

# DECCAN Chronicle

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VISAKHAPATNAM | SUNDAY | 8 NOVEMBER 2020



## NATION | 4

Stan Swamy seeks court nod to use sipper



## WORLD | 4

Is Murdoch dumping Trump?

## SPORTS | 5

Djokovic equals Sampras's No. 1 record



## SHORT TAKES

FASTags must for all four-wheelers

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said it has made FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers including old vehicles from January 1, 2020. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a notification for promotion of digital and IT based payment of fees through FASTags.

## YSRC GOVERNMENT OFFERS ₹143 CR TO KAPU NESTAM

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

The YSR Congress government has earmarked ₹143 crore for Kapu Nestam phase 2, which was part of their commitment to ensure the betterment of Kapus.

Minister for BC Welfare Chelluboina Venu-gopala Krishna on Saturday credited ₹143 crore to the accounts of 95,245 beneficiaries under the second phase of the scheme.

He alleged that Kapus were neglected by the Telugu Desam government. N. Chandrababu Naidu promised to provide reservations to Kapus even though it was not in his hands and created a rift between BCs and Kapus, and tried to benefit from the situation. Speaking on the occasion, Venugopala Krishna said that all eligible women from Kapu, Balija, Ontari and Telaga communities, who were not included in the scheme in June, will now receive ₹15,000 as financial assistance.

■ Page 2: ₹5,542 cr spent through Kapu corporation

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## Biden 46th US Prez, Harris 1st woman V-P



Washington, Nov. 7: Joe Biden on Saturday triumphed over incumbent US President Donald Trump in a divisive, bitter and closely-fought presidential election, to become the oldest man ever elected to the White House. The 77-year-old former US vice-president will become the 46th president of the US, after a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win. With Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, Biden now has a total of 273 electoral votes.

Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Biden served as vice-president under former president Barack Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Senator Kamala Harris, 56, has become the first ever woman vice-president-elect of the US.

Biden and Harris would be sworn in on January 20.

"America, I'm honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise you this: I will be a President for all Americans - whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have placed in me," Biden tweeted. — PTI

## AP MERIT LIST DELAY WORRIES NEET QUALIFIED

SAMPAT G.  
SAMIRAN | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

Students who have qualified in NEET UG – 2020 are a worried lot as NTR University of Health Sciences has not yet announced the merit list for AP.

■ Full report on Page 3

## Earth imaging satellite in orbit

PATHRI RAJASEKHARI DC  
NELLORE, NOV. 6

In its first launch this year, India's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, placed the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-01) and nine foreign satellites into their designated orbits after a

textbook-perfect blast-off from the spaceport at Sriharikota near Nellore on Saturday.

Minutes before the launch, heavy downpour caused some concern. The countdown halted 18 minutes before launch.

■ Page 2: Launch put off by nine minutes

## JOYALUKKAS NOW AT GAJUWAKA

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## Exit polls give RJD edge in hung Bihar Assembly

Mahagathbandhan likely to go beyond magic number 122

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

The Tejaswini Yadav-led Mahagathbandhan has an edge over the ruling National Democratic Alliance to form the next government in Bihar, several Exit Polls predicted on Saturday soon after the final phase of polling in the state for 243 Assembly seats ended.

The exit polls predicted that the RJD-Congress' Mahagathbandhan may get 123 seats and form the government. The magic number in Bihar Assembly is 122.

According to Polls of Polls (which takes an average of various exit polls), the JD(U)-BJP's NDA, led by incumbent chief minister Nitish Kumar, will manage to get 110 seats, the Chirag Paswan-led LJP will bag just four and others put together with Independents will get five seats.

Some pollsters indicated the results, which will be out on Tuesday, could swing either way, even hinting at a hung Assembly.

However, Today's Chanakaya, which has sometimes been accurate and had completely missed the mark sometimes, boldly stuck its neck out to

	EXIT POLL RESULTS	JD(U)+	RJD+
243 total seats	Chanakya	55 ± 11	180 ± 11
122 Halfway mark	TN-CVoter	116	120
	ABP Cvoter	104-128	108-131
	RTV-Jan Ki Baat	91-117	118-138
	IT-MyAxis	69-91	139-161

## BJP TO GAIN UPPER HAND WINNING 16-18 SEATS IN MP, SAY EXIT POLLS

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC  
Bhopal, NOV. 7

Exit polls on November 3 by-elections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh by two media organisations have predicted a robust show by the ruling BJP, enabling Shivraj Singh Chouhan government to gain majority in the House.

The BJP requires nine MLAs to cross the halfway mark.

The exit polls have fore-

cast a not-so-encouraging show by the Congress, indicating that the results may dash its hopes to returning to power.

The India Today-Axis My India exit polls predicted 16-18 seats for the BJP and 10-12 seats for the Congress.

while the NDA will get just 55 seats (plus or minus 11 seats), and others, including the LJP, will manage 8

(plus or minus 4 seats).

Today's Chanakaya was completely off the mark in predicting 2015 Bihar Assembly results and had to apologise for going wrong like all other pollsters. This time, as per Today's Chanakaya, the RJD and the Congress, along with their Left allies, are expected to bag 44 per cent vote share, the JD(U) and BJP will get 34 per cent while others may get 22 per cent (with a margin of error of 3 per cent). It further said that 35 per cent of voters cast their vote against the present dispensation because of unemployment, while 37 per cent gave poor ratings to Nitish Kumar and 63 per cent said they wanted a change in government.

In its pre poll predictions, News 24-Chanakaya had given the NDA 155 seats and 83 to Mahagathbandhan. The TV9-Bharatvarsh's exit polls gave 115-125 seats to Mahagathbandhan, 110-120 to NDA, 3-5 to LJP and 10-15 to others. Only Dainik Bhaskar's exit polls gave a clear margin to the NDA with 120-127 seats, adding that the MGB will get anything between 71-81, LJP 12-23 and others will get 19-27.

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## OTHER STORIES

**₹5,542 CR SPENT THROUGH KAPU CORPORATION**

From page 1

He said that although the scheme was launched in June, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy gave an opportunity for those who were left out to apply within a month, and now all those eligible women are provided with financial assistance. He explained that a total of 3,30,605 women were benefited through Kapu Nastam scheme and ₹495.87 crore has been credited to their accounts.

The Minister said that over ₹5,542 crore was spent through Kapu Corporation in the last 16 months, which was way more than the actual amount promised by the Chief Minister during elections.

Kapu Corporation chairman Jakkampudi Raja said Jagan Mohan Reddy had fulfilled almost 90 percent of the poll promises in just 16 months of forming the government.

### CM SEEKS TOUR OF NORTH ANDHRA TO KNOW REALITY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

On the directions of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, General Administration principal secretary Praveen Prakash will be touring five north coastal Andhra districts to personally look into the functioning and work in progress of various schemes. The main purpose of his tour is to have a first-hand understanding of the works under Mana Badi, Rythu Bharosa Kendras, Village Secretariats and YSR Village Clinics.

Starting from Srikakulam, he will visit the villages for inspection in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts on November 9. The next day, he will tour East and West Godavari districts.

During his visit, he will inspect the works on Mana Badi-Nudu Nedu Programme, the functioning of Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) and Village Secretariats.

# Isro getting ready for 3 more launches in 2020

Space agency taken 3 months for the launch of Saturday's mission

## Launch put off by nine minutes

From page 1

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has got a few more launches lined up after Saturday's successful mission placing an earth observation satellite in space.

Next in line are a PSLV mission carrying a CMS-01 satellite to space, the first developmental flight of an SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) carrying an EOS-02 satellite on board and the massive GSLV hoisting the DOS-03 satellite into orbit.

Isro chairman Dr K. Sivan disclosed this while commanding the employees for working under difficult conditions with skeletal staff in view of the Covid-19 regulations to launch Saturday's mission.

Speaking after the launch at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shar, Sriharikota, Dr Sivan said, "This mission is very special and unusual for Isro. The space activity cannot be done from 'work from home' mode. Each engineer has to be present at the lab. When talking about missions like these, each technician, employee has to come to Shar and work together. The employees worked very hard sacrificing their personal interests."

Stating that they had a successful rocket launch just one week before Diwali, in a lighter vein he told Isro staff to celebrate the success during the ensuing festival.

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan hailed the Isro scientists for successful launch of the PSLV C-49 launch vehicle and also for placing 10 satellites in the space orbit.

He wished many more successes to the scientists in the future.

(NSIL), department of space.

The Lithuania satellite, R2, is a technology demonstrator while the Luxembourg satellites, Kleos (KSM-1A/1B/1C/1D), are designed for maritime applications. The USA satellites, named Lemur (Lemur-1/2/3/4), are meant for multi-mission remote sensing.

Isro used the PSLV-DL variant, which has two strap-on boosters with 12 tonnes of propellant, for the mission. This variant was first used to launch a Microsat-R satellite on January 24, 2019.

This was the 51st launch of the PSLV, the 76th launch vehicle mission from the SDSC and the 38th launch from the first launch pad at SHAR.

The success of the mission, the first since the Covid-induced lockdown in March, was a big relief to the Isro authorities whose plans to launch at least 10 missions this year were affected by the pandemic.

Isro took almost three months for the launch of Saturday's mission due to the Covid-19 regulations which mandated use of limited manpower. Isro closed the rocket launch viewing gallery for the public and the media was not allowed to witness the launch from the space centre.

In view of the Covid-19 guidelines, former chairmen of Isro and directors of various Isro units were not invited to witness the launch.

### ISRO TEAM STAYED AT SHAR TO PROTECT IT FROM COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, NOV. 7

In view of the pandemic, the workforce involved in Saturday's launch of the PSLV-C49 rocket was confined to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota range (Shar), during the last 10 days.

More than 200 employees including scientists, engineers and administrative staff were accommodated at the SDSC. "It is like living in a bio-bubble, similar to what the cricketers participating in the IPL are in," a senior official of Shar told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Nellore Collector K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu said the district administration had extended support for the launch since the last two months. "We had depated a team of doctors to Shar and also sent buses equipped with testing kits to screen SDSC employees living in the Space Colony at Sullurpetta and Shar," Chakradhar Babu told this newspaper.

He said all engineers and scientists coming to Shar from other centres in the country for launch operations were screened by the medical teams he had stationed at the spaceport. "We also arranged security for the Earth Observation Satellite when it was brought to Shar by road from Bengaluru," the collector said.

More than 200 employees including scientists, engineers and administrative staff, were accommodated at the SDSC.

Protests against attacks on Dalits, minorities; police arrest leaders

MD ILYAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

AP police have arrested leaders of Dalit and minority organisations, who were organising a bandh protesting against the increasing attacks on Dalits and minorities under the YSRC government.

Activists belonging to Jaibheem Access Justice (JAJ), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), AP, and other organisations started a rally on Saturday and squatted at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada raising slogans against the government and demanding protection for Dalits, minorities and other suppressed sections of the society.

Following this, police took into custody JAJ president Jada Sravan Kumar, IUML AP, leader Khaja Vali and others. Sravan Kumar said earlier Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, then as an Opposition leader, had without any difficulty conducted his padayatra. But he is now putting restrictions on holding of protests by others, which is highly objectionable.

IUML AP, president Basheer Ahmad said instead of protecting Dalits and minorities, the YSRC government was suppressing members of the two communities using police. He demanded unconditional release of all the arrested leaders and activists.

TD AP president K. Atchannaidu strongly objected to the "highhanded manner" in which the YSRC government had suppressed the bandh call

Dalits happy in YSRC govt, says MP Suresh

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

BC, SC, ST and minorities, the TD and some vested interests are conspiring against the government for their personal interests.

He said that unlike in the previous government, where Dalits were insulted and assaulted by TD leaders, they are happy under the rule of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Slamming some Dalit leaders who are claiming that they would unite all the Dalits against the Chief Minister, Suresh said all the Dalits are united and supporting Jagan Mohan Reddy, which was the reason why Chandrababu Naidu lost the elections in 2019.

ernment was suppressing members of the two communities using police. He charged that women protesters, who were exercising their democratic right of protest in Vijayawada, were intimidated by the police.

He alleged that in the past 17 months, there have been over 1,200 cases of atrocities targeting Dalits in the state.

**YSRC doing vengeful politics, alleges Naidu**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

notice was given to former MP Sabbam Hari despite the status quo orders issued by the High Court till Monday.

Naidu deplored that there was no focus on development as YSRC leaders were making it a single-point agenda to harass political opponents.

He said that the government was not hesitating to violate orders of the courts in its haste to intimidate opponents.



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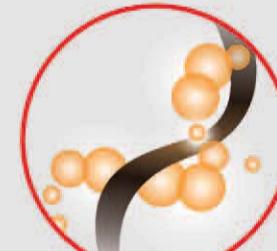
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Min: 24.8°C  
RH: 71%  
Rainfall: NIL  
Forecast: Haze.  
Max/Min temp:  
32/24°C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+41,039)	(+588)
84,97,319	1,26,116
covid19india.org	

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,607)	(+6)
TS: 2,48,891	1,372
(+2,367)	(+11)
AP: 8,40,730	6,779

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,99,64,915	DEATHS
12,53,156	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	216

worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula  
Saptami till 7.27 am  
Star: Pushyami till 8.42 am  
Varjyam: 9.28 pm to 11.04 pm  
Durmuhrat: 4.08 pm to 4.53 pm  
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR  
Rabi-ul Awval 21, 1442 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajr: 5.50 am  
Zohar: 1.30 pm  
Asar: 4.45 pm  
Magrib: 6.15 pm  
Isha: 8.15 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 5.22 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM  
MOONRISE TODAY 11.50 PM  
MOONSET TOMORROW 12.18 AM

## COUNTER POINT



Let's celebrate Diwali now, we may not get the chance after the results!

## 'NEW CHALLENGES IN HEALTHCARE'

Visakhapatnam: The global pandemic brought huge healthcare challenges but also opened up several opportunities, said Kiran Mazumdar Shaw in Gitam convocation address.

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## Naveen out, KCR's aide is top spy



T S Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao sprang a surprise on babus by dumping senior cop Naveen Chand, who recently retired as Intelligence chief. This is a crucial post — the incumbent moves closely with the political boss. At a time when babus were expecting Naveen to continue in office in one form or the other even after his superannuation, the Chief Minister decided otherwise. His confidant and retired intelligence official Prabhakar Rao was asked to manage the show till a regular

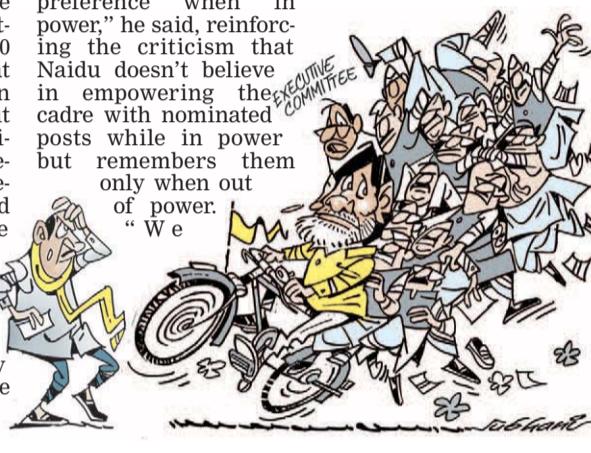
officer is found for the job. There may be no surprise if the ad-hoc arrangement continues. There is another version that Naveen was not very keen on staying in the job because Prabhakar Rao wielded more influence with KCR than him in intelligence matters.

## Airbus needed for TD's jumbo panel

N. Naidu, a Cong-ressman in his early days, has taken a leaf out of the party's book decades after leaving it. He recently announced the state executive committee with more than 200 leaders, something that has never happened in the TD. There are about 18 each of vice-presidents and general secretaries and 100-odd secretaries. It reminded everyone of the Congress culture in which everyone is a leader and the party has no cadre. Naidu's move left the leaders unhappy because they feel the sanctity of the post is lost. 'As it is, we are in the Opposition

and carry less weight. Having these many leaders leaves us in an awkward position,' lamented a leader. 'Naidu should have given us preference when in power,' he said, reinforcing the criticism that Naidu doesn't believe in empowering the cadre with nominated posts while in power but remembers them only when out of power.'

"We need an Airbus to carry the state committee to the Mahanadu," quipped a leader.



## TRS discusses margin in Dubbak

While victory appears certain for the TRS in the Dubbak bypoll, there is some post-election uncertainty over the margin. In the initial days, it was stated that the party would get a one-lakh vote majority over either the Congress or the BJP. In fact, the popular narrative was that everyone else would lose their deposits. Talk of the margin has now ebbed. Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav seemed to inadvertently express these concerns. Replying to a journalist, he said,

albeit in a lighter vein, "The winner will be allowed to enter the Assembly even if she wins by a margin of one vote." This reflects the mood, a party leader said. The answer will be available by noon on November 12.

## Neet qualified wait for list

**SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC**

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

Students who have qualified in NEET UG – 2020 are a worried lot as NTR University of Health Sciences has not yet announced the merit list for AP.

Several students who

have secured All India ranks will have to opt for their college for admission into MBBS / dental when Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) holds its second counselling from November 13 to 18. Once they exercise this option, they will not be able to change their option.

If the aspirants know that they have got a better rank at the state level, they will exercise the choice for a better college on the basis of their state rank rather than their nation-wide rank.

Meanwhile, Telangana has already announced its state merit list on November 1.

The answer will be available by noon on November 12.

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have secured All India ranks will have to opt for their college for admission into MBBS / dental when Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) holds its second counselling from November 13 to 18. Once they exercise this option, they will not be able to change their option.

If the aspirants know that they have got a better rank at the state level, they will exercise the choice for a better college on the basis of their state rank rather than their nation-wide rank.

Meanwhile, Telangana has already announced its state merit list on November 1.

The answer will be available by noon on November 12.

Neet qualified wait for list

Sampat G. Samritan | DC

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

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**IN BRIEF**

**STAN SWAMY SEEKS COURT NOD TO USE SIPPER**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC Bhopal, Nov. 7

DC CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI, NOV. 7

Father Stan Swamy, the 83-year-old tribal rights activist arrested in the Elgar Parishad-alleged Maoist links case, has moved a special court in Mumbai for permission to use a straw and sipper in Taloja jail in Navi Mumbai, where he is currently lodged.

Swamy, through his lawyer Kritika Agarwal, moved the plea before the special NIA court on Friday seeking straw and sipper in jail citing health issues. "I cannot hold a glass as my hands are unsteady due to Parkinson's," Swamy said in his application.

The special court judge D.E. Kothalkar has asked the national probe agency to file its reply on the matter on November 26.

Swamy was arrested from his home in Ranchi last month in connection with the violence in Bhima Koregaon near Pune in January 2018.

Last month, the NIA had filed a charge-sheet in the matter against eight people, including Swamy. The investigating agency has alleged that Swamy was actively involved in the activities of the CPI (Maoist).

**ACTIVE COVID CASES STAY BELOW 6 LAKH**

**New Delhi, Nov. 7:** India's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 84,62,080 with 50,356 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 78 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,25,562 with 577 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

**SHIVRAJ SAYS NATH WOOING BJP MLAs**

NAYEER AZAD | DC with agency inputs PATNA, NOV. 7

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Saturday traded charges against each other of poaching MLAs from the rival camps even as ruling BJP and Opposition Congress waited for the outcome of the November 3 by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies.

Mr Chouhan said he was informed by some BJP MLAs that the former chief minister Mr Nath was wooing them to join Congress. But, the BJP legislators have spurned the offer, Mr Chouhan claimed.

"It is Mr Nath who brought the culture of luring MLAs of the rival party to Congress in Madhya Pradesh. We have never approached the Congress MLAs who resigned from their party and joined BJP. They (Congress legislators) volunteered to join BJP," Mr Chouhan said.

As many as 22 Congress lawmakers resigned from the assembly and from their party in March to pull down the Nath government. Shivraj said Mr Nath first took the step to woo 2 BJP MLAs into his party after Congress came to power in the state in 2018. "Mr Nath has introduced the culture of horse trading in MP by wooing 2 BJP MLAs. He is now accusing BJP of trading MLAs," he added.

Earlier, Mr Nath has accused BJP of trying to "purchase" Congress MLAs. "I have been informed by some Congress MLAs that they were getting offers from BJP to join the party," Mr Nath said.

# 55% vote in Bihar's crucial final phase, results on 10th

Voting held for 78 seats in 15 districts of north Bihar and Seemanchal



Security personnel escort a man with physical disability as he arrives to cast his vote at a polling station for the third phase of Bihar elections at Raxaul in East Champaran district on Saturday. - PTI

Bihar on Saturday recorded a voter turnout of around 55 per cent during the third and final phase of polls. Voting in this phase was held in 78 constituencies spread across 15 districts of north Bihar, Seemanchal and Kosi region of the state.

Like the previous two phases, the final phase too is considered crucial for the ruling NDA led by the JD(U) and for the Grand Alliance comprising the RJD, Congress and Left parties. However, the entry of parties like LJP, Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM and Pappu Yadav's JAP made the fight triangular in most seats.

Chirag Paswan, who had pulled out of the NDA citing ideological differences with chief minister Nitish Kumar ahead of seat-shifting, emerged as the third force and fielded candidates on 42 seats, mostly against the JD(U) and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) during the third phase of polls.

Political analysts believe that the NDA as well as the Grand Alliance are set to witness a tough fight in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region where AIMIM has a visible influence and has fielded 15 candidates.

"Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM has a visible influence in some of the seats in the Seemanchal region. The party may cut votes and cause a major dent in the NDA as well as the Grand Alliance in this phase of polls," a political observer said.

Similarly, Pappu Yadav's JAP is also likely to make

the contest tough for NDA and the Grand Alliance in the Kosi region where Yadavs and Backwards are the deciding factors. Pappu Yadav contested from Madhepura.

A total of 1,204 candidates are in the fray for the 78 Assembly seats out of which the RJD had fielded the maximum (46 candidates), followed by LJP's 42, JD(U)'s 37, BJP's 35, Congress' 25, the RLSP's 25, BSP's 20, AIMIM's 16, VIP's 5, CPI-ML's 5, CPI's 2 and HAM's one candidate.

Casting of votes began at 7 am at all 33,782 polling stations where as many EVM sets and VVPAT machines were installed

and paramilitary forces deployed to maintain order, officials said.

In 2015 polls, the JD(U) as part of the Grand Alliance had won 23 out of 78 seats in the third phase of polls followed by BJP's 20, RJD's 20, Congress' 11 and others four seats. In the previous two phases, the voter turnout was 54.26 and 54.05 per cent. The results will be declared on November 10.

During all the three phases, the BJP campaigned aggressively for NDA candidates. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed 12 rallies across the state. Besides, UP CM Yogi Adityanath also held rallies across the state to

campaign for the NDA.

Other Central leaders of the BJP who toured Bihar for campaigning were party's national president J.P. Nadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh, MOS home Nitayanand Rai, Union ministers Giriraj Singh and Ashwini Choubey.

In all the three phases the BJP took the campaign beyond local issues by speaking about the abrogation of Article 370 and Pakistan-backed terror.

Mr Adityanath took up Ram Temple in Ayodhya and triple talaq and while addressing rallies.

He had created a flutter by bringing up the CAA and NRC issue while cam-

paigning in Seemanchal ahead of the third phase of polls.

Meanwhile, the younger brother of jailed criminal Bittu Singh, wanted in more than a dozen murder and extortion cases, was shot dead on Saturday near a polling booth in the district when he was going to cast the ballot, police said.

The 30-year-old Beni Singh was shot dead at Sarsi village in Dhamdaha assembly constituency by a bike-borne assailant, Superintendent of Police Vishal Sharma said.

On Mr Shah he said, "He wanted to know the situation. I tried to explain. He tried to understand."

## SOVAN TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN BJP AHEAD OF WB ELECTIONS

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 7

In what appears to be a major takeaway for union home minister Amit Shah from his West Bengal visit, BJP leader Sovan Chatterjee has asserted within two days of meeting him that he never quit the party.

The former Kolkata mayor, who was once chief minister Mamata Banerjee's close aide and also her cabinet colleague with three portfolios, maintained distance from the BJP for over a year following a spat with its state leadership soon after his defection from the Trinamul Congress.

To get back its Narada sting scam accused Behala East MLA, the TMC meanwhile renewed efforts which saw Mr Chatterjee meeting the CM in person and also getting security cover from the state government. But his meeting, in presence of his close friend Baishakhi Banerjee, with Mr Shah on November 5 dashed all hopes of the TMC for his return to the party.

On Saturday Mr Chatterjee said, "I took the BJP membership 18 months ago. But did I take any other party's membership since then? Or has there been my severance from the BJP? Did I ever say anything like that? So where does such a scope arise from?" He also hinted to become active for the first time in the party ahead of the Assembly Elections.

On Mr Shah he said, "He wanted to know the situation. I tried to explain. He tried to understand."

## WORLD

### WH CHIEF OF STAFF TESTS VIRUS +VE

**Washington, Nov. 7:** White House chief of staff Mark Meadows has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the latest Trump administration official to contract the disease, which has killed over 2,36,000 Americans.

It was not immediately clear how 61-year-old Meadows — who has often appeared at public events without a face mask — was infected. A White House official told Fox News that Meadows was "doing well."

Meadows' positive test comes weeks after President Trump and first lady Melania Trump contracted the Coronavirus and recovered.

### INDIAN ELECTED TO UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**United Nations, Nov. 7:** In a significant victory for India at the United Nations, Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. In the Group of Asia-Pacific States, Maitra, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, obtained 126 votes. The 193-member General Assembly appoints members of the Advisory Committee. Members are selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.

In the group, Ali Mohammed Faq Al-Dabag of Iraq drew 64 votes. The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with administrative and budgetary issues, recommended Maitra to the Assembly for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

The victory comes as India gets ready to sit in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 2021.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said that Maitra was elected on Friday to the UN ACABQ "in a strong display of support by UN member states".

# Is Murdoch dumping Trump?

Media magnate Murdoch-owned Fox News helped Don come to power in '16



Donald Trump

Trump-Biden debate, are very well respected professionals.

On the in-your-face editorial side stands Fox star Sean Hannity, who is very close to Trump and said on Thursday evening, "Americans have every right to be suspicious ... to distrust the legitimacy of the results." McCall said that the way Fox News has treated Trump since the election and its early calling of Arizona for Biden show the more serious side of the network is trying to "operate as independently as possible from the opinion section and even from the ownership." "These people have their own journalistic standards that they want to uphold."

But Reece Peck, who wrote a book about Fox News called "Fox Populism", said this distancing could alienate some viewers and prompt them to switch to another news source, such as OAN, a small new outfit, ultra-conservative and extremely pro-Trump.

Behind Fox News, which chalked up 14.1 million viewers on US election night, is, of course, Murdoch. The 89-year-old media mogul is known for his conservative views but over the past few months has come to grips with the idea of a Biden win.

— AFP

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The 77-year-old six-term Democratic senator who triumphed over incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential election, ran twice unsuccessfully for president — in 1988 and 2008. The presidential dreams that the veteran leader from Delaware had harboured since childhood seemed all but over for a third time until he won South Carolina's Democratic Party primary on February 29, forcing most rivals out of the race and making one of the most dramatic comebacks in American political history.

Biden served two terms in the White House as former president Barack Obama's vice president, capitalised on that experience to portray himself as a tested leader and a better alternative to Trump.

While accepting the Democratic presidential nomination in August, Biden pledged to restore the "soul of America", and be an "ally of the light, not the darkness." "The current president has cloaked America in darkness for much too long. Too much anger. Too much fear. Too much division. If you

entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I will be an ally of the light, not of the darkness," he said.

He has a strong track record of being an ardent advocate of a strong India-US relationship. From playing a key role in the passage of India-US civil nuclear deal during a Republican administration to setting up the goal of a \$500 billion in bilateral trade, Biden has strong ties with the Indian leadership across the aisle and has a large number of Indian-Americans within his close circuit. At a fundraiser in July, Biden had said that India and the United States were natural partners. "That partnership, a strategic partnership, is necessary and important in our security," he said when asked whether India is critical to the US' national security.

Biden said that he was proud to have played a role in securing Congressional approval for the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which he said was a "big deal". "Helping open the door to great progress in our relationship and strengthening our strategic partnership with India was a high priority in the Obama-Biden administration and will be a high priority if I'm elected president," he had said. — PTI

### Bannon quits fraud case

the decision.

The lawyer quit after Bannon suggested on an online broadcast that Fauci and Wray should be beheaded for being disloyal to the president.

The remarks prompted Twitter to permanently suspend Bannon's account.

"I'd put the heads on pikes" as a warning to federal bureaucrats, Bannon said on video.

"You either get with the programme or you are gone," Bannon, 66, is facing charges he ripped off Trump supporters as on Friday.

— AP

organiser of a group called "We Build The Wall" that portrayed itself as eager to help the president build a barrier along the US-Mexico border. He has pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors have accused Bannon and co-defendants of misappropriating money from the group, which raised \$25 million from thousands of donors who thought their cash would be used to build the wall.

Prosecutors declined comment on Friday.

— AP

and the anger outside their doors made them fear for the safety of their employees. Roughly 100 Trump supporters gathered for a third straight day in front of the elections centre in Phoenix, where hundreds of workers were processing and counting ballots.

"Arrest the poll workers!" the crowd chanted, demanding four more years in office for Trump.

Election officials in several states where Democrat Joe Biden was ahead

— AP

Protesters crying foul over vote counts simmer safety concerns

Washington, Nov. 7: Pro-Trump protesters — some of them openly carrying rifles and handguns — rallied outside vote-tabulation centres in a few cities around the country Friday, responding to groundless accusations from President Donald Trump that the Democrats were trying to steal the White House.

Election officials in several states where Democrat Joe Biden was ahead

of the count in Los Angeles on Friday. — AP

A police officer directs as demonstrators march during a protest after the elections in Los Angeles on Friday. — AP

# Sun have an edge

**Upbeat Hyderabad face inconsistency Delhi in Qualifier-2**

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7: Peaking at the right time and with all their boxes ticked, Sunrisers Hyderabad are certain to hold sway over a dishevelled Delhi Capitals in the second Indian Premier League qualifier here on Sunday.

The past couple of weeks have been a picture in contrast for the two franchises.

After an underwhelming first half, Sunrisers Hyderabad started pushing the envelope with the mercurial David Warner marshalling his resources well.

Capitals, on the other hand, looked like serious contenders till their first nine games, winning seven in that phase before an inexplicable slump saw them lose five out of their next six matches with skipper Shreyas Iyer looking all at sea.

The current situation notwithstanding, young Iyer would want to lead the Capitals to their first summit clash in 13 editions while Warner wouldn't mind adding another silverware to his 2016 triumph.

In fact, if he can win the next two games, Warner could boast of guiding comparatively one of the more inexperienced teams in this IPL.

For Capitals, the biggest worry has been their top-order woes—especially the first three slots where Shikhar Dhawan (525 in 15 games) has shone the brightest.

Prithvi Shaw's (228 from 13 games) technique against top quality fast bowling has left a lot to be desired and Ajinkya Rahane (111 from 7 games) has had only one knock of note so far.

Something that would definitely worry coach Ricky Ponting is the number of ducks by the top-order—nine. Dhawan has four, Shaw has three and Rahane didn't bother the scorers twice.

However, the bowling unit has done well save a few



SRH captain David Warner (left) with Delhi Capitals counterpart Shreyas Iyer. — BCCI

## NUMBERS GAME

### HEAD TO HEAD

#### OVERALL:

● Matches: 17 ● Hyderabad: 11 ● Delhi: 6

#### MEETING IN LEAGUE STAGE

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs in Abu Dhabi.

● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 88 runs at Dubai.

#### FOR THE RECORD

● Warner with 546 runs at an average of 42.00 in 15 innings of as many matches is the second highest run-getter in this IPL.

● Kagiso Rabada is the second highest wicket taker in this IPL with 25 wickets at an average of 19.48 in 15 innings of as many matches.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER

premier all-rounder Jason Holder acknowledged the fact.

Saha's groin injury, which ruled him out of the eliminator, might also keep him out of the second qualifier.

Rashid Khan's parsimonious economy rate of less than six runs per over, the unheralded T. Natarajan's subtle variations and Sandeep Sharma's ability to get some swing upfront only add to the strengths of Warner's team.

For Delhi Capitals however, the weak spots which they can exploit is the inexperience of two middle-order players — Priyam Garg and Abdul Samad — who are playing some of the biggest matches of their nascent careers.

— PTI

occasions like the first qualifier, where Mumbai Indians batting took them apart.

Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets), Anrich Nortje (20) and Ravichandran Ashwin (13

have done exceedingly well in most of the games.

Sunrisers' batting line-up, which has gathered momentum over the last few games, is well aware of that, and 'Orange Army's

## RCB SHOULD REMOVE VIRAT FROM HOT SEAT: GAMBHIR

New Delhi, Nov. 7: Former India opener and two-time IPL champion skipper Gautam Gambhir feels Virat Kohli's non-performance as Royal Challengers Bangalore captain should lead to his removal from the hot seat as it is now a question of accountability.

Known for his straight-talking, the hero of India's

two World title triumphs made it clear that Kohli's name as a leader shouldn't be taken alongside the likes of Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who are IPL's most successful captains.

Asked if Kohli should be removed from RCB's captaincy, Gambhir told *ESPNcricinfo*, "100 per cent,

because the problem is about accountability. Eight years into the tournament (without a trophy), eight years is a long time.

"Tell me any other captain forgot about captain, tell me any other player who would have got eight years and wouldn't have won the title and would have still continued with it," he added. —PTI

Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Hyderabad invites applications from the reputed service providers registered under Registrar of Companies for engagement of contractual staff (purely on contract basis) in various categories as per the MoEF&CC, New Delhi letter no. 6-11/2020-ROHQ dated 15.10.2020.

Detailed Documents, Terms of Reference and other terms and conditions are available at [www.moef.gov.in](http://www.moef.gov.in). The last time and date of the receipt of applications is **10.30 AM on 16th November 2020**.

(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests

Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Vijayawada

## NO.1 DJOKOVIC EMULATES GREAT SAMPRAS RECORD

Paris, Nov. 7: Novak Djokovic on Friday emulated childhood hero Pete Sampras by claiming the year-end world number one ranking for the sixth time.

Djokovic, 33, was confirmed in the position after Rafael Nadal, the only man who could deny him top spot, opted not to play in the Sofia event next week.

Djokovic was also a season-ending world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018.

"Pete was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true," said Djokovic.

The Serb star, a winner of 17 Grand Slam titles, had already moved past Sampras' tally of 286 weeks in the top spot in September.

Djokovic can go past all-time record-holder Roger Federer's mark of 310 weeks on March 8 next year.

"To finish the year as No.1 is one of the most impressive achievements in our sport, one which requires sustained excellence across the season," said ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi.

Djokovic has compiled a 39-3 winning season, picking up four titles — a record eighth Australian Open, Dubai, the Cincinnati tournament, which was staged in New York, and in Rome. — AFP

Regd No.J/M/RNP/T2  
Printed and Published from Visakhapatnam by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, Survey No.1/3A, Beach Road, Near Kailasgiri Rope Way, Sector-9, M.V. Colony, Visakhapatnam-530016. Phones: 255233/255234/2553806. Fax: 255285. Grams: CHRONICLE. Editor: Kaushik Mittra. RNI Registration No.44813/85.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, नर और जलवायन परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
एकीकृत शेषीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office  
विजयवाडा / Vijayawada

Camp Office: National Tiger Conservation Authority

Regional Office (Southern Zone) Bengaluru – 560 076

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F.No.15-16/2020-NTCA (ROSZ/483)

Dated : 06th November, 2020

#### NOTIFICATION

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(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests

Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Vijayawada

## ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK YEDDUMAILARAM, SANGAREDDY DIST PENSION ADALAT NOTICE

NO.13113/P/MC/OFMK/2020 DATE: 08-11-2020  
SUB: Conduction of nation-wide Pension Adalats in the month of December, 2020 by Ordnance Factory Medak, YEDDUMAILARAM, SANGAREDDY DIST. 502205

THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING for which a suitable date shall be communicated in due course. The main objective of this Adalat would be prompt resolution of pensioner's grievances, within the framework of extant policy guidelines.

Therefore, all concerned (Pensioners/ Family Pensioners/ Dependant Family Members) who has served last at ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK, YEDDUMAILARAM, SANGAREDDY DIST are requested to submit their application/ grievances with full details along with all supporting documents on or before **17th November 2020** if any, to Shri H.K. PAIKRA, JT. GENERAL MANAGER, ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK, YEDDUMAILARAM, SANGAREDDY DIST, 502205.

PH: 040-23283419/ 040-23283472.  
Email: [ofmkadmin.ofb@ofb.gov.in](mailto:ofmkadmin.ofb@ofb.gov.in)

NOTE: ONLY THOSE GRIEVANCES ARE TO BE TAKEN UP WHICH FALL WITHIN THE EXISTANT PENSION POLICY/ GUIDELINES.

Sd/- (H.K.PAIKRA)  
JT. GENERAL MANAGER  
FOR GENERAL MANAGER

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