

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | THURSDAY 5 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31°C
Min: 26°C
Rainfall: 2 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 20
Tithi: Panchami
Star: Thiruvathirai
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam: 6 am to 7.30 am

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.50 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.13 pm
Maghrib: 5.43 pm
Isha: 6.55 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.04 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 9.25 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 10.41 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+46,916)	(+626)
83,59,863	1,24,276

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,487)
TN: 7,34,429 11,244

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

4,81,75,509

DEATHS

12,25,341

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 216

worldometers.info

3 more Rafale jets arrive in India after flying non-stop from France

New Delhi: A second batch of three Rafale fighter jets arrived at Jamnagar airbase in Gujarat on Wednesday evening after flying non-stop from France, in a further boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force when India and China are locked in a bitter border row in eastern Ladakh.

Parliament votes to back England's lockdown No. 2

London: England will enter a second stay-at-home lockdown from Thursday until at least December 2 as members of Parliament approved the new shutdown, announced last week by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in an attempt to curb the spike in coronavirus infections in the country. In a House of Commons vote on Wednesday, the parliamentarians supported the new measures by 516 to 38, a majority of 478.

COUNTER

POINT



Kerala, Delhi see Covid numbers up; Kejriwal says it's third wave

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

Kerala and Delhi are registering the highest number of fresh daily cases in India even as active Covid-19 cases are on the decline in the country. While Kerala on Tuesday had 8,516 fresh cases and 28 deaths, Delhi saw 6,842 new cases and 51 deaths in a day, prompting Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to declare that the

nation's capital is going through the "third wave" of the pandemic.

"For some time now, Delhi has seen an increase in coronavirus cases. We may refer to it as the third wave. We are holding a review meeting tomorrow," Mr Kejriwal said.

The Delhi government decided to intensify testing in markets, restaurants and other places with heavy footfalls.

NGT notice to TN, 17 states, on ban on cracker sale

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The National Green Tribunal Wednesday expanded the ambit of hearing cases on pollution by use of fire-crackers beyond the NCR and issued notices to 18 states and Union Territories where air quality is beyond norms.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel noted that it has already issued notice to Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and the state governments of Odisha and Rajasthan have already issued a notification prohibiting the sale and use of firecrackers. The green panel sought response from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttarakhand and West Bengal. — *PTI*

Punjab CM holds protest in capital against farm laws

New Delhi, Nov 4: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday launched a dharna here to protest against the Centre's new farm legislation and accused the BJP-led government of meting out 'step-motherly' treatment towards the state.

He said the farmer's agitation in Punjab against the new farm laws could lead to "serious consequences" for national security and alleged that China and Pakistan were seeking to disturb peace in the country's border state. Stressing that his intention was not to disturb peace, Capt. Singh said he was trying to "save" his state's farmers as the Centre was "playing with" their livelihoods.

Addressing the dharna, which was shifted to Jantar Mantar from Rajghat after Section 144 CrPC (Prohibiting assembly of four or more persons) was imposed there, Capt. Singh hit out at the Centre saying it was not cooperating with the state authorities to end the rail and road blockade. — *PTI*

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HC retrieves temple lands in Chennai, Salem



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CM launches mobile Amma canteens

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Maradona's brain surgery goes well

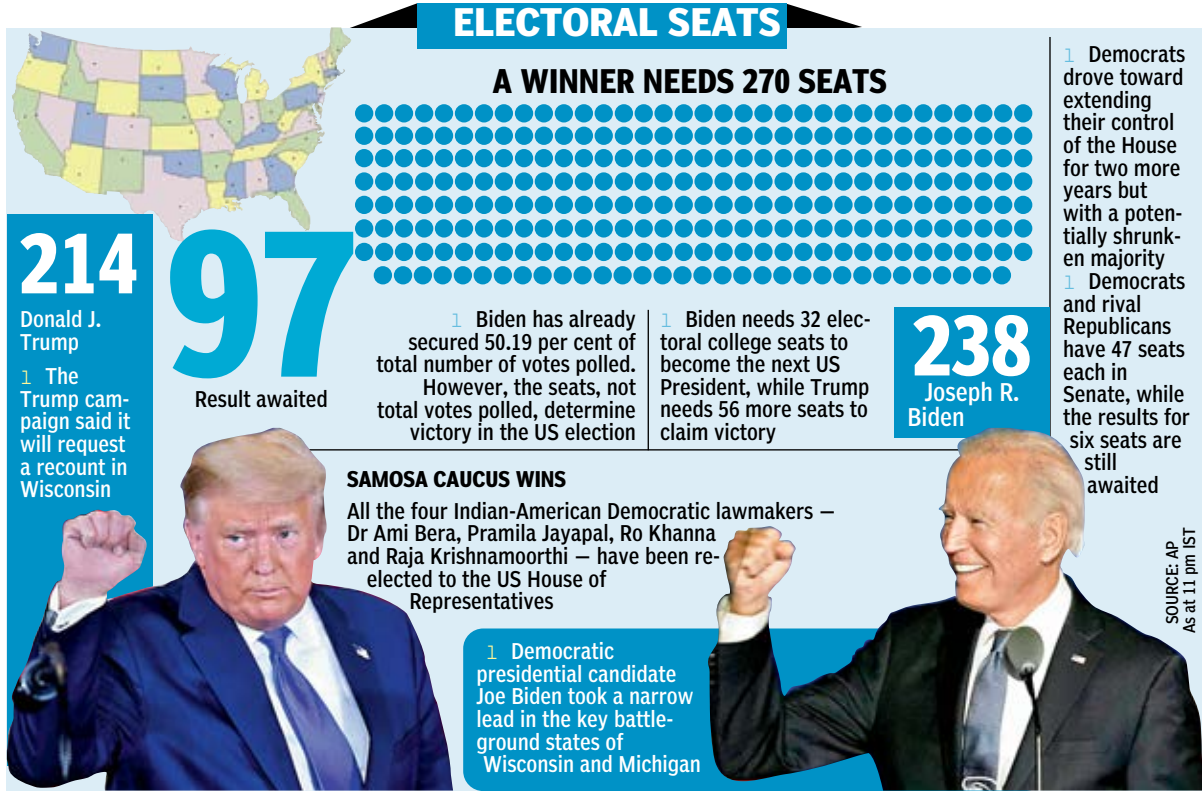


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US Prez poll turns cliffhanger

■ Biden ahead of Trump ■ Three states key for win ■ Counting to last longer



expressed confidence that they respectively had the likelier path to victory in the outstanding states. The margins were exceedingly tight in states across the country, with the candi-

dates 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 elec-

tions. 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. — *Agencies*

CDS moots raising retirement age of officers in all 3 services

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 4

The department of military affairs (DMA) led by Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Bipin Rawat has initiated a proposal to raise the retirement age of senior officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force. However, what has created a storm is another DMA proposal to cut the "entitled pension" of the officers in case of "premature release" (PMR) from the service.

As per a letter issued by the DMA, the proposal for increase in the age of retirement is under consideration. It said the retirement of officers up to colonels will be increased to 57 years, from the present 54. It said the retirement age of brigadiers will be raised to 58 years from current 56 years, and of majors-general to 59 years from present 58 years. There will be similar



increases in the retirement age in the Navy and Air Force for equivalent ranks. The retirement age of JCOs in the logistics, technical and medical branches will be 57 years. The letter said a draft Government Sanction Letter will be processed for the perusal of Gen. Rawat by November 10.

It said in case of "premature release" (PMR) from service, the "pension entitlement" of those in service for 20-25 years will be cut by 50 per cent. Those who had 26 to 30 years of service will get 60 per cent of their entitled pension and those with

31-35 years in service will get 75 per cent of the entitled pension in case of PMR. Only those with above 35 years of service will get a full pension. There will be no change in the pension entitlements of "battle casualties".

The letter said there are several specialists and super-specialists who are trained for high-skilled jobs and they leave the service to work in other sectors. It said that the loss of such high-skilled manpower results in a void in the service skill matrix and is counterproductive.

The move will also help to bring down the pension liability of the government. The Union Budget had allocated Rs 1.3 lakh crores for the pension of military personnel and civilian employees under the ministry of defence for the current financial year.

Army chief begins visit to Nepal

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

(AWWA) of the Indian Army.

"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 exuded confidence that it will go a long way in strengthening the "bonds of friendship" between the two armies. His engagements 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 Gen Thapa. — *PTI*



Vehicle riders and pedestrians are affected the most due to water logging after downpour on Santhome high road in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ **Report on P2** — *N. SAMPATH*

SC lays down norms for payment of maintenance in matrimonial cases

New Delhi, Nov. 4: The Supreme Court Wednesday laid down guidelines for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases to ensure uniformity and consistency in practice adopted by different courts.

A bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R. Subhash Reddy said directions are required to be passed to overcome the issue of overlapping jurisdiction and avoid conflicting orders.

The apex court issued guidelines on aspects of -

Issue of overlapping jurisdiction, payment of interim maintenance, criteria for determining the quantum of maintenance, date from which maintenance is to be awarded and Enforcement / Execution of orders of maintenance.

On overlapping jurisdiction, the top court directed that where successive claims for maintenance are made by a party under different statutes, the court would consider an adjustment or set off of the amount awarded in the previous proceeding/s



while determining whether any further amount is to be awarded in the subsequent proceeding.

"It is made mandatory for the applicant to dis-

close the previous proceeding and the orders passed therein, in the subsequent proceeding. If the order passed in the previous proceeding/s requires any modification or variation, it would be required to be done in the same proceeding," the bench said.

The bench directed that to avoid conflicting orders in a subsequent maintenance proceeding, the applicant shall disclose the previous maintenance proceeding, and the orders passed therein. "If the order passed in the previ-

ous proceeding requires any modification or variation, the party would be required to move the concerned court in the previous proceeding," the bench said.

On payment of interim maintenance, the apex court ruled that an affidavit of disclosure of assets and liabilities annexed to the judgment should be filed by both parties in all maintenance proceedings, including pending proceedings before the concerned family courts, district courts

or magistrate courts throughout the country.

On the aspect of criteria for determining quantum of maintenance, the bench said that the concerned court shall consider the criteria enumerated in the judgment.

The apex court made it clear that the aforesaid factors are however not exhaustive, and the concerned Court may exercise its discretion to consider any other factor/s which may be necessary or of relevance in the facts and circumstances of a case. — *PTI*

SHORT TAKES

BJP youth wing leader fired at

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUNELVELI NOV. 4

An ex-serviceman, working as a security guard, was arrested in Tirunelveli for firing at the district general secretary of the BJP youth wing on Wednesday.

The injured, Periyadurai of Perumalpuram, who was rushed to the Tirunelveli medical college hospital, was later shifted to a private hospital, where a bullet was removed from his right upper arm.

The Perumalpuram police, which registered a case, arrested the ex-serviceman Jebamani and seized the gun with which he fired.

Tirunelveli BJP cadres led by the district president Maharajan laid siege to the Perumalpuram police, demanded security to the victim's family and stringent action against the ex-serviceman. They withdrew the protest after talks held by the police with them.

2 held for vandalizing Buddha statue

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The city police on Tuesday arrested two persons for damaging a statue of Gautama Buddha in a temple in Pallavaram, under the influence of alcohol.

According to the police, the arrested were identified as Raju (26) and Vinoth Kumar (26) of Vembulihaman Kovil street in Zamin Pallavaram. The duo on Sunday night, in a drunk state, vandalized the 2.5 feet Buddha statue in the Arul Nilai Buddha temple in Pallavaram periyamalai. They allegedly damaged the head, neck and hand parts of the statue.

Based on a complaint, the Pallavaram police registered a case and arrested the duo with the help of the CCTV footage. Police said they confessed to have damaged the statue in an inebriated state. They were remanded to judicial custody.

TN reports 2,487 new cases

Chennai: Tamil Nadu on Wednesday recorded 2,487 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 7.34 lakh and the toll rose to 11,244 with 30 more fatalities. In continuation of the trend of a decline in new cases and more recoveries, 2,504 patients were discharged from various hospitals and active cases dipped to 19,154. — PTI

100 young artistes win coveted scholarship, mentorship prog

Chennai: SIFF Young Artist 2020, a national level talent competition across various genres of music and dance, announced their top 100 finalists recently. The initiative received over 12,000 entries across India from students between the ages of 11-18 to find avenues to pursue arts. Earlier this year, the programme was launched by maestros of international stature such as Amjad Ali Khan, Terence Lewis, Shovana Narayan, Shalmali Kholgade and Aruna Sairam. The top 100 finalists were conferred with scholarships worth Rs. 25 lakh involving a high-quality mentorship programme and cash awards at the finale, according to a press release. The finalists are currently joining the Young Artist Advanced Mentorship Programme (YAMP) in which they would be mentored in their chosen area. Music and dance virtuosos such as Dr. L. Subramaniam, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Madhavi Mudgal have consented to mentor the participants. The finale, which will be a showcase of the exceptional talent recognized, will be hosted in accordance with the evolving Covid situation and government guidelines issued at the time.

Nine injured as van overturns

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Nine persons on their way to work in a van sustained injuries after the vehicle in which they were travelling overturned and fell into a deep pit dug for bridge construction near Sunguvarchatram on Wednesday morning, the police said.

Police said 15 people

were travelling in the van when the driver who was speeding lost control of the vehicle. The van proceeding from Arakkonam towards Padappai skidded and overturned.

The victims, hailing from Arakkonam, were on their way home after work at a private spare parts manufacturing company at around 6:30 am on Wednesday when

the accident took place. Police said, when the van was near Sunguvarchatram on Vallam salai, it overturned and fell into the pit dug for bridge construction. The van was completely mangled in the accident, the police said.

Based on the alert by the residents, the local police, highway patrol police and paramedical

staff in '108' ambulance rushed to the site and rescued the injured.

Six persons escaped unhurt, police said adding the nine severely injured persons were admitted at the Government hospital in Sriperumbudur. A case has been registered by the Sunguvarchatram. Further investigations are underway.

A flooded Ice House area on Wednesday. — DC



Santhome high road. — DC



A portion of Mahatma Gandhi road that caved in Padi Kumaran Nagar two days ago is yet to be repaired, complain residents and motorists. — DC

Chennai, suburban areas receive moderate rains

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Chennai woke up to sudden rains in various parts of the city and suburbs on Wednesday morning. The showers owing to the northeast monsoon, which arrived in the state last week, are expected to intensify over Tamil Nadu for a week.

According to weather blogger Pradeep John, Chennai, Puducherry, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur, Karaikal, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi districts are expected to receive moderate rains for the next four days. Parts of Theni, Virudhunagar, Thenkasi, Dindigul and Tirunelveli districts may receive heavy rainfall. This rainfall in Tamil Nadu is being brought by easterlies associated with convergence.

"Once day starts heating, the easterlies will move in as the convergence shifts inland. So on a single day, you can see how the rains happen with the easterlies associ-

Water sweeps into airport terminal

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Rainwater swept into Chennai airport domestic terminal.

Water seeped in near the entry gates, conveyor belt area of the domestic terminal when it rained on Wednesday morning.

Sources said that rainwater had made its way into the airport terminal

after the workers at the airport extension construction site removed the water from the site through a motor which reportedly entered into the terminal through an opening.

The conveyor belt area and the floor near the entry gate were completely wet and the authorities employed workers to sweep the water out of the terminal.

issued by the Regional Meteorological Centre, thunderstorms with light to moderate rains are likely to occur in parts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal for the next few days until November 7. On November 6 and 7 in particular heavy rains with thunderstorms are likely to occur in some parts of the state.

Three flights diverted due to bad weather

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Bad weather and poor visibility in Bengaluru forced at least three flights to be diverted to Chennai airport on Wednesday morning.

British Airlines, SpiceJet and Indigo flights had to be diverted to Chennai Airport earlier on Tuesday due to fog at the runways at the

Bengaluru airport.

A British airline with 166 passengers from London to Bengaluru was diverted and landed at the Chennai airport around 6:40 am. Similarly, a spice jet flight from Delhi, which was to land in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning was also asked to go to Chennai as they too had difficulty to land the aircraft here.

An Indigo Airlines flight from Chennai

bound to Bengaluru returned to Chennai. Sources said that four other flights from Chennai to Bengaluru and Chennai to Bengaluru were delayed today.

According to the airport sources, the flights were diverted and delayed to avoid any risk while the aircraft landed. The diverted flights landed back in Hyderabad after 10:30 am.

HC retrieves temple lands in Chennai, Salem

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Slamming the officials of HR & CE department, custodian of the temple properties, for their callous attitude towards protecting the temple properties, the Madras high court has said, "This court, time and again observed that Temples in Tamil Nadu are not only a source of identification of the ancient culture, but also a testimony of pride and knowledge of the talent in the field of arts, science and sculpture and a conduit for spiritual activities as well and that the properties of the religious institutions, more particularly the temples have to be maintained properly in order to derive more income to spend for its betterment".

Justice R. Mahadevan made the observation while coming to the rescue of more than 70 to 80-year-old temples at Neelankarai in Chennai and at Omalur village in Salem districts, whose lands were transferred by the Tamil Nadu government to its fisheries and transport departments respectively.



The judge said in the case on hand, the disputed lands, which have been in continuous possession and enjoyment of the respective temples, were transferred to other departments entirely/parially. However, the HR & CE department has not taken any steps to protect the interest of temples, though the subject temples fall within its purview. Such callous attitude on their part cannot be countenanced, the judge added and issued a set of directions in the interest of the subject temples.

The judge was passing orders on the petitions filed by S.Sridhar, C.Maran, S.Guham, Arulmighu Kottai Mariamman Thirukoil represented by its Hereditary trustee,

ONLY FOR TEMPLES

The judge said the right and title over the disputed lands vest with the government. However, the government shall not utilize/alienate/assign/transfer the same and construct permanent structures therein for the purposes other than the beneficial interests of the temple

R.Ramakrishnan and A.Radhakrishnan.

Holding it as improper and invalid the transfer of the temple lands to the government departments and quashing the same, Justice Mahadevan said the temples were entitled to the rights of possession and enjoyment in respect of the disputed lands, subject to the control and administration of the HR & CE department. Needless to say that no trustee/private individual shall claim right over the disputed lands possessed and enjoyed by the temples in any manner whatsoever, the judge added.

The subject temples under the administration and control of the HR & CE department, were entitled to all the prescriptive rights not only because of their long possession, but also in view of Rule 13 of the Revenue Standing

Order and the provisions of HR & CE Act, the judge added.

In so far as the prayer relating to correct the wrong entries made in the revenue records, the judge directed the authorities to carry out necessary correction in the revenue records entering the name of the temple pertaining to Neelankarai village and pass appropriate orders.

The judge also directed the authorities to carry out the necessary correction in the revenue records pertaining to land, (where Kottai Mariamman temple was situated) at Omalur village. The vacant possession of the disputed land shall be handed over within 8 weeks to the HR & CE department, which shall take possession of the same and utilize it for betterment of the subject temple, the judge added.

Saffron and gold worth ₹15.5 L seized by Chennai customs

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The customs at the Chennai airport seized Behrang Saffron and gold worth ₹15.5 lakhs.

Based on intelligence that Saffron was likely to be smuggled from Dubai, one Mohamed Abbas from Athikkadai, Tamil Nadu, who had arrived from Dubai by Fly Dubai flight No. FZ8517 was intercepted at exit.

On search of his check-in baggage 14 packets of Behrang Saffron were found concealed inside. On examination, each packet was found to contain saffron weighing 400 grams of Grade-1 quality. Total 5.6 kg of saffron valued at Rs. 13.4 lakhs was recovered and the same was seized under Customs Act, 1962.

Another passenger, Balamurugan, 36, of Chennai, came for clearance for his personal and household goods which had arrived by Emirates Flight EK9414 as unaccompanied baggage from Riyadh.

On examination of the goods one packet of date paste was found inside a carton box among other items. On opening the packet, two gold bars of 20 grams each was found concealed inside the date paste.

Monsoon-ready CMRL installs anemometers on lightning arresters

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has installed anemometers on lightning arrestors at all strategic locations to tackle any situation which may arise during the northeast monsoon.

According to CMRL, anemometers were installed in the Operation Control Centre (OCC) building at Alandur metro station, tunnel ventilation shafts and other strategic locations.

These anemometers are high precision instruments, working on the principle of rotation of cups depending on the speed of wind.

It continuously measures the wind speed by generating electrical and electronic data, which is monitored and integrated in the electronic SCADA system to give audio and visual alarm on a real time basis.

As the metro trains operate across the corridors at a height of 15m to 24m from the road, wind is one of the critical factors that affect the movement of trains.

The wind speed, rainfall, visibility and cyclone formations are monitored through weather forecast at regular intervals by OCC. Information on weather forecast is also obtained from the



Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai on cyclones and other unusual weather conditions. If the wind speed is more than 70kmph, the speed of the train is restricted to 40 kmph and the train operator is given instructions.

If the wind speed exceeds 90 kmph the train operations will be suspended temporarily for the safety of passengers and trains. In such situations, special attention will be paid by

the train operator to observe any obstruction or unusual occurrence.

Lightning arrestors, which will protect overhead equipment (OHE) and other critical instruments, have been installed in the main sub-stations and other structures. OHE system is provided with high-sensitive relays, which operates to isolate the system in milli-seconds in case of abnormalities.

Special trains, festival specials pick up patronage

These trains were operated between important destinations and on popular routes following the request from the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments. Initially, intra-district and intra-state special trains were operated facilitating essential travel needs. Later, inter-state special trains were introduced in a phased manner

such as Tiruchchirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Kanniyakumari and also connecting Coimbatore, Palakkad, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram from Chennai. Besides, festival special trains are run from major rail hubs such as MGR Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Rameswaram, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kanniyakumari to important destinations such as Bengaluru, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Howrah, Bhubaneswar,

Bikaner and Gorakhpur.

Currently, a total of 103 special train services have been notified by the Southern Railway. And of this, 76 trains services are being operated as Covid special trains and 27 festival special services have been announced to meet the demands of the festive season.

In October, the Covid specials registered 74 per cent occupancy rate benefiting 19.56 lakh passengers. The occupancy rate in festival specials is gradually picking up and the average occupancy is 57 percent with over 1.10 lakh passengers having

booked for travel in these trains till the end of October. The number of trains running with 100 percent occupancy is also increasing.

Sources said the Southern Railway took several steps to ensure safe travel of passengers adhering to all the safety protocols laid down by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Only those with confirmed tickets are allowed to travel. Thermal screening of passengers is done at the entry points. In addition to this, several modifications have been made in the temperature settings and air-circulation in AC coaches to ensure safe journey. Issue of bed rolls has been discontinued and curtains have been removed in all AC coaches. On long distance trains, only ready-to-eat food is available for sale and no cooked food is being served.

SHORT TAKES

Rajini ignorant about politics, says Karunas

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 4

Superstar Rajinikanth does not know about politics and let him take rest, said actor-turned-politician and founder of Mukkulathor Pulipadai Karunas Thevar, MLA.

He told mediapersons at Pudukkottai that though Rajinikanth is a legend and is well known for humanity, he is ignorant about politics.

He expressed his gratitude to late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa's personal aide Sasikala for providing him an opportunity to become an MLA during the last assembly election. "So we extend our support to Sasikala once she is released from Parpana Agraharam prison in Bengaluru," he added.

He said the BJP also approached him and sought his support in the forthcoming Assembly election. He said he has placed some demands including exclusive reservation for the Mukkulathors. "If the BJP fulfils our demands we will support the party," he added.

Expressing a similar view on Rajinikanth, Manithaneya Makkal Katchi general secretary Thamimun Ansari MLA said the actor's entry into the politics is still a big question mark.

Stalin flays wall posters denigrating him

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

DMK president M. K. Stalin alleged that the state government was hand in gloves with those who had put up illegal wall posters denigrating him all over the state as no action had been taken to either track down those behind it or take any action against them. In a statement on Wednesday, he said the posters had not name or addresses of those who had printed them and there was no name of the printing press, too. That those mandatory were not printed in the posters were proof enough to infer that they were brought out in a hanky panky manner. He said that DMK cadre were tearing off the posters in many places but he had instructed them not to do so. It was only shameless people who would do commit such an act, he said.

Cops on high vigil against Maoists in Nilgiris

DC CORRESPONDENT
OOTY, NOV. 4

Following reports about the movement of Maoists in Wayanad in Kerala bordering Nilgiris, the cops in Nilgiris have tightened security arrangements at all check-posts and are keeping a round-the-clock vigil on the movement of vehicles and suspected elements.

There was an exchange of fire on Tuesday between the Thunderbolt police team of Kerala and the Maoists in Banasuram village in Wayanad district. A Maoist was killed in the firing.

"Following this the police administration in Nilgiris has stepped up security arrangements in Nilgiris. All the 11 check-posts on the Nilgiris border have been further strengthened by posting extra armed men for round-the-clock-vigil. Top police officers have been instructed to keep a strict vigil on the border and to increase vehicle checking. The police have been instructed to keep a strict vigil on the movement of strangers and to have a good rapport with the jungle residents to gather information about the movement of suspicious elements in jungle," sources said.

CM launches mobile Amma canteens

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

In a bid to cater better to workers and the public as well, three mobile Amma canteens were launched here on Wednesday by Chief Minister K. Palaniswami.

Marking the inauguration of the mobile services of the low-cost food chain, Palaniswami distributed food items from the eateries on wheels to the public at the secretariat here.

The three vehicles, together cost about Rs 27 lakh, an official release here said.

Palaniswami said, "I am very happy to have inaugurated the services of three mobile Amma canteens."

The initiative is an extension of the services of the existing chain of Amma canteens, he said on his twitter handle.

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, municipal administration minister S. P. Velumani, fisheries minister D. Jayakumar and top officials led by chief secretary K. Shanmugam participated.

Catering to lakhs of peo-



Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurates mobile Amma Unavagam units on Wednesday.

— DC

ple including working classes and the indigent, the chain of low cost eateries are run by local bodies in Tamil Nadu.

While Chennai alone has 407 Amma canteens, there are 650 plus canteens across Tamil Nadu.

These canteens offer idlis at a cost of Rs one each, two pieces of roti at

Rs 3, Pongal Rs 5 and rice varieties including sambar, lemon and curd at Rs 5 a plate.

The three mobile eateries, an initiative of the Greater Chennai Corporation, would "go anywhere" to cater better to workers like construction labourers by delivering food at or near their

work sites, an official said. The vans would be stationed at places where the general public visit in large numbers 'like the Marina beach' or locations that team with ordinary and poor people, the civic official.

"The number of mobile vans may be increased on a need base," he said.

Warm welcome



MNM president Kamal Haasan arriving for the meet to address his party members on Wednesday.

— DC

Animal population count to begin at MTR today

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, NOV. 4

The week-long animal population count and habitat evaluation at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) core zone will begin on Thursday.

The staff to be involved in this exercise underwent a training on Wednesday to take lessons on the animal count as well as habitat evaluation exercise.

Officials sources in MTR said that as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority norms, the tiger reserves have to conduct two biannual animal population count, one before monsoon and the other after

the monsoon to evaluate the health of the habitat and the population of animals in the woods.

For this year's post-monsoon animal population estimation, the MTR woods have been divided into 36 transect zones. Nearly 100 forest staff are taking part in the evaluation exercise inside the MTR jungle. The teams in different transect zones will traverse their respective zones and study the movement of animals there and the wealth of the prey base for the tiger and other carnivores, the wealth of flora, fodder availability and water sources. This would give a comprehensive data on

the population and movement of big cats and also other animals in the MTR, in the post-monsoon period, where the winter has set in. Various parameters like direct sighting, identifying footprints and droppings would be undertaken to record the movement of animals in all transect zones.

The MTR team would analyse the data and compare it with the figures of earlier estimation to ascertain the health and wealth of the wildlife and also find out if there are any abnormal changes in any areas to take necessary remedial measures, a top official in the MTR stated.

140 kg of ganja worth ₹14L seized

DC CORRESPONDENT
THANJAVUR NOV. 4

The 'Q' branch police on Tuesday night seized 140 kg of ganja worth Rs 14 lakh, meant for smuggling to Sri Lanka, at Pannavayal village near Pattukottai.

The contraband in 120 bags was kept at the motor shed in a

paddy field belonging to one Kannan. Sivashankar, DSP, Q branch police and team seized the ganja.

The police arrested four persons in this connection. They are Ayyappan (36) of Kuputhavan village, Raja (29) of Pannavayal village, Chellappan (52) and Veeramani (30) of Samiappa nagar, Thiruthurai poondi.

Gov Delhi visit triggers speculation

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Governor Banwarilal Purohit's three-day visit to New Delhi triggered speculations on the purpose of the trip during which he called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and is expected to meet the President Ramnath Kovind and Union home minister Amit Shah in the next two days.

While it is believed that the Governor had gone to discuss the question of releasing seven persons convicted in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi

assassination case, whose petition had been pending for a long time.

Following the court expressing displeasure over the long delay in deciding on the petition, the Governor is said to be under pressure. So, he could have undertaken the trip to meet up with the President, Prime Minister and Union Home Minister and take a final decision on the long pending demand for release from jail.

Also, it is said that the Governor might appraise the Centre on the controversy over the extraordi-

nary delay in approving the Bill providing 7.5 per cent reservation for government school students in medical college admissions that had dragged him into the media limelight recently.

Perhaps among the other issues that he might have a word with the Centre could be the state government's refusal to implement the 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections and also the BJP's proposed Vetrivel yatra for which there was opposition from many political parties in the state.

Will roll back TNEB privatisation: Kani

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 4

DMK women's wing secretary Kanimozhi Karunanidhi MP on Wednesday assured the TNEB employees that her party would roll back the privatisation of the state electricity board when it comes to power.

Extending her solidarity with the TNEB employees protesting against privatising power sub-stations of Sankarapuram and Samayanallur, Kanimozhi criticised the Edappadi K Palaniswami-led state government of toeing the BJP-led central government line of privatising the public units to benefit private corporate companies.

She also alleged that the Tamil Nadu government has been secretly implementing privatisation by deliberately reducing power generation at the state-run thermal power plants at Thoothukudi and North Chennai so as to purchase power at a higher cost from private generators.

Baskara Pandian is Director, DIPR

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The state government on Wednesday ordered transfers and postings of six IAS officers. The following transfers and postings are notified:

Har Sahay Meena, IAS, on completion of foreign training, is posted as Secretary to Government, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Training) Department vice replacing Dr. S.Swarna, IAS, who was holding additional charge. J.E. Padmaja, IAS, on completion of maternity leave, is posted as Sub Collector, Perambalur, in the vacant post.

D. Baskara Pandian, IAS, Special Officer, Chief Minister's Special Cell, is transferred and posted as Director, Information and Public Relations and Ex-officio Deputy Secretary to Government, Tamil Development and Information Department replacing Dr. PShankar, IAS, who held an additional charge; He will hold the post of Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation in full additional charge until further orders vice Dr.P. Shankar, until further orders.

E. Saravanelraj, IAS, Director of Geology and Mining and Managing Director (i/c), Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited, is transferred and posted as Special Officer, Chief Minister's Special Cell vice, in a post held by D. Baskara Pandian, IAS.

Dr. L. Subramanian, IAS, Registrar of Cooperative Societies is transferred and posted as Director of Geology and Mining, in a position held by E.Saravanelraj, IAS. He will also continue to hold the post of Registrar of Cooperative Societies in full additional charge until further orders. The services of Dr. Darez Ahamed, IAS, are placed at the disposal of Guidance Bureau.

Stalin set to become a hologram to woo voters?

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR &
D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Will the coronavirus pandemic turn DMK president M K Stalin into a hologram as he gears up to win over the voters in 234 Assembly constituencies spread across a vast landscape of over 1.30 lakh square km for the 2021 elections?

With Prasanth Kishor and his I-PAC already holding the reins of DMK's campaign strategy, holographic technology can only be a natural thing to adopt, ostensibly to reach out to more number of people including those living in remote nooks and crannies of the State.

The holographic technology drew worldwide attention when Prime Minister Narendra Modi used it extensively and of course effectively in 2014 to address crowds in far flung places at the same time without being in any of those venues.

Of course, Modi first turned into a hologram in 2012 itself when he contested for the Gujarat state elections but it was the 2014 Lok Sabha campaign that made the world sit up and take note of it and that was when Kishor was his celebrated strategist.

For whatever reason



Kishor had advocated the employment of the technology for Modi then, he has more reason to recommend it - yes, he is said to have already done that - for the 2021 state Assembly elections: The looming threat of Covid-19 spread that might be a deterrent for crowds to attend public meetings in large numbers.

The advantage of the technology over and above the present day video conferencing done through Zoom and similar apps on a regular basis by the DMK is that the holographic effect would give a personal feel of the leader, whose 3 dimensional image would appear on stage with a real life aura.

Apart from Modi, another world leader who employed the technology for election campaign was Indonesian President Joko Widodo in 2019 but so far it is Modi who had appeared before voters in his 3D form on 1350 stages,

in which a projector, placed at an elevated perch, would stream visuals on the floor.

The visuals would be reflected on the stage background, which is made of a special almost transparent material that produced a 3D illusion making viewers have a feel of Modi himself personally addressing them. It is the same 'feel' that Kishor wants to recreate in Tamil Nadu during the hustings with Stalin remaining at home and recording his speeches that would be transmitted through satellites to meeting venues, many of them at the same time.

Kishor, it is said, would be coming down to Tamil Nadu after the Bihar elections to review the work on data collection and preliminary campaign that the I-PAC team had done on the ground so far. At that time he would also finalise on the holographic effects campaign.

For the DMK, which has already embarked on a series of high-tech publicity campaigns through social media, holographic technology could be a natural progression. But for the people, particularly the traditional DMK supporters who had grown up on a staple fare of eloquent public speeches, it would be a new experience.

Pondy CM underscores need to modernise police force

Puducherry, Nov. 4: Chief Minister of Puducherry V. Narayanasamy has said there is a need to modernise the police force in the Union Territory.

Laying the foundation of a ₹3.2-crore police station in neighbouring Lawspet on Wednesday, he said he had already held discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the modernisation of the force.

Narayanasamy said the territorial government was keen to see people living in peace and steps were being taken to prevent crime.

He lauded the police for working as much as the Health and other Department against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Narayanasamy said the areas where the attention of the police was needed were the menace of ganja and illegal online lottery.



Poolpandian, who lives on alms, has been donating money for Covid-19 relief fund. He donated ₹10,000 at Madurai collectorate on Wednesday.

— DC

TN tourism sector may open up on Nov. 10

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The state government has started taking steps to open up the Covid-hit tourism sector, while the industry in neighbouring Kerala and Karnataka is showing signs of recovery.

The state tourism department had called a virtual meeting of all stakeholders on Tuesday, seeking suggestions. Sources told DC that tourism secretary Vikram Kapur and T.P. Rajesh, managing director, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC), who

attended the meeting, hinted that the government may set November 10 as a tentative date for opening up the sector.

"We are happy that the government is finally taking some steps to open up the sector which is on the brink of collapse. We hope that the government will give nod to reopen all tourism destinations in the state with proper state operating procedures (SOP). We have shared our concerns and suggestions with the officials during the meeting", said sources.

Though the Tamil Nadu

government had allowed hotels and restaurants to function, tourism spots like museums and monuments remain closed.

Popular hill stations like Kodaikanal, Ooty and Coonoor and temple towns like Madurai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvannamalai are yet to see footfalls.

The industry people indicated that it is important to open up the sector as Chennai is all set to witness the popular Margazhi music season and iconic hotels in the city are generally packed with rasikas during the sea-

son. According to the Economic Survey 2019-20, Tamil Nadu is one among the top three states in attracting domestic and foreign tourists.

The share of tourism employment in the state's overall employment is 15.97 per cent.

The sector was hit hard by the pandemic at a time when Tamil Nadu was adjudged as number one state in attracting maximum number of domestic and international tourists in the last few years. It emerged as number one in attracting domestic tourists since 2016.

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 Shivraj 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, restaura-

● 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 per cent seating capacity on them with no eatables 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 per cent 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 Nitesh 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 abatement 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 abatement 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.

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.

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

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.

TESTING | TIMES Scindia, Chouhan and Kamal Nath wait with bated breath for all-important day

Byelection results to decide the fate of MP trio

Bhopal, Nov. 4: The result of Tuesday's bypolls to 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will not only decide the fate of the BJP government in the state, but also have a bearing on the political future of three regional satraps- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his predecessor Kamal Nath and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The political drama that unfolded in the state earlier this year involved these three influential leaders.

In March this year, the 15-month-old Kamal Nath-led

government in the state collapsed following the resignation of 22 rebel Congress MLAs in support of Scindia, after he quit the grand old party. This paved the way for the BJP's return to power with Chouhan taking oath as the CM for a record fourth time.

There is a talk in political circles that Mr Scindia, who became the BJP's Rajya Sabha member in June this year, is aspiring for a berth in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet.

When Mr Scindia was in

the Congress, he had lost the race for chief ministership to Mr Nath after the 2018 state assembly election. The BJP sensed an opportunity in his frustration and rode back to power in the state on his and his supporters' rebellion seven months ago.

If Mr Chouhan, a member of other backward classes (OBC) that accounts for more than 50 per cent population of MP, pulls off a victory on more than 15 seats, it would further bolster his position in the party, feel political observers. After Mr

Scindia's rebellion, the BJP's central leadership picked Mr Chouhan to lead the party due to his pan-Madhya Pradesh acceptability and high hopes that he would deliver in the by-elections, they added.

During his cabinet formation, he did not have a free hand and kept shuttling between Bhopal and New Delhi, they said.

Madhya Pradesh has a 230-member Assembly. However, due to the resignation of one more Congress MLA recently, the effective strength of the House came down to

229. The BJP currently has 107 MLAs and needs to win eight more seats to attain a simple majority in the House.

The Congress's tally has been reduced to 87 after the resignation of 26 MLAs since March this year.

The magic figure of 115 does not look unattainable for Mr Chouhan right now. But if he fails, the going will get tougher given the rivalry within the party and its central leadership will get an opportunity to subjugate him, political observers feel.

Similarly, Mr Nath, who

is the state unit chief of the Congress, also faces an uphill task of putting up a good show in the bypolls even if he is not able to bring the party back to power. He has steered the party through the intense campaign in the absence of other national stars like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. If the party fares poorly in the bypolls, Nath's position as the state unit chief and Leader of Opposition may also be challenged in view of 'one man-one post' norm, an observer said.

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. — 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 Pennsylvania — 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.

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-

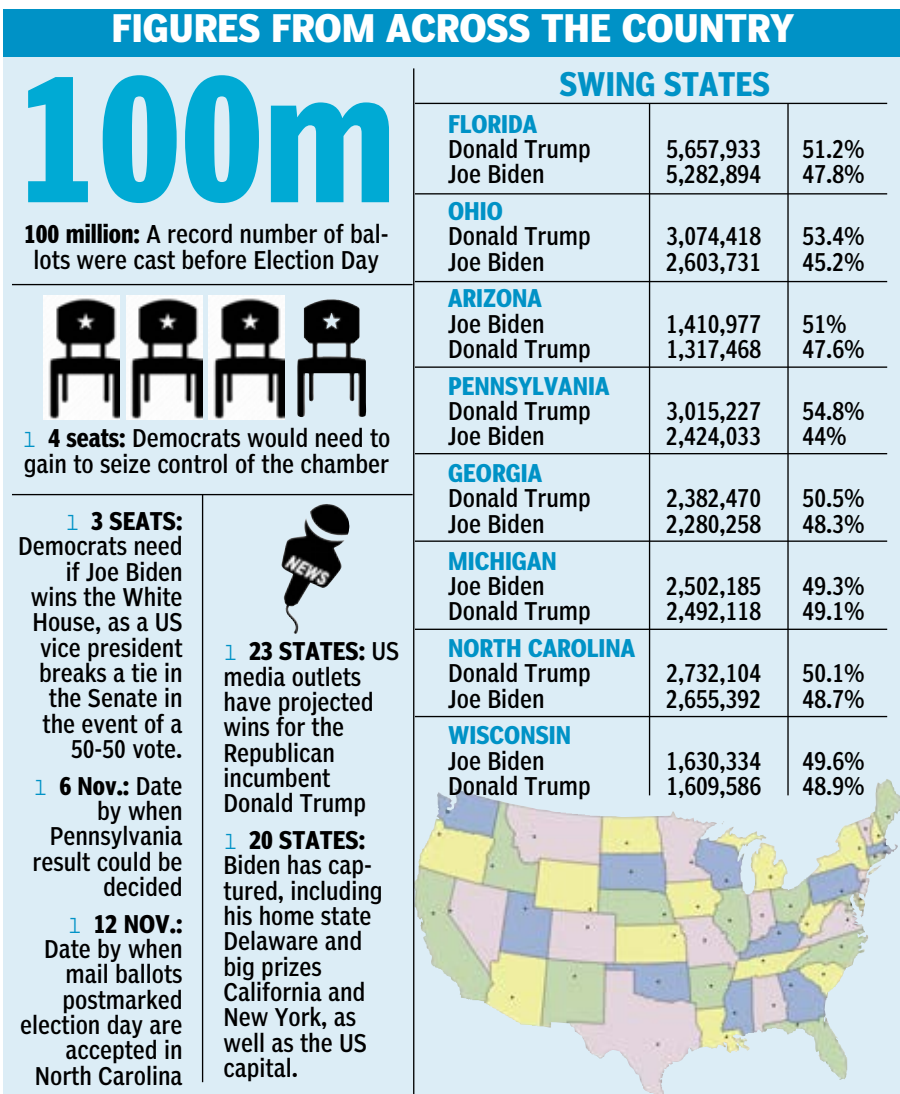
ced his retirement earlier this year. Torres is expected to be joined by another POC gay man, Mondaire Jones, in the US House of Representatives as results were pending in the race to replace retiring Republican Nita Lowey from Westchester county. The seat is expected to go to 33-year-old Jones, a Harvard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



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."

— PTI

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

M/s. Utility PowerTech Ltd. invites Electronic tenders from eligible bidders for the following works for a period of twelve (12) months at NTECL, Vallur, (Tamilnadu state).

OTE No	Name of work	Estimate cost Rs.	Down loading of tender documents	End Date for submission
49	Round the clock deployment of Deashing Assistance services at AHP Operation and Removal of Major Rejects and transport at Unit# 1, 2, 3 and offsite areas of NTECL-VTPP	Rs. 2,96,90,574.63 (including CP) and Reimbursable items of safety and T&P items. Rs. 2,81,41,593.96 (excluding CP)	From 05.11.2020 to 26.11.2020 at 15.00 Hrs	Upto 27.11.2020 at 15.00 Hrs.

Bidders are requested go through www.tenderwizard.com/UPL after registration with M/s ITI Ltd. Details of QR, Tender processing fee, EMD, Tender cost shall be available in above website. Utility PowerTech Ltd. -NTECL-Chennai, Vallur Vrundavanam nagar, Tamilnadu-600120. Contact No: Sh.G.Himakar.Rao-99849536403, Sh.Akash.Kumar-8252855286.

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TENDER NOTICE

Ref.No:19487/Engg-2/2020 Date: 02.11.2020

We invite separate sealed **TWO PART TENDER** in the prescribed form by the under signed from the registered contractors in appropriate class in PWD/Highways/other Government Departments/Under takings.

S.No	Name of Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender document (Inclusive of GST)	Period of completion
1	Construction of new overhead bridge and approach concrete road at Sholinganallur Dairy	Rs. 61,000/-	Rs.1,100/-	6 Months
2	Construction of Ice Bank Tank with enclosures for integrated refrigerated system building at 3rd Dairy, Sholinganallur	Rs. 91,600/-	Rs.1,100/-	6 Months
3	Construction of new screw Compressor room building for integrated Refrigerated System building at 3rd Dairy, Sholinganallur	Rs.94,700/-	Rs.1,100/-	6 Months

Sale of document: 06.11.2020 to 24.11.2020 on all working days between 11.00 AM and 3.00 PM. By post each Rs.100/- extra

Pre bid Meeting/Will be held on: 18.11.2020 @ 03.30 PM

Submission of tenders: 25.11.2020 Upto 11.15 AM

Opening of tender (technical/bid): 25.11.2020 at 11.30 AM

DIPR/4124/TENDER/2020 Deputy General Manager (Civil)

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
Storm Water Drain Department

S.W.D.C.No.83/1189/2020

Short E- Tenders are invited for the following work as per details furnished below.

Name of the Work	No.of Packages	Approx. Value of work including 12% GST	EMD Rs.	Eligible Class
Construction of Storm Water Drain and Construction of underground sump at various locations in Dn-192, 194 and 196 Zone-XV.	4	Work value from Rs.200.37 Lakhs to Rs.269.26 Lakhs	1% of the work value	Class-I

1. Tender last date and time of submission: 19.11.2020 upto 3.00 pm.
2. Bid document will be available in website <https://tntenders.gov.in>
3. Tender open date and time: 20.11.2020 at 3.30 pm.

DIPR/4133/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer /SWDD

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that I, Mr. U. MOHAMED KHALILULLAH, S/o Late A. Mohamed Ubaidulla, aged 87 years, depose that the 3 items in the schedule mentioned have been settled to my Grand-Daughter Miss Hana Fathima by way of registered documents. I declare that nobody including my legal heirs have any claim / night / interest / dispute in respect of the properties settled more fully described in the schedule hereunder.

SCHEDULE

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of undivided 1/14th share land situated on the South side in plot No. 67, to an extent of 1 Acre, comprised in R.S. No. 11/103, situated in Sholinganallur Village No. 189, Saidapet Taluk, Chengalpattu District, under Pattna No. 482, and now Corporation Door No. 8, Sparkling Sands Avenue, bearing Pattna No. 980, New Survey No. 1/57, in No. 158 Sholinganallur Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kandheesapuram District, situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Neelankarai.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of undivided 1/2th share of the land and bungalow including Servant Shed, namely "TWELVE OAKS" bearing Old Door No. 117/236, A to G, New No. 6/117 to 121, Chettiar Taluk, Kodaikanal Town, Anna District, Now Dindigul District, measuring 87.5 Cents (0.3530 Hectare) comprised in Old Survey No.25/10-1, now bearing T.S. No. 3/1, situated in Kodaikanal Town, Kodaikanal Taluk, Previously Anna District now Dindigul District, under Pattna No. 178, now bearing Municipal Assessment No. 079/004/00293 to 00297, situated within the Sub-Registration District of Kodaikanal and Registration District of Dindigul.

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of the land and building in the sanctioned plan of the South Madras Neighborhood Housing Scheme Area, bearing Old Door No. 8, New No. 15, being Plot No. 119, 12th cross Street, Indira Nagar, Adayar, Chennai-600020, to an extent of 2 grounds and 60 Sq.Ft. or thereabouts, comprised in T.S. No. 53, Block No. 9, Kalikundam Village.

Mr.U.MOHAMED KHALILULLAH
No.15/8, 12 cross street, Indira Nagar, Adayar, Chennai 600020, Mob:- 9840036700

In case of any clarification do call
M/s. K.Chozhan,
Advocate,
Mob:-9841235782

DECCAN Chronicle

5 NOVEMBER 2020

Future of Afghan: India must talk to US, others

Monday's attack on the campus of Kabul University, in which at least 35 young Afghans were cut down in their prime, is likely to be a landmark of the present phase in which peace talks are supposedly being held between the Taliban and other Afghan parties at the behest of the United States in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

There have been deadlier attacks by the Taliban or Islamic State (ISIS) this year, but this one has shaken the nation. A national day of mourning was announced by the Ashraf Ghani government, and for the first time a public demand was made to "boycott" the Doha talks. The message was inscribed on a defiant banner that fluttered on the university campus on Wednesday. The social media is apparently full of the same demand.

This is likely to put political pressure on the Afghan government, and the various parties and prominent individuals that have oriented themselves toward participating in the process of conversation with the Taliban for the sake of peace, and the United States, which brokered the Doha process in February as a necessary ingredient of its exit from the Afghan quagmire.

The Taliban, keenly aware of America's decision and desire to get out of Afghanistan quickly, is piling up the pressure through violence and targeted assassinations so that the outcome — such as it may turn out to be — will be on its terms. That should, in real terms, mean the end of an attempt at some kind of democracy.

It is noteworthy that the Taliban hasn't agreed to a "ceasefire" to facilitate these so-called peace talks. And it is futile discussing whether it is the Taliban or ISIS which is responsible for the Kabul University and other high-profile attacks, for it is Pakistan which appears to be the mentor in either case. According to the UN office in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the first nine months of this year have produced nearly 6,000 civilian casualties — some 2,100 killed and 3,800 injured.

India has done well to point out yet again after the latest attack that New Delhi stands firmly behind Afghanistan in dealing with terrorism. The next step should be for this country to engage the Americans as soon as the next US President takes office, and also the key European powers and Japan on this question. Peace in Afghanistan is not just a bilateral matter for India, or a regional matter, but an international one. It is time this determination was made. Regionalism may not be the answer in this case. The dire question is: What happens if the Doha talks break down? The huge civilian toll the violence has taken across Afghanistan cannot but build even greater pressure on various constituencies within that country — since so far the talks do appear to be futile — as well as on the international community. America can't carry on pretending that it is for the Taliban and the Afghans to sort out the mess and bring peace. This is what Zalmay Khalilzad, the key US interlocutor for the Doha talks, appears to be saying without mincing his words. India simply cannot accept this approach.

Crack whip on crackers

The Centre should take a lesson from the governments of Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal and Haryana, and ban the sale and use of fireworks this pandemic year in order to ward off a possible second wave of the coronavirus. Indeed, the National Green Tribunal has issued a notice asking it to consider the same. However, the government should not play apologist to its constituents by waiting for final orders.

The case for regulating, indeed reducing, use of fireworks is unquestionable, even in the best of times. Over the last 10 years, Delhi's population has seen a quantum jump and is now at 30 million plus. Tokyo, the most populous city in the world, has 38 million people. The population rise has increased the corresponding pressure on resources, leading to rising pollution levels. Stubble burning by farmers at the onset of every winter, a perennial problem that the recently dissolved EPCA failed to resolve, has compounded that — it is now clear that this is what precipitates NCR's infamous annual haze.

Smoke from crackers gets trapped in the lowest layers of air owing to the autumn fog. It has deleterious effects on the health of children, elderly, and asthma and chronic pulmonary disease patients. In 2018, the Supreme Court had ordered that only firecrackers with reduced emission and "green crackers" can be manufactured and sold. However, this year, that measure won't be enough to contain the crisis. For, aside from weakening the lungs and predisposing one to infection, exposure to pollution, also associated with the increased presence of a coronavirus receptor on lung cell surfaces, increases the risk of contracting Covid. About 15 per cent of people who died from Covid-19 worldwide had had long-term exposure to fine particulate air pollution.

The air quality index in Delhi, averaging between 410 and 450, is currently in the hazardous category. Delhi has also emerged as India's newest pandemic hotspot this festive season, thanks to some poor decisions at the government and individual levels, Diwali shopping mania and buses running to full capacity among them, recording, without precedent, over 5,000 new cases for five straight days, with the tally crossing 6,725 on Wednesday. If firecracker pollution triggers a surge that reaches the critical mass amid daily progressive lowering of temperatures due to the change of season, the epidemic might well shoot out of control. In the interest of their own safety, therefore, the people should practise restraint and the government must act swiftly.

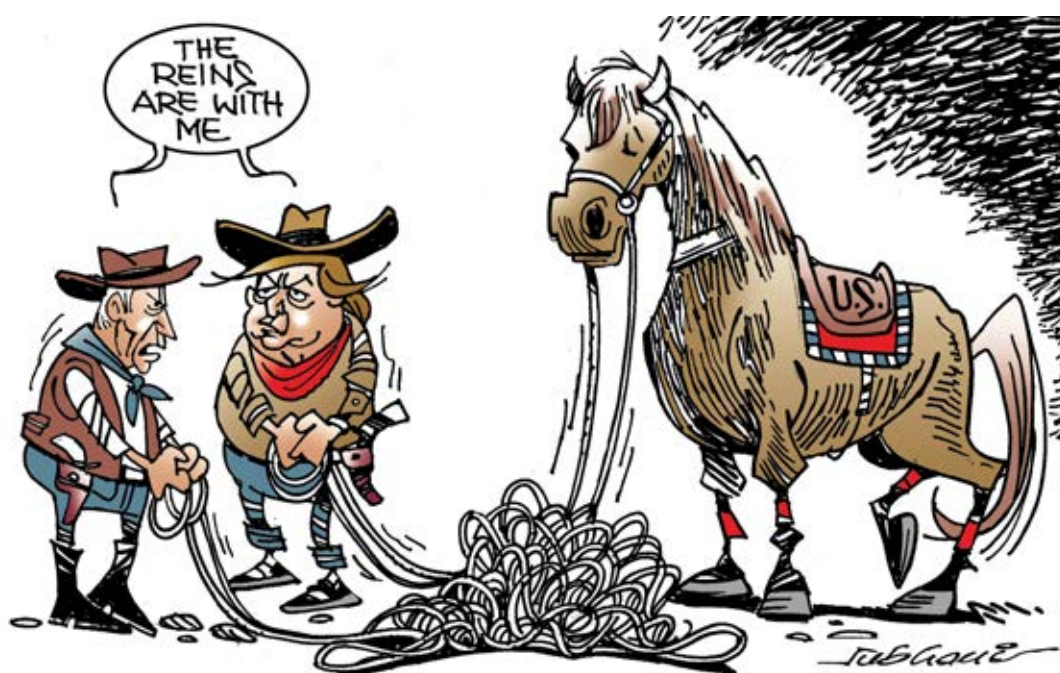
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Prioritise the needs of most vulnerable kids



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

As we continue to navigate the multiple uncertainties thrown up by the coronavirus pandemic, there is a heartening finding from the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2020 Wave 1) that deserves special attention. The report, released online late last month, reaffirms a positive trend: households in India, both rich and poor, are pinning their hopes on education as a passport to upward mobility, even in the times of Covid-19.

The release of an ASER report is an eagerly-awaited event for everyone not just in the education sector or civil society but also for others who are concerned about India's development trajectory and the country's future. The reason is simple: it provides deep insights into the state of learning of India's children.

This year's survey is the first-ever phone-based ASER survey. Conducted in September 2020, the sixth month of the nationwide school closures, it looks at how distance education was provided and accessed, the kind of materials and activities given to rural children and the way they dealt with these remote learning approaches, along with their families, from their homes. The learnings are collated from 26 states and four Union territories — a total of 52,227 households and 59,251 children in the age group of 5-16 years, as well as teachers or head teachers from 8,963 government schools offering primary grades.

That schoolgoing children have suffered hugely is obvious. Covid-19 severely disrupted lives across India, as elsewhere. Millions of people lost sources of livelihood during the lockdown; those in the informal sector did not get paid for several months; even during the

"unlock" phase, earnings have dipped. Household savings have evaporated. Many people are in deep debt.

But what leaps out from the flood of depressing news is that even while negotiating this catastrophic turn of events, families, rich and poor, have tried their best to support their children's education when classroom teaching went virtual.

The latest ASER data tells us that at the household level, about 11 per cent of all families bought a new phone since the lockdown kicked off. Over 80 per cent of these new phone purchases were smartphones. Of the lot who didn't have a smartphone at home, around 13 per cent said their children could access someone else's smartphone.

With time, we will know more about the choices poor households made in their crisis hour, what they gave up, what they postponed in order to buy smartphones which the children used to access learning material in recent months.

The pandemic has once again sledgehammered the fact that in digital India, everyone is not equal. Over 500 million Indians are now using smartphones, a 15 per cent jump from 2018, but there is a big gap between city dwellers and those living in villages, high-income and low-income, high-education and low-education households, as well as between men and women.

A recent study by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government estimated that, today in India, 71 per cent of men use mobile phones, as against 38 per cent of women.

Needless to say, we don't know yet how time was divided between boys and girls in households with one smartphone and whether there was any distinction made by gender and age-group.

ASER 2020 tells us that WhatsApp was the most commonly used way by which children received learning materials. Children in private schools were at an advantage compared to their government school counterparts over use of this platform. Interestingly, children in government schools were much more likely to have got learning materials through personal contact with a teacher than those in private schools. This happened when the teacher visited the family or when someone from the family went to the school.

Clearly, families with low incomes and low education who couldn't buy smartphones tried to support their children in other ways, as did many schools.

Despite the challenges and contradictions inherent in the Indian milieu, families across the board are trying their level best to make sure their children have a fighting chance in the emerging, highly competitive world of work.

A smartphone is an aspiration marker. But buying one isn't the only way parents have helped children deal with the pandemic's new normal.

The latest ASER survey offers insights about the support at home for learning — 74.9 per cent families reported being able to provide some learning support at home to their children. Apart from parents, older children also pitched in.

There are promising signs from many states.

West Bengal, for example, tops the list in reduction in school dropouts, going by the latest ASER data. The school dropout rate there is 1.5 per cent this year, from 3.3 per cent in 2018. ASER 2020 also tells us West Bengal is on top in the country for giving

textbooks for school students.

Several state governments are working on school fees to help families in financial distress and with schoolgoing children. Andhra Pradesh, for example, has decided to slash 30 per cent of tuition fees for the 2020-21 academic year for private unaided educational institutions. Even city governments are doing their bit. The Pune Municipal Corporation has formed a committee to look into the issue of school fee payments.

But while lower school fees, support at home and smartphones definitely help, they aren't going to be enough to compensate for the possibly severe learning loss suffered by many children.

We know schoolgoing children learnt something during all the months they have been at home. We also know that when schools reopen, not everyone is likely to be equally positioned to cope with classroom teaching.

Two key issues must be given top priority. Along with strengthening family support in children's learning, working on more impactful digital content, etc, there needs to be special, targeted incentives for children at risk of dropping out of school in the coming days. They must stay on.

Second, there is an urgent need for free remedial classes for all those who didn't have optimal access to learning sources when there was no physical classroom teaching or who have not been able to absorb what they received remotely.

The pandemic has affected every child in India, but not equally. When schools reopen, it is vital to continue to track who goes back to school, and to understand whether there is a learning loss compared to previous years. Children who have fallen behind and who need more help than others should be policy priorities.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com

When schools reopen, it is vital to continue to track who goes back to school, and to understand whether there is a learning loss compared to previous years

LETTERS

SC SHOULD INTERVENE

It is unfortunate that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is spearheading a move to ban interfaith marriage which is against the tenets of our Constitution which permits freedom to every citizen to select his/her life partner irrespective of the religion both belong to. The very coinage of the word 'Love jihad', unapproved in legal parlance is itself nauseating and it is a surprise that those who are supposed to be the guardians of the Constitution have become the breakers of the same. Now this menace has started to spread in other BJP-ruled states like Haryana and Karnataka. It is time the Supreme Court intervened suo motu and stopped this unwarranted move.

Tharcus S. Fernando, Chennai

KAMAL'S STAND

KAMAL DESERVES all praise for his bold and principled stand to stay away from both Dravidian parties. Normally political parties at the budding stage will like to be in the comfortable shadow of parties in power or parties with strong prospects at the hustings. Kamal wants to keep his identity and independence and fight both the strong Dravidian parties. In his opinion both the parties are unfit to rule Tamil Nadu any longer due to their track record in corruption and maladministration.

S. Nagarajan Iyer, Coimbatore

WATSON'S RETIREMENT

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of retirement by Shane Watson from all formats of cricket is a real pain to all lovers of the game. His association with CSK was particularly memorable and cherishable as he has endeared himself with every supporter of CSK with his dignified and friendly behavior and disposition both in the green room and the field. One could witness his calm and composed behavior towards his colleagues in the team and those in the opposite team in the field. In simple words he never allowed victory or defeat of the team he played for to alter his natural self. Probably he wants to be with his family. Let us grant his wish for retirement he needs badly with our good wishes.

B.S. Jayaraman, Coimbatore

Douglas Murray
 American Diary



Trump's humour is his weakness... and his strength

Earlier this summer left-wing activists announced a "semi-autonomous zone" in the Capitol Hill area of Seattle. Denuded of law enforcement and any other signs of the American state, these activists deluded themselves that they were creating a blueprint for the perfect society. After a number of wholly predictable murders and rather more rapes, the state retook control. The area where the state formerly known as CHAZ briefly stood is now just another homeless encampment, overlooked by empty luxury apartments. Local businesses are suing the city for failing to protect them. All still have "Don't hurt me" signs in the windows. One, a hairdresser, stresses that it is "a minority-owned, women-led, LGBTQIA+ staffed local business". What any business in the area might do if it is unfortunate enough to be owned or staffed by people from a majority group is not to be imagined.

Like most other businesses in town, the local Whole Foods is boarded up against rioters. Over this unprepossessing edifice Whole Foods has hung a huge banner of its own which pro-

claims: "Racism has no place here". As though the Seattle Whole Foods was ever suspected of hosting Klan meetings in the dried fruit and nuts aisle. Even the local ice-cream parlour has a side-business selling T-shirts for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. Seattle, like Portland, is like living in a one-party state in which the state religion is BLM.

Pensacola, Florida, is different. And not just because Air Force One is soon to arrive. In the airfield where it will land, thousands of people stream through the metal detectors and await the main act. It is hard to know whether the warm-up songs blasted out through loudspeakers have been chosen with too much thought or none at all. "My Way", "Losing My Religion", "Rocket Man" and "Don't Stop Believing" can all be interpreted in several ways. Gounod's Ave Maria is abruptly interrupted to make way for Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis. The theme song from Titanic is played twice, and "YMCA" — which has become the theme song of the re-election campaign — comes

on before the President's arrival. The crowd is thrilled, dancing about with joy. One of the addresses ahead of the President is from a pastor who prays for the re-election of Donald Trump. He says he believes that because of what the President has done for Israel (another normalisation treaty signed that day), Trump will be rewarded eternally. It summons up the disturbing image of the world's humblest arriving into heaven to find themselves greeted by the man who recently introduced himself as "Your favourite President".

The plane has landed and the world's most famous head of hair heaves into view. The audience remains on its feet throughout his hour-long speech. Although I am standing among them, taking notes and admitting I am from the media, everyone is warm and welcoming. Certainly they are here for the tough stuff (right to bear arms, defending the police, and patriotic — not America-hating — education). But they are also here because of something the media rarely admits: the President is funny. When he slings nicknames at his opponents and other-

erwise goes off script, both he and the crowd get to enjoy themselves. In the segment about "the China virus" he starts talking about the period after he tested positive for corona. "What the hell was that all about?" he asides, as if he is as bemused as anyone else by the reality show around him. It is his weakness and his strength. His free-wheeling indifference to political norms attracts many of his supporters, some of whom say they never voted before. But as the great Peggy Noonan recently wrote, the nation may also be tiring of the 24/7 reality show, and wish to change the channel. Such voters hoped that Joe Biden will bring back "normal".

The laptop from hell" is how the President describes the device Joe's son Hunter forgot to pick up from a computer repair shop and which ended up in the hands of Trump's associate Rudy Giuliani. The contents include emails that suggest Biden's son spent recent years enriching himself (and possibly his father) abroad through holding out his family connections. The laptop also contains photos and videos of Hunter smoking

crack, exposing himself and being pleased by the foot of an unknown person. The Democratic Party and most of the media wish to protect the Bidens and are still claiming the laptop is a Russian interference plot. Elsewhere, much fun is being had with the "I can't look, show me" elements of the sex leaks. Yet Republicans should beware of this. The corruption and cronyism scandal risks being drowned out amid the sex. Besides, in the digital age nobody's children are more than a few clicks away from some embarrassment. Plus, nobody could mistake the Republican candidate for Snow White. Though exactly who he is remains both strange and wholly transparent. When "YMCA" comes back on after his speech, the President manages not only to move his hands in time to the music, but even dares a little hip wiggle and sway of the legs. So, amid the floodlights the evening ends in signature style — with militarism and camp, deadly seriousness and palpable insincerity. Perhaps this is normal. Perhaps not even is.

By arrangement with the Spectator

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

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.

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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.

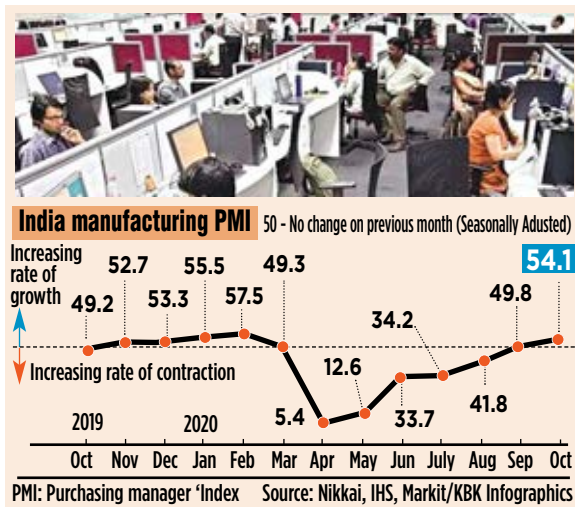
Rising to 54.1 in October, from 49.8 in September, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index moved above the 50-mark that separates growth from contraction for the first time since February.

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
WORKERSMARWA 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 shareRAVI 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 share-

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

holders. Citigroup, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, Haitong Securities India

and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities India are the lead managers to the issue.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: You may want to plan something special for your partner. If your projects run into hurdles, look at the details. Singles could meet someone special.



Taurus: Things at home and at work are on track. You may plan a short holiday. Disagreements with loved ones could escalate if you are not careful.



Gemini: Find ways to streamline expenses. Teamwork will be productive. Don't let emotions cloud your judgement. Use your intellect to make financial or personal decisions.



Cancer: Your emotional responses might be intense, so balance them with logic while making decisions. Choices on love or money may lead to disappointment.



Leo: You will want to channel your energies constructively. However, you could face some resistance, so balance firmness with tact. Overconfidence lead to issues.



Virgo: Spend time on relaxing activities. Don't rely purely on emotional responses when making long-term decisions. Teamwork will be productive but don't be side-lined.

You share your b'day with

Virat Kohli, the current captain of the India national team. A right-handed top-order batsman, Kohli plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League (IPL), and has been the team's captain since 2013.



Libra: Restructuring your finances will be productive. Love life will be mostly smooth. Impulsive decisions will lead to mistakes. Be clear during negotiations to avoid confusion. Recent tensions will ease.



Scorpio: Your efforts will start to show results. Promotions are indicated. Health will improve. Review work strategies. Be open to letting new people into your life.



Sagittarius: You are in the mood to take bold steps but check facts before making important decisions. Your reactions to a minor confrontation will help you build an image.



Capricorn: Boredom with routine may see you trying to bring excitement into your social life. Delays and a pressing schedule make you irritable.

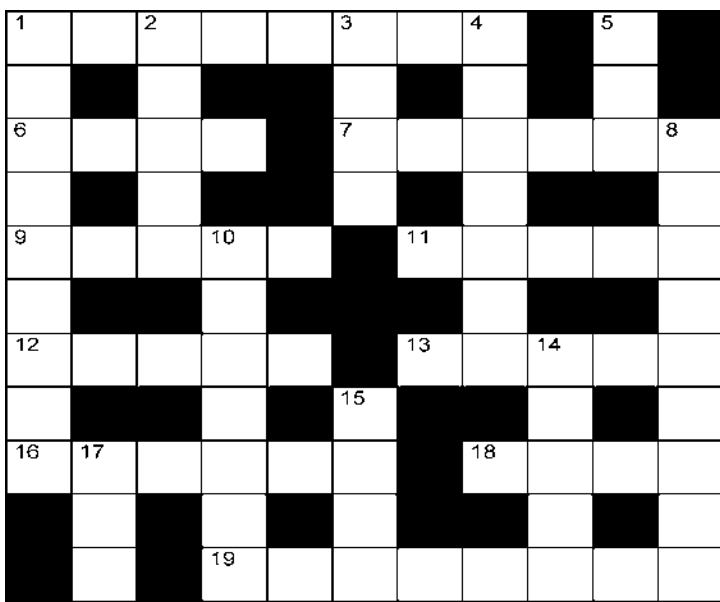


Aquarius: Emotional issues may get you down, but you will realise that certain relationships are precious. Don't let distractions keep you from commitments.



Pisces: Personal relationships may hit a rough patch. Take care that minor disagreements don't become major issues. Focus will help overcome hurdles. A good day for interviews. Things will work out only with effort.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

1. Runway (8)

6. Sound quality (4)
7. Release money (6)
9. Overparticular (5)
11. Mourning song (5)
12. Desire greatly (5)
13. Surrenders up (5)
16. Precious metal (6)
18. Even-handed (4)
19. Intestine part (8)

Down

1. Archaeological objects (9)
2. Ladder steps (5)
3. Undercooked (4)
4. In deep thought (7)
5. Singing pair (3)
8. Great whirlpool (9)
10. Veered sharply (7)
14. Haggard (5)
15. Therefore (4)
17. Clinging plant (3)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

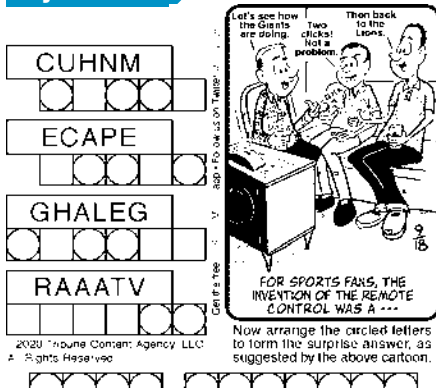
- Across: 6. Hullabaloo, 8. Erect, 10. Ebbed, 13. Countenance, 14. Model, 17. Henna, 19. Rheumatism.
Down: 1. Pure, 2. Flat, 3. Able, 4. Club, 5. Goldmedal, 7. Benchmark, 9. Canoe, 11. Blame, 12. Fez, 15. Duel, 16. Lame, 17. Hate, 18. Nose.

Word Mine

O
LRT
NYEUI

TODAY'S RATINGS: 30 AVERAGE; 33 GOOD; 36 OUTSTANDING
How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

Jumble



Yesterday's Jumbles: JIFFY MOUTH MIRROR SPRUCE
Answer: Ancient Romans wanted a large public square, so they built a — FORUM FOR EM

knew that when both sides have a double fit, it usually pays to declare. So South bid the rare five over five, which turned out to be wrong here.

Five hearts would have taken down two if North-South had taken one spade, two hearts and a diamond ruff.

Against five spades doubled, West led his club. East won with his ace and returned the suit, South ducking, and West ruffing. After a diamond to the ace and no second club ruff, South

conceded down one.

North immediately said that he was going to double five hearts. "Yes," replied South, "and because you knew you wanted to do that, you should have doubled five diamonds to the key in."

"Yes... I must admit I didn't think of that." It was a good point, though.

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CALVIN AND HOBES | Bill Watterson



THE WIZARD OF ID | Parker and Hartsd



ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN | Edgar Rice Burroughs



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. — AP

Oz swim coach Don dies aged 87

Sydney: Long-time former Australia coach Don Talbot has died age 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.

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

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Editor: KAUSHIK MITTER

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 Kasperek (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 Kasperek (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 Kasperek 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)	5	Manchester City (Ferran Torres 12, Gabriel Jesus 81, Joao Cancelo 90)	3
Atalanta	0	Olympiacos	0
Bayern Munich (Lewandowski 21-pen, 88, Kristensen-OG, Jerome Boateng 79, Leroy Sane 83, Hernandez 90+2)	6	Real Madrid (Karim Benzema 25, Sergio Ramos 33, Rodrygo 80)	3
RB Salzburg (Berisha 4, Okugawa 66)	2	Inter Milan (Martinez 35, Ivan Perisic 68)	2

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



Diego Maradona

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.

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.

— AFP

CELEBRATION



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

— AFP

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

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CPF writes to ministry on issues in AICF

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

The Chess Players Forum (CPF) has appealed to the sports ministry on the issue of All India Chess Federation (AICF) "not adhering to the clauses" of the National Sports Development Code (NSDCI) 2011. NSDCI is a mandatory functioning guideline set by the GOI to streamline sports administration in the country to be adopted by all the federations.

The CPF said it has found two issues of concern from the perspective of players "The code of

conduct for players as mentioned in the constitution of the AICF and non-inclusion of prominent chess players of the country in the management of AICF to a minimum of 25% of the total strength with voting rights, as stipulated in the Sports Code. Our letter to the ministry addresses these two issues in detail," said International Master Varugese Koshi, president of the CP, in a release.

"We hereby wish the ministry to act on our appeal and safeguard the welfare and interests of the chess players of the country," he added.

CAP T20 tourney from November 11

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 4

Cricket Association of Pondicherry has launched its inaugural T20 tournament. The event will be held from November 11 to 27 at Siechem Cricket Stadium, Thutipet. CAP will create a bio bubble for players and officials.

The tournament will have six teams and all of them are owned by CAP. "There will be no cash awards, no player fees, no daily allowance and no franchisees. It is a cashless high intensity T20 tournament, but the performances will be considered for this season's selection," CAP said in a release.