

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 23 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



Max: 31°C  
Min: 18°C  
Rainfall: Nil

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Karthigai 8  
**Tithi:** Navami  
**Star:** Sathayam  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am  
**Yamagadam:** 10.30 am to 12 noon  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4:57 am  
**Zohar:** 12:00 am  
**Asar:** 3:13 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5:39 pm  
**Isha:** 6:54 pm

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,652)	(+487)
91,38,560	1,33,750

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,655)  
TN: 7,69,995 11,605

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,87,76,019

DEATHS  
13,90,986

COUNTRIES  
AREAS WITH  
CASES 218

worldometers.info

## Woman found living with dead husband for 4 days

**Chennai:** A 55-year-old woman was found living with the body of her dead husband for four days at their house in Chengalpet district, the police said. The incident came to light when neighbours detected a foul smell emanating from the couple's house in Chennai in Chengalpet on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Dhamodharan (65), anastrologer.

## Indian navy participates in sitnex-20

**New Delhi:** As part of effort to strengthen India's strategic maritime, Indian Navy participated in trilateral maritime exercise SITMEX-20, with Singapore and Thailand on November 21 & 22 in Andaman sea. The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). This exercise comes soon after multi-lateral Malabar Naval war game in which Indian, US, Australian and Japan navies.

## 'Biden admin might engage more with India'

**Washington:** The incoming Biden administration will have a more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, a noted foreign policy expert has said, asserting that there will be an opportunity to work with New Delhi to balance the burgeoning influence of China in the region. Sohini Chatterjee, a faculty member at Columbia University who previously served as senior policy advisor in the Obama administration, said in some cases, there will be a "little bit of consistency" as both US President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is an important strategic partner in the region.

## COUNTER POINT



No pollution, no Covid...  
I don't need no rescue!

## STATE | 4

**Udhayanidhi Stalin**  
detained for third day



## NATION | 5

**Azad: People, Cong**  
delinked for long

## SPORT | 8

**Rohit ready to bat**  
anywhere in Test



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# Better world order must for post-Covid recovery: Modi

**New Delhi, Nov. 22:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reiterated at the G20 summit the importance of reforms in multilateral organisations to ensure better global governance for faster post-Covid recovery.

In his address on the second and final day of the summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia in the virtual format, Mr Modi also highlighted India's efforts for inclusive development through a participatory approach.

"Was honoured to address G20 partners again on the 2nd day of the Virtual Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia," he tweeted. "Reiterated the importance of reforms in multilateral organizations to ensure better global governance for faster post-Covid recovery," Mr Modi said in a series of tweets on his address at the summit of the world's leading 20 economies.

At the summit, he also emphasised that an Aatmanirbhar Bharat will be a strong pillar of a resilient post-Covid world economy and global value chains.

"Underlined India's civilizational commitment to harmony between humanity and nature, and our success in increasing renewable energy and biodiversity," the Prime Minister said in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during G-20 Riyadh Summit, via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Sunday. — PTI

## Centre rushes teams to three more states

**SANJAY KAW | DC**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

With Covid-19 caseload in the country crossing the 91 lakh mark, high-level central teams were on Sunday deputed to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to support them in response and management of the virus. These states have been

another tweet.

Climate change must be fought not in silos but in an integrated, comprehensive and holistic way, Mr Modi said and asserted that the entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technol-

ogy and finance to developing nations. Addressing the G20 side event on 'Safeguarding the Planet', the Prime Minister said India is not only meeting its Paris Agreement targets, but also exceeding them. — PTI

## Vaccine: Govt may opt for emergency authorisation

**New Delhi, Nov. 22:** The government is exploring the modalities of emergency authorisation and usage of anti-coronavirus vaccines pending completion of phase-three clinical trial and regular licensure.

The issue of advance purchase commitment for vaccines, including pricing, was also discussed in a recent meeting attended by NITI Aayog Member (health) Vinod Paul, principal scientific advisor to the government K. Vijay Raghavan and Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

"It was decided that the PMO-constituted Vaccine Task Force will lay down the principles for emergency use authorisation while the National Expert Group On Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 should take the lead in setting the principles for advance market commitment, including vaccine pricing," a source said.

At present, five vaccines are under different phases of clinical trials in India. — PTI

## NGT: Form agency to protect water bodies

**New Delhi, Nov. 22:** Noting that adequate steps for protection of water bodies have not been taken, the National Green Tribunal has directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to designate a nodal agency for the exercise.

The NGT directed that under the oversight of chief secretaries of States/UTs, the designated nodal agency may hold its meeting not later than January 31, 2021, to take stock of the situation and plan further steps, including directions to district authorities for further course of action.

The tribunal asked the Central Monitoring Committee, formed for monitoring remediation of 351 polluted river stretches, to monitor the steps for restoration of water bodies by all the states periodically, at least thrice in a year.

First such monitoring may take place by March 31, 2021, the tribunal said.

"We find that steps taken so far can hardly be held to be adequate...It helps not only aesthetics but also water availability, aquatic life, microclimate, recharge of ground water and maintaining e-flow of the rivers.

● **The NGT directed all states and Union Territories to set up the designated nodal agency under the oversight of chief secretaries and hold its meeting not later than January 31, 2021.**

"Under the Public Trust Doctrine, the State has to act as trustee of the water bodies to protect them for the public use and enjoyment for current and future generations," a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice A.K. Goel said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by petitioner Haryana resident Lt Col (retd) Sarvadam Singh Oberoi seeking to restore Ghata Lake in Gurgaon besides restoration of 214 other water bodies and natural channels in the district and similar water bodies in Faridabad.

The tribunal had expanded the scope of the petition to the entire country, in the interest of protection of the environment. — PTI

## Build party first, Shah tells cadre

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

Senior BJP leader and Union home minister Amit Shah has wound up his visit to Tamil Nadu on Sunday morning with an instruction to the party cadre to focus on building the party in the state on its own.

Mr Shah has reportedly told the functionaries that the party should not be dependent on celebrities and should be built on the strength of its ideological moorings.

Prior to addressing party members, Mr Shah met leaders from the AIADMK, PMK and DMDK and reportedly settled the seat sharing question with them. The AIADMK leaders, O Panneerselvam, Edappadi K Palaniswami and D Jayakumar, had agreed to give 20 to 25 seats to the BJP, another 25 to the PMK and 15 to the DMDK, which would also be given a Rajya Sabha nomination.

Though none of this information was confirmed by any of the leaders involved in the talks, sources say that the AIADMK is keen on contesting close to 165 of the 234 seats in the Assembly as it wants to form a government on its own without support from allies. — PTI



Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and other ministers seeing off Union home minister Amit Shah at the airport in Chennai on Sunday. — DC

## Rajini, Alagiri fail to turn up but send word to BJP leader

**G BABU JAYAKUMAR & D SEKAR / DC**  
CHENNAI, NOV 22

In the long night of meetings and tete-a-tetes that Union home minister Amit Shah had with state BJP functionaries and others after his official meeting at Kalaivanar Arangan on Saturday, actor Rajinikanth was the one who seemed to be missing but it is learnt that Rajinikanth's message was conveyed to Mr Shah by the auditor and magazine editor S Gurumurthy.

One of the speculations making the rounds on Mr Shah's visit to Chennai was that he might meet Rajinikanth. M.K. Alagiri, the Madurai-based elder son of M Karunanidhi, was also rumoured to call on Mr Shah.

The Shah visit is being seen as a major success both by the BJP and the ruling AIADMK, which announced that its poll tie-up with the BJP would continue into 2021 when the state assembly polls will be held. The BJP had left no stone unturned to have its leader greeted warmly in the city by the ruling party AIADMK.

Neither Rajini or Mr Alagiri may have turned up at Hotel Leela Palace, where Mr Shah had a series of meetings that went upto 2.30 am on Sunday but both may have sent word or their friends could have carried word to Mr Shah on what they are planning.

While Mr Alagiri is said to have sent a message through K.P. Ramalingam, an ousted DMK leader who joined the BJP earlier on Saturday, Rajinikanth's message was apparently conveyed to Mr Shah by Mr Gurumurthy. — PTI

storm during 48 hours. Very likely to move Northwestwards and cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram likely on November 25 noon or afternoon.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into Indian Ocean and adjoining West-Central Bay of Bengal, Gulf of Mannar, along and off Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh coasts till November 25. — PTI

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## PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE ON LOC, IB AGAIN

**Jammu, Nov 22:** Pakistani troops targeted forward posts and villages along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Rajouri district, drawing retaliation from Indian troops, officials said on Sunday.

However, there was no report of any casualty in the latest ceasefire violation which came a day after a personnel of the Indian Army was killed and three others including two women were injured in separate ceasefire violations by Pakistan in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

"At about 11.15 am on Sunday, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly," a defence spokesman said.

In another ceasefire violation, the officials said Pakistani Rangers targeted Satal, Manyari, Karol Krishna and Gurnam border out-post areas at around 9 pm on Saturday, drawing strong retaliation from the Border Security Force (BSF). "They said the cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 3:45 am on Sunday but there was no report of casualty. — PTI

## NADDA TO GO ON 120-DAY TOUR OF THE NATION

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** BJP president J.P. Nadda will embark on a 120-day nationwide tour to tone up the party's formidable organisational machinery with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, as the saffron dispensation looks to focus on regions where it did not fare well in the last general election.

BJP general secretary Arun Singh told reporters that Mr Nadda will begin his travel from the first week of December and Uttarakhand will be the first state on his itinerary. December 5 is the likely date for the beginning of his tour. Mr Singh said the BJP president will visit every state, hold virtual meetings with heads of all booth units, the smallest organisational entity in the party. — PTI

## KARNATAKA EX MIN BAIG ARRESTED

**VINAY MADHAV IDC**  
BENGALURU, NOV 22

Former Karnataka minister R. Roshan Baig, who had resigned as Congress MLA and joined the BJP and helped B S Yeddyurappa to form the government, was on Sunday arrested by the CBI in the I Monetary Advisory (IMA) gold scam.

The CBI, which took Mr Baig into custody for questioning in the morning, later recorded his arrest and produced him before the CBI judge in the evening. Mr Baig has been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

The case is related to IMA director Mansoor Ali Khan starting a gold investment scheme in which he collected over Rs 4000 crore from over 40,000 investors and then cheated them.





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## SHORT TAKES

## Ex-bureaucrat to initiate PM welfare schemes in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

Former Government official Dr Rajaraman has taken charge as the head of the voluntary organisation 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Kalyankari Yojana Prachar Prasar Abhiyan' in Tamil Nadu to implement the Indian PM's 137 special welfare schemes.

The PM's special welfare schemes to benefit the poor in the country are directly implemented nationwide from his office - schemes like financial aid for farmers and educational aid for school children. The PM's brother Mr. Prahalad Modi is the National President.

Rajaraman had served and retired as Additional Commissioner of Commercial Taxes Department. Mr. Muralidharan, an empowered entrepreneur in agricultural trade, is appointed as Secretary-State, and Mr. Mohan Kumar Reddy appointed as coordinator-State. Dr. Rajaraman said, "We have set a target for 2021 that these benefits should reach at least two lakh beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu."

## Foreign vessels can't fish in Indian waters

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The Union Fisheries Development Commissioner has clarified that foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in Indian waters as per the extant policy of the Government of India.

'Any foreign fishing vessels if found engaged in illegal fishing /poaching in Indian waters is apprehended by Indian maritime security and monitoring agencies,' Fisheries Development Commissioner, Paul Pandian, said in a reply to International Fishermen Development Trust (INFIDET) that had sought a ban on foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters.

The letter addressed to President of INFIDET, P Justin Anthony, said 'traditional fishers were being encouraged and supported for undertaking deep-sea fishing.' They would be provided assistance for procurement of resource-specific deep-sea fishing vessels, conversion of existing trawlers into long liners, training and capacity building and other welfare measures under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Blue Revolution' and 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMM-SY), the letter said.

## Temple priest held for harassing women

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The Police on Saturday arrested a temple priest on the charges of harassing and eve-teasing women and girls in Nanganallur area. The accused has been identified as Balaji (30) a resident of Perumal Kovil street in Old Palavaram. He used to be a priest in a temple in the neighbourhood. Police said that after they received several complaints from women regarding a man on a motorbike who behaved inappropriately with women by passing lewd comments and groping them in Nanganallur area, the Palavanthangal police were posted in plain clothes to nab the man.

## Shah Chennai visit raises Oppn hackles

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

Several political leaders raised objections to the manner in which a government function to launch schemes was converted into a political platform to announce alliances and also make scathing attacks on opposition parties.

DMK general secretary Durai Murugan, in a reply to Shah mentioning dynasty in politics, asked if the children of AIADMK leaders like O Panneerselvam and D Jayakumar were not in politics.

Referring to Shah's statement that the present government was doing a great job and that the BJP government at the Centre was also supporting it, DMK treasurer T R Baalu said that the only thing that the BJP had done to Tamil Nadu was to ensure Tamil was ignored and Hindi gained prominence.

Since Shah had wondered what the UPA government, in which the DMK was a part, had done, Baalu listed the achievement of the UPA and accused the BJP of work-



ing against social justice schemes in the State.

TNCC leader A Gopanna accused Palaniswami and Panneerselvam of openly pledging the AIADMK to the BJP. "What was the need for announcing a political alliance at a government function?" he asked, adding that the alliance would ensure the defeat of AIADMK.

People would not accept the alliance and would teach them a lesson like they did in the Lok Sabha elections, said VCK general secretary Thol Thirumavalavan. He accused the AIADMK of pawning the state's welfare to the BJP and said that even the AIADMK cadre would not accept the alliance with BJP.

## Stalin hits back, dubs dynasty politics barb a conjuring 'trick'

Chennai, Nov 22 DMK president M K Stalin on Sunday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for attacking his party with the 2G Spectrum scam allegation and dynasty politics barb, saying it was an amusing and conjuring trick ahead of the 2021 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.

The accusations were comical since the 'twins' who stood by Shah's side - Chief Minister K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam - were 'involved in corruption,' over the past about four years, Stalin alleged, referring to the Home Minister as "Delhi Chanakya."

"They may do any number of conjuring tricks, but the people are clear," the DMK chief said adding a body blow awaited the AIADMK and BJP



"They may do any number of conjuring tricks, but the people are clear," the DMK chief said adding a body blow awaited the AIADMK and BJP combine in the assembly elections due in April-May next year for levelling such charges"

combine in the assembly elections due in April-May next year for levelling such charges."

He would not rest till the DMK returned to power; Stalin said adding he would start his poll campaign in January.

Till such time the party won power in Tamil Nadu there was no question of respite and he would start his poll campaign in January, Stalin said. "Let us march ahead by outmanoeuvring the conspira-

cies of AIADMK and the BJP to scuttle our journey towards victory," he said in a reference to the accusations against his party.

On Saturday, AIADMK said its alliance with the BJP would continue for the assembly elections.

Shah said DMK and its ally Congress had no right to talk about corruption since the 2G Spectrum allocation scam happened during the United Progressive Alliance regime.

Dubbing the DMK a dynasty party, he had alleged it did not function based on democratic values but only took forward dynasty politics. It was now the turn of the DMK to lose elections -2021 Assembly polls- following the RJD in Bihar, he said.

The Minister also demanded the DMK to list out what it had done for Tamil Nadu when it held the reins of power.

Party treasurer T R Baalu alleged the BJP regime at the Centre has only betrayed Tamil Nadu so far by ignoring Tamil and imposing Hindi, and 'damaging' social harmony.

Listing several projects like the Rs 908 crore Nemelli desalination plant, Baalu said these were the achievements of his party-led regime.

—PTI

## Gurumurthy may help rope in Rajini

From P1

According to sources, Gurumurthy was closeted with Shah for more than two hours. Rajinikanth is said to have told Gurumurthy what his plans were for the next Assembly elections when the two of them met very recently.

Though the BJP and Gurumurthy would like to rope in the actor in some way during the campaign to help the BJP get votes, it is not certain Rajinikanth is inclined to do so. After dropping plans to launch his own party, he does not want to involve himself in politics, particularly when his support is sought not just by the BJP but also by Kamal Haasans' MNM.

In fact, Rajinikanth not meeting Mr Shah triggered speculations in the media about his health. It was said that he was unwell and had gone to his Kelambakkam farm house, which was swiftly denied by his PR person, clarifying that he was very much at his Poes Garden house and was hale and hearty.

## Good turnout at TFPC elections

ANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN | DC  
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

The much-awaited elections for the Tamil Film Producers Council (2020-2022), the most powerful body of Tamil cinema, took place as scheduled by the High Court appointed Election Commissioner M. Jayachandran on November 22 at MGR Janaki college in Adyar amidst heavy police bandobast.

Reports came in of around 1,050 producers casting their votes from among 1,303 eligible voters before closing time of 4 pm. The results will be announced on Monday morning.

The voting process, which commenced a little late at 8.25 am, went on smoothly for the most part, except for the ruckus created by filmmaker/producer Praveenkanth and his supporters alleging that money and gold coins were distributed as a bribe to voters at the venue.

One of the early ones to arrive at the venue was the first time contestant - veteran T.Rajender, com-



Kamal Haasan arrives to cast his vote.



T. Rajender, competing for the post of President arrives in early.

— A.R. Anser

peting for the post of President. After casting his vote he said, "Our

team is confident of winning this election." The other contenders for the

president post are veteran producer Ramasamy aka Murali and Thenappan.

After casting her vote, Kushbbu said, "Every vote makes a difference. Whoever wins should work for the welfare of the council."

Reacting to a query on films releasing on OTT, actor turned producer Sivakarthiskeyan said, "Whether OTT or theatre, it is up to the producer to decide. One should take the present Covid 19 situation also into consideration. As far as I am concerned, films are made only to reach the masses."

Actor/producer turned politician Kamal Haasan arrived before the poll closed. Others who turned out included actor/politician Karunas, Bhagyaraj and Poornima Bhagyaraj, actors Vemal, Arjun, Parthiban, SJ Suryah, Rajashekara Pandian, Devyani, Santhanam, Thirumurugan among a host of producers. Rajinikanth, one of the oldest members of TFPC was conspicuous by his absence.

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

A 55-year-old woman was found living with the body of her dead husband for four days at their house in Chengalpet district, the police said. The incident came to light when neighbours detected a foul smell emanating from the couple's house in Chennai in Chengalpet on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Dhamodharan (65), an

According to the police, when the neighbours enquired of Rajeshwari about the foul smell, she allegedly told them it was emanating from a dead rat. On suspicion, their neighbours alerted the police

astrologer. He lived with his wife, Rajeshwari (55).

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allegedly told them it was emanating from a dead rat. On suspicion, their neighbours alerted the police.

The Chengalpet Taluk police checked the house and saw the 65-year-old man lying dead on a bed in a room.

The woman was said to be mentally unstable, the police said.

The body was sent to the Chengalpet hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and investigations are on.

## Woman found living with dead husband for four days

## The death wish and a smoking gun



Sanjay Pinto

Contrary to movies or TV studio debates (the latter can boomerang!) the mere mention of a person's name in a suicide note does not automatically attract criminal liability.

Abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is a cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence, carrying upto a ten year jail term. An arrest can be made without a warrant and bail is decided by the court. It must, however, be read with Section 107 IPC which defines abetment. To constitute the offence of abetment, criminal intent or mens rea is necessary. The essential ingredients are instigation, engagement, conspiracy or intentional aid.

These terms are to be interpreted based on the facts and circumstances of each case, with a catena of judgments of the Supreme Court serving as a guiding

light. So in a fit of anger, if X tells Y "go jump into the well" and the latter does it impulsively, after leaving behind a suicide note, and dies, is an offence made out? No, if you go by decided cases. The Supreme Court in State of West Bengal Vs Orilal Jaiswal (1994) was clear that if "a victim committing suicide was hypersensitive to ordinary petulance, discord and differences in domestic life, quite common to the society to which the victim belonged, and such petulance, discord and differences were not expected to induce a similarly circumstanced individual to commit suicide, the conscience of the Court should not be satisfied for basing a finding that the accused charged of abetting the offence of suicide should be found guilty."

A curse or words uttered in exasperation will not suffice to fasten criminal liability. In S.S.Cheena Vs Vijay Kumar Mahajan (2010) the Court was categorical about "the intention of the legislature and the ratio of the cases decided". It held that in order to constitute an offence, "there has to be a



clear mens rea. It also requires an active or direct act which led the deceased to commit suicide seeing no option and that act must have been intended to push the deceased into such a position that he committed suicide." And that mens rea, the Apex Court in Gurcharan Singh Vs State of Punjab (2020), one of the latest judgments on the point, clarified "cannot be assumed to be ostensibly present but has to be visible and conspicuous."

Factoring in "multifaceted and complex attributes of human behaviour and responses", the Supreme Court in Ude Singh Vs State of Haryana (2019) looked for "cogent and convincing proof" and not "mere allega-

tions of harassment."

At the risk of digressing, it must be pointed out that dowry deaths under Section 304B IPC stand on a different footing. Burns or injuries under suspicious circumstances, leading to death of a woman within 7 years of her marriage, following cruelty or harassment, can land the husband and relatives in soup.

The suicide note is the fulcrum of the allegations and may take on the form of a dying declaration under Section 32(1) of the Indian Evidence Act. This flows from the legal maxim "nemo moriturus praesumitur mentire", which means "a man will not meet his maker with a lie in his mouth." 39; Explaining this principle, the Apex Court in P V. Radhakrishna Vs State of Karnataka (2003) observed that "the situation in which a person is on his death bed is so solemn and serene when he is dying, that the grave position in which he is placed, is the reason in law to accept the veracity of his statement."

But suicide notes may be the result of impulse or desperation or hypersensitivity

or helplessness. Such communication must have a reference to an incident or willful act or omission or of intentional aid or instigation. A mere mention of X in the context of non-payment of dues or owing to some civil dispute or failure in an examination, unless there is a pattern of intimidation or harassment, will not do.

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court in Smt.Paniben Vs State of Gujarat (1992) had summed up 10 principles governing corroboration of dying declarations. Courts have to be on guard to ensure that it was not a result of either tutoring or prompting or a product of imagination.

Instigation can cut both ways. Vested interests can instigate a person with suicidal tendencies, and in a weak, vulnerable moment, to name an adversary to frame him. Guilt must be established beyond a shadow of doubt and not through shadow boxing by lynch mobs.

(The writer is an advocate at the Madras high court, columnist & author)

## TN, Pondy to get heavy rainfall for 2 days

From P1

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are expected to get isolated extremely heavy rainfall over the next couple of days. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall is predicted over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema November 25 and 26 and over Telangana on November 26. Sea conditions would be rough and wind speed is likely to increase from Sunday onwards, gusting to 100 kmph," said IMD.

As per Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), High waves in the range of 2.5 - 3.7 meters could occur during 11:30pm November 24 along the coast of Southern Tamil Nadu from Kolachal to Dhanushkodi.

"High waves in the range of 2.0-3.8 meters along the coast of Northern Tamil Nadu from Point Calimere to Pulicat, Surface is also predicted. Current speeds vary between 43-62 cm/sec," it said.

The state, which has an uneasy relationship with cyclones, witnessing seven major cyclones since 1994 that took away hundreds of lives, is expected to see this season's first cyclonic storm. The latest in the line

made a visit to the state Gaja in 2018, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

Recent cyclones to hit TN  
An unnamed cyclone (1994)

A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal turned out to be a cyclone and crossed the shore between Chennai and Cuddalore with air speeds reaching upto 115 km/hr killing 26 people.

## Triple Cyclones (2005)

A mega-cyclone converging three heavy cyclones (Pyarr, Baaz and Fanoos) hit the state on December 7, 2005. When it crossed the shore near Vedaranyam with wind speed 101 km/hr, people in Tamil Nadu suffered a lot losing farm produce and property.

## Cyclone Nisha (2008)

Cyclone Nisha hit on November 25 crossing the shore near Karaikal with the wind speed 83 km/hr took away the lives of as many as 189 people. Nisha was one of the major cyclones in the history of the state. More than 2,800 domestic animals died and 20 lakh acres of farming land was left barren.

## Cyclone JAL (2010)

Formed in the South China Sea, Cyclone JAL crossed shore in Chennai on November 6 with winds reaching a speed of 111 km/hr resulting in the relocation of around 70,000 people. It killed at least 54 people.

## Cyclone Thane (2011)

Cyclone Thane, formed in the east side of Indian Ocean, had crossed seashore near Cuddalore and Puducherry on December 28 with wind speed over 165 km/hr. The death toll was 48 including 38 in and around Cuddalore.

## Cyclone Nilam (2012)

Nilam with the speeds of 83 km/hr crossed the shore around Mahabalipuram on October 28. Originated from an area of low pressure over the Bay of Bengal, this cyclone displaced around 1,50,000 people.

## Cyclone Vardah (2016)

First formed as a deep depression near Andaman Island, Cyclone Vardah caused horror for Chennaites as it uprooted thousands of trees. It was estimated that the total monetary loss from Cyclone Vardah was to the tune of over ₹1,000 crore.

## Weekend luxury getaways get more popular in city

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

Weekend 'staycations' are gaining popularity in the city as luxury hotels innovate to offer their hygienic environment to their guests. With airport pickup, gourmet meals, tasty snacks and laundry thrown in, hotels are trying to make themselves more relevant during times when people are still feeling wary of leaving home for fear of the pandemic.

"Backed by our pioneering assurance program developed in collaboration with medical professionals and disinfection experts, Staycations are a big draw with people who are exhausted with the long stay-at-home situation and are yearning for change in environs which are completely safe, comfortable, responsible and rejuvenating, where they can be waited upon, without having to exert themselves, unlike the scene at home for months on end," says a representative of ITC Grand Chola which has pioneered room rental programs reflecting the new reality.

Another area in which star hotels have been innovative is in offering 'workathon' packages along with seamless wifi and technology features. For instance, a day use workstation package with a 12-hour 9 am to 9 pm duration in the comfort of a



The spa is a space visitors look forward to over weekends.

sanitised, well-appointed room, to recharge those 'overworked-from-home' batteries. Special Doctor packages for medical professionals wishing to take a break reflect the status of frontline medical professionals during the pandemic.

Restaurants feature remodelled spaces, separators to ensure safe distancing; tableware, crockery, cutlery are pre-sanitised and served in a cover; individual servings for sauces and condiments; hand sanitisers present on each table; QR-code enabled digital menus and e-payment seamlessly ensure no contact.

"Given the prevailing conditions, we have gone one step further and created special bespoke dining experiences for guests in the outdoors, namely the Monsoon Poolside Gazebo

dining experience. A bespoke dining initiative for our guests ranging from 2 -10 people is becoming very popular. Guests can choose from Indian, Italian, Asian cuisine with the finest ingredients in an exquisite setting," says a hotel representative.

Takeaways have become a favourite among discerning diners, and we are gratified to note that the popularity continues even after the hotel has reopened. We have specially curated, distinctive takeaway offerings. Among innovations is the Gourmet in You (GIY), a selection comprising semi-finished and raw ingredients for a particular dish with precise instructions on how to prepare the dish. The takeaways are also available on Swiggy and Zomato.



## SHORT TAKES

## IUML's president calls BJP's claims a bluff

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC TIRUCHY, NOV. 22

Prof MH Jawahirullah, president, Tamilaga Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam and Manitha Neya Makkal Katchi, strongly condemned Union Home Minister Amit Shah for violating democratic norms and speaking politics and about the alliance between the BJP and the AIADMK in the presence of Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam, at a government function, in Chennai, on Saturday.

## Dr MGR Central, Egmore stations under CCTV watch

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 22

The Southern Railway has installed CCTV surveillance systems at the 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR Chennai Central station' and 'Chennai Egmore stations. Principal chief signal and telecommunication engineer, Southern Railway, R Baskaran, inaugurated the system on Sunday. The CCTV facility for railway ticket reservation users at both the terminals is expected to provide safe and secure service to commuters.

The service functions on fiber network of railways and is designed to have a scalable, secured network for better crowd management with high bandwidth to have data collection, recording and retrieval. This facility will also help curtail touts.

The Dr MGR Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore is provided with 10 and 8 cameras respectively, with facility of recording and storage of footage for a period of over 30 days. The servers, storage and monitoring gadgets will be in the Passenger Reservation Counters (PRS) premises, under the custody of the Chief Reservation Supervisor (CRS).

## Row over Thiagarajan's comments solved

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, NOV. 22

The row between the DMK and the Sozhiya Vellalar Sangam came to an end as DMK's Tiruchy north district secretary, Kaduvetti Thiagarajan, tendered an open apology before the leaders and representatives of the Tamil Nadu Sozhiya Vellalar Sangam, Vellalar Munnetra Kazhagam and VOC Peravai, here on Sunday. It might be recalled that Thiagarajan made denigrated remarks against the Sozhiya Vellalar community which went viral on social media across the state triggering widespread protests.

Thiagarajan, accompa-

**It might be recalled that Thiagarajan made denigrated remarks against the Sozhiya Vellalar community which went viral on social media across the state triggering widespread protests**

nied by party's principal secretary, KN Nehru, and others went to the meeting spot where the leaders of Tamil Nadu Sozhiya Vellalar Sangam, Vellalar Munnetra Kazhagam and VOC Peravai held meeting and tendered his apology. Thiagarajan told news- men that his speech was

twisted out of context for political gains and that he never made such denigrated remarks against anybody. He also gave a complaint to the cyber crime branch police to take suitable action against those who twisted his speech, and another separate complaint against the VAO for giving false complaint against him.

Dr V J Senthil, state vice-president, Tamil Nadu Sozhiya Vellalar Sangam, Harkaran, state general secretary, Vellalar Munnetra Kazhagam, and representatives of VOC Peravai, told newsmen that they accepted the apology of Thiagarajan, and put an end to the ongoing controversy.

## Udhayanidhi Stalin detained for third day

DC CORRESPONDENT MAYILADUTHURAI, NOV. 22

DMK youth wing leader Udhayanidhi Stalin was detained by police for the third day in succession on Sunday at Kuthalam near Mayiladuthurai, on the charges of violating Covid-19 norms, as he launched his election campaign 'Vidyalai Nokki Stalin Kural'.

It may be recalled that Udhayanidhi and his followers were taken into custody by police on Friday at Thirukkuvilai, as he commenced his election campaign after garlanding a statue of late



DMK president M Karunanidhi, there. As soon as he got down from the dais, Udhayanidhi and others were rounded up by police and taken to a marriage hall.

Protesting Udhayanidhi's arrest, DMK men had staged road rokos in several places in Tiruchy, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvavur and Nagapattinam.

Again, police on Saturday took into custody Udhayanidhi along with party's principal secretary, KN Nehru, and others on charges of overcrowding and violating Covid-19 norms, as he campaigned for the second day at the fishermen hamlet of Akkaraipettai in Nagapattinam, and also went sailing into the sea along with the fishermen.

They were released later the same day in the evening.

Udhayanidhi held discussions with college girls at Thiruvankadu, Mayiladuthurai. On Sunday morning, he held discussions with partymen at his grandfather late chief minister Karunanidhi's house, and in the evening set out to continue his third day election campaign, when Kuthalam police arrested him along with his supporters, and detained them in a private marriage hall. Police sources said Udhayanidhi and others would be released later in the night.

## Xmas cake mixing ceremony held

B. RAVICHANDRAN | DC OOTY, NOV. 22

The cake-mixing ceremony held at Gem Park hotel here, a pioneer in organizing this kind of festivities. The event turned out to be a low-key affair this season due to the pandemic, but it was a harbinger of hope for the hospitality industry which is now being encouraged by a good influx of tourists.

The cake-mixing ceremony which is traditionally attached to the Xmas celebrations was held without the participation of tourists. Only the hotel executives took part in compliance to social distancing and other related norms, to keep the tradition and the hope that things would change for better from the year-end.

While bottles of liquors and wine were poured over mounds of dry fruits, nuts and spices to prepare the right mix for producing the cakes with aroma



and flavour. A Ismail Khan, Resident Director of the hotel, said that making Xmas cake is not an easy task. Preparations begin weeks in advance and the first step towards making the cake is the mixing process called 'Cake Mixing Ceremony', a ritual religiously followed the world over, which had its

European origin in the 17th century, and is said to be a harbinger of good tidings and happiness.

BR Pradeep Kumar, manager, food and beverages wing of the hotel, said the mixture of nuts and dry fruits like raisins, cherries, dates, spices and honey which are mixed with the blend of liquor

would enable the fruits and nuts to get puffed up besides imparting the aroma.

"The mixture will be stored in a vat container till the Christmas week. The cakes are then made from this mixture that will be rich in taste, flavour and enriched with energy," he added.

## Girl from Tamil Nadu wins Children's Climate Prize

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUVANNAMALAI, NOV. 22

Vinisha Umashankar, a class IX student here bagged the prestigious 'Children's Climate Prize' for designing a mobile ironing cart using solar panels to power the iron box instead of using the conventional charcoal.

Vinisha would receive a cash prize of approximately ₹8.64 lakh (1,00,000 Swedish krona, a medal from Sweden-based 'Children's Climate Foundation' in the presence of Isabella Lovin, Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate-cum-Deputy Prime Minister.

The recognition is part of the fifth edition of the 'Children's Climate Prize', one of the world's largest international climate



Collector Sandeep Nanduri honours Vinisha Umashankar. — K. Senthil Nathan

awards for young innovators. Collector Sandeep Nanduri on Friday invited Vinisha to the collectorate and felicitated here by presenting her a bouquet and a shawl. Vinisha's father, Umashankar, an online councillor by profession was also present.

Vinisha is the single child in the family. Vinisha' mother used to present her books on environment and conservation even when she was five-year old, triggering in her curiosity and an eagerness to know more about the environment.

The thought of a 'Solar powered ironing cart' was ignited by the sight of a roadside cart where the person ironed clothes using an iron box filled with charcoal. This kindled the thought in Vinisha's mind as to the large number of trees felled to keep such a business running, and was upset by the ill-effects it caused to the environment.

As many as 70 contestants from 24 countries around the world had submitted their innovations.

## COFFEE-BREAK

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

**Aries:** Constant interruptions could irritate, causing loss of temper. Discussions get intense. You'll either go on a short trip close by or a longer holiday far away.

**Taurus:** Expect an unpleasant surprise from someone. Working conditions for those employed is unsatisfactory. A little more efforts could increase your income.

**Gemini:** Inability to discuss problems with others may cause problems. Spousal relations will suffer due to your over-involvement at work. Finances and love are stressful.

**Cancer:** Future-based discussions are fruitful. You avoid personal commitments to focus on your career and future. Certain personal relationships may be stressed.

**Leo:** Love proposal could mostly materialise. Continuously neglecting your partner's feeling might hurt. Keep calm and be patient around domestic conflicts.

**Virgo:** Expect professional worries — monetary loss, health problems or an unfavourable act by Govt. authorities. Your enemies try hard to harm you. Expect huge expenses for treatment of a loved one.

## You share your b'day with

**Miley Cyrus** is an American singer-Her singles include 7 Things, The Climb, Party in the U.S.A., Malibu, Wrecking Ball, She is Coming



**Libra:** Your relationship with superiors/authorities improves. Family atmosphere is satisfactory. Consider initiating some new projects with a faithful person.

**Scorpio:** Old problems disturb your schedule. Expect heavy expenditure. Taking up a hobby or mingling with people adds new dimensions to your routine.

**Sagittarius:** Expect more work independence by taking initiatives. Don't take your family for granted. Despite trying, you won't reduce wasteful expenditure.

**Capricorn:** Your problems sort out. Expect a religious tour. Family friends get closer. You spend a lot of money on a happy get-together for an important guest at home.

**Aquarius:** You're madly in love but it's not a favourable time for romance. Focus on your business and home. Work travel will result in heavy expenses, without any gain.

**Pisces:** If you're in a writing/publishing job, expect fame or good news related to your profession. Some secret agreements could ruin your reputation. Love life is congenial. Manage your expenses and income.



bridge PHILLIP ALDER

## A RECORD THAT CAN ONLY BE EQUALED

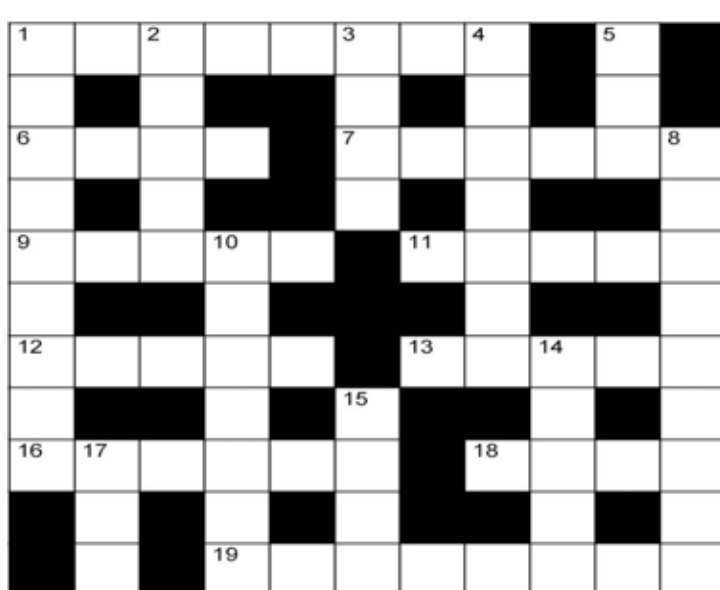
I read about today's deal in Simon Cocheme's entertaining new book, 'Bridge With a Twist' (Master Point Press). It occurred during the 2010 European Championships. It was played at 82 tables with 19 different contracts and 27 different results. What can each side make?

We will look at one table in the match between Denmark and Ireland in the senior division. If the bidding looks

strange, it is because Rex Anderson (South) thought West had opened one heart, when he had actually bid two hearts, a strong two-bid. Over two hearts, three clubs by Pat Barry (North) was natural, but if West had opened one heart, then three clubs would have been Ghestem, at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds. Anderson, liking the apparent double fit, took a shot at four spades. But North

North	South
♠ A K J 3	♠ 10 9 8
♥ 4 10 9 7	♥ K Q J 8 7 6 5
♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Double: South	Double: North
Vulnerable: East-West	Vulnerable: East-West
Score: 100-0	Score: 100-0
Tricks: 10-10	Tricks: 10-10
Points: 100-0	Points: 100-0
Exposing lead: ♠ A	Exposing lead: ♠ A

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

- Stage scenery curtain (8)
- Lazy (4)
- Mystery (6)
- Eats quickly, greedily (5)
- Search (5)
- Yellowish earthy pigment (5)
- Thin biscuit (5)
- Exertion (6)
- Sudden bump (4)
- Small telescope (8)

## Down

- Sulphur (9)
- Musical instrument (5)
- Coral bank (4)
- Flowering plant (7)
- Poorly lit (3)
- Irish tart (anag) (9)
- Very angry (7)
- Region's plant life (5)
- Support (4)
- Put right (3)

## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

- Across: 6. Breakwater, 8. Nasty, 10. Panic, 13. Mantelpiece, 14. Sharp, 17. Merit, 19. Transcribe.
- Down: 1. Pros, 2. Wavy, 3. Swap, 4. Stun, 5. Procreate, 7. Antisocial, 9. Tutor, 11. Arise, 12. Elm, 15. Ajar, 16. Posy, 17. Murk, 18. Rubs.

## Word Mine

P  
L  
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C  
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TODAY'S RATINGS: 23 AVERAGE: 26 GOOD: 23 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.

ANSWERS: three, seven, eleven, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven, sixty-eight, sixty-nine, seventy, seventy-one, seventy-two, seventy-three, seventy-four, seventy-five, seventy-six, seventy-seven, seventy-eight, seventy-nine, eighty, eighty-one, eighty-two, eighty-three, eighty-four, eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine, ninety, ninety-one, ninety-two, ninety-three, ninety-four, ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred, one hundred and one, one hundred and two, one hundred and three, one hundred and four, one hundred and five, one hundred and six, one hundred and seven, one hundred and eight, one hundred and nine, one hundred and ten, one hundred and eleven, one hundred and twelve, one hundred and thirteen, one hundred and fourteen, one hundred and fifteen, one hundred and sixteen, one hundred and seventeen, one hundred and eighteen, one hundred and nineteen, one hundred and twenty, one hundred and twenty-one, one hundred and twenty-two, one hundred and twenty-three, one hundred and twenty-four, one hundred and twenty-five, one hundred and twenty-six, one hundred and twenty-seven, one hundred and twenty-eight, one hundred and twenty-nine, one hundred and thirty, one hundred and thirty-one, one hundred and thirty-two, one hundred and thirty-three, one hundred and thirty-four, one hundred and thirty-five, one hundred and 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## SHORT TAKES

BHARTI SINGH,  
HUSBAND SENT TO  
JUDICIAL CUSTODYSAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

A day after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested comedian Bharati Singh, the officials arrested her husband Harsh Limbachiya following his 15-hour long marathon grilling. The NCB produced the couple before the court on Sunday and they were remanded to judicial custody till December 4. The comedian was arrested on Saturday following raids at their Versova residence.

The NCB officials had seized 86.5 gram of cannabis from the couple's residence. The officials took them for questioning at the NCB office where the couple revealed they procured and consumed the banned substance. The agency subsequently arrested Singh stating that her place was searched based on the information given by one of the peddlers who was arrested during the drugs probe.

"The duo was questioned in connection with the ongoing probe. They have been remanded to judicial custody. The magistrate's court would hear the bail pleas on November 23," said an officer.

During the court proceedings, the officials sought Limbachiya's custody but did not seek Singh's as she was questioned by the NCB ahead of the arrest.

TARUN GOGO'S  
HEALTH CONDITION  
REMAINS CRITICALMANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, NOV. 22

Veteran Congress leader and former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi's health condition continues to remain critical despite minor improvement in his health parameters on Sunday.

The 86-year-old was admitted to Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) on November 2 following breathing problems because of post-Covid-19 complications.

The superintendent of Guwahati Medical College and Hospital Dr Abhijit Sarma on Sunday told reporters that he is on a mechanical ventilator with multi-organ dysfunction (MOD) and is experiencing difficulty in passing urine normally.

"Since Saturday, there has been no deterioration in his health and his laboratory parameters have improved marginally. But his condition is still critical and we will observe him closely for another 48 hours," he said.

INDIA TO HOST  
G20 SUMMIT  
ONLY IN 2023

New Delhi/Riyadh, Nov. 22: G20 leaders announced on Sunday that India will host the summit of the high-profile grouping in 2023 -- a year later than what was decided earlier.

India was earlier slated to host the summit in 2022 with the Osaka declaration of the G20 stating last year that "we look forward to meeting again in Saudi Arabia in 2020, in Italy in 2021 and in India in 2022".

"We thank Saudi Arabia for hosting a successful Riyadh Summit and its contribution to the G20 process. We look forward to our next meetings in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024," the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders Declaration said. *PTI*

BULD PARTY  
FIRST, SHAH  
TELLS CADRE

Turn from page 1

They had also promised to give more seats to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections, citing it as 'MGR formula' that gave the Congress more seats in parliament and less in the assembly in the past.

Mr Shah had stressed on the need to weaken the DMK for them to win the elections and told the cadre not to give up on their efforts in building the party. He cited examples of the BJP being extremely weak in some states and then rising to the level of capturing power. The BJP had a future in Tamil Nadu, he had reportedly told the functionaries.

While leaving for Delhi on Sunday morning, Mr Shah is said to have spoken to state higher education minister K.P. Anbalagan on the controversy surrounding Anna University Vice-Chancellor M.K. Surappa.

## Central teams visit high Covid risk states

Efforts on to strengthen containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures

SANJAY KAW | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

With Covid-19 caseload in the country crossing the 91 lakh mark, high-level central teams were on Sunday deputed to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to support them in response and management of the virus. These states have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases — those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of Coronavirus infections. Earlier, high-level teams were sent to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

A senior health ministry official said that these three-member teams will visit districts reporting a high number of Covid-19 cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases. He said that the teams will also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow up.

With 45,209 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in the last 24 hours, the infection tally in the country has mounted to 90,95,806. The death toll has also gone up to 1,33,227 with 501 more fatalities. The silver lining is that the total recoveries have surged to 85,21,617, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.69 per cent. Even the Covid-19 case fatality rate has declined to 1.46 per cent. There are now 4,40,962 active cases in the country, which comprise 4.85 per cent of the total caseload.

The country's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20.

According to the ICMR, over 13.17 crore samples were tested up to November 22 with 10,75,326 samples being

MERCURY DIPS  
IN MOST PARTS  
OF NORTH INDIA

New Delhi, Nov. 22: Minimum temperatures dipped in most parts of north India on Sunday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, while a cold wave swept parts of Delhi which recorded its coldest November morning since 2003.

The national capital's minimum temperature dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius while the air quality remained "poor" and government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

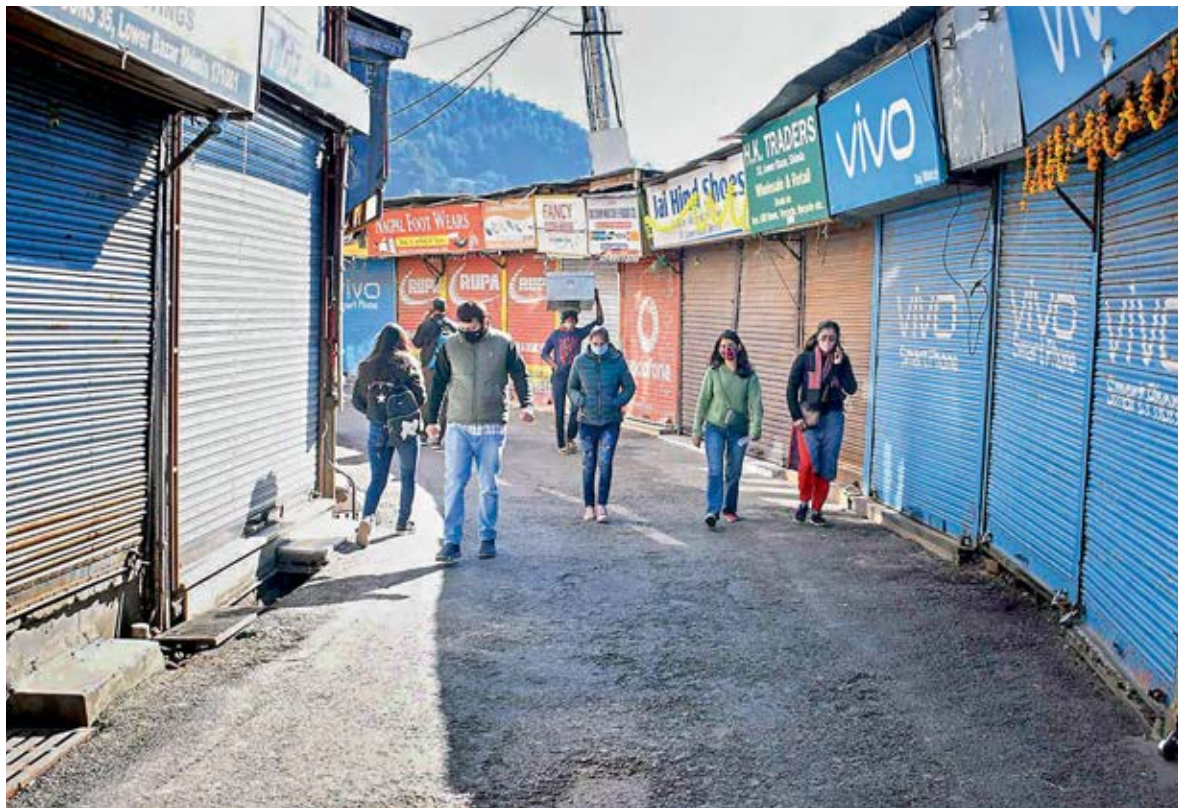
"The Saffardarjung Observatory which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius. It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in the month since November 2003, when the city recorded a low of 6.1 degrees Celsius," said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional forecasting centre.

## MID-DAY | MEALS

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, NOV. 22

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday reiterated his government's decision to not introduce the egg in the mid-day meal provided to children in schools and anganwadi centres in the state to combat malnutrition among them.

Chairing the first meet-



Visitors walk beside closed shops in Shimla on Sunday after authorities ordered closure of markets due to spike in the Coronavirus cases. — PTI

tested on Saturday.

Of the 501 new fatalities, 111 were reported from Delhi, 62 from Maharashtra, 53 from West Bengal, 25 each from Kerala and Haryana, 24 from Uttar Pradesh, 23 from Punjab, 22 from Chhattisgarh and 20 from Karnataka. Total 1,33,227 deaths reported so far in the country include 46,573 from Maharashtra followed by 11,641 from Karnataka, 11,586 from Tamil Nadu, 8,270 from Delhi, 7,976 from West Bengal, 7,524 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,927 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,595 from Punjab and 3,846 from Gujarat. The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

At 3.2 per cent, Punjab's fatality rate is the maximum among all states and UT. Maharashtra (2.6 per cent), Sikkim (2 per cent), Gujarat (2 per cent), West Bengal (1.8 per cent), Puducherry (1.7 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (1.6 per cent) and Uttarakhand (1.6 per cent) have recorded more deaths per 100 confirmed cases than Delhi.

TMC says it is rectifying  
its mistakes ahead of pollsRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, NOV. 22

Following the BJP's fierce campaign of misrule against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamul Congress said on Sunday that its government has started "rectifying" its mistakes ahead of the next year's Assembly elections. It however acknowledged that securing the total satisfaction of all the people is difficult for any ruling party, either at the Centre or in the states.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "the BJP or its leader Kailash Vijayvargiya does not have anything to say against the TMC because of the work that has taken place here. But it is difficult for any party in the country, be at the Centre or the state, to make all the people 100 per cent happy. Somewhere, errors and dissent exist. This government is identifying them, working on them and rectifying them."

The former TMC Rajya Sabha MP also pointed to

the dynasty politics and nepotism in the BJP to counter the saffron party's "bhatija (nephew)" jibe about the CM's nephew Abhishek Banerjee's clout in the TMC.

"I dare Vijayvargiya to publicly take the name of the person he calls bhatija. Otherwise, he should stop character assassination of our youth leader who is a two-time MP. Can't there be another person from a politician's family, be in politics?"

ing of the Cabinet committee on protection of cattle, christened 'Gau cabinet', Chouhan said milk, instead of egg, would be introduced in the menu to tackle malnutrition.

"Cattle resource develop-

Don't create scarcity  
of beds, pvt hosps told

Ahmedabad, Nov. 22: Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city, the local civic body on Sunday warned private hospitals not to create an artificial shortage of beds for treatment.

Ahmedabad city currently has 2,906 active cases, led by its west zone with 479, and followed by 464 in north-west and 457 in south-west.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said there was no need to panic as 1,500 beds were available and it was in the process of requisitioning another eight to ten hospitals to enhance the numbers further.

It said some private hospitals were admitting Covid-19 patients who did not require hospitalisation in a bid to fill up beds and create "artificial scarcity".

The civic body said it had reached out to private hospitals across the city after a review meeting was chaired by additional chief secretary Rajiv Gupta, who is the special officer for Covid-19 in Ahmedabad city, and directed them to stop any such "unscrupulous and illegal practice".

The AMC said the office-bearers of Ahmedabad hospitals and nursing homes association have been intimated about this issue as well.

The civic body also told providers of 108 ambulance service to ensure, as much as possible, that members of a family are admitted in the same hospital and not different ones. On Saturday, the city witnessed 354 new cases, among the highest single-day additions since the outbreak began in March, and five deaths. — PTI

GEHLOT ACCORDS  
TOP PRIORITY  
TO SAVE LIVES

Jaipur, Nov. 22: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the state and reminded officials of the government's top priority to save lives and ensure strict compliance of anti-pandemic precautions by people.

Holding an extensive meeting to review the #Covid19 situation across the state, Taking stock of the prevailing conditions & ongoing efforts to contain the virus. Our top-most priority is to save lives, provide adequate treatment & encourage people to strictly follow health protocols, Gehlot tweeted. Reviewing arrangements to contain the infection, ensure compliance of decisions including that of the night curfew & also to make sure that people are not inconvenienced, he said. — PTI

There is a huge disconnect between the people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party, veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said Sunday as he called for an overhaul in the party organisation. Azad was one of the 23 senior leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi seeking major changes in the Congress organisation.

His remarks come after the Congress' debacle in the Bihar Assembly elections, in which the party won only 19 of the 70 seats it contested.

"There is an urgent need to overhaul the party structure by conducting elections from block to district and state level," Azad said, saying Congress leaders at all levels should "shed five-star culture, at least during elections".

In West Bengal, meanwhile, the Congress, after its disastrous performance in Bihar, is facing

Uddhav warns of  
'tsunami' of Covid  
cases in MahaSONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
with agency inputs  
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday warned the people of the second wave of Covid-19 in the state. In the wake of the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases in the last five days, the Chief Minister said that the state is staring at "Tsunami of new cases" and told people to strictly follow the safety protocols.

Coronavirus cases across Maharashtra have been rising over the last few days, especially after Diwali. In the last 24 hours, 5,753 fresh Covid-19 cases and 50 fatalities were reported in Maharashtra.

Mumbai, which was at the centre of the pandemic not so long ago, had 12,448 active cases. In view of this, the government directed the officials to act fast to contain a fresh wave of infections in the state.

Thackeray said that the state is standing at a 'dangerous turn'. "Now we have to decide whether to go for lockdown again. Some people are suggesting me to impose curfew at night in the state, but I believe that everything cannot be done by imposing laws," he said.

According to him, there would be 'tsunami' instead of the second-third wave of Coronavirus.

"We have celebrated all the festivals with patience so far. I had urged everyone to take all the precautions during Diwali celebrations as well and everybody obeyed it. I would like to thank everyone for that. Even during Chhath Puja celebrations, people behaved patiently. In Maharashtra, we are able to control the Covid-19 situation in many ways but we will have to avoid visiting crowded places," he

THE GOVERNMENT directs the officials to act fast to contain a fresh wave of Coronavirus infections in the state.

added.

Slamming the BJP over the demand to unlock everything, Thackeray said that some people demand to start all the activities but if the state opens everything, would they be ready to take responsibility for it?

Meanwhile, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said that the lockdown will be decided after taking a review of the situation in the next 8-10 days. He said that a second wave of Covid-19 is expected.

The health department said on Sunday said the state's overall infection count increased to 17,80,208.

A total of 4,060 patients were discharged during the day. With this, as many as 16,51,064 patients have recuperated across the state till date. There are 81,512 active cases in the state at present.

Maharashtra's recovery rate is now 92.75 per cent, while the fatality rate is 2.62 per cent. Of the 5,753 total cases reported on Sunday, 1,135 were detected in Mumbai alone, which took the city's case count to 2,75,714, while 19 deaths pushed the toll to 10,675.

In Mumbai, as many as 2,51,804 patients have recovered so far. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), which includes Mumbai and its satellite townships, reported 1,975 fresh cases.

This took its overall tally to 6,17,474 with 18,504 deaths. Nashik city reported 119 fresh cases, Pune city 323 cases, Pimpri Chinchwad 206 cases and Nagpur city reported 418 cases.

INDIAN NAVY  
PARTICIPATES IN  
SITMEX-20DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

As part of effort to strengthen India's strategic maritime, Indian Navy participated in trilateral maritime exercise SITMEX-20, with Singapore and Thailand on November 21 & 22 in Andaman sea.

The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

This exercise comes soon after multilateral Malabar Naval war game in which Indian, US, Australian and Japan navies conducted complex and exhaustive exercises. Indian Navy (IN) ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the second edition SITMEX.

The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN). RSN is being represented by the 'Formidable' Class frigate 'Intrepid' and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship 'Tank 'Edeavour' and RTN by the 'Chao Phraya' Class frigate 'Kraburi' in the exercise.

said child health expert Sachin Kumar Jain.

As many as 72,87,819 children including around 1 lakh tribal children are enrolled in 97,135 anganwadi centres in the state.

Madhya Pradesh has 42 per cent stunted, 18.6 per cent severely stunted, 25.8 per cent wasted, 9.2 per cent severely wasted, 42.8 per cent underweight and 14.3 per cent severely underweight children under the age of five.

CHILD RIGHT activists have been demanding introduction of eggs in the midday meals.

THE BJP claims that any attempt to change the dietary habits of children belonging to a particular section of communities may lead to cultural conflict.

a viable proposition", he said.

Child right activists have been demanding introduction of eggs in the midday meals.

The BJP has been maintaining that any attempt to

change the dietary habits of children belonging to a particular section of communities by adding egg to the menu may lead to cultural conflict.

"The BJP has always maintained that suitable

## Child health experts doubt feasibility of Gau Cabinet substituting egg with milk

## Milk instead of 'egg' to fight malnutrition in MP



# DECCAN Chronicle

23 NOVEMBER 2020

## Avoid partisan approach, apathy to conquer Covid

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was spot on, calling Covid-19 the biggest threat to humanity after World War-II, as nations across the globe stare at the possibility of another wave of the pandemic. India is no exception; several states have started showing signs of a new wave. It is welcome that the Union government, realising the threat, has launched a series of measures to lessen its impact.

The work has started right in the national capital, which is in the throes of a third wave, and the Union and the state government have promised to work in tandem. The Delhi government has no plans to reintroduce a lockdown but will tighten the rules and rigorously enforce them. It has decided to keep a special watch on markets where more people congregate, and will hike the fine for not wearing a mask from ₹500 to ₹2,000. And most importantly, there will be a house-to-house survey for testing.

The Union government has sent expert teams to several states, which are now witnessing a new surge in the number of infections. The government had done so in the past, too, but it faced the allegations that there were political motives behind it. The teams' behaviour in several states ruled by parties opposed to the BJP had given credence to the allegations, too. Hopefully, the government has learnt its lessons and would not use the opportunity for politicking this time around. The teams should limit themselves to helping the local administration benefit from their expertise.

We have said in these columns earlier, too, that public health is a matter of concern for the public first, and that a government can do only so much without its cooperation. Reports say people have started taking it easy. Festivals, markets, public transport and entertainment avenues have been flooded. Even political leaders, elected representatives and senior bureaucrats appear in the public either with no masks or wearing them in the wrong way. Such callous attitude will undo all the good work done so far. There must be better awareness among all ranks of the people about the need to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour such as maintenance of social distancing, washing of hands and wearing masks.

The best lesson the micro-organism has taught humanity is that it can be stopped only by the joint efforts of all of its victims; a partisan approach helps it thrive. The United States, which is facing another dreaded run of the virus, is an example. Back home, the Kerala experience tells a similar story. The state, which performed remarkably in the first phase in containing the pandemic, failed the moment partisan politics took over. Onam was not the only culprit; anti-government agitations too contributed to the spread with the result that the state today contributes more than 10 per cent of the country's total daily caseload.

Concerted efforts by all the stakeholders is the need of the hour, for there are no human enemies in this war.

## BJP's pointless exertions

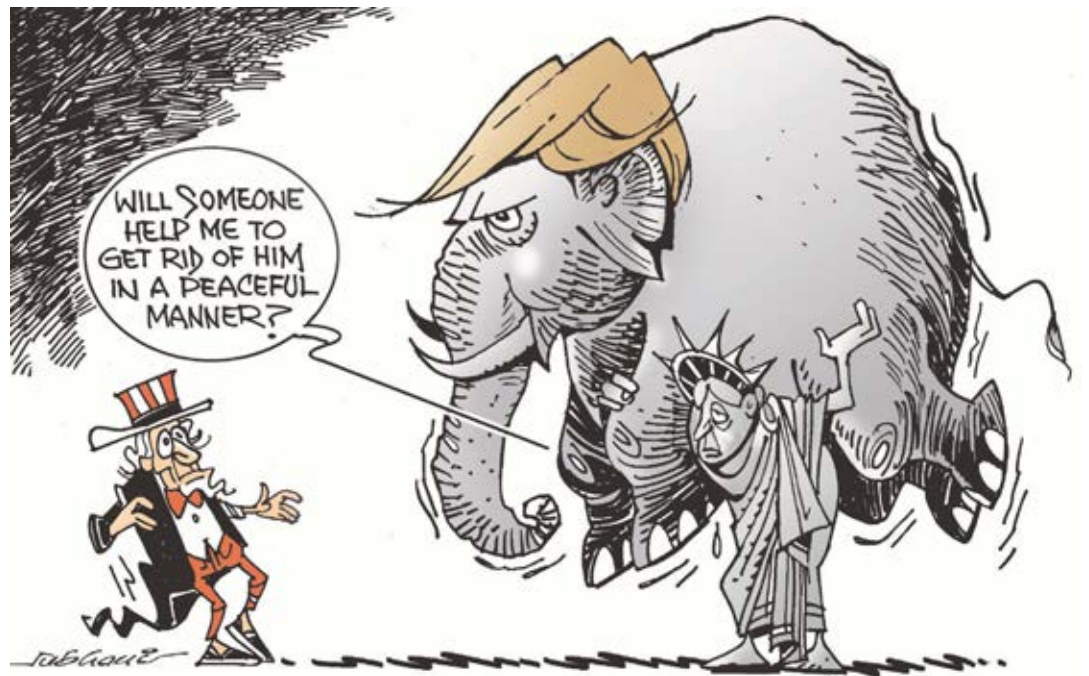
In the popularity sweepstakes, the two top honchos of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam, gained nothing from turning up early at the Chennai airport to personally receive the Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday. In fact, they were only trolled for breaking a convention and seen as kowtowing to a Big Brother political ally for no apparent collective common cause. If the two AIADMK leaders had any genuine reason for appeasing the BJP leader by going the extra mile and even hailing him as "Chanakya", they have not yet revealed it to the people of the state.

The people might ask about it when the time comes — perhaps, when they would go to them to seek their votes in 2021. But prior to that, what will be the fallout of the much-hyped visit of Amit Shah, for whom it was an extraordinarily long night with BJP functionaries and other visitors till 2.30 am on Sunday? The BJP cadre who stayed awake listening to one of their most prominent leaders may have returned home enthused over their party's projected future prospects in the state where their candidates have been generally vying with Neta in the vote count.

But beyond that what did the state BJP gain? In the run-up to the visit, the state leadership had said that the news of Mr Shah coming to town itself was sending shivers down the spines of Opposition leaders. Whatever he meant by that, a "Go Back" hashtag trended on Twitter for a day and even a man was arrested for hurling a placard towards the visiting dignitary from the welcoming crowd. Nothing, however, interfered with Mr Shah's engagements and nothing helped the BJP's popularity to soar either. For, more than visitors, it's local leaders who need to gain people's confidence, which definitely can't be done by taking out disruptive marches carrying spears, even if they are blunt.

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:  
**Chennai:** SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748  
**Coimbatore:** 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar. Coimbatore 641009. Phones: (0422) 2231255, 2231256  
**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256  
**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334, Fax: (0891) 2755285  
**Vijayawada:** No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 255284/ 255287, Fax: (0866) 255234  
**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904  
**Nellore:** Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82, Telefax (0861) 2348580  
**Karimnagar:** Survey No. 1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagitayala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2230433  
**Kochi:** No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloorkadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408  
**Kozhikode:** No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax : 0495 4019018  
**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph Press Thycaud post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14, Ph: 0471-2735105/67, Fax: 0471-4016112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08ss

Subhani



# Theatres of the New Cold War

Manish Tewari

State of the Union

What would the new Cold War look like as China attempts to achieve its misconceived trust with the destiny of becoming the world's pre-eminent power by 2049, completing one hundred years as a modern Communist state albeit with capitalist characters?

Where then would China's push points lie? The first and obvious one — is the Western Pacific. China has been now for decades trying to break out of the first and the second island chains as well as surmount the Malacca dilemma effectively.

What are these island chains and do they serve any strategic purpose today in containing or constraining China? The first one embraces Kuril Islands, main Japanese archipelago, Okinawa, northern part of the Philippine archipelagos, Malay Peninsula and Taiwan. The second one comprises the islands of Japan stretching to Guam and the islands of Micronesia. China has so far succeeded in establishing a robust presence through its grey zone actions in the first island chain only. In the Spratly and Paracel Island chain in the South China Sea, China is growing land to augment its entitlement to the waters of the region. It is landfilling submerged reefs building artificial islands that are being fashioned into outlier military bases.

Herein lies the rub. These two island chains are strategically significant for the US and its hub and spoke security relationships from Japan all the way down to Australia. As General Douglas MacArthur, in his farewell address to the US Congress as far

back as 1951, explained, "All this was changed by our Pacific victory, our strategic frontier then shifted to embrace the entire Pacific Ocean which became a vast moat to protect us as long as we hold it. Indeed, it acts as a protective shield for all of the Americas and all free lands of the Pacific Ocean area. We control it to the shores of Asia by a chain of islands extending in an arc from the Aleutians to the Mariannas held by us and our free allies. From this island chain we can dominate with sea and air power every Asiatic port from Vladivostok to Singapore and prevent any hostile movement into the Pacific..." Maybe not so much militarily but geo-politically this thesis is as relevant today as it was in 1951. For the Chinese, therefore, it is equally important to break through this perimeter if they want to become a serious blue water power.

It would be instructive to note that China's shipping imperatives traverse the Taiwan Straits, pass through the South China Sea, and into the Indian Ocean via the Malacca Straits. West of the Indian subcontinent, it splits in two. One track skirts the northern tier of the Arabian Sea and transits through the Hormuz Strait into the Persian Gulf. The other lane continues on to the Horn of Africa and cones through the Bab al Mandeb Strait into the Red Sea. From there, it exits through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. These crucial sea lanes of communication and Commerce (SLOCs) are China's nemesis as 80 per cent of China's oil imports and crucial minerals flow from Africa and the Middle East, and to the major export mar-

kets of Europe along these waterways.

The North Arabian Sea is therefore a critical area for China. To protect its interests and project power Gwadar in southwest Pakistan seems the obvious answer to its problem. East of Hormuz it is already seen as China's sentinel in the Indian Ocean. Though economically unviable it enables direct transport linkages between China and the Indian Ocean thereby helping it overcome the choke points of the Straits of Malacca.

However, the moment China converts Gwadar into a full-fledged military base it would come in conflict with the entrenched powers in the region namely Iran, GCC countries and most importantly the US whose Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Bahrain and it maintains its biggest concentration of military personnel in the Middle East at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. China will also have to contend with a new dynamic in the region the new-found relationship between the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Israel. India that sits on the other side of the Arabian Sea would be a natural antagonist of any Chinese presence in these waters.

The next theatre of the Cold War would be Africa where the Chinese have invested resources much before the formal commencement of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's first internationally acknowledged military facility was established in August 2017 at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Support Base is oper-

ated by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). This hub will facilitate the movement of the Chinese Navy across the entire Indian Ocean. However there are traditional powers in that area namely Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, to name but a few. They are not going to be comfortable with an alien military presence in their lands. Why would they want China to replace the United States as the outside power balancer in the region? It, therefore, will create multiple friction points for China, were it to flex its muscles.

The most portentous challenge lies in South Asia. China is already in a tense stalemate with India in Eastern Ladakh. Maldives has been targeted by China's voraciousness. Maldives debt to China is estimated to be at least \$1.5 billion that represents more than 30 per cent of its GDP. Under the Abdulla Yameen administration (2013-2018), massive BRI infrastructure loans were taken and contracts subsequently awarded to Chinese companies at inflated prices. Though things seem to look a tad more balanced after Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became President but the debts do remain on the Maldives national balance sheet. Similarly, the cumulative value of Chinese infrastructure investment to Sri Lanka amounts to \$12.1 billion between 2006 and July 2019. Were the Chinese to push these two countries for military concessions and with the US showing an interest in both Maldives and Sri Lanka the Chinese may have to deal with both India and the US in South Asia. This though is not in India's best interests as both these nations are considered within its eminent domain.

*The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal.*  
 Twitter handle @manishtewari.

**The next theatre of the Cold War would be Africa where the Chinese have invested resources much before the formal commencement of the Belt and Road Initiative**

LETTERS

EVERGREEN GEMINI

It is heartening to see the media paying glowing tributes to the veteran Tamil film actor Gemini Ganesan on his birth centenary. In a way, the title of kaadhal mannan (king of romance) added glamour and glitz to Gemini Ganesan's personal life, which was also one of multiple romances. He brought an acting talent of his own in an era dominated by the two giants — MGR and Sivaji, and the triumvirate of MGR-Sivaji-Gemini ruled the Tamil film industry for decades. If A.M. Raja was the singing voice of Gemini Ganesan in his initial days, it was P.B. Srinivas who dominated his songs in later years. Also, SPB's playback debut in Tamil film was for Gemini with the evergreen number Iyarkai ennum ilaya kanni from the film 'Shanthi Nilayam.'

R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

TRUMP'S TACTICS FAIL

With the last hope of Mr Trump's hopes getting dashed with the results of Georgia Michigan and Florida being overwhelmingly in favour of Joe Biden there is no point in his continuing creating bottlenecks for the smooth transition of power in the hands of the new President elect. He should realise the truth that the future of America does not fully depend on his leadership, which will pave its own path under the leadership of the President-elect. Trump should understand the truth that not only America but also any other country does not depend upon one particular person as the world is greater than one imagines. He seems to have not realised the nature of life that it is subject to changes and changes alone are permanent and nothing else.

V. Rahul Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

Kishwar Desai  
 London Diary



## Anti-Semitism is why Meghnad quit; all hope for Christmas shots

Finally — the good news is that a vaccine is coming, hopefully by Christmas! Indeed not just one, but six are running a close race and are likely to touch the finishing tape almost simultaneously. Our own Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was off to an early start but ran into a few problems. The UK has ordered 100 million of them. No one had foreseen Pfizer/BioNTech would get in ahead. So very quickly, we have ordered 40 million of these. The poor health minister has scrambled together enough money to also order five million of the Moderna vaccine. It looks like we may be vaccinating by late December. Maybe we need to be singing, "On the First Day of Christmas My True Love Gave to Me an AstraZeneca vaccine..."

On the personal front, it was quite a tumultuous week for us, as my husband, Meghnad Desai, left the Labour Party after 49 years! It had been a decision he had been mulling over for while as he felt that the anti-Semitism in the

party had not been dealt with and needed to be rooted out. He has fought against this racism his entire life. And when Jeremy Corbyn was recently readmitted to the Party (most of the trouble over anti-Semitism had been during his tenure as the head of the Labour Party) Meghnad felt enough is enough. Of course, it came after discussions and was not a sudden decision — as he has always been a well-respected member of the Labour Party, and has numerous friends within it. But most of them, even if they don't admit it, will know why he felt it was essential to quit. The irony is that Meghnad's autobiography is out this month — and one wishes he had been able to include a chapter on this very important move on his part! But perhaps he can discuss it now at the book launches.

So look out for some interesting revelations as Meghnad talks about his book, *Rebellious Lord*.

One is never sure if lifting the lockdown is good news or bad news. We now hear that

in early December we will go back to a partial lifting of the various restrictions. Everyone is fighting the big fear that it may be a dull winter, with seven days of Christmas celebrated with no more than six people. Since the government has been (as are other governments) befuddled by the virus and does not know what it is doing or can do, we just have to bump along.

Even Boris is in isolation because Tory MPs have not learnt about distancing. When he met a bunch of them, one of them was infected so "test and trace" pinged Boris and told him to isolate. As he already had Covid, he should be immune and not require isolation. But you can never be too careful. He does seem to enjoy his isolation as he can do his parliamentary business from his flat at the top of Number 11.

Last week we went through a perfect storm as one of Boris' closest advisers, Dom Cummings, was asked to leave along with his second in command.

Apparently Carrie Symonds, the Prime Minister's partner, decided it was time for a Christmas cleanup and took over the reins. She is an environmental activist and suddenly Boris was supporting a Green economy. He announced that all petrol and diesel cars would be gone by 2030 and only electric cars will be allowed. This calls for a reality show called the "Kitchen Cabinet Files" Of course, no one knows what the economy will be like in 2030 — and one wonders why we are still talking about private cars — when we should be discussing more and more public transport.

One always has the fond hope that the UK government would be corruption-free. But the pandemic seems to have brought a sleaze virus into the system. We now hear about a host of scams in which cronies have been given millions in fees and contracts to deliver dubious supplies. The latest to come to light is a contract given to a fashion

store in Florida which promised to deliver three truckloads of PPE suits as the health service did not have enough PPE suits in stock. But the appointed contractor got a subcontractor who did not deliver. It was in a court case in Florida between the contractor and his subcontractor that it was revealed the contractor had collected millions in his fee in addition to the money for the supplies. Of course, in the panic over the pandemic many unfortunate decisions were taken the world over — but it seems these cases may have revealed some deeper malaise. I appeal to Carrie Symonds to cast a glance at this. All our hopes rest with her now... I suggest we start writing "Dear Carrie" letters to Downing Street, and action will undoubtedly be taken.

*Kishwar Desai is an award winning author, and playwright. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life And Times of Devika Rani, will be published shortly.*



## IN BRIEF MAN DIES IN SHARK ATTACK IN AUSTRALIA

**Sydney, Nov. 22:** A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the county this year.

Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.m. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived.

He died at the scene, police said. Park rangers immediately closed the beach. The man was the eighth to die in a shark attack in Australia this year; the highest toll since 1929 when nine died. The introduction of shark nets at popular beaches in the 1930s led to a significant fall in fatal attacks.

## 14 PRO-IRAN FIGHTERS IN SYRIA KILLED

**Beirut, Nov. 22:** At least 14 pro-Iran militia fighters from Iraq and Afghanistan were killed in air strikes in war-torn eastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Sunday.

The strikes on Saturday night in Deir Ezzor province, on the border with Iraq, were likely carried out by Israeli war planes, the Observatory said.

The Israeli army said it doesn't comment on foreign reports. More than 10 strikes hit positions of Iran-backed militias outside the border town of Albu Kamal, according to the war monitor.

The attack killed eight Iraqis and six Afghan fighters, it said.

It also destroyed two bases as well as several military vehicles, the Observatory added.

Iran-backed fighters are heavily deployed in a stretch of territory between the Syrian towns of Albu Kamal and Mayadeen, both former strongholds of the Islamic State group. Along with Russia, Iran has been a key backer of the Damascus regime in its nine-year-long civil war.

# England plans tougher tiered steps on Covid from Dec. 2

UK media speculates PM will declare week of freedom around Christmas

**London, Nov. 22:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will set out a "Covid Winter Plan" to control the spread of coronavirus in a speech on Monday, when he is expected to set out some tougher tiered measures to come in as England's lockdown officially ends on December 2. More areas are set to be placed into the higher tiers of tougher movement and household mixing restrictions and some tiers will be strengthened to safeguard lockdown progress to keep the deadly virus under control, Downing Street said.

Ahead of the nearly month-long stay-at-home lockdown, England had been placed in a three-tier system of graded social distancing rules based on the infection rates in particular regions. The government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is expected to publish research on Monday saying that measures in the previous tiers were not strong enough.

More details of the so-called Covid Winter Plan are expected on Monday in a speech to the House of Commons, after Cabinet discussions on Sunday which Johnson will be conducting virtually as he continues to self-isolate following contact with an MP who later tested positive for Covid-19.

Some UK media reports also suggest that Johnson is expected to announce up to a week of freedom from Covid-19 restrictions at Christmas, subject to

an agreement with the devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will involve a UK-wide relaxation of rules, reportedly from December 22 to 28, so that several families can join in one "bubble" to celebrate Christmas on December 25.

"Everyone's efforts during the current national restrictions have helped bring the virus back under control, slowed its spread and eased pressures on the NHS," a Downing Street spokesperson said. "But the Prime Minister and his scientific advisers are clear the virus is still present — and without regional restrictions it could quickly run out of control again before vaccines and mass testing have had an effect. That would put in jeopardy the progress the country has made, and once again risk intolerable pressure on the NHS," the spokesperson said.

Downing Street also said that the Winter Plan will set out how people will be able to see their loved ones at Christmas, adding that ministers will be warning that this will not be a normal festive period. There are reports that the 10 PM curfew for bars and restaurants could be extended by an hour. Last orders would still be called at 10 PM, but people would have until 11pm to finish their food and drink. Johnson faces a rebellion from some MPs from within his own Conservative Party.

— PTI

## US surpasses 12 million cases, 2.5 lakh deaths

**Washington, Nov. 22:** The United States surpassed 12 million Covid-19 cases Saturday, according to the Johns Hopkins University real-time tracker. The world's largest economy currently has 12,019,960 cases and 255,414 deaths, both by far the worst global tolls. The new toll comes just six days after the US crossed the 11-million case threshold.

Cases have been surging in the US at an alarming rate, forcing many cities to re-impose punishing lockdown measures. Health authorities have

urged people to stay home for next week's Thanksgiving holiday, when Americans usually travel from coast to coast to be with their families.

New York City has shut down schools for its 1.1 million students, while California began imposing a 10:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew from Saturday.

Chicago — the US third-largest city — has been under stay-at-home orders since Monday.

On Friday, President Donald Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, announced he had tested positive for Covid-19. — AFP

## CASES IN JAPAN HIT A RECORD FOR FOURTH DAY

**Tokyo, Nov. 22:** The daily tally of confirmed coronavirus cases in Japan hit a record for the fourth straight day at 2,508, the Health Ministry said on Sunday. Japan has had fewer than 2,000 coronavirus deaths so far. Opposition legislators and public flayed the government for being too slow in halting its "GoTo" tourism campaign, which encouraged travel and dining with discounts. — AP

A police source said a roadside bomb hit a car and that jihadists opened fire on a rescue team of policemen and state-aligned paramilitary forces when they arrived at the scene, about 200 kilometres

## VIRUS: RUSSIA HEALTH SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

**Moscow, Nov. 22:** When Yekaterina Kobzeva, a nurse at a preschool in Russia's Ural Mountains, began having trouble breathing, she called an ambulance. It was four days before she managed to find a free hospital bed.

Russia's health care system, vast yet underfunded, has been under significant strains in recent weeks, as the pandemic surges again. — AP

## DUTCH CULL 1.9 L CHICKENS AFTER BIRD FLU

**The Hague, Nov. 22:** Dutch authorities have culled some 190,000 chickens after a highly-contagious strain of bird flu broke out at at least two poultry farms, the agriculture ministry said Sunday.

Health workers slaughtered around 100,000 hens at a poultry farm at Hekendorp outside Gouda while 90,000 chicks were culled at Witmarsum, in northern Friesland.

In both cases "a highly-contagious strain of the H5 variant" was suspected, the ministry said in a statement.

There were no other poultry farms within a one kilometre radius of the outbreaks, it added.

"Both farms were cleared to prevent further spread of the disease," the ministry said.

Seasonal bird flu has been detected at various farms around the Netherlands since October, blamed mainly on migratory birds.

Dutch Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten on October 23 imposed preventative indoor containment on all commercial poultry farms after two dead swans were discovered carrying the highly contagious H5N8 variety of bird flu. — AFP

(120 miles) from the capital. 4 members of the Hashed al-Shaabi and 2 policemen died along with three civilians, Mohammed Zidane, the mayor of Zouiya, 50 kilometres from the city of Tikrit, told AFP.

# Don Pennsylvania lawsuit dismissed

**Washington, Nov. 22:** Donald Trump presented "strained" legal arguments without merit and "speculative accusations" that were not supported by evidence, a federal judge has ruled as she dismissed the Pennsylvania lawsuit of his campaign, in a major setback to the US president's efforts to challenge the November 3 election results.

US Middle District of Pennsylvania Judge Matthew Brann on Saturday turned down a request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the poll results, which has been won by Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden. Judge Brann, who had a few days ago alleged that she had received harassing phone calls, ruled that the Trump campaign "presented strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusa-

## TRUMP CAMPAIGN FOR RECOUNT OF VOTE IN GEORGIA

**Washington, Nov. 22:** The Trump Campaign has filed a petition for recount of votes in Georgia, days after US President-elect Joe Biden wrested the Republican stronghold by a little over 12,000 votes.

Democrat Biden became the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992 after a hand recount of nearly five million votes, that lasted for several days. Georgia hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992.

tions that were unsupported by evidence." — PTI

# Biden admin might engage more with India, says expert

**Washington, Nov. 22:** The incoming Biden administration will have a more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, a noted foreign policy expert has said, asserting that there will be an opportunity to work with New Delhi to balance the burgeoning influence of China in the region. Sohini Chatterjee, a faculty member at Columbia University who previously served as senior policy advisor in the Obama administration, said in some cases, there will be a "little bit of consistency" as both US President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is

an important strategic partner in the region.

But Trump's relationship with India was a bit more short-term and reactive, the Biden administration is likely to have a slightly more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, Chatterjee told PTI. "I think there'll be an opportunity to really work with India to balance the kind of burgeoning influence of China in the region, and structure a dialogue that that seeks, in some ways to counterbalance that burgeoning influence," she said, adding that the QUAD engagement involving Japan and Australia would continue. — PTI

# FINANCIAL Chronicle

MONDAY | 23 NOVEMBER 2020 | COIMBATORE

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,882.25 0.65
Nifty 50	12,859.05 0.68
S&P 500*	3,557.54 -0.68
Dollar (₹)	74.14 0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.45 -0.35
Euro (₹)	87.92 -0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,551.65 0.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.36 0.36
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.877 0.017
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.849 -0.702

\* As of Friday/Saturday

## CG Power lenders okay Murugappa takeover plan



**Lenders to CG Power and Industrial Solutions have agreed to a one-time loan restructuring to pave way for the Chennai-based Murugappa Group taking over the scam-hit equipment maker. CG Power had total debt of Rs 2,161 crore, out of which a consortium of 14 banks have taken a haircut of Rs 1,100 crore and restructured the remaining. In August, TIIL had agreed to invest Rs 700 crore in CG Power for a 56.61 per cent stake.**

# ■ Goods, services worth only ₹47,044 cr bought CPSE procurement down 62% this year

**SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 22**

Four more months left for the fiscal to end, the procurement of products and services by central public sector units is 62 per cent lower than last year's.

Central PSUs have made total procurement of products and services valued at Rs 47,044 crore, as per the latest update by government portal MSME Sambandh. This data is based on inputs provided by 109 central public sector enterprises. Comparatively, CPSEs made total procurement of Rs 1,24,021 crore in the last fiscal.

Procurement was down even in the last fiscal. Against Rs 1,53,144 crore worth goods and services procured in 2018-19, last year's procurement was close to 20 per cent down.

This year, the target pro-



curement by CPSEs itself is lower than last year's. As many as 114 CPSEs have set an annual target of procuring products and services worth Rs 1,10,782 crore for FY21.

As per the mandate set by the government, the CPSEs and government departments have to procure 25 per cent of their annual goods and services

from micro, small and medium enterprises. Of the total procurement reported till now, CPSEs have achieved this target.

They have procured Rs 15,630 crore worth goods and services from MSMEs, which is 33 per cent of their total procurement. However, compared with last year, the procurement till now lags behind by Rs

38,386 crore, or 59 per cent. Of their procurement, goods and services worth Rs 685 crore came from MSMEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs and Rs 390 crore from women entrepreneurs.

But the central PSUs have achieved only 32 per cent of their capex target in the first half of the fiscal, as per the data released by the government earlier. They have a capital expenditure target of Rs 1,15,934 crore for the fiscal 2020-21. Till the first half of the year, they have achieved only 32 per cent, or Rs 37,423 crore, of the target.

This is 13 per cent lower than the capital expenditure made in the first half of last fiscal. In H1 FY20, CPSEs had spent Rs 43,097 crore even when the total target was Rs 1,11,672 crore.

# RBI has a million Twitter followers

**FC BANKING BUREAU  
MUMBAI, NOV. 22**

With one million Twitter followers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has become the world's first central bank to achieve this milestone overtaking the US Federal Reserve, and the European Central Bank (ECB).

The US Federal Reserve has 6.77 lakh twitter followers and the Frankfurt headquartered ECB, the second most populous pow-

erful monetary authority in the world, has 5.91 lakh followers, Bank of England has 3.17 lakh followers and Bank of Canada has 1.8 lakh followers on its official twitter handle.

The 85-year-old RBI comparatively has been a late entrant on Twitter, present since January 2012. In comparison, the US Fed joined Twitter in March 2009.

The number of followers on RBI's Twitter handle, @RBI increased from 9.66 lakh on September 27, 2020

to 10 lakh on Sunday. In the current financial year, as many as 2.5 lakh new followers joined RBI's handle.

However, experts did not see it as an achievement. A senior banker said, "Obviously with India being the world's second most populous country and a huge number of them being active on social media, the RBI has got more followers on social media."

An analyst said, "Regulators are also becoming more active on

social media platforms. FIIs, Indian investors and other market participants too may also be following the RBI."

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das shared the news on Twitter and congratulated his colleagues. Das wrote, "RBI Twitter account reaches one million followers today. A new milestone. Congratulations to all my colleagues in RBI." Das has a separate twitter handle with 1.35 lakh followers.

# Market risks rising as DIIs remain net sellers

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 22**

Mutual fund investors have taken advantage of the sharp rise in stock prices in the equity market in November and booked profit by redeeming their investment.

As per November data, mutual funds have sold equity investments worth Rs 15,907.86 crore as on November 18.

Data made available by the Securities and Exchange Board of India shows domestic institutional investors (DIIs), consisting of mutual funds, insurance companies and banks, have been booking profit heavily this month, as inflows from foreign portfolio investors have surged dramatically post the US elections on November 3. Data for insurance companies and banks are not separately available.

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty have soared to new all-time high in a liquidity driven rally while fundamentals are still fragile. This has made DIIs cautious of rising risks in the market, which rallied 70.23 per cent post-lockdown, from the low of 25,981.24 for the Sensex on March 23 to 44,230.10 points on November 19.

In the entire October month total redemption from equity investments among the mutual funds were of Rs 14,491.79 crore.

High redemptions by the mutual funds in recent months have made the equity market quite vulnerable and dependent on inflows from foreign portfolio investors.

## SMALL TOWNS ACCOUNT FOR 16% OF MUTUAL FUND ASSET BASE

**New Delhi, Nov. 22:** The contribution of small towns, or B30 cities, to the mutual fund industry's average assets under management of over Rs 28 lakh crore stood at 16 per cent as of October-end, while state-wise Maharashtra remained the biggest contributor to the assets base, industry body Amfi said.

B30 (beyond top 30 cities) accounted for 16 per cent of the total industry average assets under management (AAUM) in October this year, and the balance was contributed by T30 cities, or the top 30 locations in India, the Association of Mutual Fund Industry (Amfi) said.

Assets from B30 locations increased to Rs 4.61 lakh crore as of October-end from Rs 4.47 lakh crore at September-end, a 3 per cent growth.

"There has been a constant increase in investments from B30 locations. They have close to 27 per cent share in the overall equity assets held by individual and it is growing at a reasonable rate," said Harshad Chetanwala of MyWealthGrowth.com. "This is encouraging as investors across country should get the benefit of investing in instrument like mutual funds" he added.

B-30 locations tend towards equity schemes as 65 per cent of assets are from equity schemes, while same is 35 per cent for 'Top 30' cities.

About 15 per cent of the retail investors chose to invest directly, while 24 per cent of HNI assets were invested directly. Besides, 47 per cent of the assets of the MF industry came directly," Amfi noted. — PTI

revisits the world map in the coming months.

In September mutual funds had sold equities worth Rs 4,134.37 crore after high redemptions in August of Rs 9,213.44 crore, and in July of Rs 9,195.04 crore. Considering that mutual fund investors had sold equities worth only Rs 501.50 crore in June, their current selling look quite high, and risks rising if FPIs stop investing due to any change in global situation.



## SHORT TAKES

## Herrmann parts ways with AFI

**New Delhi:** Athletics Federation of India's High Performance Director Volker Herrmann, whose contract was extended by the Sports Ministry till the end of 2024 Olympics, has relinquished the post, saying he "could no longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role." An AFI source said that Herrmann resigned a few weeks ago but he did not give any "specific reason". The German was appointed in June 2019 for a term till the end of the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

In September, the ministry extended his contract till the end of 2024 Olympics but AFI sources said he did not sign the new contract. "After one-and-a-half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high-performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," Herrmann wrote on his Facebook page.

— PTI

## It's Medvedev vs Them in final

**London:** Instead of No 1 Novak Djokovic vs No 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No 3 Dominic Thiem against No 4 Daniil Medvedev.

Nadal had won 71 matches in a row when grabbing the opening set, and he served for the victory in Saturday's semifinals when leading 5-4 in the second set. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6 7-6(4) 6-3. That came after Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was "tight and nervous" during a second-set tiebreaker. Thiem gathered himself and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 4-0 in the last tiebreaker, winning 7-5 6-7(10) 7-6(5).

— AFP

## Afridi to lead Galle Gladiators

**Karachi:** Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead Galle Gladiators franchise in the coronavirus-hit inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) Twenty20 tournament to be played in Hambantota, Sri Lanka from November 26 to December 16. Afridi was on Saturday named captain of the Galle Gladiators team, which has been brought by Pakistani businessman, Nadeem Omar who also owns the popular Quetta Gladiators franchise in the Pakistan Super League. Initially, Omar had announced Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain of Galle Gladiators but he had to alter his decision after the wicket-keeper batsman was named in the Pakistan squad for the tour of New Zealand. The inaugural LPL has been in trouble as several leading players withdrew from the event. — PTI

## Ronaldo scoring streak continues

**Milan:** Cristiano Ronaldo continued his scoring streak with another two goals as Juventus won 2-0 against Cagliari to move second in Serie A. Ronaldo has now scored eight goals in his last five matches. "When you have a champion like Ronaldo you can achieve any result, he is an example for everyone and he only has to continue like this," Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said on Saturday. Juventus moved a point below league leader AC Milan, which visits Napoli on Sunday.

## Live on TV

## FOOTBALL

**Indian Super League:** Odisha FC vs Hyderabad FC from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**English Premier League:** Burnley vs Crystal Palace from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

## WWE

**Raw:** Bouts from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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## RED-HOT SPURS

## Tottenham on top of EPL after beating Man City

**Manchester, Nov. 22:** Pep Guardiola admitted Manchester City played perfectly into Tottenham's hands as Spurs shot to the top of the table with a 2-0 win thanks to goals on the counter-attack from Son Heung-min and Giovanni Lo Celso.

Spurs have not won an English top-flight title in 60 years, but showed their title credentials with a defensive resilience to frustrate City's domination of possession and ruthlessly take their chances as they scored with their only two shots on target.

Defeat leaves City already eight points off the leaders, albeit with a game in hand, down in 10th with just three wins from their opening eight games.

The writing was on the wall for the visitors after just five minutes when one simple ball over the top from Tanguy Ndombele caught Joao Cancelo sleeping and Son had the pace and precise finish under Ederson to register his sixth goal in 11 games against City.

"The stats speak for themselves, we were better in many departments but we conceded a goal we cannot concede," said Guardiola. "It was the perfect scenario for them. We knew (Harry) Kane drops and Son runs in behind. We have to defend better."

**Everton win 3-2**  
Aided by another embarrassing missed penalty by Fulham, Everton ended their three-match losing streak with a 3-2 win on Sunday as Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored twice.

Two weeks after Ademola Lookman failed with a scuffed, injury-time "Panenka" penalty at West Ham, Ivan Cavaleiro took over spot-kick duties for Fulham but slipped as he attempted his shot, kicked the ball against his standing foot and saw it loop



Giovanni Lo Celso (right) celebrates his goal with fellow goalscorer Son Heung-min during their EPL game against Manchester City.

— Twitter

## RESULTS

<b>Fulham</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>(Bobby Reid 15, Ruben Loftus-Cheek 70)</i>	
<b>Everton</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>(Dominic Calvert-Lewin 1, 29; Abdoulaye Doucoure 35)</i>	
<b>Tottenham</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>(Son Heung-min 5, Giovanni Lo Celso 65)</i>	
<b>Man. City</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Man. United</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>(Bruno Fernandes 56 P)</i>	
<b>West Brom</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sheffield Utd</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>West Ham</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>(S. Haller 56)</i>	

over the crossbar. Everton was leading 3-1 at the time and although Fulham set up a tense finale with a second goal in the 70th minute by Ruben Loftus-Cheek, the visitors held on to return to winning ways. — AP

## Atletico edge past Barca

**Madrid, Nov. 22:** Atletico Madrid delivered a major boost to their hopes of winning La Liga on Saturday by beating Barcelona 1-0 and consigning their opponents to their worst start to a league season in 29 years. Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc Andre ter Stegen left the goal gaping but Barca, and a below-par Lionel Messi, failed to respond at the Wanda Metropolitan.

Instead, Atletico recorded their first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, which puts them three points ahead of Real Madrid, with a game in hand, and second in the table, level on points with early leaders Real Sociedad.

**Like any coach. I am responsible. We know we have to improve the results.**

— **RONALD KOEMAN**  
Barcelona coach

It also leaves their opponents languishing in 10th, with Barcelona's 11 points from their first eight games their worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season.

"Like any coach, I am responsible," said coach Ronald Koeman. "We know we have to improve the results. I continue to trust the players I have."

Real Madrid had earlier been held to a 1-1 draw by in-form Villarreal, another slip-up for the reigning

champions to enforce the sense that this could be Atletico's year.

And beating Barcelona in La Liga for the first time since 2010 — before Simeone arrived as coach — will do wonders for the team's belief and extends what is now a considerable advantage in the table.

It also extends Atletico's unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches.

"Today we were able to win but it absolutely doesn't change anything," said Simeone. "We're working well and I'm excited about this team."

Another disappointing day for Barca was soured further by the sight of Pique hobbling off in tears with what the club said was a "sprained right knee". — AFP

## Rohit ready to bat anywhere in Test

**New Delhi, Nov. 22:** He has enjoyed and revelled in his new role as a Test opener but Rohit Sharma is ready to be flexible about his batting position in the eagerly-anticipated Test series against Australia as per the demands of the team management.

The senior batsman is expected to play a big role alongside Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara when skipper Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child.

"I will tell you the same thing that I have told everyone all this while. I will be happy to bat wherever the team wants me to but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," Rohit said.

He believes that the team management will have figured out his role in the batting order by the time he would reach Australia after completing the strength and conditioning work at an National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He had picked up a minor hamstring injury during the IPL.

"I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what are options when Virat leaves and who are the guys who will open the innings," Rohit said.

"Once I reach there, I will



**Rohit Sharma**

probably have a clearer idea of what's going to happen. I will be okay to bat wherever they want," added Rohit.

## Rohit needs to leave for Oz in 3-4 days: Shastri

India head coach Ravi Shastri has expressed his apprehensions about senior players Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma's participation in the upcoming Test series if they don't reach Australia in the next few days.

"He (Rohit) was never going to play the white-ball series, they were just looking to see how long he needed the rest, because you can't afford to be resting for too long," Shastri told ABC Sport.

"If you need to play in the Test series or any red-ball cricket, you've got to be on the flight in the next three or four days. If you aren't, then it's going to be tough." Shastri said that NCA's medical team is currently assessing Rohit.

— PTI



Cleiton Silva celebrates after scoring a goal for Bengaluru in their ISL match against Goa on Sunday.

— ISL

## Angulo inspires Goa comeback

**Goa, Nov. 22:** Clever substitutions did the trick for FC Goa as the Gaur's rescued a hard-fought point after an entertaining 2-2 draw against Bengaluru FC in match four of the ISL 7 at the Fatorda Stadium here on Sunday. Cleiton Silva (27') and Juanan Gonzalez (57') put Bengaluru ahead before Goa hit back through a brace from Igor Angulo (66', 69').

Goa dominated possession early on, with Bengaluru happy to sit back and maintain their defensive shape. However, both teams failed to create clear-cut opportunities in the opening quarter.

Bengaluru registered their first shot on goal in the 11th minute when Ashique Kuruniyan cut inside from the left, beating three men, before switching onto his weaker right foot. However, his tame attempt on goal was well collected by Goa custo-

dian Mohammad Nawaz.

Three minutes before the half-hour mark, the visitors got their lead in unusual fashion, a throw-in creating confusion in the Goa box. Harmanjot Khabra's throw from the left was flicked on towards the face of goal after Jorge Ortiz Mendoza's clearance. Silva was the first to react and headed home to hand Bengaluru the lead.

It wasn't until the 45th minute that Goa got their first shot on goal. Seriton Fernandes' cross found Angulo, whose deft flick went straight to Bengaluru keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

The visitors made one change after the made of ends, with Deshorn Brown replacing Kristian Opseth. Bengaluru soon doubled their lead and it came through a set-piece again, with Juanan getting on the scoresheet — the club's 100th goal in ISL history.

— Agencies

## Lack of red-ball preparation a concern for India



**Hemant Kenkre**  
**Silly Point**

**T**he news coming out of the National Cricket Academy (NCA), Bengaluru, augurs well for Indian cricket, as far as their Test squad is concerned. The first was that India pacer, Ishant Sharma's progress was charted as 'looking good' by those incharge of his recuperation process at the Academy. The Delhi speedster was caught by a video showing him going through the paces under the watchful eye of former India seamer, Paras Mhambrey, the current India Under-19 bowling

coach.

Ishant had checked into the NCA post getting an abdominal muscle tear during the IPL that recently concluded at the United Arab Emirates. The second bit of cheer came from the other Sharma, Rohit, who is also going through a procedure of strengthening exercises at the NCA to toughen his hamstring and get ready to take the fight to Australia in time to walk out to open the Indian innings in the first Test slated for December 17.

Both Rohit and Ishant

are important cogs in India's wheels for their Test campaign. With skipper Virat Kohli being available for the first Test only and leaving on paternity leave post that match, having the wounded warriors back in the squad will bolster the team chances of retaining the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Having a fully fit team for red ball cricket, a complete deviation from the game that's played with the white ball, is something the team management must be looking forward to.

Facing-off against the number one Test team in the world is always going to be very difficult especially in conditions that are way different from those that the Indians have experienced while playing the IPL. The big issue that Indian boys will face is the

lack of actual match practice which is way different from intra-team matches played by the squad before the real thing. For starters many members of the Test side have not had a chance to get competitive, real-time match practice.

The only opportunity (of actual match practice) they will get will be in the form of a warm-up match against an Australia 'A' team starting six days before the Adelaide Test. The problem the Indian team facing is that a core group of its members have not had a competitive game of cricket since the lockdown. Those who are in the squads for the shorter formats — One Day (ODI) and Twenty20 (T20) Internationals — will have had a bit of time out in the middle unlike a few who last played the IPL (more

than a month before the Test series) and those who have directly joined the team to Australia.

As far as batsmen are concerned, apart from Kohli, KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal and Shubman Gill, who will get a taste of competitive cricket, the others in Test squad will get an apology of a (warm-up) match before the first Test. Which effectively means Rohit, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Hanuma Vihari — virtually the Indian top and middle order — will be coming in from the cold to face the match-ready Aussies who have been playing the Sheffield Shield from October 10.

Never has the preparation of an Indian team, poised to play the current leaders of the World

Championship of Test Cricket (WTC), has been so bad, thanks to the extreme circumstances caused by a worldwide pandemic. Modern cricketers go from one international series into another without the luxury that players of the past got by playing many serious first-class matches at the start and in-between Test matches in a long (and tough) series. Today, a player will hope and pray that he finds his form from the start as there are no side matches to try and regain the same before the next Test.

The bilateral series and their schedules, that have been prepared over the last decade, are very tight. The reason being the game today is being driven purely by commercial interests and the attention of the authorities is more on the

bottom line than furthering the game per se. Going forward, the new normal will have many more series packed like a can of sardines which will slowly lead to the demise of the game, particularly the long format versions like Test cricket and first-class cricket.

Considering the circumstances, the two cricket boards could have rejigged the ODI or T20 series to accommodate a few practice matches. The good news of the chance of key Indian players being fit and able to play for the Border-Gavaskar trophy is being welcomed by the team's million fans.

The moot point is will they be able to deliver (according to expectations) against the toughest opponent, coming in straight from the cold?