

# DECCAN Chronicle

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CHENNAI | SATURDAY 21 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 31°C  
**Min:** 21°C  
**Rainfall:** Nil

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Karthigai 6  
**Tithi:** Sapthami  
**Star:** Thiruvonam  
**Rahukalam:**  
9 am to 10.30 am  
**Yamagandam:**  
1.30 pm to 3 pm  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.54 am  
**Zohar:** 11.58 am  
**Asar:** 3.12 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.39 pm  
**Isha:** 6.53 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.11 AM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 11.56 AM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 11.42 PM**

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+42,780)	(+514)
90,47,105	1,32,716

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,686)	
TN: 7,66,677	11,568

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,76,27,674

### DEATHS

13,72,099

218

worldometers.info

## LVB resolution: RBI delays final merger scheme to next week

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank did not issue the final merger scheme for Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS India on Friday as stated earlier and is likely to do so only next week, according to a central bank official. While placing LVB under a moratorium and then issuing a draft amalgamation scheme on November 17, the RBI had said it would issue the final merger scheme on November 20 (Friday) so as to help complete the resolution for the 94-year-old lender by December 16.

## No power can restore Article 370 in J&K: BJP

**Srinagar:** The BJP on Friday said any challenge to the abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court was not a sub-judice matter, asserting that no power in the world can restore the special provisions of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

## COUNTER POINT



How can you recover the money you spent on ticket, votes, campaign...?

## Quad nations complete Malabar naval exercise

**New Delhi, Nov 20:** The navies of India, the United States, Australia and Japan on Friday concluded the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the Arabian Sea that involved two aircraft carriers and a number of frontline warships, submarines and maritime aircraft. While the first phase of the 24th edition of the Malabar exercise was conducted in Bay of Bengal from November 3-6, the second phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea from November 17-20, said a statement by the Indian Navy.

The major highlight of the four-day second-phase exercise was participation of Indian Navy's *Vikramaditya* carrier battle group and the *Nimitz* strike group of the US Navy. —PTI

## STATE | 4

**CM condoles soldier's demise, orders job for kin**



## WORLD | 5

**Trump team cries foul over Joe's win**



## SPORT | 6

**Pat looks to keep Kohli quiet**



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# Terrorists were targeting democracy in J&K: Modi

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
*with agency inputs*  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who chaired a review meeting on Friday with top security officials as well as the home minister and national security adviser in the wake of the killing of four Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota, asserted the security forces have thwarted their efforts to wreak "major havoc and destruction" in the country.

Government sources said the terrorists were planning "something big" on the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack next week as a huge quantity of arms and ammunition had been recovered from

● **"Our security forces have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism. Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir," Prime Minister Modi tweeted**



them. Those who attended the meeting included home minister Amit Shah, national security adviser Ajit Doval, foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and top intelligence officials.

Specific intelligence inputs had revealed some Pakistani terrorists had infiltrated into the country with the specific pur-

pose of carrying out a major terror attack just before the District Development Council local elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

After the meeting, Mr Modi said in a tweet: "Our security forces have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism. Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target

grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir."

In another tweet, he added: "Neutralising of four terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of a large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted."

Intelligence sources said that besides disrupting the DDC elections, the terrorists were planning a major strike on the 26/11 anniversary.

The four suspected Jaish terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed after a four-hour-long encounter early Thursday.

# Sonia forms 3 panels, shifts to Goa due to poor Delhi air

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 20

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday set up three separate panels for discussing policy issues related to economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security before leaving Delhi due to health issues. Ms Gandhi, who has been advised to shift out of Delhi to avoid the heavy pollution in the national capital in view of her chronic chest infection, has moved to Goa for a few days.

Congress sources said she was accompanied by Rahul Gandhi. The Congress president has been under heavy medication following her discharge from hospital in August, and doctors are concerned about her consistent chest infection. The air pollution in Delhi has aggravated her asthma and her chest condition, the sources added.

Before leaving, Ms Gandhi set up three separate committees for discussing policy issues related to economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh is a part of all three

## POLICY ISSUES

**Economic affairs committee**  
**Convener:** Jairam Ramesh

**Members:** P. Chidambaram, Mallikarjun Kharge, Digvijaya Singh

## Foreign affairs committee

**Convener:** Salman Khurshid  
**Members:** Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Saptagiri Ulaka

**National security committee**  
**Convener:** Vincent H. Pala

**Members:** Ghulam Nabi Azad, Veerappa Moily, V. Vaithilingam  
**Dr Manmohan Singh to be member of all the three committees**



The economic affairs committee will comprise former finance minister P. Chidambaram and party

leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Digvijaya Singh. Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh will be its convener.

The committee on foreign affairs will have Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Salman Khurshid and Saptagiri Ulaka with Mr Khurshid as its convener. The committee on national security will have leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, party leaders Veerappa Moily, Vincent H. Pala and V. Vaithilingam, with Mr Pala as its convener.

"The Congress president has constituted three committees to consider and discuss issues and policies related to the subjects of economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security," an official statement from AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said.

It is interesting to note that those nominated in the committees include senior party leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Veerappa Moily and Shashi Tharoor, who were part of the 23 letter-writers seeking an organisational overhaul of the Congress.



## KCR firms up plans to form anti-BJP front

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who had given a call to political parties and leaders across the country to join to fight against the BJP's "anti-people policies" has intensified his efforts to bring together anti-BJP forces to build a movement against the Narendra Modi-led central government.

Sources in the Telanagana Rashtira Samiti said besides trade unions and farmers' organisations, several political party leaders are also in touch with TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and B. Vinod Kumar, in this regard.

Sources said that the pink party boss is in touch with several national leaders of non-BJP parties, who will all unite to oppose the anticipated move from the BJP to move to the 'One Nation, One Poll' idea, most likely in 2022.

# Udhayanidhi starts pre-poll campaign

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
*with agency inputs*  
NAGAPATTINAM/ TIRUCHY, NOV. 20



● **Police said Udhayanidhi and his supporters were held as the campaign violated the social distancing norms of the Covid andemic.They were lodged in a marriage hall for about an hour before being released**

various parts of the state to end the "darkness that has engulfed Tamil Nadu".

Participating in a function at Pannangkombu near Manapparai in Tiruchy district, Mr Stalin said the BJP had taken the ruling AIADMK on lease (kuthagai), and hence, the AIADMK acted against the interests of the state and its people. He also said the AIADMK-BJP alliance will again suffer a major setback in the coming Assembly elections as people are ready to teach them a lesson.

Earlier, Mr Stalin participated in a flag hoisting ceremony under the leadership of party's south district in-charge, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, in Tiruchy.

## LAWYERS CAN MEET KERALA SCRIBE IN JAIL, UP TELLS SC

**New Delhi, Nov. 20:** The Uttar Pradesh government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that an advocate can meet Kerala-based Journalist Siddique Kappan, arrested on his way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped, in jail to take "instructions and signature" for representing him in courts of law.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde was critical of some media reports of November 16 and termed them "unfair", observing that they said that the apex court denied relief to the journalist.

"There was very unfair reporting about our earlier order. It was said that we denied you relief," said the bench which also comprised Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian.

During the brief hearing, solicitor-general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, opposed the KUWJ contention that Mr Kappan was denied permission to meet his lawyers and family and as a consequence, he could not approach the Allahabad high court for the relief. —PTI

# Love jihad is BJP coinage to divide nation, alleges Gehlot

**Jaipur, Nov. 20:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said 'love jihad' is a term "manufactured" by the BJP to disturb communal harmony, provoking a sharp reaction from Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

In a tweet, Mr Gehlot said marriage is a matter of personal liberty and bringing a law to curb it is unconstitutional.

Hitting back, Mr Shekhawat asked if marriage is a matter of personal liberty "why are the

women not free to use their maiden name or religion".

BJP leaders use the term 'love jihad' while alleging that Hindu women face harassment and forced conversion in the name of love and marriage.

BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have said they are considering enactment of laws to curb such marriages.

But Mr Gehlot said such law will not stand scrutiny in any court. "Love jihad" is a word

● **"Jihad has no place in love. They are creating an environment in the nation where consenting adults would be at the mercy of state power. Marriage is a personal decision and they are putting curbs on it, which is like snatching away personal liberty," Mr Gehlot said**



manufactured by the BJP to divide the nation and disturb communal harmony," the Congress leader tweeted.

"Jihad has no place in

love. They are creating an environment in the nation where consenting adults would be at the mercy of state power. Marriage is a personal decision and they

are putting curbs on it, which is like snatching away personal liberty," Mr Gehlot said.

"It seems a ploy to disrupt communal harmony, fuel social conflict and disregard constitutional provisions like the state not discriminating against citizens on any ground," he added.

"Dear Ashok ji, 'love jihad' is a trap that has thousands of young women believing the marriage is a personal affair, where later it turns out it isn't. Also, if it is a matter

of personal liberty, then why are the women not free to keep their maiden name or religion?" he asked.

"Why are families of girls too forced to accept the other religion? Isn't religion a matter of personal liberty?" he tweeted. Mr Shekhawat asked if supporting this in the guise of personal freedom was the "new communal agenda" of the Congress.

He charged that "manufacturing terms, riots and hatred is a Congress prerogative". —PTI





  
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## OTHER STORIES

## Coast Guard foils bid to smuggle vials to Sri Lanka

Chennai: Coast Guard has thwarted an attempt to smuggle to Sri Lanka 50 kgs of multi-vitamin vials worth ₹ 1.44 lakh, an official said on Friday. The vials were seized at Thangachimadam seashore in Ramanathapuram district, he said in a micro-blogging site. — PTI

## Over ₹4 cr worth smuggled goods seized on Deepavali

Coimbatore: Gold, mobile phones, drones and cigarettes of foreign origin, otally worth ₹4.82 crore, were seized at the airport here on Diwali day, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) said on Friday. Acting on inputs, passengers arriving from Sharjah by an Air Arabia flight were subjected to intensive checks on Deepavali. — PTI

## Prince of Arcot urges PM on Haj embarkation point

Chennai: The Prince of Arcot, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and restore Chennai international airport, as an embarkation point for Haj pilgrims.

The Prince said that Chennai has continued as an important embarkation point ever since flights were started in the year 1987 to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It was shocking and surprising to learn that the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, has not included Chennai as an embarkation centre for Haj-2021 and pilgrims have been clubbed with Kochi, Kerala.

This would mean that pilgrims will have to travel all the way to Kochi from their three different hometowns, which would cause tremendous difficulties and hardships to the elderly and weak pilgrims, the Prince pointed out in a press release.

## BACKING SURAPPA



Anna University professors and students stage a silent protest on their campus in support of VC Surappa on Friday. — DC

## Wealth case: One-year RI for sub-registrar

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

A special judge for cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act in Puducherry sentenced a sub-registrar to one-year rigorous imprisonment in a case registered against him by the CBI for amassing wealth disproportionate to his income.

Special judge P. Dhanabal also directed the authorities to confiscate his properties and

assets worth ₹50,43,193. According to the prosecution, the Anti-Corruption Branch of CBI, Chennai investigated and filed a chargesheet against V. Gurubatham, sub-registrar, Villianur, Puducherry in 2008 on charge that he, between January 1, 1996, and April 10, 2008, acquired assets in his name and in the name of his family members to the tune of ₹34,50,82, which was disproportionate to his

known sources of income.

He failed to explain satisfactorily reasons for amassing assets.

On completion of trial, the special judge convicted and sentenced Gurubatham to undergo RI for one year and to pay a fine of ₹10,000 for the offences committed under sections 13(2), 13(1)(e) of PC Act 1988.

Another accused Coumoudame Grubatham was acquitted.

## Gold worth ₹2.06cr seized at airport; 2 held

Chennai: Gold worth ₹2.06 crore has been seized in two separate incidents at the airport here and two persons have been arrested in this connection, Customs officials said on Friday. In the first incident on Thursday, gold in paste form and concealed in rectums of plane passengers was seized.

In the first incident on Thursday, gold in paste form and concealed in rectums of plane passengers was seized

gold chains and gold plates from six passengers, who arrived from Dubai, were confiscated,

the officials said. Two of the passengers were repeat offenders and were arrested, they said.

In the other incident on Friday, gold paste in packets wrapped in adhesive tape and hidden under the aircraft seats were confiscated, they said. The total value of the gold seized on the two days was worth ₹2.06 crore, they said. — PTI

## ‘Unless quality roads are laid, mishaps can’t be prevented’

J. STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

Observing that unless quality roads are laid, accidents cannot be prevented, which lead to loss of lives, the Madras high court has directed the state government to file a status report as to the compliance of the orders of the court, which gave comprehensive directions as to the milling/scraping of existing roads, while laying/relaying of roads.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kiubakaran and B.Pugalendhi gave the directive while passing interim orders on



a petition filed by S.M. Anthony Muthu, which sought a direction to the authorities to constitute an expert committee to supervise the rural road works in Kanyakumari district to ensure the execution of the works as per the estimates, after

milling/scraping the existing roads and also to check and verify the measurements and quality of the roads after completion of the work, before settling the bills. Unless quality roads are laid, accidents cannot be prevented, which lead to loss of lives. This is an important issue, which has to be dealt with elaborately. Therefore, this court suo motu impleads the secretary to government highways and minor ports department, the secretary to government, municipal administration and water supply department, the secretary to government, rural development and

panchayat raj department, the secretary to government, PWD, the director, rural development and the director of town panchayats as respondents in this writ petition, the bench added. Posting the matter to November 30, 2020, the bench also directed the special government pleader to produce the government Orders/Circulars/Instructions which govern the laying/relaying of roads and the particulars/mechanism to ensure the quality of the roads laid/re-laid, including the types of tests, check lists, forms, if any.

## Pondy logs 54 new corona cases

Puducherry, Nov. 20: Puducherry added 54 new Covid-19 cases while no fresh fatality was reported in the union territory in the last 24 hours, a top Health department official said on Friday.

The 54 new cases were identified at the end of the examination of 3,468 samples, Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said in a release. Cumulatively, there were 36,585 coronavirus cases after the transfer of two patients to Tamil Nadu, he said.

While 621 cases were active, the total number of patients treated and discharged stood at 35,355, the Health department Director said, adding and the toll remained at 609 as no fresh death was reported in the last 24 hours ending 10 am Friday. — PTI

ARULOLI M | DC  
TIRUCHENDUR, NOV. 20

The festive spirit of the Soorasamharam event of Sashti was subdued on the seashore in Tiruchendur on Friday, due to the pandemic.

The event on the sixth day of the Kandha sashti festival, otherwise would have been witnessed by around a lakh devotees at the second abode of Lord Muruga here, but has only 700, apart from the 2,000 policemen, many of whom were temple priests and HR&CE officials.

VVIPs including ministers, judges and higher police officers, who usually crowded with their friends and relatives, close to the site of Soorasamharam event at the sea shore in front of Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy temple here, were missing this year, due to

**VVIPs including ministers, judges and higher police officers, who usually crowded with their friends and relatives, close to the site of Soorasamharam event at the sea shore in front of Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy temple here, were missing this year, due to corona regulations**

corona regulations. Not even the state HR&CE minister participated in the event.

Hundreds of people from neighbouring districts of Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar and Madurai, who reached Tiruchendur hoping to somehow witness the Soorasamharam event, were restricted at the entrance of the temple town, and sent back.

For the first time in the history of the temple, the

event was held within a closed area of 300x300 metres, said a temple priest.

To prevent participants from taking holy dip in the sea, which is the usual ritual after the event, the way to the sea was closed with tin sheets.

The actual Soorasamharam event commenced at 4:30 pm with the Lord being brought in the temple chariot to the sea shore was completed in just 30 minutes at 5:04 pm.



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Saturday's Jumbles: HOTLY TAKEN ROTATE INWARD  
 Answer: They had returned, and everyone agreed that the Apollo 11 astronauts were — DOWN TO EARTH.

However, Tanya led a trump, endplaying East anyway. She had either to lead a club, conceding a ruff-and-discard, or to play spades.

"Well played, Tanya," said Cocheme. "I thought you would go down with all of the finesse wrong."

"I've heard the big girls talk about finesse in the playground, but I don't think we do them until next term."

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## SHORT TAKES

14 PEOPLE DEAD  
AS CAR COLLIDES  
WITH TRUCK IN UP

**Lucknow/Pratapgarh, Nov. 20:** As many as 14 people, including seven children, died when their car collided with a stationary truck on the Lucknow-Allahabad highway, around 70 km from Pratapgarh district headquarters, an official said on Friday.

The road accident took place late on Thursday night when the victims were returning from a wedding function in the Nawabganj area of Pratapgarh, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi said. Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Arya said the speeding SUV dashed into the truck parked by the road in the Manikpur police station area after one of its rear tyres got punctured near Deshraj Inara.

ED FILES MONEY  
LAUNDERING CASE  
IN TRP SCAM

**SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a money laundering complaint in connection with the alleged TRP (television rating points) rigging scam case that is being investigated by Mumbai police. The ED officials said that the case was filed by them on the basis of the Mumbai police's FIR. The officials said that they would summon all those named accused in the case for questioning in the fresh case. The Mumbai crime branch is currently probing the case that was filed in October naming *Republic TV*, two Marathi channels accused of rigging the TRP ratings for their channels with help of some other persons, who are also named in the case.

## LoC locals call for 'end to hostility'

Flare up along LoC last week left at least four civilians and an equal number of jawans dead

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
BALKOT (LoC), NOV. 20**

"I was away when I received a phone call from my wife saying intense artillery shelling is underway. She asked me what she and other family members should do, stay at home or leave", recalled Abdul Haleem, a resident of Balkote, a sleepy village comprising scattered traditional houses at the foothills just a stone's throw from the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district.

Alarmed by the grimness of his spouse's voice, Haleem quickly headed for home but, before he could reach there, his wife called up again to inform him that two houses including their's have caught fire due to the artillery fire. "I was shocked and merely asked her if all the family members were safe. I felt relief when told everyone at home has escaped unhurt," Haleem told this newspaper.

Standing beside the debris of his house and that of his uncle's, Haleem said, "You can yourself see everything has been reduced into rubble. What was our fault? Indians and

Pakistanis may do to each other whatever they want to but why should we suffer?"

Farooqa Begum was not as lucky as her neighbour Haleem's family. An artillery shell pierced through a wall of her house killing the 35-year-old housewife on the spot. "*Hum par qayamat guzri hai* (we've gone through doomsday)", lamented her husband Bashir Ahmed Dar.

Tahir Ahmed Mir, an employee of J&K's department of consumer affairs and public distribution, was distributing ration at a depot in Kamalkote area when a mortar shell fell and exploded a couple of metres away. Mir suffered multiple splinter injuries and died on the way to the hospital. Back in his native village Sultan Daki, the world of his aged parents and siblings lies completely shattered after the tragedy.

Raveel Ahmed, his brother, said, "We were six brothers and one of them has been snatched from us. Our hearts are bleeding". The rage in Ahmed's eyes was clearly evident as he repeatedly asked 'Why was he snatched from



Last week's flare up left behind a trail of destruction in villages close to the LoC in Hajipur and Kamalkote sectors of Baramulla district.

us...what was his fault?"

The terminable hostility between India and Pakistan troops along the LoC flared up again last week, leaving at least four civilians and an equal number of Indian Army and one Border Security Force (BSF) jawans dead and more than a dozen civilians and three Army personnel injured. Pakistan reported the death of four civilians and one Army soldier and injuries to 12 civilians in cross-LoC firing and shelling on November 12 and 13.

However, Indian Army claimed to have killed, at

least, 11 Pakistani soldiers and caused "substantial damage" to its infrastructure including ammunition and FOL (Forward Operating Location) dumps and "terrorist launch-pads" across the LoC "in retaliation to unprovoked ceasefire violations".

In their counterclaim, the Pakistan Army claimed inflicting "substantial losses" both in terms of men and material to the Indian troops "in response to their provocative act of engaging innocent civilians".

In J&K, many houses in villages falling in close

proximity of the LoC including Balkote, Kamalkote, Gowhahan, Sarai Bandi, Nambala and Gwatta (Baramulla district), Dawar (Bandipore district), Keran (Kupwara district) and Sawjan (Poonch district) were damaged in artillery shelling, forcing the residents to flee to safer locations.

As reported by Pakistan media, 15 residential houses, a few multi-storey buildings and one shop were gutted and 24 residential houses and a guest-house suffered partial damage and 20 cattle and eight goats perished in the Indian shelling.

The guns fell silent on the evening of November 13. Next day when residents returned to the affected villages on the Indian side of the LoC they found their homes burnt or damaged extensively and the household goods strewn and wrecked apart.

The two countries' armies accused each other of initiating firing and it was not the first time that the exchanges caused deaths among both facing troops and civilians besides leaving a trail of

destruction in villages. As per official statistics, 32 Indian Army and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, 26 militants and infiltrators, 16 civilians and three civilian porters working for the Army or the BSF (total number of casualties was 77) were killed in the incidents of cross-border firing and shelling, clashes and sneak attacks carried out by militants or Pakistan's Border Action Teams (BATs) along the LoC and the IB, so far, this year.

As the civilians have routinely fallen prey to such exchanges, Nazir Ahmed, a resident of Balkote asked, "When an artillery shell lands in a house, a cowshed or courtyard we can't immediately say who fired it. But the fact is that it is mainly the civilians on both sides who suffer whenever India and Pakistan troops clash. This has to be brought to a close".

The border-dwellers were also unanimous in demanding early construction of community and individual bunkers in shelling prone areas to minimise the casualties in such eventualities.

TMC MANTRI  
COMPARES DIDI  
WITH NETAJI

**RAJIB  
CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, NOV. 20**

Trinamul Congress minister Bratya Basu on Friday compared his party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to fan an eternal "Bengali" sentiment about the legendary freedom fighter against the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the next year's Assembly election. He also branded her party as her own "Azad Hind Fauj" in what may trigger a controversy.

The state science and technology minister alleged, "it is a fact Bose had to go away from the politics of Bengal and India as the freedom movement was against a colonial power. Exactly the same thing happened after 50 years with Mamata Banerjee. But she did not have to go since her fight was not against any colonial rule for freedom. Mamata Banerjee's battle was on parliamentary democracy for which she formed a separate party."

## Mumbai schools to remain shut till Dec 31

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20**

Amid the rising numbers of Covid-19 positive patients in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday announced that schools will remain closed in the city till December

31. Earlier, the Maharashtra government had planned to open schools from November 23.

According to the circular issued by BMC's education department, although pandemic is under control in Mumbai, other countries are witnessing the second wave

and considering the situation of the infection of the other states, the possibility of the second wave cannot be ignored in Maharashtra. "The next four to six months are very crucial for containing the pandemic. Hence, the schools in BMC's jurisdiction cannot be started from November

23rd. All the schools will remain closed till December 31, 2020.

Maharashtra reported a single day rise of 5,640 Covid-19 new cases on Friday taking its overall tally to 17,68,695 cases while 155 new deaths were reported which pushed the fatality count to 46,511.

## MARRIAGE BETWEEN FIRST COUSINS ILEGAL: P&amp;H HC

**Chandigarh, Nov. 20:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that marriage between first cousins is illegal.

The court said that marriage which petitioner man wants to perform with a girl, who is his first cousin, was also per se illegal.

"...the submission in the present petition that as and when she (the girl) attains

the age of 18 years, they will perform marriage is also per se illegal," the judge said on Thursday while hearing the petition.

The assertion came after a 21-year-old man moved the high court against state of Punjab seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered under Sections 363 (kidnapping), 366A (procurement of minor girl) of the

IPC at police station Khanna City-2 in Ludhiana district on August 18.

The state counsel, while opposing the bail plea moved by the man, contended the girl was a minor and her parents had lodged the first information report as she and the man were first cousins and their fathers were brothers.

PTI

## WORLD

Trump team cries  
foul over Joe's win

**Washington, Nov. 20:** President Donald Trump and his allies are taking increasingly frantic steps to subvert the results of the 2020 election, including summoning state legislators to the White House as part of a longshot bid to overturn Joe Biden's victory. Among other last-ditch tactics: personally calling local election officials who are trying to rescind their certification votes in Michigan, suggesting in a legal challenge that Pennsylvania set aside the popular vote there and pressuring county officials in Arizona to delay certifying vote tallies.

Election law experts see it as the last, dying gasps of the

Trump campaign and say Biden is certain to walk into the Oval Office come January. But there is great concern that Trump's effort is doing real damage to public faith in the integrity of US elections. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, one of Trump's most vocal GOP critics, accused Trump of resorting to "overt pressure on state and local officials to subvert the will of the people and overturn the election."

Romney added, "It is difficult to imagine a worse, more undemocratic action by a sitting American President." Trump's own election security agency has declared the 2020 presidential election to have been the most secure in

history. Days after that statement was issued, Trump fired the agency's leader.

The increasingly desperate and erratic moves have no reasonable chance of changing the outcome of the 2020 election, in which Biden has now received more votes than any other presidential candidate in history and has clinched the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win.

But the Republican president's constant barrage of baseless claims, his work to personally sway local officials who certify votes and his allies' refusal to admit he lost is likely to have a lasting negative impact on the country. — AP

Pfizer/BioNTech seek emergency  
approval from FDA for virus cure

**Washington, Nov. 20:** Pfizer and its partner BioNTech confirmed they will apply on Friday for emergency use authorisation for their Coronavirus vaccine, becoming the first to do so in the US or Europe as the pandemic rages around the world.

The vaccine has been developed with breathtaking speed — just 10 months after the genetic code of the Coronavirus was first sequenced. The announcement had been expected for several days, after the companies said that a completed study of trials of the product showed it was 95 percent effective in protecting people from infection. The announcement also confirms what BioNTech's CEO said.

"Filing in the US represents a critical milestone

in our journey to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine to the world and we now have a more complete picture of both the efficacy and safety profile of our vaccine, giving us confidence in its potential," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said.

The vaccine has been under evaluation for weeks in the European Union, Australia, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom, the companies said. "The companies will be ready to distribute the vaccine candidate within hours after authorisation," their statement said. The Food and Drug Administration has not said how long it will take to study the vaccine data, but the government expects to give the green light for the vaccine in the first two weeks of December. — AFP

FRIENDS OF  
USA GREET  
BIDEN

**Washington:** The Friends of USA, Chennai sent greetings to the President-elect of the USA, Joe Biden, through their Senior Vice President Dr Ram Ramanathan. Dr Ramanathan called on the President-elect and personally conveyed the message of goodwill and handed over a letter. Senator Gary Peters was also present when Dr Ramanathan called on Biden in Washington, DC. Friends of USA also greeted the Vice-President Elect Dr Kamala Harris who has her own links to the city of Chennai through her mother.

Douglas Stuart wins  
2020 Booker Prize

**London, Nov. 20:** New York-based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the prestigious 50,000-pound Booker Prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain', a coming of age tale of love and alcoholism set in 1980s Glasgow and "destined to be a classic", beating five

other shortlisted authors including Indian-origin Avni Doshi.

Stuart, 44, dedicated the book to his mother, who died of alcoholism when he was 16-years-old. After graduating from the Royal College of Art in London, he moved to New York to start a career in fashion design. — PTI

UK PM's adviser  
quits as 'bullying'  
minister stays on

**London, Nov. 20:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday backed his Cabinet minister Priti Patel, despite a Cabinet Office inquiry into allegations of bullying concluding that she had breached the Ministerial Code, albeit "unintentionally".

While ministers are usually expected to resign if they breach the code, it ultimately rests with the prime minister on whether to take any action on the independent Ministerial Code adviser's findings. Johnson, who has consistently supported Patel ever since the allegations first emerged earlier this year, declared that he still has "full confidence" in the 48-year-old Indian-origin minister, who holds one of the UK's highest political offices as Home Secretary.

It has, however, led to the resignation of Alex Allan, the independent adviser on the Ministerial Code, as the decision seems to go against the findings of his report. "My advice is that the Home Secretary has not consistently met the high standards required by the Ministerial

● **WHILE MINISTERS** are usually expected to resign if they breach the code, it ultimately rests with the prime minister on whether to take any action on the independent Ministerial Code adviser's findings.

Code of treating her civil servants with consideration and respect. Her approach on occasions has amounted to behaviour that can be described as bullying in terms of the impact felt by individuals," his report notes.

"To that extent, her behaviour has been in breach of the Ministerial Code, even if unintentionally. This conclusion needs to be seen in context. There is no evidence that she was aware of the impact of her behaviour, and no feedback was given to her at the time," it reads. The report takes note of the high pressure and demands of the UK Home Office role and the need for more supportive leadership from the top of the department as a "contributory factor". — PTI

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY AMENDMENT	
Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-63-20-21. Name of work: (1) Construction of new control room at Bhilai/TSS of Raipur Division. (2) Provision of children park cum open Gym at Bhilai Colony and Bid closing date on 03.12.2020 is hereby cancelled due to administration reason. For fresh Tender of the subject work bid closing date will be 14.12.2020 with Tender Notice No. E-R-T-66-20-21. Details are available on our website: <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> Sr.Divisional Engineer(Line)/PR/R/Engg/1/P/111 Raipur # South East Central Railway @Secrari	
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice No. ELRESBC-OHE-Gr258-NTPCKDG Date: -17.11.2020 The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:	
Name of Work	Estimated Cost
Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 Kv, 50 Hz, single phase, AC electrification including OHE in NTPC siding at Kudgi of Gr.258 (Sadag-Hotgi) of Hubballi Division of South Western Railway under Railway Electrification Project Bengaluru (Total 68 TKM).	Rs.11,60,57,877.20/-
Last date of submission of bids : Up to 15:00 hrs of 10.12.2020 For details log on to: <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Electrification, Bengaluru PUB/168/AASP/PRB/SWR/2020-21	

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) E-TENDER NO.2020RS11742TC CORRIGENDUM NO.4	
1.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 18.12.2020 instead of 19.11.2020. 2.0 All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.	
Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India. 2577/2820	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking)	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER	
Chief Engineer, Konkarn Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Two bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS Portal from eligible contractors for the following work. Tender Notice No.: KR-W-01-58-2020-12. Name of Work: Complete Track Renewal (P) between Km 693/000 to 738/800 UDUPI (UD)-THOKUR (TOK) in AEN/UDupi Section of Karwar Region of Konkarn Railway, Karnataka State. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1779.40 Lakhs excluding GST. Closing Date/Time: 11/12/2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. for submission of online offers/bids. Completion Period: Twelve months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> website for details/ participation. Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.	

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION Storm Water Drain Department			
S.W.D.C.No.83/1257/1/2020 E-Tenders are invited for the following work as per details furnished below.			
Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work including 12% GST	EMD Rs.	Eligible Class
Restoration and Rejuvenation of Murugappa Nagar Kulam in Dr-6 Zone-1	Work value from Rs.178.82 Lakhs	1% of the work value	Class-I
1. Tender last date and time of submission: 09.12.2020 upto 3.00 pm. 2. Bid document will be available in website <a href="https://tntenders.gov.in">https://tntenders.gov.in</a> 3. Tender open date and time: 10.12.2020 at 3.30 pm. DIPR/4347/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer /SWDD			

Walk-in-Interview Sameer-Centre for Electromagnetics Taramani, Chennai - 113 (Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India) Advertisement No: S-CEM/ESTT/RS/PA& PT - 02/2020 Research Scientists/Project Assistants [ECE] Project Technicians [Electronics] (Contract positions on consolidated salary) For detailed Notification including walk-in dates, please visit our Website: <a href="http://cem.sameer.gov.in">http://cem.sameer.gov.in</a> Davp:06119/11/0003/2021	
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## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,882.25	0.65
Nifty 50	12,859.05	0.68
S&P 500*	3,570.89	-0.31
Dollar (₹)	74.14	0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.45	-0.35
Euro (₹)	87.92	-0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,551.65	0.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.36	0.36
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.877	0.017
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.849	-0.702

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Rabi sowing begins; wheat planted in 97L ha.

Sowing of winter crops has started in the country, with farmers planting wheat in about 97.27 lakh hectare so far in this rabi season, the agriculture ministry said. Wheat is the main winter or rabi crop. Rice and pulses, such as gram, urad, moong as well as oilseeds like groundnut and sunflower, are other rabi crops. Paddy has been sown in more area at 7.26 lakh hectare compared with 6.98 lakh hectare a year ago.

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## RBI panel for 26% promoter stake Corp. houses set to get banking licence

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20

In what could potentially change the landscape of the Indian banking sector, an internal working group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested that large companies and industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks with necessary legislative changes, and large, well-run NBFCs could convert into banks after 10 years of operations.

Interestingly, the panel also suggested that the cap on promoters' stake in the long run (15 years) banks may be raised from the current level of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital.

The views gain significance in the light of year-long legal battle between Uday Kotak, promoter of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and the RBI that ended in January this year. Under the current RBI norms, promoters of private banks have to reduce their stake to 40 per cent within three years of operations and then to 20 per cent within 10 years and to 15 per cent within 15 years.

The group headed by RBI executive director P.K. Mohanty was set up in June 2020 to review the extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks with the terms of reference, including the review of the eligibility criteria for individuals/entities to apply for banking licence, examination of



preferred corporate structure for banks and harmonisation of norms in this regard, and review of norms for long-term shareholding in banks by the promoters and other shareholders.

The panel that submitted its report on Friday said, "Large corporate/industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 to deal with connected lending and exposures between the banks and other financial and non-financial group entities; and strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for large conglomerates, including consolidated supervision. RBI may examine the necessary legal provisions that may be required to deal with all concerns in this regard."

Large non-banking finance companies with an asset size of Rs 50,000 crore, including those owned by large corporate houses, may be allowed to convert to private banks subject to completion of 10 years of operations and

other criteria. The working committee recommended minimum initial capital requirement for licensing new banks should be enhanced to Rs 1,000 crore from Rs 500 crore for universal banks and Rs 300 crore from Rs 200 crore for small finance banks.

"The cap on promoters' stake in long run of 15 years may be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank. This stipulation should be uniform for all types of promoters and would mean that promoters, who have already diluted their holdings to below 26 per cent, will be permitted to raise it to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank. The promoter, if he/she so desires, can choose to bring down holding to even below 26 per cent, any time after the lock-in period of five years," said the report.

For non-promoter shareholding, a uniform cap of 15 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank may be prescribed, the report said.

## Gland now among top 10 pharma companies

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20

Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma made a grand debut on the bourses, listing at Rs 1,710 on both NSE and BSE, a premium of 14 per cent over the public issue price of Rs 1,500 per share.

Gland is now among top 10 pharma companies in terms of market value, with a market capitalisation of Rs 29,848 crore at the close of trade on the NSE.

The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 1,850 on both NSE and BSE.

Earlier this month, Gland Pharma raised Rs 6,479.55 crore through an initial public offering priced at Rs 1,490 to Rs 1,500 per share with Re 1 face value. The issue was subscribed more than two times but had received very poor response from retail and high networth investors, making its bourses debut quite a suspense till the last moment.

On the NSE, Gland Pharma shares finally closed at Rs 1,828 providing public shareholders a return of 21.8 per cent on their IPO investment. On the BSE the stock closed at Rs 1,820.45.

Since retail and high net worth investors had largely skipped the public offer, there was a rush to buy the shares after the initial listing gains and so the percentage of deliverable quantity of shares was high at 56.25 per cent on the NSE.

## Profits zoom, but wages flat at listed companies

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

In business, there seems to be no relation between profits and wages. While listed companies made bumper profits in the September quarter, wages have grown in low single digits, much lower than in past several quarters, finds private think-tank CMIE.

The net profit of listed companies zoomed to record levels, as they grew 209 per cent in the September quarter. Even in the first half of the fiscal, which covered the entire period of the lock down of different intensities and associated uncertainties, the net profits of these companies grew 23.8 per cent. This growth was even higher than 11.8 per cent, the average growth in the past 60 quarters. The data is based on the financial statements of 1,897 companies available in CMIE's Prowess database as of November 11.

However, this profit growth seemingly has nothing to do with the wage growth. "In business and for corporate



honchos, there is no relation between growth in profits and growth in wages. The two move completely independently. Corporate managers would minimise their wage bill to maximise their profits," says Mahesh Vyas, managing director, CMIE.

Amidst lay-offs, salary cut and negligible hiring, wage growth was 2.8 per cent in the first half of the fiscal. Even in the September quarter wage growth stood at 3.7 per cent, which was lower than the average year-on-year growth in wages over the past 60 quarters at 13 per cent. "The low single-digit growth in wages in the last two quarters is therefore very low by historical standards and is in stark contrast to the

extraordinary profits earned by companies," says CMIE.

Manufacturing companies saw a 9.1 per cent fall in wages in the June 2020 quarter, which was the toughest quarter for them. Sales had shrunk by 42 per cent and net profits by 62 per cent. Then, in the September 2020 quarter, while sales fell again by 9.7 per cent, profits sprang a surprise by scaling up by a handsome 17.8 per cent. Yet, wages declined by one per cent. Evidently, companies do not apportion resources to labour in any proportion of profits.

In the services sector's case, except for banking and IT, the remaining sectors collectively saw a 9 per cent fall in wages in the June quarter and a 5 per cent fall in the second quarter.

"Shareholders are being awarded interim dividends or buy-backs. There is still very little interest in investing into new capacities... Employment in the corporate sector could recover if business picks up again," says Vyas.

## Mills to get ₹12.5K-cr loan to make ethanol

**New Delhi, Nov. 20:** The food ministry on Friday said it has given in-principle approval to 185 sugar mills and standalone distilleries to avail Rs 12,500 crore of loans for capacity addition of 468 crore litre of ethanol per annum as part of its efforts to achieve 20 per cent blending with petrol.

In the last two years, 70 ethanol projects were sanctioned loans of Rs 3,600 crore.

Apart from promoting ethanol production from sugarcane, the ministry is making efforts to manufacture ethanol using surplus rice with state-owned FCI as well as maize.

The move is aimed at

boosting ethanol blending with petrol, which now stands near 5 per cent.

Under the ethanol interest subvention scheme for molasses-based distilleries, the government had opened a window September for 30 days, inviting sugar mills/distilleries, to apply for the scheme, the ministry said. —PTI

## GAMES

### SHORT TAKES Women's T20 WC pushed to 2023

**Dubai:** The South African edition of the Women's T20 World Cup was on Thursday postponed by three months to February 2023 to avoid a cluster of big-ticket events in 2022 and manage players' workload, International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday. The tournament was scheduled in November 2022 but will now be held in February 2023. In August this year, the ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in New Zealand from 2021 to 2022 owing to pandemic and women's T20 cricket is also set to make its debut in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. "The Board confirmed that the ICC Women's T20 World Cup will move from its current slot at the end of 2022 to 9-26 February 2023. If not postponed, the year would have "three major events in 2022 with the Commonwealth Games in July 2022 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup due to be held in November 2022," ICC said. The ICC said the decision was taken keeping in mind the workload of the players and also considering long term interest of women's cricket. — PTI

### Live on TV

#### CRICKET

**Big Bash League:** Hobart Hurricanes vs Perth Scorchers from 10:10 am; Sydney Sixers vs Melbourne Renegades from 1:35 pm; Perth Scorchers vs Adelaide Strikers from 4:50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, HD

#### TENNIS

**ATP Finals:** Semifinal-1 from 7:30 pm, Semifinal-2 from 1:30 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, HD

#### FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Newcastle vs Chelsea from 6 pm; Aston Villa vs Brighton from 8:30 pm; Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester City from 11 pm; Manchester United vs West Brom from 1:30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1

**Indian Super League:** NorthEast United vs Mumbai City from 7:20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**Italian league:** Crotone vs Lazio from 7:30 pm; Spezia vs Atalanta from 10:30 pm; Juventus vs Cagliari from 1:15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD



Virat Kohli (right) shares a light moment with his teammates in this file photo.

## Pat looks to keep Kohli quiet

**Sydney, Nov. 20:** Australia speedster Pat Cummins expectedly considers Virat Kohli the "big" wicket he would target in the upcoming series against India and said that keeping the visiting captain quiet would be crucial to the home team's chances.

The Indian cricket team is currently in Australia for a full series that includes three ODIs and as many T20

Internationals followed by a four-Test rubber. The tour will start with the ODIs here on November 27.

"I think every side has that one or two batters and they are the big wickets. Most teams have their captain — Joe Root for England, Kane Williamson for New Zealand. You feel like if you get their wickets that goes a long way in winning the game,"

Cummins told *Fox Cricket*.

"He (Kohli) is always a big one. You commentators talk about him non-stop, so hopefully, we can keep him quiet," he added.

Cummins, who has been named in both the white and red-ball squads as vice-captain, is one of the 11 Australian players currently quarantining here after returning from the UAE where he played for

Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL.

Their quarantine period will end on the eve of the opening ODI against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Cummins said Australia is well prepared to give India a tough fight in the series.

The imposing Australian pacer said that over the last couple of years, he has developed as a bowler. — PTI

## Rohit's absence will help us: Maxwell

**Mumbai, Nov. 20:** Rohit Sharma's absence from the upcoming white ball series is a big "positive" for Australia but K. L. Rahul is as good a player to fill in the void, feels dashing batsman Glenn Maxwell.

Rahul will be Virat Kohli's deputy in the white-ball leg since regular vice-captain Rohit is recuperating from a hamstring injury sustained during IPL.

"He (Rohit) is a class performer, so consistent as an opening batsman

with a couple of (three) double hundreds. So anytime he is not in the line-up against you, it is a positive," Maxwell said.

The three-match ODI series begins on November 27 followed by a T20 International series.

"But in saying that, India have still got back-ups, more than capable of playing that role. We saw K. L. Rahul, the performance that he put on during the last IPL was extraordinary," Maxwell further added. — PTI

## UNTESTED PITCHES ARE A CONCERN: MCC CHIEF

**Melbourne, Nov. 20:** The drop-in pitches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) which will host the second Test between India and Australia have not been tested and it is a cause of concern, says Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) chief executive Stuart Fox.

"It is a concern for me because I would like to give them every opportunity to trial the pitches," Fox was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The opening round matches of Sheffield Shield were held in Adelaide instead of MCG due to the Covid-19 outbreak at Melbourne and also plans to have a two-day trial match at the MCG this week also couldn't materialise due to the spread of virus in Adelaide.

"It demonstrates how vulnerable we still are day by day. Ideally, we would love to have a game and we are still working on that but, ultimately, it may not happen," Fox further added. — PTI

## Bagan blast past Kerala in opener

**Bambolim, Nov. 20:** In their new avatar, ATK Mohun Bagan kicked off the seventh season of the Indian Super League on a high, defeating Kerala Blasters by a solitary goal here on Friday.

Fijian hitman Roy Krishna, who was ATK's top goal scorer with 15 goals last season, struck the all important goal after a 67 minute deadlock to give the all important three points for the green-and-maroon brigade.

The Yellow Brigade playing with a heavy defensive lineup of 4-2-3-1 managed to thwart ATKMB throughout the first half but after the hour mark they left a loose ball as the Fijian International pounced on it with a calm and composed finish.

All eyes were on the 131-year-old legacy club Mohun Bagan as they were making their ISL debut following their 'marriage' with three-time defending champions ATK.

ATKMB had a dominant first half and made some early inroads with Roy Krishna missing an early chance, even as KBFC enjoyed more ball possession in the first 45 minutes.

KBFC, who were the designated home team, looked more threatening and came out with an attacking intent in the second-half.

But KBFC were made to pay for it as Roy Krishna made amends for his three misses in the first half with his poacher goal to become the difference between the two sides.

That goal was enough for ATKMB to sink Kerala Blasters' hearts. — PTI

## MUMBAI TAKE ON NORTHEAST TO OPEN BID

**Vasco, Nov. 20:** A revamped Mumbai City FC, with 19 new recruits and a Spanish coach of repute, will be aiming for a positive start in pursuit of a maiden ISL title when they take on NorthEast United here on Saturday.

Mumbai City have never won the coveted trophy and would be hoping that there is a turnaround in fortunes under new coach Sergio Lobera, who had guided FC Goa to a Super Cup win in 2019.

Mumbai have two good strikers in Bartholomew Ogbeche and Adam Le Fondre who can prove to be more than handful for any opposition.

The inclusion of Mandar Rao Dessai has bolstered the team's defence and he coupled with the likes of Sarthak Golui, Senegalese Mourtaada Fall and Mohammad Rakip are ready to thwart any attacking line-up.

On the other hand, NorthEast United FC under new coach Gerard Nus, would also be aiming for redemption after a poor last season.

They will expect their foreign players to pull their weight with much depending on former Anderlecht and Queens Park Rangers striker Idrissa Sylla and former Ghanaian international Kwesi Appiah. — PTI

## INDIA SLIP TO SECOND SPOT

**Dubai, Nov. 20:** India on Thursday slipped to the second position in the standings of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) after the ICC decided to rank teams "in order of percentage of points earned" from the contested matches. Australia (296 points from 3 series) topped India (360 points from 4 series) in the standing after the revision with a percentage of 82.22 compared to the latter's 75 per cent.

According to current regulations, incomplete matches are treated as draw but after due deliberation, the ICC Cricket Committee, headed by Anil Kumble, recommended that the final WTC standings should be determined on the basis of matches played, which was approved by the Board. — PTI

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