

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | THURSDAY 12 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 22°C
Rainfall: 2 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Aippasi 27
Tithi: Dwadashi
Star: Hastham
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
Yamagandam: 6 am to 7.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.52 am
Zohar: 11.58 am
Asar: 3.12 pm
Maghrib: 5.41 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+33,990)	(+330)
86,69,744	1,27,945

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,184)
TN: 7,50,409 11,415

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,21,49,585

DEATHS

12,85,014

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

217

worldometers.info

TNCC working president detained at Chennai airport

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Congress Committee working president Mayura S.Jayakumar was detained at the Chennai airport for carrying 17 live bullets in his hand baggage on Wednesday, airport sources said. Jayakumar had arrived at the Chennai airport on Wednesday morning, to board an Indigo flight in Coimbatore. During the security check, CISF personnel found that he had 17, 7.5 mm live bullets inside his hand baggage and barred him from taking the flight. Jayakumar was later handed over to the Chennai airport police. Police sources said the Congress leader produced licence for the gun and bullets. Investigation is still on.

Arbab out of jail, hours after SC grants interim bail

Mumbai/New Delhi: A week after he was sent to jail, high-profile TV journalist Arnab Goswami, an accused in a 2018 abetment to suicide case, was released on Wednesday night, hours after the Supreme Court granted interim bail observing it will be a "travesty of justice" if personal liberty is curtailed

COUNTER POINT



He lost, but he got 420 more votes this time!

Celestial excitement in store for sky gazers

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 11

Celestial events, like sighting the Leonids and Taurids meteor showers and most planets of the solar system, are on the cards this month.

First, the planets can be seen using a pair of binoculars or telescopes. The relatively rare alignment of all the planets is happening this week and offers amateur sky gazers a chance to view these planetary wonders of the solar system. "The planets will be visi-

●**The relatively rare alignment of all the planets this week offers amateur sky gazers a chance to view planetary wonders**

ble, albeit at different times. However, given clear skies, these planets would be visible to the naked eye but only till Saturn. For the rings, some paraphernalia is required," Dr. B G Sidharth, director, GP Birla and Observatory

Astronomical Center, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Jupiter and Saturn will be shining bright in the southwestern hemisphere and Venus will shine right before dawn. Mercury, however, would be dimmer than Venus and the latter will be visible to the naked eye.

When searching in the sky, the key is to hold out a fist at arm's length, which covers roughly 10 degrees, a single finger at arm's length is approximately two degrees from side to side.

That's not all in store this

month. One can also enjoy two meteor showers, the Leonids and Taurids. The Taurids are known to have the longest duration of general visibility, as compared to other meteors. Meteors from the Taurid stream began to be sighted in the night sky starting around October 21. They will be seen till about November 27. The best time to catch a glimpse of these meteors is till Thursday. Similarly, one can enjoy watching the Leonids meteor shower on November 16 and 17 nights.



CITY | 2

TN Carnatic number with Arabic flavour tops global chart



STATE | 3

TN Covid tally touches 7.50 lakh

SPORT | 6

Make Rohit T20 captain: Gambhir



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Vol. 10 No. 316 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹4.00

Development plank won us elections, says Modi

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Hailing Bihar Assembly poll results as a "saaf-suthra (neat and tidy)" mandate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the secret behind NDA's victory is "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" (Marching together for development of all, with the trust of all)."

Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in Delhi, Mr Modi also gave rest to speculation about whether or not incumbent Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar will continue to hold the top post in the state due to his party's dismal performance.

Mr Modi insisted that the ruling NDA will fulfil its promises made under Mr Kumar's leadership.

Facing major anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar-led government and the chief minister himself, the BJP heavily depended on its "star campaigner" Mr Modi's charisma and Central government schemes to woo voters.

Mr Kumar also thanked the Prime Minister for his support. While the NDA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to party workers, a day after National Democratic Alliance (NDA) garnered majority in the Bihar Assembly polls, in New Delhi, Wednesday. Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda are also seen. — PTI

retained power with the BJP outnumbering ally JD(U), the latter registered its worst performance in two decades.

Praising Bihar's voters as "paarkhi (good at judging)" and "jaagrook (aware)," Mr Modi, who was showered with flower petals and chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" upon his arrival, said Bihar is "most special" and its voters have once again proved why the state is called the land of

democracy. Mr Modi said the BJP's governance model is the reason behind its success and that the development plank won the polls.

"The secret of winning the election is sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas. This victory is of the youth, women, poor, farmers, aspiration and pride... Bihar has once again proved why it is called the land of democracy," said the Prime Minister.

■**Turn to P4**

I'm a farmer, what does Stalin do, retorts EPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 11

DMK president M.K. Stalin's taunt of 'fake farmer' against Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami evoked sharp reaction from the latter, who questioned the right of the leader of opposition to do so. "What does Mr Stalin know about the life of a farmer or about farming?" the Chief Minister asked.

"I have been into farming since my childhood and farming is my primary occupation apart from politics," said the Chief Minister in Thoothukudi. "What is the primary occupation of the DMK president for his sustenance?"

"Tamil Nadu stands first

●**Diff-abled woman gets 'instant' job order from CM: ■ P3**

in the country in water management because a farmer is the Chief Minister of the state," said Mr Palaniswami, and added that the implementation of the Kudimaramathu scheme has resuscitated agriculture in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister also held Mr Stalin responsible for the Sterlite issue that resulted in a riot two years ago. "It was the then industries minister M.K. Stalin, who gave the permission for the Sterlite expansion plan," he said.

Met Department predicts heavy rain in city

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

The Met Department has forecast heavy rain in the city on Thursday ahead of Deepavali. There was scanty rain in various places of Chennai Wednesday. The weather bulletin said that heavy to very heavy rain with thunderstorms could occur in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu on Thursday. ■ **P2**



Army chief General MM Naravane is on a two-day visit to Army formations in Uttarakhand to review the security situation and operational preparedness along LAC with China. — DC

India, China inch closer to disengagement plan

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

India and China are moving towards an agreement on a disengagement plan which if implemented successfully could see restoration of status quo of April 2020 at some of the flash-points including the most contentious Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh.

It seems China has agreed to move back from Finger 4 and take its troops beyond Finger 8 in the northern bank of Pangong Tso. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) will dismantle all the structures it has built, including bunkers between Finger 4 and Finger 8 after illegally occupying it in May 2020. Chinese army occupation of the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 on the north bank of Pangong Tso was one of the stickiest points in resolving the six month military stand-off between India and China.

Another meeting of corps commanders of the two armies will be held soon to thrash out the disengagement plan and if all

●**As per the plan under discussion, area between Finger 4 and 8 will be designated as "no go zone" and troops from India and China will not patrol it**

went smoothly, disengagement can even be complete by November end in Pangong Tso.

"These proposals are under consideration. There is no agreement yet," said sources.

As per the plan under discussion, area between Finger 4 and 8 will be designated as "no go zone" and troops from India and China will not patrol it. These are the proposals which were discussed during the 8th round of corps commanders meeting on November 6 in Chushul. As per the proposal, Indian and Chinese army will remove heavy artillery and tanks from the forward positions and move them back to their depth areas. There are many places where Indian and Chinese tanks are in

close proximity. As per the third proposal which will be discussed India will withdraw its troops from the strategically important heights from Southern bank of Pangong Tso which they had occupied in a pre-emptive action in August.

However, India will move extremely cautious in implementing these steps and will verify each move before taking the next one. Army chief General M.M. Naravane had said on Tuesday said that he was hopeful that the Indian and Chinese militaries will be able to reach an agreement on disengagement and de-escalation of tension in eastern Ladakh.

He had said that senior military commanders of India and China are holding talks to iron out modalities for de-escalation of tension in eastern Ladakh. "We are hopeful of reaching an agreement which is mutually acceptable and is really beneficial in keeping with the overarching policy guidelines," Army chief had said.

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Aiming to enhance domestic manufacturing and job creation, mindful of the economy being in a tailspin, the Union cabinet on Wednesday approved a Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 key sectors, with an outlay of ₹1,45,980 crores, which is part of the government's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" pitch.

Under the five-year scheme that will continue till 2025, extra domestic production will be encouraged in sectors such as advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, white goods, speciality steel, pharmaceuticals, auto components, food products, telecom, textiles and electronic products as well as solar photo voltaic modules.

This newspaper exclusively reported on September 8 how the Centre, faced with rising unemployment and a sluggish economy, aims to push the "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" agenda by unveiling a national programme for manufacturing ACC batteries domestically. These are widely used in e-vehicles

●**The sectors were selected because they have a significant marketshare in production for global markets, and could create a lot of jobs**

— whose promotion is a pet project of the NDA government.

ACC battery production is among the 10 key sectors identified by the Centre for inclusion in the PLI scheme. The Centre feels the scheme will enhance exports and make domestic manufacturers globally competitive.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, elaborating on the scheme to the media after the Cabinet meeting, said there would not be any cap on the number of companies participating. However, any new sector that has to be included in the scheme will need fresh Cabinet approval.

Official sources said the Centre included these 10 sectors as they have a significant marketshare in production for global markets, and could help India emerge as a major player and create more jobs.

India sends more troops to Pak border to thwart fresh infiltration

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Additional seniority reinforcements have been rushed to the Indo-Pak border to further tighten the vigil and frustrate infiltration attempts by militants from across the border.

The decision comes following a high level security review in wake of the Machil encounter two days ago in which four security personnel and three militants were killed while trying to infiltrate into the country.

The incident took place while the militants were trying to infiltrate into India from one of the launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). These militants were backed by the border action team (BAT) of the Pak Army, which was assisting in their infiltration bid. This resulted in a fierce encounter in which four Indian security personnel were killed.

Following this incident and amid specific intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants were waiting at the launch pads, a major review of security was done along the Indo-Pak border following which sources said additional reinforcements were rushed to certain strategic locations.

Security forces in J&K are already hopeful that the overall security scenario in the Valley would improve considerably during the winter as they have been able to successfully thwart major infiltration attempts from terror outfits in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This, sources claim, would have a direct impact on the security situation as militant groups were facing a severe crunch of both men and material. Sources have confirmed that in the past two months, despite more than 20 infiltration attempts, not a single one has been successful.

OTHER STORIES

Three-day-old girl found abandoned in cemetery

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

A newborn girl was abandoned in a cemetery in Senkundharpettai, near Madurantakam on the city outskirts.

The guard of the cemetery heard the infant's cries and subsequently spotted her on the premises. The Madurantakam police arrived at the scene after receiving information and took the infant to the Madurantakam government hospital. She was examined and her condition is said to be stable, the police said. A case has been registered.

Vermicomposting unit, new ladies hostel blocks at VIT opened, online

Vellore: Virtually inaugurating the newly constructed ladies hostel blocks (Marie Curie Block and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Block) and Vermicomposting Unit at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore on Wednesday Telangana governor T. N. Chandrababu Naidu said that students should have confidence and courage in life so that they can achieve a lot. Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Dr. G. Viswanathan in his presidential address said that the government should provide free higher education to all if not possible they should provide free higher education to girls. In her felicitation address, Assistant Vice President of VIT, Ms. Kadhambari S. Viswanathan said that Madam Marie Curie and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy have achieved a lot in life so girl students should get inspired by women like them. Mr. Sankar Viswanathan, Vice President, Dr. Rambabu Kodali, Vice Chancellor, Dr. S. Narayanan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. Sathyanarayanan, Registrar, VIT were also present during the virtual inauguration.



Madurai city police have installed 50 digital cameras at important places in the city to identify and penalise the people who are not wearing masks in public places. — DC

BHEL staff distribute food to poor

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHY, NOV. 11

The employees of BHEL Tiruchirappalli on Wednesday donated food, sweets and biscuits to the poor people in and around Tiruchirappalli as a goodwill gesture ahead of Deepavali.

Members of Community Centre Management Committee and Community Centre Ladies Club of BHEL Tiruchirappalli visited Tiruchi Rural and Urban Welfare Development Educational Society's old age home at Thirunadunkulam, Unique Guru Trust's Saranalayam old age home at Asoor, Anbagam student hostel at Thirunadunkulam, Rehabilitation Centre for Blind Women at Mannarapuram and St Antony's old age home at Kattur, and distributed food items to the inmates on behalf of BHEL Tiruchirappalli employees.

TN Covid tally touches 7.50 lakh with 2,184 new infections

Chennai, Nov. 11: Tamil Nadu on Wednesday recorded 2,184 new Covid-19 infections and 28 deaths, pushing the infection tally to 7,50,409 and the toll to 11,415, the health department said.

Recoveries continued to eclipse new cases with 2,210 people getting cured on Wednesday as the cumulative number of those discharged touched 7,20,339, a bulletin said.

Active cases stood at 18,655.

A total of 77,309 samples were tested, taking the overall specimens examined so far to 1,07,86,565.

Of the 7.50 lakh cases, Chennai accounted for 2,06,588 with 571 new infections. Coimbatore

district recorded 189 cases, Thiruvallur 148, Chengalpet 142 new cases. Ramanathapuram recorded the least with just two new infections.

Four of the 28 people who succumbed did not have any comorbidity or chronic illness.

The youngest victim with co-morbidity was a 30-year-old woman from Thiruvallur while the oldest was a 92-year-old man from Krishnagiri. Meanwhile, Pudukkottai registered one more death due to coronavirus on Wednesday taking the toll to 605.

The Union Territory also added 115 fresh infections pushing the overall tally to 36,114. — PTI



RPF IG Birendra Kumar inspects Katpadi railway station on Wednesday.

— DC

Pudukkottai museum reopens

DC CORRESPONDENT
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV. 11

The Pudukkottai government museum which was closed for the last seven months due to the Covid-19 lockdown is now reopened, said curator in-

charge T. Pakkirisamy.

In a release, he said the museum will be open except Fridays and second Saturdays and other national holidays between 9:30 am and 5 pm.

CM urged to lift ban on mineral mining firms

DC CORRESPONDENT
THOOTHUKUDI, NOV. 11

The employees of mines and mineral industries in Thoothukudi district have requested Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy to lift the blanket ban imposed on the entire beach mineral mining, processing and export companies since 2013.

Meeting the chief minister in this regard here on Wednesday, the members of the workers' welfare association of southern region mines and minerals, in a petition to him questioned the rationale



behind closing down the entire industry for the violations reportedly committed by just four companies and demanded measures to reopen the companies that have no direct allegations against them.

C. Sakthi Ganapathy, secretary of the workers' welfare association, said the Sathyapraha Sahoo commission report found fault only with four mineral mining companies and it was not fair to close down the entire industry involving around 22 companies leaving around 50,000 workers jobless in the coastal districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi.

Mr Ganapathy said the chief minister listened to the grievances of workers patiently and assured to look into the issue.

2 sisters drown in a well in Chengalpet

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

In a tragic incident, two sisters drowned in an agricultural well at Amaipakkam village near Kalpakkam in Chengalpet district on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Priyanka, 16 and Senbakavalli, 12, daughters of Arikrishnan and Seetha. Arikrishnan worked as coolie worker while Seetha was a domestic maid.

Police sources said Priyanka was a class 10 student of a government

school in Natham and the younger one was in class 6. According to police, at around 9 pm on Tuesday, when Seetha returned home from work, she found the girls missing. She informed her husband about the incident, and the duo began a search for their minor daughters. Unable to find them till morning, Arikrishnan lodged a complaint with the Sathurangapattinam police.

Unable to find them till morning, Arikrishnan lodged a complaint with the Sathurangapattinam police.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday morning, locals found the bodies of the girls floating in an agricultural well located a kilometre away from their house.

Fire and rescue personnel along with the police rushed to the spot and retrieved the body of the sisters.

The bodies were sent to the Chengalpet government hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered by the Sathurangapattinam police.

It is not sure whether the girls reportedly playing near the well slipped and fell into the deep waters or they died while taking bath in the well. Further investigations are underway.

Low-key Deepavali ahead in Nilgiris

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, NOV. 11

Restrictions for tourism due to Corona crisis and crippled revenue flow have dampened Deepavali celebrations in Nilgiris even as the forest department has planned a sound-free Deepavali in villages in and around Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

While the town limits in Nilgiris are dependent on tourism-based economy, the

While the town limits in Nilgiris are dependent on tourism-based economy, the stringent restrictions for tourism in Nilgiris over the past seven months has indeed curtailed the travel and tourism industry

The poor state of tourism-based revenue flow is reflected by the low turnout at the textile shops for Deepavali shopping

stringent restrictions for tourism in Nilgiris over the past seven months has indeed curtailed the travel

and tourism industry. Many second line tourism stakeholders like tourist guides, cab operators are

almost penniless for the past seven months. Though the government relaxed e-pass norms for tourists from October end, it failed to bring sufficient revenue flow to tourism stakeholders and plan for Deepavali.

The poor state of tourism-based revenue flow is reflected by the low turnout at the textile shops for Deepavali shopping.

Even for the traders involved in grocery trade

and related trades, the Deepavali-based business has come down in Nilgiris.

Meanwhile, the MTR administration has imposed a ban on bursting crackers in the jungle villages in and around the MTR.

They appealed to the villagers to co-operate with the foresters to celebrate a decibel-free Deepavali to ensure that the wild animals were not disturbed by the noise of crackers.

Congress seeks public opinion

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

A brainstorming session was organized by the TNCC with a view to eliciting the opinion of 'democratic and secular intellectuals' on the future course of action to be taken by the party with regard to its sustained fight against communal forces.

Led by the AICC leader in charge of Tamil Nadu, Dinesh Gundu Rao, the discussions were held through video conference with a group of academics, former bureaucrats, public intellectuals, activists, journalists and artistes joining in to express their views.

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The meeting provided an opportunity for top TNCC leaders like president K. S. Alagiri, media cell chief A. Gopanna and also the newly inducted leader Sashikanth Senthil, who had resigned from the IAS last year, to know the perceptions of the partici-

pants from various areas of specialization.

After educationalist M. G. Dawood Miakhan, general secretary of Quaide Milleth Education and Social Trust, welcomed the participants, former Vice-chancellor and social activist Vasanthi Devi kick started the session by calling for a proactive approach to keep communal forces at bay and stressed on the need to highlight the BJP's anti-farmer and anti-poor policies.

Among the varied views and ideas expressed by the participants were that the people need to be told that the BJP was not a champion of the Hindus and that

they cater to the upper castes alone, a need to organize more secular seminars and formation of a think tank and promoting communal harmony as a concept rather than dwelling on secularism.

Well known Carnatic musician T. M. Krishna stressed on the need to tap on culture and on old traditions to promote the idea of secularism. He pointed out that Right wing forces had cleverly used culture to push its agenda and regretted that the texture of people have changed over the years.

Communist leader Prof Arunan wanted the Congress to project Mahatma Gandhi as an

icon and also add on others like Periyar and Ambedkar. He wanted the Congress to save the public sector, which was created by the party itself.

Shah Jahan pointed out how the minds of the youth were poisoned now, former IAS officer Mooza Raza wanted the Congress to set up committees in every village to address the problems of the people through direct interaction and Abdul Raquib exploded the myth that the Muslims were being appeased. Among the many others who expressed their views were Prof Palanidurai of Gandhigram Rural University, and Khaleel.

Speed trial of Thanjai, Mayiladuthurai train held

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, NOV. 11

Commissioner for Railway Safety (CRS), southern circle, A.K. Rai on Wednesday inspected the electrified section between Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai and conducted the speed trial of a train with eight compartments hauled by an electric locomotive.

The 73-km stretch has been electrified at a cost of ₹ 320 crore. The trial train which operated from Mayiladuthurai at 100-km speed reached Thanjavur in 42 minutes. The CRS expressed satisfaction over the work and said he would submit his report to the Railway Board. Passenger trains with electric locomotives will be operated after the Railway Board gives permission after considering the CRS report.

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Leaders from Tamil Nadu conveyed their greetings to the winners of the Bihar Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but some of them said the results had given the hope that communal parties like the BJP could be defeated through coordinated efforts by the secular parties.

While Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam congratulated the NDA for their victory, leaders like DMK President M K Stalin and TNCC president K. S. Alagiri the performance of the opposition 'mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) was more noteworthy.

'Good governance leads to progressive State. People of Bihar have reaf-

"Good governance leads to progressive State. People of Bihar have reaffirmed their solidarity for NDA alliance. My hearty congratulations for NDA alliance in the State. Best wishes for the people of Bihar"

firming their solidarity for NDA alliance. My hearty congratulations for NDA alliance in the State. Best wishes for the people of Bihar,' tweeted

Palaniswami. Congratulating Modi and Nitish Kumar, Panneerselvam, in his tweet, said: 'It gives me immense pleasure that BJP-led NDA has won the majority in Bihar Assembly polls obtaining 125 constituencies.'

Stalin conveyed his congratulations to Nitish Kumar on behalf of the DMK and said the emergence of the RJD, led by young Tejashwi Yadav, as the single largest party was encouraging and

pointed to the vibrant democracy in Bihar.

Raising concerns over the complaints of irregularities in the elections raised by Mahagathbandhan leaders, Stalin said the common man expected elections to be held without any external interference. 'Only if that is achieved, democracy will be strengthened in future,' he said in his statement.

Alagiri said that the RJD becoming the single largest party in the Assembly has confirmed the strength of the secular parties and the confidence that if the secular parties faced the future elections with more coordination communal parties like the BJP could be defeated.

He said that doubts had risen over a secret understanding between the BJP and the MIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi and called for caution in future over dealing with such parties.

Diff-abled woman gets 'instant' job order from Chief Minister

Thoothukudi, Nov. 11: It was a long wait interspersed with high expectation that did not go in vain for Mareeswari, a differently abled woman who desperately needed a job to support her family.

Succour came to her in the form of Chief Minister K. Palaniswami as she got a job as a ward manager at a hospital here with a monthly salary of Rs 15,000 within an hour of submitting a petition to him during his visit to this southern coastal district on Wednesday.

Palaniswami noticed Mareeswari waiting with a bunch of papers in her

CM stopped his convoy, called her and enquired when the woman explained she was from Muthiahapuram and her husband Chinnathurai is a labourer

hand while he was leaving after inaugurating a linear accelerator for cancer treatment and a central research laboratory, officials said.

The Chief Minister stopped his convoy, called her and enquired when the woman explained she

was from Muthiahapuram and her husband Chinnathurai is a labourer.

She said they had a five-year-old daughter and that she wanted a job because her husband's wage was meagre to support her family.

Moved by her plight, Palaniswami asked the woman to pay a visit to the district collector's office.

Mareeswari was pleasantly surprised when the chief minister offered her an appointment letter for the post of a ward manager in Thoothukudi Government Medical College Hospital here, on a

salary of Rs 15,000 per month. He advised her to take good care of her family.

The woman's joy knew no bounds as the appointment order was issued within an hour of petitioning the Chief Minister and she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to him for his gesture, officials said.

Also, Palaniswami handed over a cheque for Rs 50 lakh to Bhuvaneshwari, the wife of 28-year old police constable Subramanian, who was killed in a country bomb attack by a historysheeter on August 18. PTI

Deepavali safety awareness



Priya Ravichandran, Deputy Director, Tamil Nadu fire and rescue services, distributes pamphlets to the public on Ranganathan street at T Nagar on Wednesday as part of 'Safe Deepavali' awareness campaign.

— DC

SHORT TAKES

TOP COURT
GRANTS BAIL TO
ARNAB GOSWAMIPARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to the Republic TV's Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami observing that denying bail to a person in such a matter is a travesty of justice.

Holding that the High Court was in error in rejecting the plea for interim bail, the court directed that Arnab Goswami, Feroz Mohammad Shaikh and Neetish Sarda shall be released on interim bail. They will furnish a personal bond of ₹50,000 each and will co-operate with the investigation and not interfere with witnesses.

Goswami is accused of alleged abetment to suicide by interior designer, Anvay Naik and his mother Kumud Naik.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud heading a bench also comprising Justice Indira Banerjee said, "Assuming that we must take FIR and the case as gospel truth, the point is that in a matter like this can a person be sent to custodial interrogation. It will be a travesty of justice to deny bail to a person in such a matter."

Venting its strong view on the denial of bail to Goswami both by the lower court and the High Court, Justice Chandrachud in a daylong hearing said, "If we don't interfere in this case today, we will walk on a path of destruction of livery."

Apparently saying that the political or ideological differences can't come in the way of liberty, Justice Chandrachud said that "You may like his ideology or don't like his ideology, forget the way he speaks, but constitutional courts will have to protect such freedoms, otherwise we will be walking on the path of destruction of liberty". "Our democracy is extraordinarily resilient and strong", he said, telling that the state government must ignore such barbs against it.

NCB GRILLS
ARJUN RAMPAL'S
GIRLFRIENDSAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Two days after conducting raids at the residence of former actor Arjun Rampal, in connection with the probe of drug consumption in Bollywood, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) grilled his girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades on Wednesday.

The officials said that Rampal will also be questioned and that he is likely to appear on Thursday. The live-in duo was summoned after the NCB arrested Gabriella's brother Agisilaos Demetriades over his alleged links with the international drug ring.

The NCB officials said that she reached the south Mumbai office for questioning at around noon. Gabriella was grilled over her brother's drug links and on her possible connection with his illegal activities.

The officials had on Monday conducted searches at Rampal's residence based on the revelations in the case by Agisilaos.

GANJA PEDDLERS
ARRESTED;
PROPERTY SEIZEDAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
NABARAGNUPUR, NOV. 11

In a massive crackdown against the ganja mafia, Odisha's Nabarangpur police on Wednesday arrested two inter-state ganja-peddlers and seized illegally acquired property worth approximately ₹4.77 crore and traced cash transaction of around ₹4.59 crore.

According to Deputy Superintendent of Police Chandra Sekhar Hota, three persons namely Prabhakar Mali, Anirudha Mali and Sana Mali were peddling ganja since long with their accomplices in other states. The police nailed two of them after tracking their movement for the past few days.

"We have arrested two of the accused Prabhakar Mali and Ramesh Mali in connection with inter-state ganja peddling. They have been booked under various sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Efforts are being made to nab the third culprit — Anirudha Mali," the DSP Hota said.

The police has sealed four buildings, four acres immovable property, four wheelers and two-wheelers from the accused.

Congress rout puts question
mark on new team's survival

Election results show state in-charges failed to put up a fight against BJP

ASHHAR KHAN | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The decimation of the Congress in Bihar and bypolls in 11 states has raised questions on the recently-appointed AICC team of state in-charges and general secretaries. Out of the 56 Assembly seats that had bypolls, the Congress could manage to win only 12 seats, a strike rate of 20 per cent.

Under Rajeev Satav, the Gujarat in-charge, Congress lost all the eight Assembly seats. Interestingly, Mr Satav was also given a Rajya Sabha nomination earlier this year.

With Randeep Surjewala in-charge of Karnataka, the party lost both the Assembly seats in the state. Apart from his assigned state, Mr Surjewala was also deeply involved in Bihar where the Congress just about managed to win 19 out of the 70 seats it had contested.

Similar was the case in Telangana and Odisha where the party lost one and two seats respectively. The in-charge of these states are Manickam Tagore and A Chella Kumar respectively. All these appointments were made recently, in September this year.

In Haryana, the Congress won the lone seat but that was under the steam of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The state in-charge, Vivek Bansal, was nowhere in the picture.

In Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, the Congress won one seat each primarily because the Congress



BJP workers celebrate NDA's victory in Bihar Assembly elections, in Mumbai, Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attributed the party's victory to the silent power of women.

is in power in the state and the state chief ministers put their weight behind the party candidates. Bhakta Charan Das and Kuljeet Nagra, recently appointed to oversee the states of Manipur and Nagaland, could not help the party to even open its score in these states.

Even after the high-octane campaign against the BJP's Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh over the issues of migrant labourer crisis and the Hathras rape case, the party drew a blank

across seven seats. In the Deoria Assembly segment, which is in the home district of state Congress chief Ajay Kumar 'Lallu', the Congress candidate got a little over 3,00 votes and a vote-share of just 2.17 per cent.

Insiders claim that since these appointments took place after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in which the letter written by the 23 party leaders was discussed, the appointments have the imprint of Rahul Gandhi. They further add

that resentment is brewing against these leaders because the party has not been able to make any impact in these states.

Mr Satav and Mr Chella Kumar, in-charge of Gujarat and Odisha, have often attacked senior and junior leaders of the party who have commented on the functioning of the office of Mr Gandhi or the party. Their position becomes questionable now as the results show that the party in their states has been decimated at the hustings.

Several leaders claim that instead of hitting the ground the party was more interested in conducting press conferences by "para-dropped" leaders, as it happened in Bihar.

The kitchen politics within the party has ensured its defeat in the recent polls. Sources say that after the Congress' abysmal performance, once again questions will be raised on the functioning of the party and that it can happen as early as next week.

Development plank won
us elections, says Modi

From Page 1

He said 21st century voters are making it clear that they will vote for only those who are committed to development and have been choosing those who work for the country and are interested in it. He said the poll results have also endorsed the way the government has tackled the Covid-19 pandemic.

While thanking the people of Bihar and the BJP-NDA cadres for the poll victory, Mr Modi, without naming anyone, took on the Opposition, in particular the Congress, saying, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, many

political parties are becoming a "threat to the democracy" as they are limiting themselves to dynasty politics or just one family.

He said unfortunately one national party has been gripped by a family and it becomes all the more important for the BJP to strengthen internal democracy and make it an example for others.

At the same time, Mr Modi also sent a message to the Mamata Banerjee-led ruling TMC in West Bengal where Assembly polls are lined up early next year, that it should "read the writing on the wall" as killing BJP sup-

porters will not help in winning a mandate. The BJP has been accusing the TMC of political killing of its workers and supporters in the state.

Calling "naari shakti (women's power)" as the "silent voter" of the BJP, Mr Modi said this silent voter has been continuously supporting the party — in both rural and urban areas — while the youth have faith in democracy.

With the festive season just around the corner, Mr Modi asked people to celebrate Diwali with full fervour while taking care of their family and remaining cautious.

TTD dismisses staff
who sent porn site
link to devoteeAVINASH
P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, NOV. 11

A few contractual employees working with the TTD's Sri Venkateswara Bhakthi Channel (SVBC) landed in a controversy after a Hyderabad-based devotee complained that he had received a link related to a pornographic site from the official email ID of a programme of the spiritual channel.

The TTD brass, which ordered a probe into the issue and identified the employee who sent the mail, immediately dismissed him. It has also initiated legal action against him.

Centre to regulate OTT

From Page 1

Now, the OTT platforms, which were hitherto unregulated, are expected to come under rules and regulations.

In January 2019, eight video streaming services had signed a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for content on these platforms.

The code adopted by the OTTs prohibited five types of content, including those deliberately and maliciously disrespects the national emblem or national flag, any visual or story line that promotes child pornography, any content that maliciously intends to outrage religious sentiments, content that deliberately and maliciously promotes or encourages

terrorism etc. However, the government had refused to support this code.

In their plea in the Supreme Court, advocates Shashank Shekhar Jha and Apurva Arhatia sought a proper board/institution/association for the monitoring and management of content on different OTT and Streaming and digital media platforms.

Lack of legislation governing OTT and Streaming Platforms is becoming evident with each passing day and every new case that is filed on these grounds.

"The government is facing heat to fill this lacuna with regulations from the public and the judiciary; still the relevant government departments have not done anything signifi-

cant to regularise these OTT and streaming platforms," the plea said.

None of the OTT and streaming platforms have signed the self-regulation, it added. The ministry had earlier told the top court that there is a need to regulate digital media and that the court may first appoint a committee of persons as amicus before laying down guidelines with respect to the regulation of hate speech in media. At present, the Press Council of India regulates the print media, the News Broadcasters Association represents the news channels, the Advertising Standards Council of India regulates advertising, while the Central Board of Film Certification monitors films.

No Chhath Puja
this year in
public placesDC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The total number of Coronavirus cases in India reached over 86.50 lakh on Wednesday with 44,281 new detections with Delhi, Kerala and West Bengal reporting highest cases among all other states and union territories.

The total number of deaths in the country is little over 1.27 lakh out of which 512 fatalities were recorded in the last one day.

The active caseload of India has fallen under the 5 lakh mark for the first time after 106 days. The total burden of active cases is 4,94,657 (it was 4,96,988 on July 28) and now stands at 5.73% of the total positive cases. The total recoveries have crossed the 80 lakh mark and Recovery Rate has increased to 92.79%.

The Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan held meeting with seven states — Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura Meghalaya and Goa — and urged them to focus on enhanced testing, espe-

cially in districts with higher Covid-19 positivity and places of large gatherings like markets and workplaces.

The minister had earlier held discussions with Delhi and Kerala governments on virus containment measures.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan noted that although the active cases have come down in Maharashtra, it continues to have a large active caseload, with a high Fatality Rate (2.6%) which increases to 3.5% in and around Mumbai.

Meanwhile, the DDMA has instructed officials to ensure that Chhath Puja this year is not performed at public places, river banks and temples in Delhi, citing the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in the national capital.

An order issued by Chief Secretary and Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) executive committee chairman Vijay Dev on Tuesday issued directions to all district magistrates and deputy commissioners of police for strict compliance and to encourage people to celebrate Chhath at their homes during the pandemic.

From Page 1

The vaccine is being given in phases to Russians and they are being monitored. So far, the outcomes have been good.

According to interim trial results announced by Russia's health ministry on Wednesday, Sputnik V vaccine has shown 92 per cent efficacy in preventing Covid-19 disease.

The interim research data of Sputnik V has not been published or peer-reviewed yet.

"The calculation is based on the 20 confirmed Covid-19 cases split between vaccinated individuals and those who received the placebo," said Russian Direct Investment Fund

(RDIF).

The efficacy of the vaccine, developed by the Gamalaya Centre, was demonstrated on the basis of a first interim analysis obtained 21 days after the first injection.

There were no unexpected adverse events during the trials. Monitoring of the participants is ongoing, the ministry said.

The announcement follows results unveiled earlier this week by vaccine developers Pfizer and BioNTech, who said their vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective at preventing Covid-19.

Eleanor Riley, Professor of Immunology and Infectious Disease, University of Edinburgh

Covid caseload falls
below 5 lakh mark

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Crossing another milestone in the fight against the pandemic, the Covid-19 active caseload in India has fallen below the 5 lakh-mark for the first time after 106 days and comprises merely 5.73 per cent of the total cases, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

Seventy per cent of the 44,281 new coronavirus infections reported in a span of 24 hours are from ten states and UTs with

Delhi continuing to report the highest daily new cases at 7,830. It is followed by Kerala with 6,010 cases.

There are 4,94,657 active cases of coronavirus infections as on date. "This also indicates a sustained trend of declining active cases in the country. It assumes higher significance in the context of several countries across the globe reporting a surge in the number of new cases," it said. *PTI*

Many won with
razor-thin victory
margins in BiharSREEPARNA
CHAKRABARTY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The battle for Bihar which saw the NDA pip the Opposition grand alliance by just 15 seats was also unique in the unusually low winning margins of individual candidates pointing to the tough fight on the ground between the ruling and Opposition sides.

The razor thin margins, some as low as of 12 votes, saw many heartburns among the losing side with Opposition parties like RJD, Congress and CPI-ML (Liberation) even approaching the Election Commission claiming last minute malpractice by district authorities.

In the Hilsa Assembly segment, JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan defeated his rival RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav by a mere 12 votes, the thinnest victory margin in these polls.

There were 10 constituencies apart from Hilsa, which saw a close contest with the victory margin remaining below the 1,000 mark. Of this, the NDA won five — JD(U) in four and BJP one — while the RJD won three while the CPI, LJP and an independent bagged one each.

In three constituencies each, the RJD and the JD(U) were the runner-up while the BJP came second in two. CPI, Congress, CPI(ML) and BSP were the nearest rival to the winner in one each seat.

A further break-up of the 11 seats showed that the victory margin in six were below 500 votes, including Hilsa. RJD and JDU had two such seats while BJP and LJP had

one each.

Among the highest margin, there were four seats which saw victory margin over 50,000 with CPI(ML)L, AIMIM, RJD and JD(U) winning one each. The highest margin was in Bahrampur where CPI(ML)L's Mahboob Alam won by 53,597 votes against Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP).

The second highest victory margin went to AIMIM in Amour where its candidate won by 52,515 votes against JD(U). It was a sitting Congress seat, which it won by 51,997 votes in 2015 polls but sitting MLA Abdul Jalil Mastan could bag only 31,863 votes while the winner Aktharul Imran got 94,459 votes and the runner-up Zaba Zafar won 41,944 votes.

An analysis showed that the victory margin in 76 seats were in the range of 10,000-20,000 votes while it was 20,000-30,000 in 44 seats, 30,000-40,000 in 22 and 40,000-50,000 in 14 constituencies.

The narrow margins propelled the Opposition to make allegations of irregularities in the counting process in these seats.

RJD's Manoj Jha alleged that leaders from the ruling JD(U) and BJP were "misusing their official power" to delay the handing over of certificates to winning candidates, and thereby leaving the scope for tampering with the final results in the elections held amid the Covid-19 curbs.

The charges were denied by the ECI, which said they were going about their duties with all procedures followed impartially.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, VILLUPURAM
TENDER NOTICE
T.N.No.31/2020-21/HDO/Dated:10.11.2020
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 02.12.2020, 13.30 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Villupuram Circle for Road Safety 2019-20 Works, pertaining to Villupuram (H) C&M Division.**
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.11.2020 onwards** in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H) C&M CIRCLE, VILLUPURAM
DIPR/4236/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
VILLUPURAM (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE,
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NOTICE NO.30 /2020-21 / HDO, DATED:09.11.2020
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 02.12.2020 - 13.30 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for Road Safety 2019-20 Works, pertaining to Villupuram & Cuddalore (H) (C&M) Division.**
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Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Villupuram
DIPR/4234/TENDER/2020

IN BRIEF FIRE BURNS TENTS IN GREEK CAMP

Athens, Nov. 11: A fire has burnt through tents and some structures in a refugee camp on the eastern Greek island of Samos. There were no immediate reports of any injuries.

The fire department said the blaze, which broke out Wednesday morning, was limited in size and was tackled by 18 firefighters using nine vehicles. There was no immediate information on how many tents were destroyed. Many of the tents are packed closely together in the overcrowded camp, and camping gas canisters the residents use for cooking caused small explosions. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire.

More than 3,800 people live in and around the Samos camp, a facility originally built to house just under 650. In September, fires destroyed Greece's largest refugee camp, Moria, on the island of Lesbos, leaving more than 10,000 people in need of emergency shelter. Authorities said those blazes had been set by a group of the camp's residents protesting isolation and lockdown orders after Covid outbreak.

POPE FRANCIS VOWS TO END SEXUAL ABUSE

Rome, Nov. 11: Pope Francis pledged Wednesday to rid the Catholic Church of sexual abuse and offered prayers to victims of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a day after the Vatican released a detailed report into the decades-long church cover-up of his sexual misconduct.

Francis concluded his weekly general audience Wednesday by recalling that the report into the "painful case" of the former high-ranking American cardinal had been released the previous day. "I renew my closeness to victims of any abuse and commitment of the church to eradicate this evil," Francis said. He then paused silently for nearly a minute, apparently in prayer.

Biden embarrassed Trump didn't concede poll defeat

Says it will not help President's legacy, transition plans remain unaffected

Washington, Nov. 11: Donald Trump not conceding defeat in the US election is "an embarrassment" and that "will not help the President's legacy," President-elect Joe Biden has said, asserting that his transition plans have remained unaffected and he has started talking to world leaders.

Trump has declined to concede the closely-fought November 3 presidential race to Democrat Biden and is mounting legal fights in several states, but there has been no evidence of voter irregularities or widespread fraud in the election — billed as one of the most divisive and bitter in recent American history.

The president-elect was asked by a reporter on Tuesday what he thought of President Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat. "I just think it's an embarrassment, quite frankly," Biden said while speaking in his hometown in Wilmington, Delaware.

"The only thing that, how can I say this tactfully, I think it will not help the president's legacy," 77-year-old Biden said.

The Trump administration's refusal to initiate the transition process

Pompeo: Smooth transition to 2nd Trump administration

Washington, Nov. 11: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday asserted that there will be a smooth transition to a second Trump Administration, indicating that he believes Donald Trump has won the November 3 presidential elections.

"There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration. We are ready. The world is watching what's taking place here. We're going to count all the votes..." Pompeo said. He was responding to questions from reporters at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department if his department is preparing to engage with the Biden transition team and if not at what point does it delay or hamper a smooth transition or pose a risk to national security.

"does not change the dynamic at all in what we're able to do," Biden said. "We don't see anything that's slowing us down,

● **POMPEO WAS** responding to questions from reporters at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department if his department is preparing to engage with the Biden transition team and if not at what point does it delay or hamper a smooth transition or pose a risk to national security.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has been declared the winner of the elections by major media networks, as is the tradition in the United States. President-elect Biden has quickly moved on to the transition phase. Pompeo said that the

quite frankly," he said. "At the end of the day, you know, it's all going to come to fruition on January 20," he added, refer-

ring to inauguration day. "Between now and then my hope and expectation is that the American people do know and do under-

stand that there has been a transition. Even among Republicans...who voted for the president, I understand the sense of loss. I get that," he said. —PTI

Washington, Nov. 11: Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller, the Pentagon has announced. The new appointment from the Pentagon comes a day after Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated the National Counter Terrorism Center Director, Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary of Defence.

Miller took over the functions and responsibilities of the new role on Monday, the Pentagon said on Tuesday. "Kash Patel, currently on the National Security Council staff, has been named by Acting Secretary Miller as his Chief of Staff," the Pentagon announced on Tuesday. —PTI

KASH PATEL IS CHIEF OF STAFF TO DEF SECY

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Explosions mar WW-I ceremony at Saudi cemetery

Paris, Nov. 11: Multiple people were wounded on Wednesday when an explosive device hit an international ceremony commemorating the end of World War I at a cemetery in the Saudi Arabian city of Jiddah, according to French government officials. Several countries had representatives at the ceremony, held at a cemetery for non-Muslim dead, the officials from the French Foreign Ministry said.

The identities of the victims were unclear. Wednesday's attack follows on the heels of a stabbing on October 29 that slightly wounded a guard at the French Consulate in the city of Jiddah. The stabbing was carried out by a Saudi man, who was arrested. His motives remain unclear. Wednesday marks the 102nd anniversary of the armistice ending World War I and is commemorated in several European countries.

The French officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, condemned the attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion. Saudi officials and state-run media in the ki-

ngdom have not commented on the attack.

Jiddah, the Red Sea port city, saw its Ottoman troops surrender to the local troops backed by the British in 1916 amid the war. That sparked the start of the Kingdom of Hejaz, which later became part of Saudi Arabia in 1932. Jiddah's Non-Muslim Cemetery sits nears this port city's docks, hidden behind trees alongside a major thoroughfare in the city.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission shows just one soldier buried at the cemetery, Pvt John Arthur Hogan, who died in June 1944. Across France, which was particularly devastated by years of trench warfare in World War I, ceremonies were held Wednesday to mark the anniversary of the armistice but also to honor all those who have died for France, including during the Second World War and in current military operations abroad and at home, where troops are deployed to protect against terrorist attacks.

France has suffered two deadly Islamic extremist attacks in the past month. Three people were killed in a church in the south-

Pak US embassy goofs up on PM

Islamabad, Nov. 11: The United States embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday issued an apology for sharing a Twitter post which indirectly called Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan a "demagogue and dictator." On Tuesday night, the US embassy retweeted a post by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

leader Ahsan Iqbal, where he shows a screenshot of an article by *The Washington Post* titled 'Trump's defeat is a blow for the world's demagogues and dictators'.

Along with the screen grab, Iqbal wrote: "We have one in Pakistan too. He will be shown the way out soon." Iqbal's lines

were a clear reference to Prime Minister Khan. The embassy's post went viral within minutes and it faced severe backlash from the supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

On Wednesday, the embassy on its Twitter account said, "The US embassy Islamabad Twit-

ter account was accessed last night without authorisation. The US embassy does not endorse the posting or re-tweeting of political messages. We apologise for any confusion that may have resulted from the unauthorised post." Since then the embassy has deleted the post. On Tuesday,

SCIENTISTS FIND PROOF OF TWO-WAY VIRUS TRANSMISSION IN MINK FARMS

London, Nov. 11: An analysis of outbreaks of the novel Coronavirus on 16 mink farms in the Netherlands has revealed that the Covid-19 virus is capable of transmission between humans to minks, as well as from these mammals to people.

While the virus was ini-

tially introduced from humans to the minks, the researchers, including Bas B. Oude Munnink from the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, said it has since evolved. "More research in minks and other mustelid species is important to understand

if these species are at risk of becoming a reservoir of SARS-CoV-2," they wrote in the study, published in the journal *Science*. According to the scientists, the virus was first diagnosed on two mink farms in late April of 2020 in the Netherlands. —PTI

FINANCIAL Chronicle

THURSDAY | 12 NOVEMBER 2020 | COIMBATORE

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,593.67 0.73
Nifty 50	12,749.15 0.93
S&P 500*	3,570.69 0.71
Dollar (₹)	74.37 -0.24
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.63 -0.37
Euro (₹)	87.69 -0.13
Gold (10gm) (₹)	50,114₹3 0.005
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.43 0.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.903 -0.014
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.960 0.00

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Murugappan steps down as chairman of Tube, Chola



Noted industrialist and chairman of diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group M. M. Murugappan has stepped down from two of the group entities* to pursue philanthropy and other interests, the two companies said. Group firm Tube Investments said Murugappan has stepped down as chairman and resigned as director from Wednesday on reaching 65. The board appointed M. A. M. Arunachalam as additional director.

Incentives to help India emerge as a mfg hub Industry lauds PLI

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Industry finds that with the Rs 1.45 lakh crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, the government has rightly identified the high potential sectors to make the country a manufacturing hub.

"The PLI announcement of Rs 1.45,000 crore across 10 key sectors till 2025 is a strategic policy intervention. Coming at the back of Covid-19 and the general slowdown, this is expected to boost production, lead to job creation and ultimately be a major kicker for GDP and taxes," said Sangita Reddy, president, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industries (Ficci).

"The government has carefully chosen the sectors for the PLI scheme. There could be more sectors that would receive the PLI benefits in the future," she added.

"The new PLI policy is transformational and timely and will facilitate India becoming a global manufacturing hub. The policy is strategically targeted and will go a long way to boost production, make Indian goods competitive and expand exports as part of global value chains," said Uday Kotak, president, Confederation of India Industry (CII).

As for textiles, the PLI scheme for man-made fibre will support the much-needed shift in Indian textile exports that will help it cater to the global market skewed towards man-made fibre products. In the case of technical textiles, the National Technical Textile

The government has carefully chosen the sectors for the PLI scheme. There could be more sectors that would receive the PLI benefits in the future



Sangita Reddy, president, Ficci

This will pave the way for the pharma industry to move into newer areas. The industry had set a target to achieve \$130 billion exports by 2030 from the current \$42 billion. Now we can aspire for it



Dinesh Dua, chairman, Pharmexcil

Mission aims at more than tripling production to \$50 billion in four years and achieving export revenues of Rs 20,000 crore in two years and the PLI scheme will help the industry achieve the target. The government has announced a Rs 10,683 crore PLI scheme for the textile sector for the next five years.

"The future of Indian textile exports is MMF as the share of MMF-based textiles and clothing products would account for 80 per cent of the global export market by 2030. The government has rightly identified the segments within textiles," said the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (Citi).

George Paul, CEO, Manufacturers' Association of Information Technology (Mait) says that with the PLI, the government has boldly declared that the next 10 years will be the decade for manufacturing. It recognises disabilities in the system and

looks at Indian companies in a fresh light. Manufacturers of semiconductor fabrication, display fab, laptop/ notebooks, servers, IoT devices and specified computer hardware will receive Rs 5,000 crore PLI.

For pharmaceuticals, the government had earlier announced a PLI scheme for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and bulk drugs. The new PLI scheme has covered a large spectrum of pharma products. "This will pave the way for the pharma industry to move into newer areas. The industry had set a target to achieve \$130 billion exports by 2030 from the current \$42 billion. Now we can aspire for it," said Dinesh Dua, chairman, Pharmexcil.

The government has provided PLI of Rs 12,195 crore for telecom and networking products, including core transmission equipment, 4G/5G, next

generation radio access network and wireless equipment, access and customer premises equipment (CPE), internet of things (IoT), access devices and other wireless equipment and enterprise equipment: switches and routers.

"We are yet to receive details of the scheme from the DoT, however, we appreciate the proposed outlay of Rs 12,000 crore for telecom and networking equipment and are confident that the government would have designed the scheme in such a manner to ensure that the demand for telecom equipment is enhanced and remains robust as well as exports from India are suitably supported," said Lt. Gen. Dr. S.P. Kochhar, director general, Cellular Operators Association of India.

The largest chunk of the incentive of Rs 57,042 crore will be provided for automobiles and auto components. "The industry was eagerly awaiting for this scheme to increase its competitiveness and take the growth of the sector to the next level," said Kenichi Ayukawa, president, Siam

"We are hopeful that the outlay announced will encourage the industry to become net-exporter and help reduce import dependence," said Deepak Jain, president, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (Acma). "Whilst the auto component industry exports over 25 per cent of its production, our ambition is to capture a significant proportion of global trade," added Jain.

12 firms to be part of MSCI India Index

New Delhi, Nov. 11: As many as 12 companies, including Trent and Kotak Mahindra Bank, have been added to the MSCI India Index, while Bosch and LIC Housing Finance will move out, according to the latest MSCI Global Standard Index rejig announcement.

The stocks which made their way to the MSCI India Index are ACC, Adani Green Energy, Apollo Hospitals, Balkrishna Industries, Ipcal Laboratories, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro Infotech, MRF, Muthoot Finance, PI Industries, Trent Limited and Yes Bank.

The changes in constituents for the MSCI global standard indices will take place at the close of November 30.

Bosch and LIC Housing Finance will move out from the list on that day.

Shares of Trent jumped 11.66 per cent, Apollo Hospitals 6.19 per cent, Adani Green Energy 5 per cent, Balkrishna Industries 4.99 per cent, Yes Bank gained 4.95 per cent, Ipcal Laboratories 3.86 per cent and PI Industries 3 per cent on Wednesday.

Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 2.97 per cent, L&T Infotech 2.61 per cent, Muthoot Finance 2.41 per cent, MRF 1.58 per cent and ACC 1.22 per cent on the BSE.

—PTI

Bank staff to get 15-20% pay hike

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

As a Diwali gift to 8.5 lakh bank employees, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on Wednesday announced the conclusion of the 11th bipartite wage negotiations with nine bank unions and officers' associations. The wage revision agreement will be effective from November 1, 2017 and provides for a 15-20 per cent increase in pay slip.

In a first, the banks will also put in place a performance-linked incentive scheme

C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary of the banking sector's largest union, All-India Bank Employees' Association (Aibe), told *Financial Chronicle*, "The arrears will result in Rs 7,900 crore additional outgo for banks per year, covering 8.5 lakh employees and officers of 29 public sector banks, private sector banks and foreign banks. It would result in 15 to 20 per cent increase in the salary per month for the employees. So, if an employee's salary is Rs 40,000, his increase would be Rs 6000.

"In addition, employees will get leave benefit,

leave travel concession benefit and other service conditions are also being improved upon and family pension will also nearly double. A new feature is the performance-linked incentive, scheme which is being introduced under this settlement. Hence this settlement is highly satisfactory."

Giving the breakup of the yearly outgo, Venkatachalam said, "Rs 3,385 crore are the arrears for workmen employees, clerks and peons while Rs 4,515 crore is for officers."

"To inculcate a sense of competition and also to reward the performance, the concept of Performance Linked Pay has been introduced for the first time. A detailed bipartite settlement/joint note has been signed with the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), representing four workmen unions and four officers' associations and also Bank Karamchari Sena Mahasangh (BKSM), who were parties to agreement," Sunil Mehta, chief executive of the Indian Banks Association said.

However, the demand of public sector employees to implement five-day banking was not among the changes announced.

SHORT TAKES

Babar elated over Pak captaincy

Karachi: Handed Test captaincy along with leadership role in the limited overs format, young Pakistan batsman Babar Azam remembered his days as a ball-picker in a Test match, saying he is living a dream.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday announced that Babar had replaced Azhar as Test captain, just one year after it had appointed the senior batsman to lead the Test side in place of Sarfaraz Ahmed.

"I remember being a ball picker in a Test match and at that time I thought what an honour it would be to play for Pakistan. The dream has come true and I thank the PCB for showing faith in me as a captain as well," he said.

Babar said he will not mind reaching out to his predecessors Azhar Ali and Sarfaraz Ahmed for becoming a good captain.

"I have played under and learnt a lot from Azhar and Sarfaraz. And I will definitely seek their advice," he added. — PTI

Malik, Aamir miss out on Kiwi tour

Karachi: The Pakistani selectors on Wednesday dropped veteran all-rounder Shoaib Malik and pacer Muhammad Aamir from a 35-member squad for the upcoming New Zealand tour. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced a combined squad, which includes players for the senior team and the Shaheen's side. It did not specify which player belongs to which squad.

Pakistan play three T20Is on December 18, 20 and 22 before their ICC World Test Championship fixtures to be held in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch from December 26-30 and January 3-7 respectively. The scheduled of the Shaheens is yet to be confirmed by New Zealand Cricket though it is expected to be played concurrently. The squad will depart for New Zealand on November 23. — PTI

Maradona needs family support

Buenos Aires: Diego Maradona's psychologist Diego Daz says the Argentine football hero is in a stable condition in a private health clinic where he is recovering from surgery. Maradona last week had an operation for a subdural hematoma, which is an accumulation of blood between a membrane and his brain. His personal doctor, neurologist Leopoldo Luque, said the problem likely was caused by an accident, but the 60-year-old Maradona said he didn't remember the event. Daz, who is taking care of Maradona during his time at the Olivos private clinic, on Tuesday said the 1986 World Cup champion needs doctors, therapy and "fundamentally family support." "Diego Maradona, in certain issues, is just like everyone else ... with the same limitations, difficulties and advantages that any human being has," Daz said in an interview. — AP

Brazil, Argentina gear up for WC

Rio De Janeiro: Brazil must confront a growing injury list that includes star forward Neymar as they resume World Cup qualifying this week, while Argentina are out to extend their perfect start at home to neighbours Paraguay. Copa America champions Brazil host Venezuela in Sao Paulo on Friday chasing a third win in as many matches. — AFP

Live on TV

GOLF

Augusta Masters: From 10.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

FOOTBALL

Euro Qualifiers (play-off finals): Georgia vs North Macedonia from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2.

International Friendlies: Moldova vs Russia from 10.30 pm on Sony Six; Wales vs USA from 1.15 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; England vs Ireland from 1.40 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2

Regd. No.
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by
K. Sudhakar on behalf of
Deccan Chronicle Holdings
Limited and Printed at
Deccan Chronicle Press situated at
No 2/22, Sengalipalayam Road,
N.G.O Colony Post,
Kurudampalayam Village,
Coimbatore - 641 022. RNI
Registration No: TNENG/2010/35692
Ph No : 2231252, 253, 255, 257 & 358
Editor: **KAUSHIK MITTER**

ALLROUND SHOW

Hunger and working on nitty gritty did it for MI

Dubai, Nov. 11: An insatiable hunger to succeed, the willingness to put in the extra yards and extensive work on the nitty-gritties culminated in an unprecedented fifth IPL title for Mumbai Indians, the players responsible for the triumph said after a clinical demolition of Delhi Capitals in the final here.

Opener Quinton de Kock said after the final, "Mumbai have a great set up, so we've been able to move with the gym work and training and stuff. We're reaping the rewards today for it. It's a great feeling."

"It's a great feeling. I've been here 11 years, fifth trophy. No one sees the planning and training, it's pressure playing for a franchise like this," MI veteran Kieron Pollard.

The West Indian swash-buckler added: "The amount of trophies, the amount of work, the amount of players who go on to play for their countries, I think we'll have to say so (that this is the best T20 franchise)."

Elder of the Pandya brothers, Krunal pinned it on the hunger of the players.

"It's the hunger. The way we went about the games, there was always 100 per cent. A lot of credit goes to how we prepared. One month before we came, everyone knew their roles," he added.

Another MI star, Suryakumar Yadav attributed the success to preparation and following the process.

"Preparations, processes and routine is important. The team just said one thing — we'll take care of this. You go and express yourself," the MI rising batsman Suryakumar concluded.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah said the title is more special because of the tough circumstances the tournament was played in given the challenges posed by the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

— PTI



Captain Rohit Sharma celebrates after Mumbai Indians won their fifth Indian Premier League title.

Captain all praise for bowlers

Dubai, Nov. 11: His fluent half century made the chase look effortless in the IPL final but Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said it was his bowlers who set up the crushing win over Delhi Capitals, which fetched an unprecedented fifth title for the side.

New Zealand pacer Trent Boult snared the dangerous Marcus Stoinis and Ajinkya Rahane while off-spinner Jayant Yadav dismissed the in-form Shikhar Dhawan to leave Delhi Capitals reeling at 22 for three, early setbacks from which the

team couldn't quite recover.

"We got a wicket on the first ball and we got a couple more after that. We just wanted to keep the pressure, the execution was perfect from all the bowlers," Rohit said at the post-match press conference.

"We knew Stoinis and Dhawan are Delhi's key batters, so we wanted to bowl our key bowlers at them, getting early wickets was the key, we wanted to take early wickets, when you have the best new ball bowler in your squad, why not go with

that?" he said.

Rohit applauded each and every bowler for his contribution in the team's success throughout the tournament. Boult (25) and Jasprit Bumrah (27) were at their lethal best the entire season.

"Boult has been fantastic for us this season and so has Bumrah. They are the ones who kept us in the game throughout. (James) Pattinson, (Nathan) Coulter-Nile, (Rahul) Chahar, and Krunal Pandya also did their job," he added.

Also, Rohit Sharma believes that his style of

leadership is not a dictatorial one, which is precisely the reason behind Mumbai Indians' stupendous success in the Indian Premier League.

"I'm not someone who'll run with a stick behind someone. The only way you can do it is by giving them confidence. So you have to strike that right balance," Rohit said when asked about what kind of captain he is.

The humble leader remembered the back-room staff and praised them for the work that goes behind the scene.

— PTI

ROHIT RUES SURYA'S RUN OUT IN FINAL

Dubai, Nov. 11: "I should have sacrificed my wicket for him," said Rohit Sharma as he regretted Suryakumar Yadav's dismissal in the IPL final while attempting an improbable single that was actually called by the Mumbai Indians skipper.

Rohit led from the front with a 51-ball 68 as MI defeated DC by five wickets, effortlessly chasing down a target of 157 in 18.4 overs.

"The kind of form he was in, I should have sacrificed my wicket for Surya. But throughout the tournament he has played some incredible shots," Rohit said.

Yadav, who accumulated 480 runs this season averaging 40 with a strike rate of 145, said he didn't mind the sacrifice as he knew the skipper would lead the team through.

Yadav had said no to the run when Rohit called for it in the 11th over but crossed over nonetheless when he realised that the captain would be dismissed if he didn't. — PTI

Bowlers lost it in powerplay: Iyer

Dubai, Nov. 11: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer says his otherwise outstanding bowlers "lost it in powerplay" after a disastrous start prevented them from posting a challenging total in the IPL final against Mumbai Indians.

Losing three early wickets pegged the Capitals back as they could post only a modest 156 for seven which was easily chased down by MI in 18.4 overs.

"It's just the fatigue that crept in may be, bowlers just lost it in the Powerplay," a disappointed Iyer said at the post match press conference.

DC captain said he does not regret his decision to bat first. After being reduced to 22 for 3, Iyer (65 off 50) and Rishabh Pant (56 off 38) stitched 96 runs for the fourth wicket to stabilise the innings.

"I thought it was very good decision (to bat first). When you enter the final, it's very important to get off to a good start and that's what we lacked in this game," he said.



It's just the fatigue that crept in may be, bowlers just lost it in the Powerplay. When you enter the final, it's very important to get off to a good start and that's what we lacked in this game.

— **SHREYAS IYER**
Delhi Capitals captain

"I think we reached to a very decent total in the Powerplay and after that we capitalised there onwards and got to a decent total until 15th over I guess but after that everything came down."

Iyer was effusive in his praise for his bowling unit despite an off day in the summit clash. — PTI

Make Rohit T20 captain: Gautam

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir and England's Michael Vaughan have called for Rohit Sharma's elevation to India's T20 captaincy with the former national team opener going to the extent of saying that it would be a "shame" if the star batsman does not get the role.

Rohit led Mumbai Indians to a fifth IPL title on Tuesday, impressing not just with a graceful half century but also shrewd captaincy. He is currently the national vice-captain for the white-ball formats.

"If Rohit Sharma doesn't become India's captain, it's their loss, not Rohit's," Gambhir told *ESPNCricinfo's* T20 Time Out programme.

"Yes, a captain is only as good as his team and I completely agree with that, but what are the parameters to judge a captain on who is good and who isn't? The parameters and benchmark should be the same. Rohit has led his team (MI) to five IPL titles," he added. MI won an unprecedented fifth IPL title by beating DC by five wickets in Dubai on Tuesday night.

"We keep saying MS Dhoni is India's most successful captain. Why? Because he has won two World Cups and three IPLs," Gambhir said.

"Rohit has won five IPL titles, he is the most successful captain in the history of the tournament. Going forward, it'll be a shame if he doesn't get India's white-ball or just T20 captaincy."



If Rohit Sharma doesn't become India's captain, it's their loss, not Rohit's. Rohit has won five IPL titles, he is the most successful captain in the history of the tournament. Going forward, it'll be a shame if he doesn't get India's white-ball or just T20 captaincy.

— **GAUTAM GAMBHIR**
former India player

"Because he can't do much more than this. He can only help the team he captains to victories. So if he doesn't become India's regular white-ball captain, it will be their loss," he added.

Gambhir had earlier said that Virat Kohli should be made accountable for RCB's failure to make the IPL finals in 13 efforts, eight out of which were under Kohli's leadership.

But the cricketer-turned-politician clarified that he never meant Kohli's captaincy is "poor", instead he only suggested that split captaincy model is the need of the hour. — PTI

INDIGENOUS JERSEY FOR AUSSIES IN T20 vs INDIA

Melbourne, Nov. 11: The Australian men's cricket team is set to wear specially-designed Indigenous shirts in the upcoming T20 series against India, a move aimed at recognising and encouraging the Indigenous Australians' role in the sport.

Cricket Australia on Wednesday unveiled the design, a collaboration between manufacturer ASICS and two Indigenous women, Auntie Fiona Clarke and Courtney Hagen.

"Clarke is a direct descendant of late cricketer 'Mosquito' Couzens (known as Grongarrong), one of the Aboriginal players who toured England in 1868 as part of the first sporting team from Australia to play abroad," cricket.co.au reported.

The design is an ode to the ancestors and past, present and future aboriginal cricketers.

The Australian men's team, thus, will be following their women counterparts, who first wore an Indigenous shirt of their own in a match against England earlier this year.

Australia premier fast bowler Mitchell Starc, who displayed the first look of the jersey, said he was excited about sporting the new shirt. — PTI

WI players breach bubble, bear brunt

Wellington, Nov. 11: The West Indies cricket squad has been stripped of the right to train while in managed isolation after players were found to have breached rules around their 14-day quarantine.

New Zealand's Ministry of Health said CCTV footage from the team's Christchurch hotel showed players mingling in hallways and sharing food in violation of managed isolation regulations. The ministry said all incidents occurred within the hotel and there was no danger to the public.

The West Indies squad, which has completed 12 of its scheduled 14 days of isolation under Covid-19 regulations, will not be able to train again until its

full managed isolation period has been completed. The isolation period might be extended if any further concerns arise, the ministry said.

Evidence of the breaches has been provided to West Indies Cricket, which has been encouraged to conduct its own investigation and apply any disciplinary sanctions it considers necessary.

The West Indies squad required a government exemption to enter New Zealand for their upcoming series of three Twenty20 internationals, starting on Nov. 27, and two tests beginning on Dec. 3. New Zealand's borders are currently generally only open to returning residents and citizens. — AP

Mediation needed to keep sports clean: Justice Sikri

New Delhi, Nov. 11: There have been several cases of gender discrimination and sexual exploitation in sports, which needed to be resolved immediately and mediation was needed for it, former Supreme Court Judge A K Sikri said on Tuesday.

The judge, who said that online disputes resolution (ODR) has been seen as the next step in Indian legal system in litigation, arbitration and mediation during the pandemic-induced lockdown and restrictions, was also of the view that commercialisation of

sports has given rise to various kinds of disputes and mediation was one such process which facilitated level playing field.

Justice Sikri, who is acting as a judge of Singapore International Commercial Court, spoke on the Scope of mediation in sports disputes at an international webinar organised by mediators of the Supreme Court of India, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Sports Dispute Resolution Centre and the Youth Bar Association of India.

He said neither the

courts, that is litigation, nor arbitration that can deal with it effectively and mediation was needed for that. While speaking about cases of gender discrimination and sexual exploitation in sports, Justice Sikri said There are many such cases where the coach has tried to indulge in such practices and several complaints have come up against them. What is more important is that these issues need to be resolved immediately. They cannot wait even for a few days sometimes. That is why many sports

committees have ad hoc judges or arbitrators in the events. We need on the spot resolution. It is neither the courts, that is litigation, neither arbitration that can deal with it effectively. We need mediation for that, the judge said.

He said that time has come, as far as India was concerned, to have specialised mediation, including sports mediation, and the country should now gear up and start thinking as to how we can do mediation.

Covid-19 situation in the country has given us a

chance to look into mediation. Of course it is a pandemic which has created panic all over the world, many have died, livelihoods and lifestyle have been affected. In the whole process we have realised that technology can play an important role. And now ODR is seen as the next step even in Indian legal system, whether litigation or arbitration or mediation. And according to me, some of the cases which are proper for online mediation, apart from consumer disputes, are sports disputes, the

judge said.

He further said what was felt now and being highlighted was that it was not necessary to go to courts and there should be self regulation and mediation plays an important role in the process.

He said there cannot be a society without conflicts but what was needed was an early and peaceful mediation of those conflicts.

Mediation is one such process which goes into the reason why disputes have arisen. It not only looks into the past, it looks

into the future also so that relationship between the parties is maintained.

Discussions are always better than arguments because arguments are to find out who is right and a discussion is to find out what is right. It is only the mediation which brings about this. It heals the past, lives in the present and dreams the future, the judge added.

Justice Sikri said that mediation has come a long way in the last 15 years and it was here to stay as the legal system is enlarging its scope. — PTI