also had its share of controversies including a two-year ban for corruption, has retired from all forms of cricket.

ESPNcricinfo reported that Cricket West Indies chief executive Johnny Grave confirmed to it that Samuels had told CWI of his retirement in June, having last played in December 2018. The 39-year-old played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is for the West Indies. He scored over 11,000 international runs and also picked more than 150 wickets.

Samuels was known as the man for big occasions, evidences of which were his exploits in the team's T20 World Cup title triumphs in 2012 and 2016. — *PTI*

Doubts brew over Asian League

Seoul: There are growing concerns as to whether the eastern zone of the AFC Champions League can be completed in the face of travel restrictions in the region. Sixteen teams from Japan, South Korea, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Australia are scheduled to resume their campaigns in the continent's flagship club tournament in a bio-secure hub in Qatar on November 15. The eastern zone winner is then scheduled to take on western conference champion Persepolis of Iran in the final in Doha on December 18. The tournament was split in half because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the western zone competition was completed in the same Qatar hub last month. Australian clubs especially have an issue with the revised timing of the continental competition. — *AP*

Oz swim coach Don dies aged 87

Sydney: Long-time former Australia coach Don Talbot has died aged 87, with the swimming world on Wednesday remembering him as a legend of the sport who oversaw his country's golden era in the pool. Talbot passed away peacefully on November 3, Sport Australia Hall of Fame said in a tribute. He began his coaching career in the 1950s and was Australia's head swimming coach during its peak in the 1990s and 2000s — including at the 2000 Sydney Olympics when Australia produced their best result in almost 30 years by winning 18 medals. Talbot guided the 4x100m relay team of Michael Klim, Chris Fydler, Ashley Callus and Ian Thorpe to break the world record and stun the US team who had never been beaten in the event since its Olympic introduction in 1964. — *AFP*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Qualifier 1 — Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

IPL Women's T20 Challenge: Velocity vs Trailblazers from 3.20 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Day 4 action from 3.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Benfica vs Rangers from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1; Ludogorets vs Tottenham Hotspur from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Roma vs CFR Cluj from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 3; Arsenal vs Molde from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Leicester City vs Braga from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3; AC Milan vs Lille from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1

Heavyweights clash

Ambitious Delhi Capitals face mighty Mumbai Indians

Dubai, Nov. 4: They stand on the opposite ends of IPL's success spectrum but there is little to separate between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals in the tournament's 13th edition as they head into a blockbuster first qualifier here on Thursday.

The team to beat in the league stage, four-time winners Mumbai lost a bit of their momentum after a 10-wicket defeat to SRH on Tuesday.

Chasing their maiden title, DC roared back to form by thrashing Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets to grab the second spot, after four successive losses.

The biggest positive for Mumbai has been the return of skipper Rohit Sharma, who had missed four games to recover from a hamstring injury. The star opener, though, perished cheaply against SRH and needs to come good on the big day.

The defending champions boast an explosive batting line-up coupled with an equally lethal bowling attack, but the batters had an off day against SRH.

Their bowlers too were taken to the task — a wake-up call before the crucial game.

Delhi's middle-order has been sluggish and heavily dependent on one or two batters.

Mumbai top-order has been firing on all-cylinders and young Ishan Kishan (428 runs) has been a revelation. Quinton De Kock (443) would be keen to continue his sublime form while opening with Rohit.

And so would Suryakumar Yadav (410), who has played some scintillating knocks.

Known for their six-hitting prowess, Hardik Pandya (241), Kieron Pollard (259) and Krunal Pandya (95) have pummelled bowling attacks to submission.

Pollard's six-hitting ability was on display again



Rohit Sharma (right) of Mumbai Indians and Shreyas Iyer of Delhi Capitals in this photo.

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL:

● Matches: 26 ● Mumbai: 14 ● Delhi: 12

MEETING IN 2020

- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 9 wickets at Dubai

FOR THE RECORD

- Rohit Sharma who scored 3992 runs at an average of 31.43 in 149 innings of 153 matches, needs just eight runs to become first batsman to score 4000 runs for Mumbai Indians in IPL.
- Kagiso Rabada with 25 wickets at an average of 17.80 in 14 innings of as many matches, is the highest wicket-taker in this Indian Premier League.

— *S. PERVEZ QAISER*

with two hundreds and three fifties, but will need support from others in a big game.

A major cause of concern is the form of two youngsters — opener

Prithvi Shaw (228) and Rishabh Pant (282) — who haven't lived up to their true potential. So has been the case of their key overseas players — West Indian Shimron Hetmyer

(138 runs) and Marcus Stoinis (249 runs).

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (421) will have to play the anchor's role.

On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (19) have been exceptional.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel have done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

Earlier in the league stage, Mumbai got the better of Delhi twice but Rohit conceded that it is history.

"You keep doing well, I know you want to remember those performances, but it is always nice to forget what has happened and focus on the present," Rohit said. — *PTI*

NEVER-SAY-DIE ATTITUDE IS KEY TO SRH SUCCESS

Sharjah, Nov. 4: Sunrisers Hyderabad's "never-say-die" attitude helped the team stage an incredible turnaround and secure a spot in the IPL play-offs, skipper David Warner stated.

Sunrisers Hyderabad delivered under pressure in a must-win game to crush table toppers Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets and qualify for the play-offs.

"It feels good now after that dreadful loss against KXIP. They (MI) rested a few players but to hold them to 150 on this ground was great. A lot of credit goes to the bowlers, (Shahbaz) Nadeem was superb.

"We were trying to be as clinical with the bat then, and it feels good.

"We have a never say die attitude and that is how we approach each game," the Sunrisers Hyderabad's captain added. — *PTI*

Sushma shines in Velocity win

Sharjah, Nov. 4: Velocity toppled defending champions Supernovas by five wickets in the opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Wednesday.

Sushma Verma (34) and Sune Luus (37 not out) were main contributors in Velocity's successful chase.

Ekta Bisht (3/22) scalped three batswomen, while Leigh Kasperrek (2/23) and Jahanara Alam (2/27) took two wickets apiece for Velocity.

For Supernovas, opener Chamari Atapattu top-scored for Supernovas with a 44-run knock.

Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht scalped three batters as Velocity put up a disciplined bowling effort to restrict defending champions Supernova to a modest 126 for eight in the opening match of Women's T20 Challenge, here on Wednesday.

Apart from Bisht, New Zealand off-spinner Leigh Kasperrek (2/23) and medium pacer Jahanara Alam (2/27) also contributed in stifling the holders.

Jahanara dismissed key batters — Harmanpreet Kaur (31) and Chamara Atapattu (44) — to derail Supernova.

Atapattu and her Indian counterpart Harmanpreet had seized control in the back end but their 47-run partnership was broken by Jahanara with Veda Krishnamurthy taking calm-headed skier in the long on. — *PTI*

BRIEF SCORES

■ Supernovas 126/8 in 20 overs (Chamari Athapathu 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 31; Ekta Bisht 3-22, Leigh Kasperrek 2-23, Jahanara 2-27) lost to Velocity 129/5 in 19.5 overs (Sune Luus 37, Sushma Verma 34, V. Veda Krishnamurthy 29; A. Khaka 2-27; A. Khaka 2-27)



Sushma Verma of Velocity plays a shot against Supernovas during their Women's T20 Challenge match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday. — *BCCI*

THE RESULTS

Liverpool
(Jota 16, 33, 54, Salah 47, Mane 49)

Atalanta

Bayern Munich

(Lewandowski 21-pen, 88, Kristensen-OG, Jerome Boateng 79, Leroy Sane 83, Hernandez 90+2)

RB Salzburg

Berisha 4, Okugawa 66)

Manchester City

(Ferran Torres 12, Gabriel Jesus 81, Joao Cancelo 90)

Olympiacos

Real Madrid

(Karim Benzema 25, Sergio Ramos 33, Rodrygo 80)

Inter Milan

(Martinez 35, Ivan Perisic 68)

for Liverpool's fourth before Jota got his hat-trick goal as the Premier League champions recorded their biggest win in Europe since beating Porto 5-0 away in February 2018.

With three wins from three, Liverpool are well on course to top Group D, with Ajax and Atalanta both five points back.

Ajax won 2-1 away to Midtjylland in Denmark, as Brazilian youngster Antony opened the scoring in the first minute and Dusan Tadic netted from an indirect free-kick inside the box soon after. Anders Dreyer got one back for the hosts, who remain pointless.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid ran out 3-2 winners in a

dramatic encounter with Inter behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, as Vinicius Junior set up his fellow Brazilian substitute Rodrygo to lash in the decisive goal 10 minutes from time.

Karim Benzema had put the hosts ahead and Sergio Ramos headed in his 100th Madrid goal in

the 33rd minute, but Lautaro Martinez pulled one back shortly after.

In another match, reigning champions Bayern have now won a record-extending 14 consecutive Champions League games after a 6-2 victory against Salzburg in Austria.

German forward Mergim Berisha gave Salzburg an early lead only for Robert Lewandowski to level from the penalty spot, and a Rasmus Kristensen own goal put Bayern ahead before the break.

Jerome Boateng headed them back in front, Leroy Sane got their fourth and Lewandowski strained to head in his 12th of the season, before Lucas Hernandez wrapped up their win. — *AFP*

Maradona's brain surgery goes well

Buenos Aires, Nov. 4: Diego Maradona has had successful surgery for possible bleeding on his brain less than a week after his 60th birthday.

It was all successful and it happened as expected, Maradona's public relations team said in a statement Tuesday night.

Maradona had a subdural hematoma, which is an accumulation of blood between a membrane and his brain, his personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, said.

Luque, a neurologist, said the problem likely was caused by an accident, but Maradona said he doesn't remember the event.

The Argentine soccer great will rest in his room in a private clinic outside Buenos Aires for at least 48 hours.

Maradona was accompanied to the clinic by his daughters Dalma, Giannina and Jana and other relatives, according to local media.

The surgery closed a journey that the 1986 World Cup champion started in another clinic in the city of La Plata, where he was admitted with anemia and dehydration.

Donato Villani, the head of the Argentine national team's medical staff, told television channel TyC Sports that such a surgery normally goes well, "but it is different with Diego," citing Maradona's past treatment for cardiac problems and his use of drugs and alcohol.



Diego Maradona

Maradona was admitted to the Ipenza Clinic with signs of depression on Monday. Luque said Maradona had felt sad for about a week and refused to eat before arriving at the clinic.

Maradona has lived in La Plata since the end of 2019, when he became coach of Gimnasia y Esgrima.

Maradona turned 60 last 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.

Before undergoing surgery on Tuesday, the former star for Barcelona, Napoli and Boca Juniors reported feeling better.

"Diego feels much better than yesterday and feels like leaving. He spent the night well and we have been joking," Luque said Tuesday morning. — *AP*

ENGLISH FOOTBALLER RYAN RACIALLY ABUSED

Sinsheim (Germany), Nov. 4: Ryan Sessegnon, on loan at German club Hoffenheim from Tottenham, has revealed that he's been subjected to online racial abuse.

The 20-year-old left-back published a screenshot of the abuse late Monday showing a series of messages sent on Instagram including racist insults.

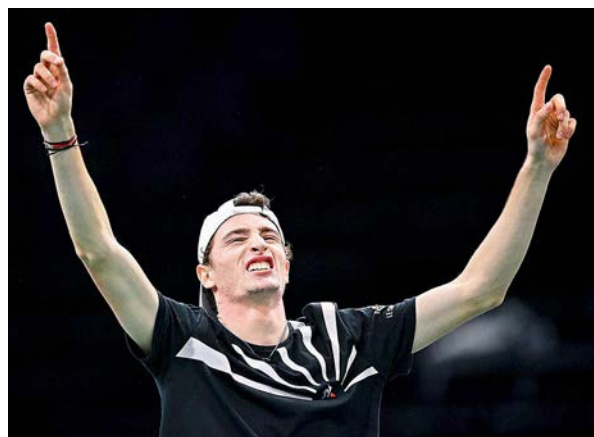
The craziest thing is I'm not even surprised anymore," wrote Sessegnon.

The account shown as having sent the messages is no longer active on *Instagram*.

Tottenham and Hoffenheim both issued messages of support for Sessegnon, who has played for England's under-21 team.

Everyone at the club is with you. We are proud of the rich ethnic diversity that exists across our communities, fans, staff and players. We are driven by inclusion and equality for all and nobody should have to endure such repulsive abuse," Tottenham wrote on *Twitter*.

Sessegnon joined Hoffenheim this month on a season-long loan. Crystal Palace player Wilfried Zaha has said that Black athletes are regularly subjected to online racial abuse. — *AP*



Ugo Humbert celebrates after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in their men's singles tennis match of the Paris Masters in Paris on Tuesday. — *AFP*

Ugo sends Tsitsipas packing from Paris

Paris, Nov. 4: Second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was dumped out of the Paris Masters on Tuesday after losing to in-form Frenchman Ugo Humbert in a marathon second-round tie.

Humbert, who is on a seven-match winning streak after winning the Antwerp title last month, missed four match points but battled to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/3) victory.

He was visibly struggling in the final-set tie-break after over three hours on court, but Tsitsipas said he was also not at full fitness.

"I'm just disappointed with the way I played," Tsitsipas said.

"During the second set my Roland Garros injury came back, and it wasn't as

bad as at the French Open, but it kind of had me on the edge of things, and I wasn't sure if that's good for me to be out there," he added.

The 22-year-old Humbert will face former US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in the quarter-finals.

Tsitsipas will next defend his ATP Tour Finals title in London at the season-ending tournament which gets underway on November 15.

Humbert appeared poised to secure the win in the second-set breaker, but saw three match points come and go before Stefanos Tsitsipas forced a decider.

It was a second straight narrow defeat for Stefanos Tsitsipas after his loss to Grigor Dimitrov in Vienna last week. — *AFP*

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