THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | TUESDAY 24 | NOVEMBER 2020

### **WEATHER**

Min: 25°C Rainfall: 4.9 mm

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Karthigai 9 Tithi: Dashami Star:Puratathi, Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm Yamagandam: 9 am to 10.30 am **PRAYERS** 

Fajar: 4.57 am Zohar: 12 noon **Asar:** 3.13 pm Maghrib: 5.39 pm Isha: 6.54 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.12 AM MOONRISE TODAY 1.57 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 2.06 AM** 



CASES **DEATHS** (+35,315)

(+440)1,34,213 91,75,627

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS** 

covid19india.org

(+1,624)

11,622 TN: 7,71,619

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,92,53,132 DEATHS **13,98,117** COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 218

### One hurt as buses

worldometers.info

collide in Koyambedu bus terminal

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Chennai: One person was injured when two buses collided head-on in Koyambedu bus terminal on Monday night.According to the between Chennai-Vellore collided head-on with another bus heading Tiruvannamalai from the bus terminal on Monday. The incident happened when Ashok Kumar, the driver of the

Tiruvannamalai bus rammed into another bus to avoid hitting a pedestrian. The front portion of the buses were damaged and the pedestrian has been injured. The Koyambedu police arrested the driver. Ashok Kumar. Investigations



Our MLAs are demanding 33% quota in the cabinet for those without criminal cases!

**DC CORRESPONDENT** 

The state government on

Monday put the district

administrations to be on guard with the depression

over the Bay of Bengal

likely to intensify into a

cyclonic storm, Nivar, by Tuesday and cross the

coast as a severe cyclonic

The government also

announced suspension of

inter and intra-district bus services in seven districts

from Tuesday, till further

orders. Trains were par-

tially and fully cancelled

The depression over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal

moved west-northwest-wards at a speed of 11

kmph and lay centred over

the same region, about 520 km east-southeast of

Puducherry and 560 km southeast of Chennai at

11.30 am Monday, the ndia Meteorological Depart-

The depression is very

likely to intensify into a

cyclonic storm during the

next 24 hours, the India Meteorological Depart-ment (IMD) said in a bul-

"It is very likely to move

cross Tamil Nadu and

Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram around

November 25 afternoon as

a severe cyclonic storm

with a wind speed of 100-

110 kmph gusting to 120

SC extends parole

of Perarivalan for

New Delhi, Nov. 23: The

Ajay Rastogi also directed

the Tamil Nadu govern-

more week.

another week

northwestwards

kmph," it said.

ment said.

storm a day after.

in some districts.

with agency inputs

IIT-M develops hi-tech survey craft for ports, waterways



WORLD | 5 Blinken to be US **Secretary of State** 

SPORT | 8 Medvedev stuns Thiem to win title

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**Nivar to hit coast tomorrow** 

TN districts put on alert as

### **SC SEEKS STATUS REPORT**

### States reimpose controls to check fresh wave of Covid-19

with agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV.23

From night curfews to shutting down markets and now even some contemplating stopping incoming passengers from places like Delhi -- panic has gripped several Indian states as new cases of novel coronavirus are on sharp rise in Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Guajarat, Assam and Harvana.

Upset with chaos and rising cases, the Supreme Court on Monday pulled up Delhi, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra and Assam governments saving worse things will happen in December if they are not well prepared and sought status reports from

them in two days.
India on Monday had a total of 91.40 lakh cases of Covid-19 out of which 44,059 were new cases. The death overall is now 1.34 lakh out with 511 new fatalities.

The Supreme Court sought status reports from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam governments on steps taken by them related to the Covid-19 situation and what more efforts are being made by them to deal with the pandemic.

"Things have worsened in the last two weeks, in November. Our question is what is your present situation? What more steps are you taking? That is

### No severe cases in trial of AstraZeneca vaccine

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 23

No hospitalisation or severe cases were noted among those who had received the AstraZeneca vaccine AZD1222, according to interim analysis of 131 trial participants, a company release said on

There were two different doses regimes used by the company. Between them, one regime has shown a better profile, the it said in a detailed analysis.

There were 23,000 participants being assessed, who among them would

the Delhi government. Saying that Gujarat is

also pulled up the Gujarat

rise in fresh cases, is contemplating having checks on arrivals from other states like Delhi. The government has made it mandatory for the inbound passengers combe following two regimes of half dose and full dose, and two full doses of AZD1222. In one dose regime (n=72), where the full dose was followed one month apart, the efficacy was 90 per cent. In another dose (n=8) regime, it was found that the efficacy was 62 per cent.

The combined analysis of both the dose regimes (n=11) showed that the efficacy of the vaccine was 70 per cent.

The company said that more data will continue to accumulate with efficacy and safety being of prime importance. **P4** importance.

certificate with them.

what we are going to look into," the SC bench told worst after Delhi and Maharashtra, the court

government for allowing weddings and gatherings despite rising cases. Maharashtra, that is again witnessing sharp

ing from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat and Rajasthan to carry a Covid negative

In a desperate measure the Delhi government first ordered shutting down of heavily crowded markets in West Delhi -- Nangloi and Punjabi Basti market – after it was found that wearing masks and social distancing were not being followed there. The orders were later withdrawn. However, street vendors were stopped from setting up stalls to prevent crowding in several parts of Delhi. Himachal Pradesh has imposed night curfew

in four districts — Shimla, Kullu, Mandi and Kangra that are witnessing high

### **India launches hi-tech security** audit to find out more tunnels

Several parts of Chennai witness intermittent showers late Monday evening.

Remain at home,

**CM tells people** 

in cyclone route

DC CORRESPONDENT

Monday called upon the people in the districts

that might be affected

by cyclone Nivar not to

step out of their homes,

not get close of electrici-

ty posts or transform-ers, protect their per-sonal documents from

get wet and update

themselves about the

developments through radio sets.

Minister

CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Edappadi

Palaniawami

**DC CORRESPONDENT** NEW DELHI, NOV. 23

Under its influence, w i d e s p r e a d

rainfall/thunderstorm

were "very likely" over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

and Karaikal during

November 24 to 26, the

Isolated extremely heavy rainfall was very likely over Pudukottai,

Thanjavur, Tiruvarur,

Karaikal, Nagapattinam,

Cuddalore, Ariyalur and

Perambalur, Kalla-kurichi, Puducherry, Villupuram, Tiruv-annamalai, Chengal-pet between Wednesday and

As a result, a high alert

has been sounded in Nagapattinam and fisher-

men have been asked not

to venture into the sea till November 26, the IMD bul-

■ More stories on P2

IMD warned.

Thursday.

Supreme Court Monday extended by a week the parole of A.G. Perarivalan, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Security forces have launched a major security have Gandhi assassination audit using hi-tech gadgets, including satellite imagery, to find tunnels along the entire Line of case, for undergoing medical check-up.
A bench comprising
Justices L. Nageswara
Rao, Hemant Gupta and Control and International Border with Pakistan.

The move comes in the

wake of the revelations that Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists ment to provide police escort to Perarivalan during his visit to the hospikilled in Nagrota encounters Friday morning had tal. The parole, granted to the convict by the Madras used a tunnel to infiltrate. High Court, was ending on Monday and now stands extended by one Sources said the cross-border underground tunnel unearthed in Samba sector was 160 metres into 'As prayed for, we furthe Indian side and estither extend the parole of mated to be 40 meters on the petitioner by one week the Pakistani side of IB. Security sources claimed that considering the perfrom today and direct the respondent — State of Tamil Nadu to provide the fection with which the necessary police escort to tunnel was dug, there was the petitioner to enable a possibility of Pakistani him to visit the hospital establishment's engineer-

ing support. The exit was in thick bushes meticulously covered with soil and wild growth. The mouth of the



The Samba tunnel 160 metres into the Indian side. Estimated to be **40** meters on the Pakistani side

Aim at zero loss

panel tells states

New Delhi, Nov. 23: The National Crisis

M a n a g e m e n t Committee (NCMC),

Secretary Rajiv Gauba,

on Monday reviewed the status of cyclone 'Nivar

and directed that fisher-

men should not be

allowed to venture out

It directed everyone

concerned to continue

to work with an aim of

zero loss of life and

early restoration of nor-

malcy in the affected

Cabinet

headed by

to sea.

of life, Central

Exit was in thick bushes meticulously covered with soil and wild growth.

unnel mouth was strengthened and reinforced by sand bags with markings of Karachi.

tunnel was strengthened and reinforced by sand bags with markings of

The freshly dug tunnel appears to have been used for the first time. Based on leads available consequent to the Nagrota encounter, it seems that Jaish terrorists were picked up by a truck from village Jatwal in Samba on the national

The nearest Pakistani border outposts where the tunnel was found are Chak Bhura, Rajab Sahid and Asif Sahid. "We suspect that some

more such tunnels might

close to the border. Due to increased security and the anti-infiltration grid it is become increasingly difficult for militants to infiltrate. Hence terrorists supported by Pakistani establishment are using alternate techniques to cross into India," a senior security

have been constructed

Now a detailed survey is being done all along the border to check for more such tunnels. Sources claimed this audit would be completed within the next few days to ensure no infiltration takes place

official said.

### Kerala puts cyber abuse law on hold DC CORRESPONDENT that causes injury to the THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

**GOVT FACES FLAK** 

Relenting to the strong protest from within and outside, the CPM-led LDF government in Kerala on Monday decided to put on hold the controversial amendment to Kerala Police Act which made posting offen-sive remarks on social media liable for imprisonment and fine or both.

The amendment was made to Kerala Police Act by introducing 118 A through ordinance route triggering widespread criticism from Left sympathisers, human rights activists and legal experts. Under the provisions of the new law, 'whoever makes, expresses, publishes or disseminates through any kind of mode of communication, any matter or subject for threatening, abusing, humiliating or defaming a person or class of persons, knowing it to be false and mind, reputation or property of such person or class of persons or any other person in whom they have interest shall on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both." This means that a person can face three years in jail and a fine of Rs 10,000 for any social media post that is considered "off-

ensive" or "defamatory".

"The amendment has met with criticism from those who supported the LDF and also those who have always safeguarded democratic values. Under these circumstances the government has decided to put the ordinance on hold. The matter will be placed before the Assembly for detailed discussions and opinion of all sections will be elicited before deciding the future course," the chief minister said in a statement. **P4** 

Netflix and makers of the series, and removal of "objectionable scenes" from



### **Former Assam** CM Tarun Gogoi passes away

**Guwahati, Nov. 23:** Veteran Congress leader and a three-term former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi died here on Monday while undergoing treatment for post-Covid-19 complications, state health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

He was 84 and is survived by wife Dolly, daughter Chandrima and son Gaurav, a Lok Sabha

Gogoi, thrice chief minister of the state from 2001 to 2016, breathed his last at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) at 5.34 pm, Sarma

The doctors conducted an ECG and found that his heart has stopped, following which the GMCH superintendent confirmed that he is no more, he said. President Ram Nath Kovind said Gogoi's President Ram passing away marked the end of an era and his long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in the state.

"Extremely sad to know of the demise of Shri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam. The country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. His long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam," Kovind tweeted. He will always be rememhered for the development of Assam, he said in anoth-

### **Delhi HC rules change in PCA does not** apply to 2G case, rejects Raja's appeal

New Delhi, Nov, 23: The Delhi high court Monday dismissed various pleas challenging the legality of CBI's appeal against the trial court verdict in the 2G scam case in which former telecom minister A, Raja and others were acquitted and said that it was filed

duly by the probe agency. The high court also held that the amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act would not apply to the offences that had already taken place and rejected several other pleas which raised the issue. It further said that the CBI was not bound to submit or disclose a copy of the record and it cannot be directed to file approval

letters or other related docu-ments relating to the CBI

for treatment. List the

matter on January 19, 2021 for final disposal,"

the bench said.

Justice Brijesh Sethi released the appeals from his court and said that subject to the orders of the Chief Justice, they will be listed before another bench on December 1. The pleas by various acquitted individuals, including former telecom secretary Siddharth Behura, Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetable Pvt Ltd director Rajiv Agarwal and Kalaignar TV director Sharad Kumar claimed that the CBI's appeal was not maintainable as there was lack of requisite sanction/approval from the central government.

an official said.

controversial kissing scenes do not appear to have filmed inside a temple in Maheshwar town in the dis-

Earlier in the day, Shergill and Khurana were booked by Rewa police on a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) national secretary Gaurav Tiwari who demanded apology from Netflix and the makers of the series, and removal of 'objectionable which he stated were also

scenes". "encouraging love jihad". "I had asked officials to examine the series 'A Suitable Boy' being streamed on

Netflix to check if kissing

"Kissing scenes (filmed) inside a temple of Lord Maheshwar (a historic town located on the banks of Narmada in MP) have hurt the sentiments of Hindus. This is also encouraging 'love jihad'," Tiwari had stated

religious sentiments. The examination prima facie found that these scenes are particular religion," Mishra said in a video statement. "On the basis of a complaint

filed by Gaurav Tiwari, an FIR is being registered under section 295 (A) (malicious acts to outrage and insulting the religious feelings and beliefs) of the

Indian Penal Code (IPC) in Rewa against Netflix officials- Monika Shergill and Ambika Khurana,: he added. Rewa superintendent of police Rakesh Kumar Singh told reporters that the FIR has been regis-

memorandum to the Rewa superintendent of police demanding an apology from

"A Suitable Boy". "Kissing scenes (filmed) inside a temple of Lord Maheshwar (a historic town located on the banks of Narmada in Madhya Pradesh) have hurt the sentiments of Hindus. This is

also encouraging 'love jihad'," Tiwari had stated. He had named Monika Shergill and Ambika Khurana in his complaint application. The six-part Netflix series has been directed by renowned filmmaker Mira Nair, who is known for her criticallyacclaimed films.

# Kissing scene on temple campus has Netflix in soup

Bhopal/Indore, Nov. 23: An FIR was registered in Madhya Pradesh on Monday against two executives of OTT platform
Netflix for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through its web series A Suitable Boy which showed kissing scenes purportedly on the campus of a temple,

The FIR has named Monika Shergill, Vice President, Content (Netflix) and Ambika Khurana, Director, Public Policies (Netflix), Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said. Meanwhile, collector of Khargone district Anugraha P told PTI that the scenes in it were filmed inside a temple and if it hurt hurting the sentiments of a

tered and further investiga-On Saturday, Gaurav Tiwari had submitted a

#### SHORT

**Action plan drawn** 

up: Pondy CM

TAKES

Puducherry: The Puducherry administration has drawn up a multi-pronged plan to face the cyclone that is likely to bring heavy rain, territorial Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said on Monday. Puducherry and Karaikal regions may get rain from Tuesday as was predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), he told reporters after chairing a joint meeting of officials of various departments. The Chief Minister said the meeting, attended by Revenue Minister M O H F Shah Jahan and officials of various departments, evolved the plan to ensure precautionary steps were taken in view of the weather. Narayanasamy said the government was working on setting up 80 relief centres in Puducherry and separate centres in Karaikal, control rooms in all the departments and rehabilitation of people in lowlving areas.

He said fishermen have been asked not to set out to sea. The Chief Minister said all shops and other establishments have been asked to close business on the evening of Tuesday and remove the high-rise advertisement boards.

He said he and his ministerial colleagues would be on field visits to take up relief work. Officials of Revenue, PWD, Police, Fisheries, Health and other departments took part in the meeting.

#### **Students secure 25%**

**ICAR** seats in TNAU

Coimbatore: Students from different districts of Tamil Nadu have secured 30 seats and got allotment at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) which accounted for 25 per cent of total seat matrix. The AIEEAICAR (All India Entrance Examination Admission- Indian Council of Agricultural Research) allotment of students for the year 2020 has been released in the ICAR exam portal and the total ICAR seat matrix of 120 students from different states has been allotted to TNAU.

ICAR is conducting AIEEA for undergraduate admission-2020 for BSc (Agri) and allied subjects and the state agriculture universities have reserved 15 per cent of the total seats to students who secured admission through AIEEA. During this academic year, the domicile state students secured 30 seats from different districts of Tamil Nadu and got allotment in TNAU which accounted for 25 per cent of the total seat matrix, a varsity press release said on Monday. TNAU Vice-Chancellor Dr N Kujmar appreciated the students from Tamil wno selected TNAU and agriculture as their profession, the release said.

# Govt gears up to face 'Nivar'

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 23

Gearing up to face the possible onslaught of Cyclone 'Nivar' expected to cross coast between Mamallapuram, a series of official meetings were held on Monday to chart out various plans of action by the departments concerned, while Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami met ministerial colleagues S. P. Velumani, P. Thangamani, R. B. Udhayakumar and D. Jayakumar.

**Ú**dhayakumar, who is the revenue minister, visited the control room set up by the State Disaster the State Disaster Management Authority at Ezhilagam office complex and told the media that all efforts had been taken to mitigate the devastation that the cyclone might bring to the State.

Six teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), each comprising 20 personnel, had been despatched to Cuddalore district, which might bear the brunt of Nivar, the Minister said. People living in low lying areas and in old buildings had been evacuated to safer areas and preparations had been done to set up relief camps and supply food to people.

Special officers had been appointed to oversee the relief operations and collectors of all districts had been put on high alert to raise to any emergency. Fishermen had been alerted about the cyclone and all water bodies like reservoirs were being closely monitored, Udhayakumar



CM K. Palaniswami holds a review meeting and asks his cabinet colleagues and officials to remain fully alert and take appropriate precautionary measures.

in 2018, the minister said and warned people against spreading rumours about the cyclone particularly on the social media. Action would be taken against those spreading rumours,

When Nivar crossed the land, electricity would be switched off in the affected areas, electricity minister Thangamani told the media. He explained that power would be restored once the situation became normal. Several districts that fall in the region between Karaikal and Mamallapuram would face the power cut for some time, he said.

The government was prepared to set right the power disruptions that might be brought about the strong winds as it had 1.5 lakh electric poles Nivar was not expected to be as intense as Cyclone

Nivar was not expected to be as intense as Cyclone

Nivar was not expected to be as intense as Cyclone ready to installation, he

Gaja that hit Tamil Nadu 3.3 lakh electric poles, he recalled.

All equipment and man-power to clear trees felled by the cyclone was kept in readiness and the people need not panic about Nivar, he said.

Fishermen had been asked not to venture into the sea and all those who had gone to the sea had been instructed to return to the shore, fisheries minister Jayakumar said. All efforts were being made to tackle the situation, he

minister Food Kamaraj said that 4,713 places had been identified to open relief camps in the region that was expected to be hit by the cyclone and food material had already been transported to the PDS shops near the identified spots.

Mobile medical teams were in a state of preparedness to rush to areas that may face medical

### Don't venture out: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 23

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniawami called upon the people in the districts that might be affected by the devasta-tion brought about by Cyclone Nivar while crossing the coast not to step out of their homes, not get close of electricity posts or transformers, protect their personal documents from get wet and update themselves about the developments through transistor radio

After holding review meetings with ministers and officials concerned, Palaniswami gave specif-

Minister Vijayabaskar said. Hospitals had also been equipped to raise to the occasion, he said. The Chief Secretary also highways, municipal, electricity and health department officials have been asked to be ready with necessary equipment and other requirements and camp in the

cyclone prone areas.

He said Pudukottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Chengalpattu districts were likely to bear the brunt of Cyclone Nivar and hence all bus services to the districts and within them would be cancelled. The Chief Minister urged the people to not venture out in their

trict collectors when he reviewed the arrangements that had been made to face the disaster.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, who was sched-

ic instructions to various personal vehicles, too. departments. Revenue, Instructing officials to local body, fire, PWD, keep essentials ready for setting up relief camps, Palaniswami stressed on arranging drinking water, toilet facilities, power supply through generators, food grains, cooking vessels, cooking fuel, cooks, mats, blan-

> In coastal areas, the fishing community had been advised to keep their boats and fishing gear in safe places. Those manning Direct procurement centres had been asked to protect the food grains stored there, farmers and keep medicines, vaccines and food for cattle.

kets and so on.

uled to call on Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan to brief him about the Covid-19 situation in the State, cancelled

### On high

Six teams of National **Disaster Response Force** (NDRF) despatched to **Cuddalore** district

Special officers appointed to oversee the relief operations and collectors of all districts had been put on high alert

Fishermen asked not to venture into the sea and all those who had gone to the sea had been instructed to return to the shore

4,713 places identified to open relief camps in the region expected to be hit by the cyclone.

Mobile medical teams were in a state of preparedness

Inter, intra-district bus services in 7 dts suspended

### Coastal districts all set to face cyclone

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV 23

The district administration here is coordinating with all departments and taking all steps concerned to face 'Nivar' cyclone in the district, said Collector B Uma Maheswari, on Monday after discussions with concerned officials on the sub-

need can use them any time, for Shantha, respectively.

She said there were 60 cyclone protection centres across the district and had asked officials to get these centres ready. All school heads have also been advised to prepare the school premises for housing cyclone-affected people. Fishermen have been asked not to venture into sea for the next four days, and they have been cautioned to pro-She said a toll-free phone number 1077 and a landline phone of 104322 222207 were installed at the collectorate. These two also been taken by Nagaphones will be ready for round-the-clock service, and those in Collectors Praveen P Nair and V

### Nilgiris horticulture department gears up to face Nivar cyclone development of deep root sys-

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, NOV 23

While the threat from cyclone 'Nivar' looms large now, the here has geared up face the situation. It has roped in the support of farmers for soil and storm water management to protect farmlands, green houses and standing vegetable crops. Horticulture forms a major chunk of farming activities here. Joint director Shiva Sub-

ramanian Samraj, Horticulture department, The Nilgiris, said that the dep-

artment has issued advisories to farmers on preca-utionary measures to be taken to protect their interests. The department is also taking several measures to help

the farmers. As far as irrigation and drainage is con-cerned, farmers have been advised to stop watering of fruit plants from now onwards. By this, the tree roots get tightened and also help withstand wind speed during cyclones and water logging conditions.

Partial root zone drying (PRD) could be adopted in should be checked and also be taken up, Samraj fruit orchards which help in drainage pipes should be added.

tems. To protect horticulture crops, especially annual crops like vegetables and flowers, water should be drained completely, and water channels kept de-silted and ready to avoid rain water stagnating in the fields.

Polygreen house, shade net house and nursery propaga-tion structures like mist chamber and rooting chamber, should be protected from ture conservation and weed heavy winds. The basement ture conservation and weed management. Soil moisture should be strengthened firmwith soil. ventiliation

cleaned and channelized to collect excess rain water. To minimize produce dam-

age due to heavy rains, crops that are in near maturity stage, should be harvested immediately. For soil moisture management, farmers should reschedule irrigation and maintain proper soil moisture. Plastic mulching and drip irrigation may be followed for better soil moisconservation by trenching, contour or Hela-bunding ma

### 'Yours Truly Margazhi' to go online this year

### **CURBS** | EASED

**B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC** 

CHENNAI, NOV. 23 Days after the Tamil Nadu government allowed sabhas across Chennai to conduct music and dance performances in closed space with a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity and 200 persons, the Federation of City Sabhas comprising 13 leading sabhas has decided to stick to its plan

Vidyashram at Kilpauk.

The government order had said the concerts could be held by following the SOPs with prior permission obtained from the Commissioner of Police.

Speaking to DC, K. Hari Shankar, secretary of the

of hosting concerts on digital

platform. However, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan will conduct the music fest on the campus

Bhavan's

Shankar, secretary of the Federation of City Sabhas, says, "We have moved online this year due to Covid-19. There is no change in our plans. Most of the top artistes have finished the recording of

#### Upcoming artistes may get an opportunity to perform in sabhas

their concerts for this monthlong digital festival. For artistes it is definitely a difrasikas." -- definitely a dif-experience sans

Eminent artistes like Sudha Raghunathan, S. Sowmya, Sanjay Subrahmanyan, Nithyashree Mahadevan, Ranjani-Gayatri, Vishaka Hari, Trichur Brothers, Unnikrishnan, Jayanthi Kumaresh, Kanyakumari, Akkarai Sisters, Embar Kannan, Shobana, Priyadarsini Govind and Dushyanth Sridhar are part of this digital fest.

The federation has joined hands with Kalakendra.com to present 'Yours Truly Margazhi', the online re-creation of Margazhi season, from December 18.

Krishnamurthy, secretary of Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, says, "Margazhi concerts this year are going online. Now that the government has given the nod and in the event of more relaxations in the coming months, we can work on accommodating budding and

young artistes in sabha con-

Echoing similar views on organising concerts for upcoming artistes, RR Sabha secretary R. Nagarajan says, 'Concerts are mostly attended by those above 55 years. Now during this health crisis, it is unlikely seniors would step out of their houses to attend kutcheris. Of course, nothing can match watching performances Carnatic musicians."

Rasikas can enjoy watching and listening to top artistes performing exclusively in the YouTube chan-nel as part of 'Yours Truly Margazhi' relayed at high quality streaming at affordable prices. Also, the concerts will stay on the platform till the end of the season. The festival will feature more than 120 concerts of music and dance and lec-dems. Aalaap, a city based performing arts company, has collaborated with the federation to ideate and spread the word about this unique digital event.

### **BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN TO HOST OPEN AIR CONCERTS**

Chennai: Bharatiya

Vidya Bhavan is going ahead with its open air Margazhi event on Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram campus from November 28. Speaking to *DC*, K. N. Ramaswamy, director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai, says "One can watch concerts of musicians online anytime. Live performances definitely make a difference and we don't want to miss it, especially during Margazhi Iesuvai. We believe music lovers will make it amid corona threat. We have prominent musicians performing in our festival. Standard operating procedures will be in place. We will put up giant screens on the school grounds so that rasikas can watch the concerts from inside their cars. Besides sanitising the place everyday, rasikas' temperature will be checked at the gates. Also they will be given a mask and a cap.

Vocal duo Ranjani-Gayathri performing at Kalakshetra auditorium as part of online Margazhi festival on Monday. The accompanists are seated as per social distancing



Seven girls of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar, are set to realise their dreams of becoming

### Fighting all odds to pursue medicine

E. K. SANJAY | DC

Fighting adverse economic conditions and the pandemic, a group of girls have made their alma mater, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar, Chennai, proud by getting admission in various medical colleges in Tamil Nadu as part of the 7.5 per cent reservation scheme for government school stu-

Keerthana, among the seven students from the school, lost her father when she was just 10. Her mother Arokkiya Mary is a sanitary worker, earning just Rs 8,000 a month. Keerthana worked very hard for the Neet and also took additional online coaching. She also helped her mother in her chores and looked after her younger brother.

and the poor after com-

Keerthana got admission for BDS and is excited about serving the needy



Director of medical education Dr R. Narayana Babu haa said screening process will be stringent this year during medical counselling to avoid false nativity or impersonation.

Medical counselling slated for November 24 has been postponed to November 30 owing to cyclone Nirav, according to a late evening press release.

pleting the course. She is among the hundreds of government schools students who have benefitted

results. Prema is another student from the same school. Her father is a daily wage worker at the Koyambedu market. She has been selected for MBBS at Vellore Medical College. Narrating her methodology while methodology preparing for Neet, Prema

from the government says she prepared a time-scheme based on Neet table and allotted separate time slots for physics and chemistry, in addition to biology. She also took help from YouTube videos. She expressed her gratitude for teachers. Prema aims to be a specialist in oncolhas received the national SHORT

TAKES

#### **Security beefed up at**

**Chenai old airport** 

#### DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 23

Security has been beefed up at Chennai old airport, ahead of the arrival of the President Ram Nath Kovind who is scheduled to make a one-day pilgrimage to Tirupati, via Chennai on November 24.

According to official sources, the President along with his entourage will land at the Chennai old airport at 9: 15 am and he will reach Tirupati by a special IAF aircraft.

Kovind will have darshan at Tirumala temple and return to where he will fly to Delhi.

Sources at the airport said, ahead of his arrival, security arrangements have been strengthened across all points on the old airport premises.

#### **Child fatally knocked**

down by van

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 23

In a tragic accident, a threeyear-old boy, playing outside his house in Perungalathur, died after being knocked down by a van, on Monday.

According to the police, the incident happened in the morning, when Sivalingam (3), son of Karthikeyan (28), a coolie, was playing outside his house in Madhurakavi Alwar Street in Perungalathur.

Sivalingam was sitting on his father's bike when a Tata Ace van allegedly speeding rammed the two-wheeler. Police said Sivalingam fell down and suffored a corious down and suffered a serious head injury.
The driver of the van who

tried to escape was nabbed by eyewitnesses and beaten up.

The child was rushed to a private hospital in Tambaram, but was pronounced dead. The Chrompet traffic investigation police registered a case. They arrested the driver identified as Ramesh (24) a resident of Anbu Nagar in Perungalathur and seized the van. The body of the deceased was sent to Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. investigations are on.

#### **Sloth bear rescued**

from well

Tirunelveli: A sloth bear fell into a farm well near Kalakkad forest area in the district and was rescued in a six-hour-long operation by forest officials, on Monday. The bear is said to have strayed out of the forest to Singikulam village at the lootnills of the Western Ghats in search of food and water, and accidentally fallen into the well the previous night, said deputy director Elango, allakad Mundanthurai tiger reserve.

#### Sathankulam case

accused cops' bail plea

hearing tomorrow

#### DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, NOV 23

The Madurai bench of the Madras high court took up the bail plea of the accused policemen in the Sathankulam fatherson, custodial murder case on Monday, adjourned the hearing to November 25.

policemen, Four accused Murugan, Veyilmuthu, Thomas Francis and Muthuraja arrested along with six other police personnel including the police inspector, Sridhar in connection with the Jayaraj-Bennix father-son duo custodial death case in June and imprisoned at Madurai central prison, filed bail petitions with the Madurai bench of the Madras high court. The accused policemen sought bail on the grounds that they had been in custody for more than 130 days and that the CBI completed its investigation and collected the evidences in the case. The petitioners had promised that they would abide by the bail conditions and would not abscond.

### **'Take students who** missed counselling'

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 23

DMK president M. K. Stalin and CPM state secretary K. Balakrishnan wrote separate letters to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, urging him to accommodate in medical colleges those students from government schools who skipped their counselling fearing that they would not be able to mobilise funds to join private colleges.

Stalin also met two girls from Cuddalore who had refused to take up seats in private colleges as the government announcement to take care of their education expenses came in late. Since the students were not told about the government scheme to provide post-Matric scholarships to the students and to enable them pay the fees immediately without waiting for the scholarship through a rotational fund created by the gov-



ernment not during the counselling, Stalin said.

If the announcement had come prior to the counselling or at least during the counselling, several students would not have given up on their seats obtained through the 7.5 per cent reservafor government school students, Stalin

said.
Both the leaders wanted the government to provide admission to the students who missed their seats in the colleges through fresh counselling or by increasing the number of seats.

ed the government to extend the same facilities given to the students getting admission in private medical colleges to those who had joined government medical colleges by scoring higher marks in Neet. Many of those students who had joined government colleges were also from extremely poor families, he said.

DMK forms environment wing: The DMK

announced the formation of a new party wing - the environment wing Karthikeya appointed Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, the organ-ic farmer who runs a cattle research foundation in Kangayam. He has been advocating the need for conserving the native breeds of bulls, particularly the Kangayam variety. Making the announcement, DMK general secretary Durai Murugan said the rest of the office-bearers of the wing would be appointed later.

### **Need more buses**



Cowl bazaar residents near Pallavaram block a small bus demanding more bus services to their area on Monday.

### Stones laid for Indian Oil mega projects

A. ARUL PALANI I DC CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Union home minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stones for various mega infrastructure projects of IndianOil at a cost of ₹ 3,200 crore in Chennai last week. Chief Minister Edappadi K.Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O.Panneerselvam were also present.

The projects - Petroleum Terminal – Vallur, Captive Petroleum Jetty in Kamarajar Port – Ennore and Petroleum Terminal – Vallur are part of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Industrial Guidance Bureau of the state government for an investment of over Rs 7,900 crore during the Global Investors' Meet held in Chennai in 2019.

The Vallur petroleum terminal would be set up in 100 acres near Kamarajar Port. It will have a storage capacity of 200,000 KL and facility to fill trucks in 24 bays at a time. The terminal would receive products from CPCL Refinery and also through petroleum jetty at Kamarajar Port.

The terminal would supdiesel. petrol, kerosene and aviation fuel by road to Chennai and the adjoining districts and through pipeline to Trichy, Salem, Madurai and Asanur (Villupuram).

The terminal will have the operational flexibility to receive petroleum products through tanker ships from Chennai Port during contingency. The project is estimated to cost Rs 900 crore and is

expected to be completed by 2023.

The captive petroleum jetty in Kamarajar Port at Ennore would have a capacity to handle petroleum products from CPCL. The new terminal at Vallur would also be required to carry out coastal movements of petroleum products by ships. Hence, a captive jetty is planned in Kamarajar Port (KPL) with the capacity of two to three million metric ton per annum.

The new lube complex has been planned in 71

acres identified in Amullaivoyal village in Manali. The integrated lube complex will blend advanced eco-friendly lubricants. coolants. brake fluids, greases, exhaust fluid white oil (IP (DEF), Grade) and food grade lubricants. Base oil, which is the input material for the plant, will be sourced from CPCL Refinery and Chennai Port.

The finished lubricants will be dispatched as bulk transfer in tank trucks, in parreis, paus and smail cans. The planned capacity of the plant is 680 TMTPA at a cost of ₹1,400 crore. The project expected to be commissioned by

The total investment of all the three projects is estimated to be ₹3,200 crore. The projects, during execution, are expected to provide employment to hundreds of skilled / unskilled contract labour, besides improving the profile of the adjoining areas once the facilities start commercial opera-

# HC tells IB to frame job rules

has directed the Indian Bank authorities to frame recruitment rules pre-scribing qualification for the post of sub-staff and notify the same in the gazette.

Justice R. Mahadevan, who gave the directive, equal opportunity in public employment is a constitutional mandate and all the citizens, who are eligible for public employment, should be provided an opportunity to participate in the open competitive process and selection to the public post must be done in accordance with the rules".

The judge was disposing of the petitions filed by K. R. Saru Priya Dharshini The Madras high court and 11 others, which has directed the Indian sought a direction to the Indian Bank authorities to appoint them to the post of sub-staff based on their applications. The judge said, admittedly, the petitioners directly made repeated

applications to the responbank appointment to the post of sub-staff, which were not considered. Hence, they preferred writ petitions on two occasions. However, they failed in their attempts. Finding no other alternative, the petitioners have again come up with the present writ petitions for the very same

stand of the counsel for the petitioners that there were no rules and regulations for recruitment to the post of sub-staff in the respondent bank and hence, the same have to be framed, to regulate the selection process and appointment for the said post, whereas the standing counsel appearing for the bank submitted that the petitioners straight away approach the respondent bank for appointment to the post of sub-staff and there was a procedure for selection to any post. However, he did not produce any material relating to rules and regu-

Citing the judgments of the Supreme Court, the judge said the petitioners cannot claim as a matter cannot

of right to be recruited to the said post of sub-staff, in the absence of any recruitment rules in the respondent bank. "This court, to sub-serve the interests of justice, directs the respondent authorities to frame recruitment rules, if not already framed, prescribing qualification for the post of sub-staff and the same has to be notified in the Gazette," the judge added.

no standard rules and reg-

ulations to be followed in

the respondent bank for

recruitment to the post of

sub-staff, the judge added.

### **Inspector held** on sexual abuse charges

DC CORRESPONDENT

The city police have arrested a police Inspector on the charges of sexually harassing a minor girl.

According to the police, the arrested officer has been identified as C Pugalendhi. Police arrested him for reportedly harassing a minor

Earlier the city police city police have arrested eight people in connection with forcing a teenage girl into flesh trade. The complainant, the mother of the victim started working as a housemaid after her husband eloped with another woman, two years ago. Her daughter, a 13 year old daughter dropped out of her school and accompanied her in household chores.

Five moths ago, the woman's niece asked her to send her minor daughter to her house in North Chennai to help take care of her two children, where she was subjected to sexual harassment. The niece and her partner, had sent her to different pimps, who in turn, invited several "customers", earned out if it.

The incident came to light after the complainant insisted on seeing her daughter after being refused several times by niece. Based on the complaint, the police arrested eight men. During an investigation, the arrested persons confessed that police Inspector C. Pugalendhi and his friend Rajendran were also involved in the racket and that they allegedly raped the minor girl last month. The police Inspector has been arrested and further investigations

### Chennai suburban trains: Time restrictions irk women passengers

P. A. JEBARAJ/DC CHENNAI, NOV 23

Other than the essential services staff, women passengers were also allowed to travel in the suburban train services Chennai irom Monday. However, they can travel only during the non-peak hours between Monday and Saturday. This service has irked office-going women in Chennai as they were not allowed to board the trains during prime hours.

In October, Southern Railway had resumed suburban train services only for essential staff to commute to and from in addition to Now,

essential staff, women too

allowed to travel in suburban Chennai trains. This, however, is only during non-peak hours from Monday to Saturday. However, this exemption for women in the suburban train services is neavily criticised by the office going women as they are not allowed to travel during the office hours. Official sources said even scuffle out between broke women and the railway's officials in suburbs railway stations for not allowing them to board the train before 10 am. Most of the passengers reportedly took alternate transportation to reach destination on time. The women passengers demanded to allow them to board trains during peak office hours.

### **Sterlite firing** 22nd phase

The one-man commission probing the Sterlite police firing that happened in May 2018 has entered its 22nd phase of enquiry, summoned revenue and fire service personnel present at the spot of the riots. Six revenue officials

cial were summoned to appear before the panel chairman, retired Aruna Jegadeesan.

#### Fire engulfs two parked cars DC CORRESPONDENT roadside caught fire. police officer. A fire engine

lations to be followed by the respondent bank. It

Fire engulfed two cars parked near Eri-Katha Ramar temple in Madurantakam on Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

The incident took place around 12-noon, when an Jmni van and Boiero car that were parked on the parked nearby, said a the cause of the fire.

According to the police, when the driver of the Omni van started the vehicle, a spark erupted

causing a fire. The alert driver reportedly got down from the van, and in a few seconds, fire engulfed the vehicle. The flames also spread to the

car. wnich

Samajik

**Adhikarita Shivir** 

Distribution of Aids and Assistive Devices to

Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

was rushed to the spot. Since the vehicles were parked at the side of the road, the flames did not disrupt traffic. However, sources said, one of the vehicles burst with a loud noise triggering panic in the area. Madurantakam police have registered a case and are

## Campaign trails: DMK warns CM, police officers

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 23

The high level executive committee of the DMK resolved to continue with campaign trails undertaken by 20 top leaders of the party under the theme 'Vidiyalai Noki Stalin Kural' (Stalin's voice towards a new dawn) and warned the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and police officers who are preventing them from taking out

A party statement here

demned the police action against DMK Youth Wing Secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin, who had been repeatedly arrested ever since he launched his campaign on November

Pointing out that the detention of the arrested party workers till late night in police custody everyday was anti-democratic, the resolution said that the Chief Minister, in the pretext of holding Coronavirus review, was going around the State

that are converted into political meetings. Without bothering to fol-

low Covid-19 protocols, the Chief Minister was organizing huge receptions for him in all the places that he visited and launched verbal attacks on the DMK in the meetings, it said. Though his ministers

were also just repeating what he did in their districts, none of those meetings were stopped by the police, the resolution

# hearing enters

DC CORRESPONDENT THOOTHUKUDI, NOV 23

including a retired offi-

#### Narendra Modi Prime Minister **SALIENT FEATURE** Aids and assistive devices free of cost to be distributed to 1398 Divyangjan at Pudukkottai Date: 24th November, 2020 • Time: 11:00 AM **Through Video Conferencing from** District Collectorate Campus, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu Guest of Honour Chief Guest = **Thaawarchand Gehlot** C. Vijayabaskar Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India Government of Tamil Nadu Special Invitees Karti P. Chidambaram S. Thirunavukkarasar Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Thiriuchirappall Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Sivagangai K. Navash Kani S. Jothimani Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Karu Joint the event live at: https://www.youtube.com/alimcohq **Empowerment through Samajik Adhikarita Shivir** 9321 Camps held covering all the States/UTs. Aids and assistive devices distributed to more than 16.78 lakh Divyangjan. 2939 Cochlear Implant surgeries conducted. 19042 motorized tricycles distributed. Organizer:- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur, U.P.

### IIT-M develops hi-tech survey craft for ports, waterways

DC CORRESPONDENT & AGENCY INPUTS

In a boost to indigenous technology in the maritime sector, IIT-Madras has developed a solar-powered hi-tech survey craft to undertake seamless survey operations in ports and inland waterways. The craft was successfully tested recently off the city's coastline at the Kamarajar port and more trials have been scheduled in Kolkata.
The UASC could help meet

challenges encountered by the port administrators like surveys slowing down the busy, heavy traffic and even causing accidents and the high cost of periodical chan-nel surveys. The 'Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft (UASC)' that looks like a country boat can take hydrographic and oceanographic surveys and pro-

இந்திய தொழில்நட भारतीय प्रौद्योगिः Indian Institute of

vide real-time data transmission.

The craft could be equipped with an echo sounder, GPS system and

technology capable of delivering precise depth measurements, an IIT press release here said. An echo sounder is a device used to find out water depth or the position of an object in the

broadband communication

A research team at the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts in IIT-Madras has developed the craft and researchers are already in

the process of getting the technology commercialised with the help of the central government and the IIT-M's incubation cell. Prof K Murali, NTCPWC,

IIT-Madras, said the craft was a leap towards indigeni-sation of the Indian mar-itime sector, which is now dominated by foreign technology. The craft can deliver precise and accurate depth measurements even in very shallow waters, he said

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Government of India

Partner:- District Administration, Pudukkottai (Tamil Nadu)

www.facebook.com/DoEPWDs 🔰 @socialpwds • www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in • www.socialjustice.nic.in

SHORT TAKES

### **KANGANA, SISTER MOVE BOMBAY**

**HIGH COURT** 

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 23

Actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel moved the Bombay High Court on Monday, seeking to quash an FIR registered against them by Mumbai Police for allegedly trying to create hatred and communal tension through their posts on social media.

The duo also challenged Bandra magistrate court order directing the police to carry out an inquiry against them by one Munnawar Ali Sayyed.

Bollywood casting director Sayyad had moved Bandra magistrate court last month seeking FIR should be registered against Kangana and her sister for posting messages on twitter as well as giving TV interview which creates communal tension in the society.

In his complaint, Sayyed pointed out to the court several posts published by Ranuat and her sister on their social media accounts on actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, an incident of lynching of two seers in Maharashtra's Palghar district, and a post comparing Mumbai with Pakistan- occupied Kashmir (PoK).

#### **SHRINGLA TO VISIT NEPAL**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 23

In a bid to smoothen rough edges between India and Nepal, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will Harsh Vardnan Shringia Will visit Kathmandu on November 26 and 27. This will be the first visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge.

"The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high."

the tradition of regular highlevel exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal. During the visit, Foreign Secretary will meet his counterpart and other Nepalese dignitaries to discuss the wide ranging bilateral cooperation between the two countries," ministry of external affairs said on Monday.

#### **KERALA PUTS ON HOLD CYBER LAW**

From Page 1

The central leadership of the CPM and CPI also expressed their displeasure over the manner in which the ordinance was promuigated.

With the criticism gaining momentum, the government sought to put the controversy to rest by shelving the ordinance for the moment. Governor Arif Mohammad Khan had given his assent to the ordinance here the other

day.

Those who opposed the new law said it was similar to the 66 A of IT Act and 118 D of Kerala Police Act which were repealed by the Supreme Court in 2015 saying these were against freedom of speech. At that time the CPM was in the forefront opposing the provisions of 66 A of the IT Act calling those draconian. So when the Marxist party led government itself brought the amended law which also had similar provisions, even those who were close sympathizers of the Left came out in strong disapproval.

### **NO SEVERE CASES** IN VACCINE TRIAL

From Page 1

"There are no serious safety events related to the vaccine, the company said. It said that AZD1222 was well tolerated across both dosing regimens.

The current trials are going on in the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, Russia, South Africa and Kenya besides some Latin American countries, with more trials being planned in other European and Asian

The company will now prepare regulatory submission of data to authorities around the world for conditional or early approval. They are also planning for 'Emergency use listing' from the World Health Organisation for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income coun-

The 90 per cent efficacy announcement by the company has led the way for many more volunteers to join the trial. It will now be scaled-up to 60,000 volunteers, after the data is studied and submitted to the WHO and for peer review in journals.



Health workers collect samples from passengers for the Covid-19 test, as coronavirus cases surge across the national capital at Anand Vihar Bus

# Maha makes Covid negative report must for travellers

### The new rule applies to passengers from Goa, Delhi, Raj and Gujarat

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 23

The Maharashtra government on Monday made it mandatory for all travellers coming to the state from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa to carry RT-PCR negative reports.

Fearing second wave of Covid-19 in Maharashtra, the state government issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which states that every passenger arriving from Delhi-NCR, states of Goa, Rajasthan and Gujarat will have to mandatorily carry a Covid-19 negative report while travelling with either rail, road or train.

of landing at airports in Maharashtra. Passengers not having the RT-PCR test reports will have to com-pulsorily undergo RT-PCR tests at concerned airports at their own costs.

The Airports Authority of India is requested to check for the report before allowing the passengers to board the flight. Only after taking the test, the passengers will be allowed to go home by the Airport Operator," the govern-ment notification said.

Passengers arriving in the state via rail will have to carry an RT-PCR negative test report from a For domestic air travellers, the RT-PCR sample sample collected 96 hours before the scheduled

Government Railway Police personnel inspect railways

track after the goods train services resumed in Patiala

Punjab: Rlys runs

Chandigarh, Nov. 23: things are being planned, other trains will also be resumed, he said.

Aggarwal said all rail

racks under the Ferozepur division, whether they were in Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir, were inspected by torms of the

Police and the Railway

The inspection was also

Various Punjab farm-

ers' bodies protesting against the Centre's recently enacted farm laws had announced to

lift their blockade of pas-senger trains for 15 days

The operation of goods

trains in the state had remained suspended for

nearly two months, except on October 22 and

23. Farmers had resorted

to the 'rail roko' agitation

on September 24 over the Centre's three farm laws.

Though they had allowed goods trains in

the state but were not

passenger - PTI

carried out on Monday

teams

Government

Protection Force.

morning, he said.

from Monday.

allowing

two goods trains

Punjab farmers against

the Centre's farm laws,

the railway authorities on

Monday operated two goods trains under its Ferozepur division.

The trains were run

after the inspection of all

tracks falling under the Ferozepur division, offi-

The Ferozepur division caters to needs of Punjab,

Jammu and Kashmir and

a part of Himachal Pradesh. Two goods trains, one empty and other loaded, were run at

2 pm on Monday, said Divisional Railway Man-

ager (Ferozepur Division)

A freight train carrying gypsum from Jammu via

Kathua to Lucknow was

operated, said Aggarwal,

adding that an empty

freight train was started

from Jalandhar for Delhi. Talking to the media, he

said a passenger train to

Haridwar will resume its

operation from Amritsar

Similarly, the way

on Tuesday morning.

Rajesh Aggarwal.

cials said.

collection should have been done within 72 hours before the scheduled time arrival in the state. Those rail passengers who do not be scheduled time arrival in the state. Those rail passengers who do not have an RT-PCR test negative, shall be sent to tive report will be screened for symptoms including body tempera-ture at the alighting railway stations.

'Passengers not having the RT-PCR test negative report shall be screened for symptoms and body temperatures at the alighting railway stations. Passengers without symptoms would be allowed to go home," the notification

Railway passengers showing symptoms shall be segregated and made to undergo antigen test. Passengers whose antigen test report will be negative will be allowed to go home, the government said. It the state from Delhi, reported during the state's fatality increased to 46,653.

Covid-19 care centres and the cost shall be borne by the commuters them-selves. Similarly, for those travelling by road, the state government added that the concerned district collectors of state's border districts shall make arrangements to ensure that the passengers coming from these four states shall be tested for symp-

perature.
Those with symptoms will have to undergo an antigen test and will be allowed entry in the state only if the report is nega-

toms including body tem-

Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa would be turned back, the notification said. The new guidelines were

issued a day after chief minister Thackeray warned people of the "tsunami" of Covid-19 cases in the state if precautions are not taken. He urged the people of the state not to lower their guard against Covid-19 and follow the safety pro-tocols strictly so that there will be no need to impose

another lockdown.

Maharashtra's Covid-19
tally rose to 17,84,361 with
the addition of 4,153 new cases on Monday, the state health department said. With 30 fresh deaths reported during the day, the state's fatality count

# Bharti Singh, husband get bail in drugs case

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 23

Comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Haarsh Limbachiyaa, who were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau over alleged possession and use of marijuana, were on Monday granted bail by a Mumbai court.

The NCB had arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband Limbachiyaa on Sunday. Both were remanded to judicial custody on Sunday after which both applied for

When their bail applica-

tions came up for hearing on Monday, the probe court that the two have confessed to consuming

Singh has also told officers that she would smoke weed procured by her hus-

Limbachiyaa claimed to have said that he purchased ganja from one peddler and that he would keep one bag of the contraband at his office and another at his house

for consumption. Since there was no need for their custody for furdrugs seized from them were of small quantity for consumption only, the court granted them bail.

It may be recalled that search operations were carried out at the couple's properties following a tipoff. The NCB recovered a bag with 65 gram of ganja from Limbachiyaa's production house

Versova. Later, another search was carried out at his residence, Oberoi Springs in Andheri, from where another bag consisting 21.5 gram of cannabis and unaccounted cash of ₹1.49

Constitution.

Mr. Imam further

# AIMIM head in West Bengal quits, joins TMC

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 23

The Trinamul Congress on Monday roped almost the entire West Bengal leadership of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) including its state "face" Sheikh Anwar Pasha in its fold, dealing a severe blow to Asaduddin Owaisi's outfit to stop it from contabing the from snatching the Muslim votebank away from its command in the next year's Assembly Election in West Bengal.

With an eye on the 30 per cont Muslim popular.

per cent Muslim population in the state, the TMC had started cultivating Mr Pasha, who was the AIMIM head in the state, and 17 other senior functionaries quietly in wake of the AIMIM's victory in five seats in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly polls.

Among other leaders who quit the AIMIM and joined the TMC included Murshid Ahmed, Sheikh BJP in forming the gernment there. But it not happen in Bengal.

Ahmed, Intekhab Alam, Abul Kashem, Syed Rahaman and Anarul Mondal.

At the Trinamul Bhawan in the city, state minister Bratya Basu sit-ting next to Mr Pasha said, "He was the face of AIMIM and its pillar here. Shunning communal and divisive politics, however, he and others joined our party influ-enced by of our party supremo and CM Mamata Banerjee's vision for peace and development.'

Tearing into Mr Owaisi Mr Pasha alleged, "A section of people is taking our country to the path of destruction by misusing our faith. Lot of powers including those who wear saffron or green are eye-ing Bengal. They are trying to create a division. AIMIM played a role in the polarisation of votes in Bihar which helped the BJP in forming the gov-ernment there. But it will

### MIM MLA wants 'Bharat' in place of 'Hindustan'

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 23

Newly elected All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM)
MLA Akhtarul Imam
stoked a controversy on
the first day of the Bihar
assembly session when
he objected to the word
"Hindreton" while to he "Hindustan" while taking oath on Monday.

The situation occurred when he expressed his desire to take oath in Urdu instead of Hindi and raised objections to "Hindustan" and urged Protem speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi to replace it with "Bharat".

"While taking oath in Hindi and Maithili people use Bharat but in the letter of oath handed to me in Urdu, the word Hindustan is mentioned. I would like to use the word Bharat while taking an oath", AIMIM MLA Akhtarul Imam said dur-ing the oath ceremony in the state assembly on Monday Reacting to his request

speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi pointed out that the elected members have been using "Hindustan" while taking oath in Urdu in the past as well. The Chair, however, later allowed him to use the word "Bharat" instead of

"Hindustan" Later while talking to reporters after his oath Mr. Imam clarified that he intended to point out that Preamble of Constitution mentions the word "Bharat" and that he wanted to use the same term while taking the oath in the

The NDA leaders criticized Akhtarul Imam for refusing to use the word "Hindustan". "The word Hindustan is used by everyone but some people want to create controversy unnecessarily by raising questions on the issue", JD(U) MLA Madan Sahani said.

 The BJP also reacted and said that "those who have a problem using the word Hindustan should go to Pakistan".

said that he has "no objection to the word Hindustan" and that he has grown up reciting lines from Iqbal's famous poem "Saare Jahan Se Hindustan Acha Hamara".

When asked about stand on Congress MLA Shakeel Ahmed Khan taking oath in Sanskrit instead of Hindi he said that "it was his personal choice".



"Fondly remembered for all that you have done for us with Love & Affection during your life time" **Gudalore Family** 

## Shiv Sena rules out 'love jihad' law in Maharashtra

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 23

After the demand made by some state BJP leader to bring a law against "Love Jihad" in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena on Monday ruled out enactment of any such law in the state. Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that he had a discussion with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on the issue and there was no need to bring the law even if BJP-ruled states take such a

step. Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis last week had reportedly said that incidents of 'Love Jihad' were taking place in the country and therefore, laws to curb the practice were justified. "Key BJP leaders in

• WHEN A law will be framed in Bihar, when Nitish Kumar ji will frame it, we will study that law in its entirety. After that we will think about it."

Maharashtra are asking when a law against Love Jihad will be passed. I spoke to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the morning. On this issue, we only want to say that let the laws be formed in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. But, when a law will be framed in Bihar, when Nitish Kumar ji will frame it, we will study that law in its entirety. After that we will think about it in Maharashtra," Sanjay

Some BJP-ruled states have announced plans to

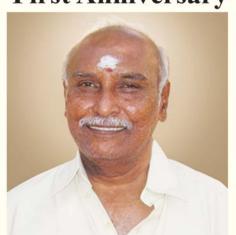
prevent the so-called 'Love Ĵihad', which refers to an alleged conspiracy to convert Hindu women by marrying them. Sanjay Raut also took pot

shots against Fadnavis, who has said that his party believes Karachi will be a part of India one day. Fadnavis had made the

remark when he was asked a question regarding a Shiv Sena activist asking owners of Karachi Sweets outlet in Mumbai to rename it and justified the demand by calling Pakistan a country of terrorists.

Raut said that his will welcome party Karachi becoming a part of India. "But first bring PoK in India, then we will go to Karachi," he

### First Anniversary



S.Balachandran (17-11-1953 - 24-11-2019) We always feel your presence in our life. Remembered by Family

### IN BRIEF YEMENI REBELS **STRIKE SAUDI OIL FACILITY**

Dubai, Nov. 23: Yemen's Houthi rebels said they struck a Saudi oil facility in the port city of Jiddah on Monday with a new cruise missile, just hours after the kingdom finished hosting its virtual Group of 20 leaders summit.

The kingdom did not immediately acknowledge any attack as videos on social media suggested a fire at an Aramco oil facility.

Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarie, a Houthi military spokesman, tweeted that the rebels fired a new Quds 2 cruise missile at the facility.

He posted a satellite image online that matched Aramco's North Jiddah Bulk Plant, where oil products are stored

#### **3 PAK BURGLARS ATTACK INDIAN** MAN IN THE UAE

Dubai, Nov. 23: A 33-year-old Indian man was attacked by three mask-wearing Pakistani burglars who also stole his laptop, mobile phone and some cash while he was asleep at his home in Dubai, according to a media report.

During a hearing in the Dubai Court of First Instance on Sunday, the man said the Pakistani burglars broke into a villa in the Bur Dubai area in August, assaulted the residents with a metal bar, and stole several items, the *Gulf News* reported on Sunday. He said the attackers put a plastic bag over his face and tape on his mouth. "They were wearing medical masks. One of them muzzled me and the other attacked me with a metal bar. I tried to resist but they overpow ered me. I pulled the mask of one of the attackers and saw his face," the victim told the court. "I managed to remove the plastic bag and the tape and went outside the room. I went to my roommate and tried to chase the attackers," he said.

The burglars stole the man's laptop, mobile phone, cash, and credit cards, the report said. While one of the burglars was arrested by a police patrol as the victim identified him, the other two remain at large

### **UK SC TO DECIDE** IF I.S. BRIDE **CAN RETURN**

London, Nov. 23: Britain's Supreme Court is set to decide whether a woman who ran away from her London home as a teenager to join the Islamic State group in Syria can return

The British government is fighting to keep Shamima Begum from coming back to the country where she was born. At a hearing beginning on Monday, it is challenging a lower court's ruling that Begum can return to Britain to mount a legal challenge aimed at restor-ing her UK citizenship, which was revoked on national security grounds.

The Court of Appeal said in July that "the only way in which she can have a fair and effective appeal is to be permitted to come into the UK."

But James Eadie, a lawyer for the UK government, told the Supreme Court that Begum "is considered to pose a real and current threat to national security." Begum was one of three east London schoolgirls who travelled to Syria in 2015.

### **US RENEWS VOW TO DEFEND PHILIPPINES**

Manila, Nov. 23: President Donald Trump's administration provided precision-guided missiles and other weapons to help the Philippines battle Islamic State group-aligned militants and renewed a pledge to defend its treaty ally if it comes under attack in the disputed South China Sea.

National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien represented Trump in Monday's ceremony at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, where he announced the delivery of the cache of missiles and bombs to the Philippine military. Trump pledged to provide the \$18 million worth of missiles in a phone conversation with Philippine President Rodrigo Dute-

rte in April. O'Brien expressed condolences to the Philippines after back-to-back typhoons left a trail of death and devastation in the country and outlined US help to the country battle the coronavirus pandemic. The US assistance projects normalcy in Washington's foreign relations as Trump worked to challenge the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

# Blinken to be US Secretary of State, Sullivan next NSA

Washington, Nov. 23: rving foreign policy advis-Joe Biden intends to pick his trusted foreign policy advisor Antony Blinken as the US Secretary of State and Jake Sullivan as National Security Advisor, media reports said on Monday, as the Presidentelect is poised to make his first round of Cabinet an-

nouncements on Tuesday. Blinken, 58, has served as the Deputy Secretary of State in the second term of the Obama administration and National Security Advisor to Biden when he was the vice president.

A strong India-hand, Blinken was the top foreign policy advisor to the Bi-

den campaign. "President-elect Joe Biden intends to nominate Antony Blinken to serve as secretary of State, turning to a trusted diplomat and foreign-policy adviser to oversee his work to rebuild US relationships around the globe, according to people fa-miliar with the decision," The Wall Street Journal reported.

President-elect Joe Biden is planning to announce that he has selected Antony Blinken, one of his closest and longest-se-

ers, as secretary of state, The Washington Post said.

"Jake Sullivan, another top Biden advisers, is exp ected to be named as national security adviser, according to two people familiar with the announcement," the daily said.

Last week, Biden said he had decided on his name for the Treasury Secret-"The announcement Blinken's selection is expected by Tuesday at the latest, people familiar with the selection said,' the Journal reported.

Blinken also spoke during the virtual celebration of India's Independence Day organised by the Biden Campaign and addressed by Biden himself and his running mate Kamala Harris, who is now the Vice President-

'The Vice President (Biden) has long been a champion of stronger ties with India. I saw this firsthand, I started working for him in 2002 on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Then, of course, the Obama-Biden administration and his years as Vice President.
— PTI

### China to launch 1st unmanned mission for moon's samples

Beijing, Nov. 23: China said on Monday that it will launch its first unmanned space mission on Tuesday to collect samples from the moon's surface and return to earth, which its scientists say is one of the country's most complicated and challenging space missions.

China National Space Administration (CNSA) said that the fuelling of the Long March-5 rocket, currently China's largest launch vehicle, began on Monday ahead of the launch on early Tuesday.

The rocket, which will send the Chang'e-5 spacecraft to Earth-moon transfer orbit, is scheduled to he launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launen Site in south China's Hainan Province in the early hours on Tuesday.

The mission is the country's first attempt to launch a spacecraft to collect and return samples from the moon, the CNSA said. The Chang'e-5 mission aims to conduct unmanned lunar sample collection and return to Earth, one of the country's most complicated and challenging space missions, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It will contribute to the scientific studies in fields such as the formation and evolution of the moon, it said. China's lunar exploration program is named after the legendary Chang'e, the "Moon Lady,' who took a potion and floated into the sky, eventually landing on the moon, where she became a goddess accompanied by a jade rabbit.

A major space power, China launched its first Mars mission 'Tianwen-1' on July 23 this year. The Mars spacecraft which included an orbiter, lander and rover is on its way to the red planet. China launched its first 2007 which orbited 200 km above the moon and mapped 3D images of the lunar surface followed by Chang'e-2 in 2010 which had sent high resolution photos of the moon's surface. Chang'e-3 was launched in 2013 which softly touched down on the Sinus Iridum 12 days later. Chang'e-3 included a lander and a moon rover called Yutu (Jade Rabbit). — PTI

#### developed with the University of Oxford, showed 90 per cent effica-cy in one dosing regimen when the vaccine was given as a half dose, followed by a full dose at least a month later, and another dosing regimen showed 62 per cent efficacy when given as two full doses at least one month apart, AstraZeneca said in a statement. "The combined analysis from both dosing regimens resulted in an average efficacy of 70 per cent," it added. An inde-

London, Nov. 23: Pharma

major ÁstraZeneca said

on Monday that an inter-

im analysis of clinical tri-als of its Covid-19 vaccine

in the UK and Brazil

showed that it was 70 per

cent effective on average,

becoming the third drug-

maker to announce prom-

ising results to contain the

deadly virus. The vaccine,

pendent Data Safety Monitoring Board determined that the analysis met its primary endpoint showing protection from Covid-19 occurring 14 days or more after receiving two doses of the vaccine,

AstraZeneca said.
No serious safety events related to the vaccine have been confirmed. The ChAdOx1 nCoV-2019 or codenamed AZD1222 was well tolerated across both dosing regimens, it said. The company "will now immediately prepare the regulatory submission of the data to authorities around the world that have a framework in place for conditional or early approval," the statement said.

AstraZeneca will seek an Emergency Use Listing from the World Health Organisation for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income countries, it added.

"These findings show that we have an effective vaccine that will save many lives. Excitingly,



we've found that one of our dosing regimens may be around 90 per cent effective and if this dosing regimen is used, more people could be vaccinated with planned vaccine supply," explained Professor Andrew Pollard, Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and Chief Investigat-or of the Oxford Vaccine Trial. The result of the Oxford vaccine compares with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which were recently shown to be

and easier to store. 'This vaccine's efficacv and safety confirm that it will be highly effective against Covid-19 and will have an immediate impact on this public health emergency," AstraZeneca Chief Executive Officer Pascal Soriot said.

95 per cent and 94.5 per

cent effective, respectively.

The Oxford vaccine is

comparatively cheaper

### **4 Indo-Americans Rhodes Scholars**

New York, Nov. 23: Four names of the 32 Ameri-Indian-Americans are among the cohort of 32 students chosen from the US as Rhodes Scholars virtually for the first time this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The diverse group, that won scholarships to the Oxford University in England, comprises immigrants and students of colour.

American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust Elliot Gerson announced the

cans chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the US on Sunday. The four Indian-American students include Swathi R Srinivasan, Vijayasundaram Ramasamy, Garima P Desai and Savarni Sanka.

"Never before has a class of Rhodes Scholars been elected entirely virtually, with both candidates and selectors participating safely, independdigitally," — *PTI* ently and

### Covid-19 shots could reach US health staff by mid-December

healthcare workers and others recommended for the nation's first Covid-19 inoculations could start getting shots within a day or two of regulatory consent next month, a top official of the government's vaccine development effort said on Sunday.

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine

70% effective on an average

Becomes third drugmaker to announce promising results to contain Covid

Some 70 per cent of the US population of 330 million would need to be inoculated to achieve "herd" immunity from the virus, a goal the country could achieve by May, according to Dr Moncef Slaoui, chief scientific adviser for "Operation Warp Speed." Slaoui said the US Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) would likely grant approval in mid-December for distribution of the vaccine produced by Pfizer Inc and German partner BioNTech, launching the largest inoculation campaign in US history.
The FDA's outside advis-

ers are slated to meet on Dec. 10 to review Pfizer's will be immunised across the US," he said.— Reuters

emergency-use application for its vaccine, which the company said was found to be 95 per cent effective against infection from the highly contagious respiratory virus. A second pharmaceuti-

cal company, Moderna Inc,

is expected to seek sepa-rate approval later in December for its Covid-19 vaccine. Appearing on several network news shows on Sunday morning, Slaoui sketched out a timeline for getting the initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine from FDA authorization into the arms of those who will be first in line to receive it.

"Within 24 hours from the approval, the vaccine will be moving and located in the areas where each state will have told us where they want the vaccine doses," Slaoui told NBC's "Meet the Press." "Maybe on 11th or 12th of

December, the first people

### **GERMANY MIGHT START GIVING SHOTS IN DEC.**

Frankfurt, Nov. 23: Germany could start administering shots of Covid-19 vaccines as soon as next month, health minister Jens Spahn was quoted as saying. "There is reason to be optimistic that there will be approval for a vaccine in Europe this year,' Spahn said in an interview with publishing group RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland. "And then we can start right away."

Spahn said that he had asked Germany's federal states to have their vaccination centres ready by mid-December and that this was going well. "I would rather have a vaccination centre ready a few days early than an approved vaccine that isn't being used immediately."

### China tests millions in 3 cities

Beijing, Nov. 23: Chinese authorities are testing millions of people, imposing lockdowns and shutting down schools after multiple locally transmit-ted Coronavirus cases were discovered in three cities across the country

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As temperatures drop. large-scale measures are being enacted in the cities of Tianjin, Shanghai and Manzhouli, despite the low number of new cases compared to the United States and other countries that are seeing new waves of infections.

Experts and government officials have warned that the chance of the virus spreading will be greater during the cold weather. Recent flareups have shown that there is still a risk of the virus returning, despite being largely controlled

### Saudi Arabia denies Bibi met crown prince

**Jerusalem, Nov. 23:** Israeli media reported Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Saudi Arabia for a clandestine meeting with Prince Mohammed bin Salman,

which would mark the first known encounter between senior Israeli and Saudi officials. But, Saudi Arabia on

Monday denied Israeli media reports of land-

mark talks Netanyahu

and bin Salman during a visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "I have seen press

reports about a purported meeting between HRH the Crown Prince and Israeli officials during the recent visit by @SecPompeo," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in a tweet.

"No such meeting occurred. The only officials present were American and Saudi." Israeli public broadcaster Kan and other outlets had reported that the meeting took place Sunday, weeks after the Jewish state reached historic deals to normalise ties with two Saudi allies, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Those deals, known as

the Abraham Accords, were brokered by the administration of US President Donald Trump, who leaves office in less than two months. Hebrew-language

media cited an unnamed Israeli official as saying that Netanyahu and Yossi Cohen, head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, flew to the Saudi city of Neom on Sunday, where they met with the crown prince. The prince

was there for talks with visiting US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Flightradar24, provides live worldwide flight tracking, showed a plane taking off from Tel Aviv on Monday at around 7:30 p.m. local time and vanishing from radar near Neom around an hour later.

It shows the same flight appearing on radar near Neom and landing at Tel Aviv at around 1 a.m (local time) Monday. It did not provide any details on the flight.

### Nasa rover data hints at ancient megaflood in Mars

York, Nov. 23: Giant flash floods once washed through Gale Crater on Mars equator around four billion years ago, according to a study which hints at the possibility that life may have existed on the Red Planet.

New

The research, published recently in the journal Scientific Reports, assessed data collected by Nasa's Curiosity rover - launched in November 2011 and found that "gigantic flash floods," likely touched off by the heat of a meteoritic impact, unleashed the ice stored on the Martian surface. Based on the analysis, scientists including

from those Cornell University in the US, said these floods of "unimaginable magnitude" set up gigantic ripples that are tell-tale geologic structures familiar to scientists on the Earth. "We identified megaflo-

ods for the first time using detailed sedimentological data observed by the rover Curiosity, said study co-author Alberto G. Fairen from Cornell University. According to the scientists, geological features including the work of water and wind have been frozen in time on Mars for about four billion years. They said these fea-

tures convey processes

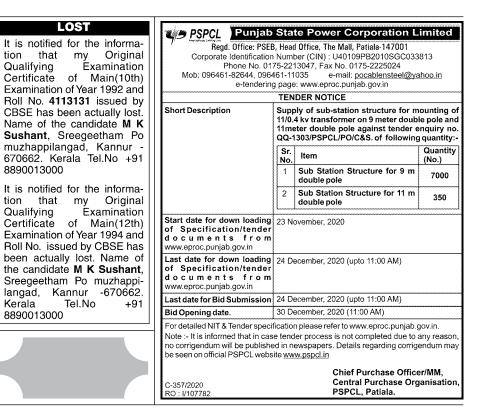
that shaped the surface of about two million years both the Earth and the Mars in the past. This case includes the occurrence of giant waveshaped features in sedi-mentary layers of Gale crater, often called "megaripples" or "antidunes" that are about 30-feet high and spaced about 450 feet apart, lead author Ezat Heydari, a professor of physics at Jackson State University in the US, noted.

The antidunes indicative of flowing megafloods at the bottom of Mars' Gale Crater about four billion years ago, which are identical to the features formed by melting ice on Earth

Heydari added. According to the study, the most likely cause of the Mars flooding was the melting of ice from heat generated by a large impact, which released carbon dioxide and methane from the planet's frozen reservoirs.

The water vapour and release of gases combined to produce a short period of warm and wet conditions on Mars, the researchers said.

They believe the condensation may have formed water vapour clouds, which in turn likely created torrential possibly planrain, etwide.







# **Chronicle**

24 NOVEMBER 2020

### Kerala's dropping law to punish dissent welcome

he decision by Kerala's Left Democratic Front government led by the CPM to put on hold its controversial ordinance amending the Kerala Police Act 2011 is extremely welcome. The ordinance was intended to insert a section in the law giving the police wide powers to proceed against those who defame people through various media, including the social

media, and another to make it a cognisable offence.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who announced the decision, said the government was forced to bring in the ordinance in the background of complaints about widespread misuse of social media platforms to attack individuals, especially women and children. The government must now complete the legal process which leads to the nullification of the

The new Section 118A in the law had made a communication which "caused injury to the mind" of not only the target but also of "any other person in whom they have interest" a cognisable offence, giving the police undefined powers to initiate criminal proceedings against unsuspecting

It evoked instant condemnation from civil rights activists and Left sympathisers as well as the Opposition, who said that it could be misused to stifle voices of dissent. The Communist Party of India, the second largest LDF constituent, had also publicly voiced its dissent. The protests forced

the CPM central leadership to promise a relook at the law.

That a government led by the CPM, which has consistently opposed every single move against freedom of speech, had dared to bring in such a law could perplex an outsider. But a close look at the way the police has behaved in Kerala under the current government would show that the new law was a continuation of the pattern of its behaviour, which has nothing to do with the published policy of the party that leads the government. The police shot and killed two Maoists in the forests of Nilambur in an

encounter just three months after the new government had taken over.

Though Left parties oppose encounter killings, the party offered no explanation while the Chief Minister said the government will do nothing that would affect the morale of the police. Encouraged perhaps by the words of the Chief Minister, who also holds the home portfolio, the police conducted more encounters in the following years, in which six more people were killed. Two youngsters were incarcerated last year for about 10 months under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 for allegedly possessing Maoist literature though the CPM has been in the forefront of agitations against its misuse.

While it is true that the Vijayan government has finally given in to public pressure against a draconian law, the CPM leadership needs to do a serious rethink why the Kerala police, which functions directly under one of its most senior leaders, gets to do whatever it feels like, even breaking the party's own policies. It must also be a lesson for all governments in this country which find voices of dissent an unnecessary evil. They might do well to recognise that freedom of speech is a vital part of democracy, guaranteed by the Constitution, and that all attempts to smother it will face

### J&K: What kind of democracy?

Tammu and Kashmir has taken a long break from democracy. There has been no popular government there since 2018's summer, and in August 2019, without going through any laid-down procedure, the Centre scrapped the former state's autonomy, vivisected it, and converted it into a Union territory. Now, when polls are to be held for District Development Councils, which didn't exist in the past, non-BJP parties are vociferously complaining that they aren't allowed to campaign while BJP candidates face no hurdles

Mostly these are the Gupkar Alliance parties, and they complain that their candidates, in the name of security, are practically facing internment. This is Kashmir's first real test at procedural democracy in 29 months and it was expected that the leaders of Kashmir's mainstream parties, who have sworn by India and paid the price, with thousands of them killed by terrorists over the years, would have every opportunity to have their say in the DDC polls.

In an eloquent letter to lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha, stalwart National Conference leader and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, president of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the conglomerate of Kashmir's non-BJP parties working for restoration of Kashmir's autonomy, has said that the story of democracy in Kashmir is soaked in the blood of representatives of the same parties whose candidates are being physically restrained from campaigning. Other PAGD parties have also complained bitterly. The elections are imminent.

If this grievance is made up, it will be appropriate for the L-G to go on record to say so, and then to substantiate his stand before the public. Else, the impression is apt to go around that the ruling party is intent on winning the election by hook or by crook, for it will be a big blow to the BJP if it loses the election after the party pursued its ideological agenda to denude J&K of its historical autonomy. And why has the Election Commission gone to sleep in the face of such complaints?

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# **Beyond the RCEP: India** matters in Indo-Pacific



Sreeram Chaulia

ince the signing of the Regional Comprehensive conomic Partnership (RCEP) agreement by 15 nations on November 15, criticism of India for sitting out the mega free trade pact has arisen in some quarters. Myths been propagated deserve to be have debunked.

The first line of attack is that India has hacked at its own feet because remaining outside the pan-regional integration process will hamper India's economic growth and transformation. This argument is not supported by empirical evidence from previous free trade agreements. Barring the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (Safta), which came into force in 2006, all the other FTAs have produced trade deficits for

By 2019, India had a deficit of \$22 billion with India-Asean Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CEĈA), which nas bootional since 2010. Likewise, the India-Japan which has been operaomic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), in vogue from 2011, and the India-South Korea CEPA, in effect from 2010, have engendered progressively larger deficits for India. Signing these FTAs did increase overall trade volumes between India and its partner countries, but India's market became more open to imports without reciprocal benefits for Indian exports.

Liberal proponents of consumer welfare contend that the deficits should not matter as Indian consumers gain from the influx of cheaper foreignmade goods. But the widening trade deficits have adverse implications for India's macroeconomic stability and ability to strategically plan its economic future. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar explained the crux of the matter by reminding us that past FTAs led to "de-ind-ustrialisation" of sectors of the Indian economy by pumping in cheap foreign goods and removing economic incentives to build our own indigenous manufacturing base.

challenge, The Jaishankar rightly says, is "whether India will become a first-class industrial power or not". Multiple studies have shown that if India joined the RCEP on the bargaining terms we got after six years of negotiations, the already alarming surge of Chinese goods would have swamped India and rendered it permanently uncompetitive and crip-

Already, even without an FTA, China had a worrisome trade surplus of \$48.6 billion with India in the 2019-2020 financial year. With China sitting as the 800-pound gorilla in RCEP which doesn't prohibit China's notorious state subsidies to its exporters and doesn't block Chinese exports rerouted via other RCEP members, India would have committed strategic suicide by entering the

All the hopes pinned on Prime Minister Modi's "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India" drives would have been eviscerated had we been in RCEP. For example, the billions of dollars of incoming FDI flows to India to manufacture consumer electronics for sale in our domestic market and for export would evaporate if our gates were wide open for tariff-free Chinese mobiles, laptops or television sets.

Protectionism and import-substitution indeed failed in earlier eras and stunted India from developing world class export-oriented products. But the record FDI inflows and improvements in "Ease of Doing Business" in the Narendra Modi era

are rays of hope for a late industrialisation renaissance, which needs at least one more decade before judging its success. In this intervening decade, we ought to be cagey about FTAs involving predatory exporting giants.
The second myth about

India not joining RCEP is that the other RCEP members — the Asean nations, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand—have been deeply disappointed and India has marginalised itself by abandoning these partners when they needed it the most to counter the Chinese behemoth from within. This too is a misrepresentation. India already has FTAs with 12 out of the 15 RCEP members. Only Australia and New Zealand lack FTAs with India, but its trade with them too has been growing. We have already been quite generous with all RCEP members and rem-ain committed to elevating our strategic partnerships with many of them. Just because we are not in RCEP does not mean India has lost its appeal in the eyes of these

Admittedly, there is far greater economic cooperation potential to be unlocked by India with RCEP members other than China. But one must not downplay the defence and geopolitical dimensions of India's salience in the Indo-Pacific region. The recently strengthened "Quad" security dialogue mechanism has spurred enthusiasm in Japan and Australia, which are speeding up military interoperability for balance in the Indo-Pacific. Japan and Australia may have signed RCEP, but China is far from neutralising the "Quad" or softening opposition from Asean biggies like Vietnam and Indonesia to Chinese intimidation.

The present multilateral and multipolar international environment is complex, and countries

RCEP is not a talisman for India's economic or geopolitical rise. We should move past what was lost by missing the RCEP bus.

often hold overlapping memberships in a variety of groups. Owing to the interests of private corporations and big businesses, RCEP members see economic value in trading and investing with China. But there is also

deep fear and anxiety among their national security establishments and ordinary citizens about China's territorial aggrandisement and economic blackmail. This is why, after the Covid pandemic hit, Australia, Japan and India formed the Supply Chain Resilience Initia-tive (SCRI) to avoid dependence on a single hegemonic power. India is bang in the middle of these new structures and not a sideshow. The third myth about

India and RCEP is that we are rudderless if we do not coalesce into the Asiawide economic connectivity network because the US and Europe will provide scant solace. It is true that India has not had much joy getting market access to Western countries due to their protectionist politics. But trade experts believe India might secure better terms than what was offered in RCEP if it moves forward FTAs with the EU and the **Gulf Cooperation Council** One must be unsentimental in the pursuit of national interests which is what the Modi Jaishankar duo is trying

Another heartening shift is that the Europeans want to permanently deploy military assets in the Indo-Pacific alongside the US to restrain China. France, Germany and the Netherlands are advocating accelerated trade and political linkages with democratic nations like India and Indonesia to contribute to rebalancing in the Indo-Pacific.

RCEP is not a talisman for India's economic or geopolitical rise. should move past what was lost by missing the RCEP bus. There are other conducive regional and global vehicles to propel India as a "leading power", and it is on its

> The writer is professor and dean at the Jindal School of International

The editorial Avoid partisan approach, apathy to conquer Covid. (Nov.23) sends a clarion call to both the Centre and the respective state governments as to how to jointly tackle the menace on the second innings of inexorable novel coronavirus, which keeps smiting victims by scores across the globe. It is disheartening to note that despite seven months of its landing, it keeps giving the advisory bureau and the health departments anxious moments as to how to put a stasis on the prevalence of the invisible foe, thanks to people's obdurate and wayward attitude resulting in the advisory's safety norms being thrown to the winds, which has aggravated the

situation from bad to worse. **E.S.Chandrasekaran** 

#### **EXERCISE IN FUTILITY**

she would not have entertained anyone from the Centre, be it Prime Minister or home minister (*BJP*'s pointless exertions). The present leadership of AIADMK is needlessly bending over backwards to Amit Shah indicating their foreboding of losing power to either Sasikala or Stalin next year. Tamil Nadu politics is peculiar and only DMK or AIADMK can wrest power from each other. All other parties including BJP, Congress and communists can never dream of ruling from Fort St. George. BJP's exploratory efforts will not yield any tangible results. It is "looking for a needle in a haystack". Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

#### OF NATIONAL UNITY, STABILITY TRENDS LIKE the current try me-

n's souls. Tough and hard as nails our armed forces are. In the face of horror and disaster, daunting odds and baffling challenges, many Indian servicemen display enviable mettle. Our brave and unselfish soldiers, marines and airmen nurse their weapons and sharpen their bayonets; ever on the ready and on the alert - to lay down their lives in order to guarantee a solid security for peace and safety of their native land. Unvarying vigilance has characterised these noble warriors, renowned for their admirable morale. Our tenacious armed forces could grip, hold and keep intruders at bay. Such has been their constant high state of combat readiness, "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war" has been their motto. Duty inescapable remains. It behoves, therefore, everyone of our civilians to stick in unity together and in fidelity to one another. P.R. Krishna Narayanan,

Mail your letters to editor@deccanmail.com

Aakar Patel



From testing to travel, India's Covid handling process is faulty

ong Kong banned Air India flights again last week, after Indians landing there tested positive for Covid-19 for the fifth time since August. Passengers are supposed to board the aircraft only after taking a test that confirms that they are negative, but the testing does not appear to be done at our end with any sort of rigour. The passengers who boarded the flight and landed in Hong Kong had certificates showing they were Covid negative, but this turned out to be untrue.

I was not surprised by this because there is no standard process that India is following for testing and for flying, and I can vouch for this from personal experience. For the last few months I have been going to Surat every month to attend to a case that has been filed against me. The first time I went was the first time I flew after the Covid-19 outbreak and had to find out what the process for flying was. I was told by the airline that an app from the Surat Municipal Corporation would have to be downloaded, and a form that was self-attested which said that I was not bearing any symptoms would also be needed to be signed and submitted. I tried downloading the app, but it was a fairly crude piece of software and my phone refused to download it.

On landing in Surat, I was not did not know I was supposed to have. On landing back in Bengaluru, nothing was asked for.

asked to show either the app or the form but instead all passengers above 50 were told to take a rapid test, and their phone numbers and addresses were taken down. On leaving Surat, I was asked to show if I had downloaded the Aarogya Setu app, which I did not have and

That was the first time I had travelled. The second time, the following month, on landing in Surat there was nobody at the airport to check anything and I walked about without the test or any form. The

One airline gave face shields but did not insist that passengers use them. Another airline forced all passengers to wear the shield over their mask. Each time there was a different process

third time, which was in October, there were people at Surat airport who were taking the temperatures of passengers who were getting off the plane but no testing or taking down of addresses or phone numbers. This time, on leaving, nobody checked for the Aarogya Setu

One airline gave out face shields but did not insist that all passengers use them. Another airline forced all passengers to wear the shield over their mask. Each time there was a different process and even that process wasn't followed with any kind of rigour. It is random and does not reflect the seriousness with which the rest of the

world has taken the virus. This could be one reason why China has 100 times fewer infections that India and why Hong Kong has had to repeatedly ban Air India.

The problem of testing is not limited to the airlines. A report from Bloomberg this week said that questionable testing in India could be the reason why our Covid-19 numbers were down. Half of all testing in India was done through rapid antigen tests. These tests were quick but were likely to result in false negatives (meaning reporting a negative wrongly) half the time. This could mean that one out of every four people getting tested negative could actually be infected with Covid-19.

In mid-August only 25 per cent of the total tests were done in this way but now it is almost 50 per cent. In states like Bihar, about 90 per cent of all tests are of the rapid variety. This could explain the sharp fall in the number of cases in India, the report said. Other nations which

had large numbers of positive cases like the United States and Britain were using the RT-PCR tests, which took longer time for results but were more reliable.

There is also uneven testing across the country and no specific standard. The day the Bloomberg report was published, Bihar, which had just voted in an election with large rallies, reported only 600 cases while the city of Delhi, the nation's capital, added about 7,000 cases in 24 hours.

The report quoted several experts who were sceptical about the numbers in India, and again, this doesn't surprise me. We have no standard processes in place to address the more serious public health hazard of our lifetime. It is obvious to those of us who have travelled in this period. The rest of the world, as the repeated bans on us from Hong Kong show, knows it too now.

The writer is a columnist and a

# quick

INDICATORS 44,077.15 0.44 12,926.45 0.52 Nifty 50 S&P 5003 3,581.04 0.66 Dollar (₹) 74.10 0.07 Pound Sterling (₹) 99.07 -0.63 Euro (₹) 88.04 0.14 Gold (₹) 49,767 0.11 45.63 Brent crude (\$/bbl)\* 5.900 0.391 IN 10-Yr bond yield US 10-Yr T-bill yield\* 0.855 3.136

### **Gland Pharma** shares rise 40% in two sessions

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

After decent listing gains last week, Gland Pharma shares gained another 15 per cent on positive management commentary. The shares gained 19.99 per cent intra-day to hit a high of Rs 2,184.50 on the BSE and later closed at Rs 2,091.85, up 14.91 per cent. Gland Pharma has gained 39.43 per cent in just two trading sessions from its public issue price of Rs 1,500 per share of Re 1 face

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On-tap banking licence already available

# **NBFCs** may prefer to skip bank status

**FALAKNAAZ SYED** MUMBAI, NOV. 23

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) internal working group's recommendation to allow large Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) to convert into front line banks may see few takers, going by the past experience. The on-tap Universal Banking Licence is anyhow available to most NBFCs and other players since 2016; however, none have opted for going down

the banking route so far
According to experts, fulfilling the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and cash
reserve ratio (CRR) requirement for NBFCs will play an important role in decision making for most of these lenders. The impact of SLR/CRR will have a severe negative impact on NBFC's margin profile as well as on their

current cashflow patterns. After the IL&FS crisis. most NBFCs have improved their risk practices and currently are sitting on cash piles to avoid any undue defaults or liquidity freeze, pointed out

experts.
The internal working group (IWG) headed by executive director P. K. Mohanty has recommended that well-run large NBFCs with an asset size of Rs 50,000 crore and including those above, by a corporate house, may be considered for conversion into banks subject to the completion of



10 years of operations, andtougher promoter stake dilution guidelines (49 per cent stake before applying, with a 10-year timeline to reach 26 per cent cap). Umesh Revankar, MD &

CEO at Shiram Transport Finance, said, "The regulator had opened doors for on-tap universal banking licence in 2016 and for small finance bank licence in 2018, so what we are seeing in terms of opening up the sector is not a first from RBI, but opening up candidature for large corporate/industrial houses and well-run large NBFCs for converting to a private sector bank is a progressive

step indeed." Transport "Shriram Transport Finance, being a large NBFC predominantly in the vehicle finance space, we have built pan-India reach with strong last-mile connectivity, all the while delivering a focused product portfolio, backed by speed & quality, to mostly the underbanked and unbanked customers. In contrast, a bank has to provide a very wide range of

**QUICK CROSSWORD** 

services, maintain statuto ry liquidity ratio and cash requirement requirements and operate at a much higher cost structure compared to NBFCs. So a NBFC will have to weigh the pros and cons after final guidelines, and understand the impact for stakeholders (shareholders, employees, customers) before considering

conversion to a bank". Similarly, in its Q2 conference call, the management of Bajaj Finance had mentioned that consideration of a banking licence will be after the company becomes thrice its current size.

Jignesh Shial, research analyst at Emkay Global, says Bajaj Finance management "would not transform into a bank at the cost of growth, at least over the medium term. However, we believe the suggestions could benefit NBFCs such as L&T Finance Holdings (L&T had tried to obtain a banking licence earlier) and conglomerates such as Aditya Birla Capital due to their diversified loan book.

### Reforms momentum to continue: **Sitharaman**

**FC BUREAU** 

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday assured indus-try that the momentum of economic reforms will continue to make India a hotspot of global invest-

Noting that the government has used the pandemic to push ahead with long pending reforms, Sitharman said, "...The momentum for reform shall continue. Several more active reform-related steps are being taken up.'

The financial sector is being professionalised and the government will continue with disinvestment agenda, she added, addressing a CII event.

The minister also said the government will speed up the new privati-sation policy for public sector units.

In order to bring in further ease for global players to set up shops here, she said an effective unified single window where access to regulators, policymakers and facilitators would be available at one point. Referring to the Prime Minister's meeting with

representatives from 20 the world's largest pension and sovereign wealth funds earlier this month, she said the emphasis of the upcoming budget is going to be what the global investor community exactly looking from India in this changing environment.

### **Investment proposals from** HK going into deep freezer

SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA

India is subjecting foreign investment proposals from Hong Kong at par with China as part of a new policy that makes approval mandatory for plans from countries that share a land border, a person with the knowledge of the matter said.

Nearly 140 investment proposals valued at over \$1.75 billion, mostly from China and Hong Kong— China's special adminisregion—have been put on hold pending scrutiny, the person said asking not to be identi-

Amidst a border stand off with China, the Indian government tight-



ened rules for foreign direct investment from all nations sharing a land border, making scrutiny mandatory for such investments—a restriction that was earlier applicable only Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The delays may complicate deal-making and impact the flow of capital

from private equity firms and hedge funds, which often include investors domiciled in China or Hong Kong. This may starve Indian companies of investment in the midst of the pandemicinduced economic contraction.

The curbs also apply when the beneficial owner of the proposed investment is situated in any of India's neighbours. A government panel constituted to approve these proposals is yet to decide on the rules, including on beneficial ownership.

Tensions between the

two giant Asian economies have been two escalating since May.

### Diwali sales bounce for organised retailers

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Organised retail Diwali sales clocking about 88 per cent of last year. Some of the cate-

gories have even seen

growth over last year. The Covid-hit Diwali this year managed to garner 87 to 88 per cent sales of last year for the organised retailers. From 69 per cent sales in October, Diwali season saw a substantial recovery, finds the Retailers Association

of India.
"While footfalls were still down, customers have been walking with a clear purpose of what to buy. This saw conversions going up and the bill sizes

were almost double that of last Diwali. While some categories did well, some lagged behind," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO,

Shopping malls too witnessed some activity during the festive days.
"While the dwell time has decreased, the ticket size has increased drastically. During the Navratri and Diwali season, shopping malls across the country reported an increase in footfalls on a week-onweek basis and witnessed a continued growth during the weekends. We are hoping to reach 80 per cent of sales on an aver-Amitabh Taneja.

chairman, Shopping Centres

Association of India. Festive-induced shopping has added some impetus to the garments category. However, growth was seen only in the occasion wear and leisurewear segments. Athleticwear, including shoes, saw good growth of about 20 per cent as compared to last year's Diwali shop-ping period. Similarly, luxury brands and occasion-wear brands have also indicated doubledigit growth.

Work-from-home category products continued to show faster recovery, especially electronics and consumer durables, with some segments registering double digit growth of about 15 to 18 per cent.

### **COFFEE-BREAK**

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

Aries: You'll find opportunities to use your resources and achieve your short-term targets. You and your spouse enjoy romantic moments. rus: Some of you fear you're stagnating and



try to push ahead to widen your horizon. Verify your new business associates' credentials before signing agreements. You'll be busy at home, battling sever-



ments. Public trusts, philanthropic organizations and joint finances interest you. Cancer: Monitor financial transactions on your own as someone close may dupe you. Students come across news regarding higher

al problems. You'll spend money on enjoy-



Leo: Important projects progress well. Balancing your and your colleagues' needs brings support. Focus on alliances with like-



expected of you.

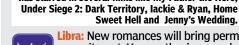
You share your b'day with

Katherine Marie Heigl is an American actress. Heigl

has starred in several films like My Father the Hero,

An illness may aggravate.

minded people. firgo: You'll focus on the future by syncing your commitments with your career plans. Keep your options open and investigate new possibilities before deciding their feasibility. Pay attention to subtle undercurrents to understand what's

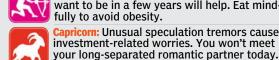


**.ibra:** New romances will bring permanent commitment. Your enthusiasm and passion for work will show in your interactions, which impresses seniors.

Sweet Hell and Jenny's Wedding.



Scorpio: Forcing your opinions, especially without all the facts, could alienate colleagues. Some of you may consider home improvement projects.



Sagittarius: You may splurge on yourself. In case of choice conflicts, visualising where you want to be in a few years will help. Eat mindfully to avoid obesity. Capricorn: Unusual speculation tremors cause investment-related worries. You won't meet



uarius: Expect good news from a distant area. Mental satisfaction from your romantic relationship is your sole purpose today. A business discussion behind closed doors may work for you.



ces: The illusion of infatuation could bring hurt. Neglecting the family for work will cause disappointments. Stay legally advised before aligning with business partners. Vacation plans might go wrong; be careful.



**ALDER** STILL **A BACHELOR AFTER ALL** 

**THESE DEALS** 

n 1994, David Bird published a book entitled "Bachelor Bridge" (Master Point Press). Now, with the assistance of Simon Cocheme, the bidding has been brought up to date, the text honed and extra deals added. The book's hero is Jack, who is looking for a bridge-playing girlfriend. In the 26 chapters, Jack has no trouble

meeting women, but he is much less successful at find-ing a girlfriend. It takes the

In this deal from Chapter 20, Jack was East, casting an admiring eye over declarer

admiring eye over declarer Sharon.

North's raise to two hearts was debatable, but she had not heard of the Support Double. If she had passed, East would have raised to two spades, South would have made a card-showing double, and then North could have supported hearts.

Against four hearts, West led the spade ace, and Jack



Across 1.Mustard plaster 8. Bird 9. Farthquake 10. Engrave with acid 12. Tops

19

17. Of birth 18. Open-mouthed

**Word Mine** 

A O

HLLOC

GOOD; 17 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only.

Each word must contain the

letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are

not allowed.

chill, coach, coal, coca, cocoa, coil, colic, cool, illa local, loch, loco

19. Shrink

1. Army chaplain 2. Final outcome 3. Small mountain lake 4. Desire greatly 5. Welder's gas

18

6. Still the same 11. Musical composition 13. As above 15. Preliminary version

16. Cospiracy

jumble

LIVAL

**GLTIH** 

**GENUHO** 

**PMCASU** 

THEY WANTED A BETTER VIEW OF THE SMALL INLET FROM THEIR HOME, SO THEY BUILT AN ---

UNPACK

trick five. East took his trump

Across: 1. Backdrop, 6. Idle, 7. Enigma, 9. Scoff, 11. Quest, 12. Ochre, 13. Wafer, 16. Effort, 18. Jolt, 19. Spyglass.

Print your answer here:

lumbles: YEAST Answer: The player

played the queen, promising

played the queen, promising his namesake. After a spade to the jack, East switched to the club jack. Sharon won with dummy's ace and played a heart to her jack. When that held, what did declarer do next?

While you are deciding, note that five diamonds by North can be made with a heart-club squeeze against East.

trick, but a third spade would have been ruffed on the board. When he continued with a second club, declarer won with her king, drew trumps and ran the diamonds. If you would like to know why Sharon didn't become Jack's girlfriend, you will have to read the book.

an attempt to fix her - FAULTY SERVE

East.

To keep the contract under control if trumps were 4-2, Sharon led her heart two at

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#### CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson



#### THE WIZARD OF ID|Parker and Hartsd



#### ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman



#### **BLONDIE** Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs













### SHORT TAKES

#### **Prajnesh goes** down in final

Orlando: Indian tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran ended runner-up at the Orlando Open, losing the summit clash of the ATP Challenger event to American Brandon Nakashima,

Prajnesh did not have the required power in his strokes to hurt the American, losing 3-6 4-6 in the \$52,080 hard court

tournament on Sunday. He could convert none of the eight break chances that came his way in an hour and 28 minute contest. It is Prainesh's second straight runner-up finish. He had reached the final at the Cary Challenger last week. The result helped Prajnesh to

move to 128 from 137. He has already locked the India number one rank with his Orlando show. Serving at 2-3, 30-all, Prajnesh buried a forehand to the net to be down a break point but saved it with an ace. Another forehand error by

Prajnesh gave Nakaksima another chance but the Indian saved that too with a well setup winner. - PTI

### **BCCI condoles**

#### Bhaskaran's death

**New Delhi:** The BCCI on Monday condoled the death of former Kerala first-class cricketer CK Bhaskaran Nair, who had also played an unofficial first-class game against then

Ceylon. Bhaskaran breathed his last in Houston, USA, where he practised medicine. He was 79. 'The BCCI mourns the death of Dr. CK Bhaskaran Nair. The 79year-old passed away on 21st November 2020 at Houston in the United States of America (USA)," the Board stated in a condolence message.

Nair, a former Ranji Trophy cricketer, was born in 1941 in Thalassery in Kerala. He picked 106 wickets in 42 first-class matches in a 12-year career spanning from 1957 to 1969. He had five five-wicket hauls and scored 580 runs, with the highest being 76 not out. — PTI

### **Afridi misses SL**

#### flight ahead of LPL

Lahore: Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afrifdi on Monday missed his flight to Sri Lanka and will be unavailable for at least the first two matches of his franchise Galle Gladiators in the inaugural Lanka Premier League.

The former Pakistan captain tweeted about the same, adding to the agony of the tournament organisers after a spate of heavyweight pullouts. Missed my flight to Colombo

today morning. Nothing to worry, I'll be reaching soon to take part in the LPL for Galle Gladiators Look forward to ioining my teammates." Afridi wrote on his Twitter handle. Galle Gladiators will play their first match on November 27 against Jaffna Stallions, a day after the inaugural season opener between Kandy Tuskers

and Colombo Kings. The Gladiators play their second and third matches on November 28 and 30 respectively. — PTI

### **VFI** told to pay ₹4 cr to Baseline

New Delhi: The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has been ordered to pay ₹4 crore as compensation to Baseline Ventures for terminating its contract with the sports event management company for conducting the Pro Volleyball

League. In an award delivered by sole arbitrator Justice (retd) K Kannan, the VFI has also been ordered to pay ₹5 lakh legal fee and 12 per cent interest from the date of commencement of arbitral proceedings, Baseline Ventures said in a release on

Monday. The arbitrator was appointed on the orders of the Madras High Court. The first season of the PVL was held last year but the VFI and Baseline Ventures. who had signed a ten-year contract to conduct the league, got embroiled in a dispute. — PTI

### Live on

**FOOTBALL** 

Indian Super League: Jamshedpur vs Chennaiyin from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Champions League: Rennes vs Chelsea from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Krasnodar vs Sevilla from 11.25 pm on Sony Six; Manchester United vs Istanbul Basaksehir from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Dynamo Kyiv vs Barcelona from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1; Paris St Germain vs Leipzig from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Juventus vs Ferencyaros from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2

# High-flying Reds Aridane stars as Hyderabad win

## Jota, Firmino score as Liverpool bulldoze Leicester

Liverpool shrugged off an injury crisis to move level on points with Tottenham at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 win over Leicester, while 10-man Arsenal were left to cling on for a 0-0 draw at Leeds by Nicolas Pepe's red card on Sunday.
The champions were

without the injured Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jordan Henderson. Thiago Alcantara, Xherdan Shaqiri and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, while top s Mohamed Salah absent due to a positive

Coronavirus test. Yet, Jurgen Klopp's men were still imperious in easing past a Leicester side that had started the weekend on top of the

The Foxes did not do themselves any favours when Jonny Evans turned James Milner's corner into his own net to reward Liverpool's bright start.

Diogo Jota then became the first ever Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games with a downward header from Andy Robertson's cross. Only a combination of goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and the woodwork kept Liverpool from a repeat of the 4-0 thrashing they dished out to Leicester when the sides last met in December.

But Robert Firmino then rounded off a fine night for the champions with a towering header from another Milner corner six minutes from time.

Liverpool have now set a new club record of 64 unbeaten league games at Anfield.

#### PEPE LETS **ARSENAL DOWN**

Leicester's defeat means Arsenal are just five points off the top four, but Mikel Arteta was furious at Pepe's lack of discipline as the Gunners were lucky to escape with a point at Elland Road where they played 0-0 stalemate with Leeds.

Leeds are 14th after their third consecutive match without a win, but Marcelo Bielsa's men were left cursing their luck as Rodrigo, Patrick samtord and Kaphinha ali hit the woodwork in the

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had been given a rare chance in the central striker's role, but he was starved of service even before Pepe's dismissal.

Aubameyang's penalty in a 1-0 win at Manchester United last month is the only league goal Arsenal have now scored for nearly 500 minutes.

Meanwhile, Everton recovered from three straight defeats to beat Everton Fulham 3-2 thanks to a  $\begin{array}{lll} \mbox{double} & \mbox{from} & \mbox{Dominic} \\ \mbox{Calvert-Lewin.} & -AFP \end{array}$ 



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino in a goal-mouth action during their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool, North West England, on Sunday. Liverpool won 3-0.

# Zlatan's brace blanks Napoli

Milan, Nov. 23: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to bring his tally to 10 league goals this season before limping off with a muscle strain as AC Milan stayed top in Serie 'A' on Sunday with a 3-1 win at 10-man Napoli.

Milan move back two points ahead of Sassuolo 2-0 winners earlier at Hellas Verona — with Roma third after Henrikh Mkhitaryan netted brace in a dominant 3-0 win over Parma.

Ibrahimovic continued his fine form, heading in a Theo Hernandez cross after 20 minutes, sending in the second with his knee nine minutes after the break.

But the 39-year-old pulled up clutching his left hamstring and was substituted after 79 min-

The Swede has scored in all six games he has played this season, having missed two after contracting Coronavirus.

Napoli played the final half an hour a man down after Tiemoue Bakayoko was sent off for two yellow cards, just after Dries Mertens had pulled a goal back for the hosts.

Norwegian Jens Petter Hauge completed the scoring five minutes into injury time, the 21-yearold getting his first Serie A goal.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic of AC Milan in action against Napoli during their Italian League match at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on Sunday.

### **YUSUF STRIKES TWICE**

Paris, Nov. 23: Turkey international Yusuf Yazici struck twice as Lille ended a three-game winless run in French League with a 4-0 victory over Lorient that cut Paris Saint-Germain's lead at the top to two points.

Ŷazici slotted home from a Jonathan Bamba pass to put Lille ahead on 28 minutes before flicking in a Jonathan David cross to double the advantage early in the second half.

The midfielder then turned provider for Luiz Araujo to add a third for Lille on the hour, with Jonathan David notching his long-awaited first goal for the club in the closing stages.

Meanwhile, Christophe Galtier's side reclaimed

second place from Lyon, who beat Angers 1-0 earlier in the day courtesy of a late winner from Zimbabwe striker Tino Kadewere.

### **ISAK SHINES AS SOCIEDAD EDGE** PAST CADIZ 1-0

Madrid, Nov. 23: Real Sociedad moved three points clear at the top of La Liga on Sunday after Alexander Isak's goal proved the difference in a 1-0 win over Cadiz. Isak headed in Adnan

Januzaj's cross shortly after the hour mark at the Ramon Carranza to secure a sixth consecutive league victory for La Real. An excellent start to the season shows no sign of abating, with Imanol Alguacil's side now three

points clear of secondlaced Atletico Madrid, albeit having played two They have scored an impressive 21 goals from their opening 10 matches. the highest tally in the league, and conceded only

four. After travelling to AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday, Real Sociedad play at home to Villarreal, who sit third and are the league's other surprise high-fliers.

Defeat means Cadiz sit sixth, just above Sevilla. Getafe were earlier held to a goalless draw by Eihar -AFP

### **VIRAT'S WORDS HELPED ME STAY STRONG: SIRAJ**

Sydney, Nov. 23: Away from family while grieving the recent loss of his fother. Indian and the system of the syste father, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj says skipper Virat Kohli's advice to "be strong" has helped him stay afloat as he gears up for a gru-elling series against Australia.

Siraj's Mohammed Ghouse, 53, died due to a lung ailment in Hyderabad last week and despite BCCI offering him the option to return home, the fast bowler decided to stay put on national duty. "Virat bhai

'Miyaan tension maat le (don't be tense) and be strong. Your dad wanted you to play for India. So, do that and don't stress, the Siraj told bcci.tv on the sidelines of India's training session.

"The skipper told me, 'If you can be strong in this situation, it will only help you'. So those were positive words from the Indian captain and it felt nice," the Hyderabad pacer added.

Goa, Nov. 23: Hyderabad FC began their Indian Super League Season 7 campaign with a solitary goal win over Odisha FC, at the GMC Stadium in Goa on Monday. Debutant Aridane Santana (35') net-ted a penalty that proved to be the difference between the two sides, as Hyderabad kept their first-ever clean sheet in the

league. Hyderabad were all over Odisha's territory in the opening minutes of the game, forcing their opponents to play deep. They won a series of corners in the first 10 minutes. The Nizams' first real

chance arrived in the 6th minute when Lluis Sastre whipped a perfect delivery into the box but Santana failed to direct his header towards goal. That the visitors had worked on their set-pieces was evident. A smartly-executed corner in the 10th minute saw Akash Mishra force Odisha goal-keeper Arshdeep Singh into a save.

After constant probing, Hyderabad got their reward in the form of a penalty. Aridane Santana played Halicharan Narzary clear on goal, and his effort was handled by Odisha skipper Steven Taylor.

Santana kept his composure and slotted home in the 35th minute.

Hyderabad Subrata Paul had to wait until the 40th minute to make his first save, thwarting Odisha striker Manuel Onwu. The Nizams had chances to extend their lead but the outstanding Singh made a couple of good saves just before the breather.
Minutes after the restart,

Odisha had their best opportunity to restore par-But Nandhakumar Sekar's poor first touch allowed Mishra to make a crucial goal-saving tackle. At the hour mark, Odisha had yet another chance. Diego Mauricio ghosted past his marker and squared a pass into the area to Onwu, whose low shot was kept out by Paul.

Hyderabad almost doubled the lead from a setpiece but Joao Victor's goal was rightly ruled offside. Liston Colaco almost produced a moment of magic in the 67th minute, when he dribbled from the halfway mark into the box but was unable to find the finish. In the end, though, the misses did not matter, as Hyderabad held on for the

— Agencies

### **CHENNAIYIN LOCK HORNS** WITH JAMSHEDPUR FC

Vasco, Nov. 23: Chennaiyin FC will have their task cut out as they go up against two individuals who charted their stunning comeback last season but will turn out for Jamshedpur FC in their Indian Super

League game here on Tuesday.

Chennaiyin fans will find not one, but three of their former heroes in the opposing dug-out when their team takes on Jamshedpur FC at the Tilak Maidan

Coach Owen Coyle was the mastermind behind last season's stunning recovery that saw Chennaiyin go from rock bottom to within a game of the ISL title. Jamshedpur conceded 35 goals last season with only Hyderabad FC having a more porous defence. It remains to be seen whether the presence of former Sunderland defender Peter Hartley and Nigerian centre-back Stephen Eze will improve things in this

regard.
For Chennaiyin, the biggest task will be to fill the gaps left behind by departing players. Of the foreign contingent from last season, only new captain Rafael Crivellaro and defender Eli Sabia remain

-PTI



after defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 in the final of the ATP World Finals at the O2 arena in

### Medvedev stuns Thiem to win title

London, Nov. 23: Daniil Medvedev came from behind to beat US Open champion Dominic Thiem in a gripping encounter and win the biggest title of his career at the ATP Finals in

London on Sunday. The Russian fourth seed was second best for large periods at the empty O2 Arena but found a way back into the contest and pre-

vailed 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. Medvedev, who beat fivetime champion Novak Djokovic and world number two Rafael Nadal earlier in the week, is the first man to beat all three of the world's

season finale. The giant Russian, 24, has now won 10 consecutive matches following his title earlier this month at the Paris Masters and his victory will taste sweet a year after a winless debut in

top-ranked players at the

But it is a painful defeat for Thiem, who also lost in the final of the elite eight man event last year, to Stefanos Tsitsipas.

'What a match. One of my best victories, two hours and 42 minutes, three sets against an amazing player,' said Medvedev.

Thiem weathered early pressure from Medvedev and secured the first break of the match in the fifth

game, when the Russian served a double fault.

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22254751 Editor: **Kaushik Mitter** 

### **RAINA PLEDGES TO LOOK AFTER 34 SCHOOLS**

New Delhi, Nov. 23: Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has pledged to build sanitation and drinking water facilities at 34 government schools across Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and NCR.

Raina has decided to ring in his 34th birthday on November 27 with a series of philanthropic activities in association with his NGO, the Gracia Raina Foundation (GRF), named after his daughter.

The initiative ensure health hygiene to over 10,000 children studying in these schools.

Raina, along with his wife Priyanka, a cofounder of the foundation kicked off his birthday week by inaugurating the upgraded drinking water facility, separate toilets for boys and girls, hand washing, dish washing area and smart classrooms at Govt Composite Middle School. Nagar Sihani, Ghaziabad as part of the joint project

Gracia Raina Foundation and Yuva Unstoppable.

### keep his temper in check **Sydney, Nov. 23:** Australian opener David Warner vowed Monday to keep his temper in check during the upcoming series against India, pre-

dicting Virat Kohli's men will try to wind him up with verbal taunts. Warner once revelled in

reputation Australia's attack dog during on-field confrontations but said he had toned down his antics as he matured.

The 34-year-old expected some barbs to be thrown his way during the upcoming India tour, which begins with a oneday international in Sydney on Friday, but said he would let his bat do the talking.

"The last time we toured in India they really engaged us like that," he told a conference call.

"We're learning over time, especially myself, that if you look not to engage in that you're almost reversing the effect by ignoring it, trying to take it in, and using your bat," he added.

Warner said he planned



'Humble' Warner vows to

your bat. Australian batsman vation, while refusing to retaliate in kind and

attitude. "You don't know the effect (losing your temper) will have on your teammates, so you have to be a bit more humble and be more respectful to the opposition," he said.

maintaining a positive

### 'MY DAYS

David Warner on Monday said his "days are numbered" in international cricket and continuing an approach of keeping his aggression in check, he

would rather ignore than engage if Indian players attempt to sledge him during the upcoming series. Warner, in a virtual

- DAVID

WARNER **1** 

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press conference facilitated by the series' official broadcaster Sony, touched upon his evolution as a batsman in the past couple of years. just recently "I've

turned 34, so my days are numbered, when you're in the 30s. There's obviously a risk element but there's obviously a cricket smarts element to it as well," Australia's big-hitting opener David said.

— Agencies