

DECCAN Chronicle

HE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
NELLORE | FRIDAY | 6 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32.8°C
Min: 25.6°C
RH: 77%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: clear.
Max/Min temp. 32/25 °C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+50,547)	(+728)
84,10,249	1,25,004
covid19india.org	
(+1,539)	(+5)
TS: 2,45,682	1,362
(+2,745)	(+13)
AP: 8,35,953	6,757

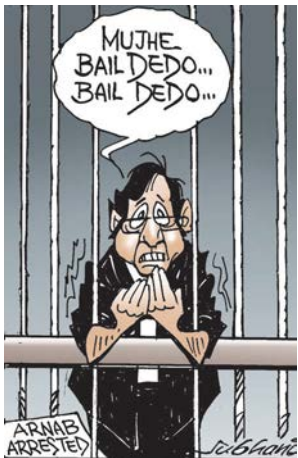
CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,87,49,441
DEATHS
12,35,479
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
215
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Titthi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Panchami till 6.35 am
Star: Ardra till 6.43 am
Variyam: 7.23 pm to 9.04 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.36 am to 9.21 am; 12.22 pm to 1.07 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 19, 1442 AH
PRAYERS(SHAHI MASJID)
Fajar: 4.54 am
Zohar: 11.54 pm
Asar: 4.05 pm
Maghrib: 5.42 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 10.16 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 11.36 AM

COUNTER POINT



SHORT TAKE

Jharkhand ends consent for CBI

Ranchi: The JMM-led government in Jharkhand on Thursday withdrew the general consent accorded to the CBI to investigate cases, joining several other states ruled by non-BJP parties that have effected a similar move. From now on, the agency has to seek permission from the state government to probe each case, official sources said. The Chief Minister's Office issued a statement saying that the home department withdrew its consent granted on February 19, 1996 by the then Bihar government to the CBI to conduct investigations and raids.

NATION | 4

Shah promises to create 'Sonar Bangla' in Bengal

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

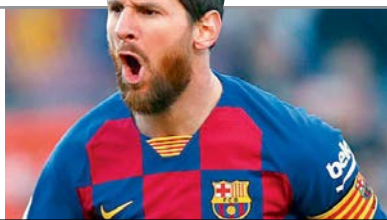


WORLD | 5

Sunak extends UK furlough wage plan

SPORTS | 8

Messi scores in Barcelona's victory



Vol. 18 No. 121 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

Honour in Nepal



Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari confers the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army on Indian Army chief General M.M. Naravane at the presidential palace in Kathmandu on Thursday. For the past 70 years, India and Nepal have a tradition of conferring honorary titles to each other's Army chiefs.

SC hears AP plea on HC stay in Amaravati probe

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notices to senior TD leader Varla Ramaiah and other respondents in a case pertaining to probing the alleged land scam in Amaravati capital area. A three-member bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan was dealing with a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the state government against a High Court order staying probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) into land transactions carried out by several TD leaders and persons close to them allegedly with prior knowledge of location the state's capital.

AP TAKES TWO KEY DECISONS ON SAND, PORT

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Thursday took two important decisions on sand supply and Machilipatnam port which might subsequently pave the way for private participation. The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government launched a new sand policy last year, which it claimed had freed sand reaches from the clutches of Telugu Desam leaders. The government promised to make sand available at the doorsteps of consumer without any hassle and at a cheaper price. The state Cabinet decided to withdraw from the sand supply. According to an official note on Cabinet decisions, the government will entrust the excavation, storage and supply to any Central agency on nomination basis.

■ Full report on Page 2

Representing the state government, senior advocate Dushyant Dave described the HC order "extraordinary" which he said stopped the entire investigation into allegations of fraudulent practices and abuse of power. "It is impossible for a High Court to interfere at a pre-investigation stage and stay all proceedings. A busybody of TD moves the HC and talks about its image and the petition is admitted," he pointed out.

Mr Dave argued that the HC should not have exercised such broad powers as it is also bound by the laws declared by the apex court. "They (HC) don't have extraordinary powers to pass any order as

they like. They interdicted a probe and even registration of a case. Can this be allowed? Is this how a HC can function?" He also wondered how people who are not affected by the probe filed petitions invoking Article 226 and HC entertained it. At one stage, Justice Bhushan sought to know if the present government wanted to probe into every decision taken by the previous government. The government, however, clarified that the review is with regard to such decisions which led to looting of public exchequer by people in power at that time. He also submitted to the court that the government had no ill intentions behind the probe.

Floods boost hydel power production

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, NOV. 5

There is surplus power generation at Srisaillam Right Bank Hydro Electric Station (AP side) with floodwater being available for more than three months. An engineer said hydropower generation can continue for the next six months at this rate easing a burden on the government. The power utility produced 984.944 million units during 2020-21 by churning out 172 tmc of water as of Wednesday. While the installed capacity is 770 MW, the utility is operating beyond its capacity. With excellent performance in maintenance of technical equipment and water utility at the hydro electric station in Andhra Pradesh, 787.00 million units (MU) of power was generated as against the 580.00 MU for the month of October.

● **WATER IS** available at Srisaillam reservoir to generate power without any trouble in this fiscal year with 27,000 cusecs of water being let in into the reservoir

The annual target of 850 MU for 2020-21 will also, in all probability double, if the present situation holds good for the future, officials said. Moreover, water is available at the Srisaillam reservoir to generate power without any trouble in this fiscal year. Power utility engineer Narasimha Rao said they were letting out 27,000 cusecs of water into the reservoir. In the last 10 years, the utility produced 1,477 million units in 2013-14, 1,338 million units in 2019-20, 1,218 million units in 2011-12 and 1,153 million units in 2014-15. In 2015-16, it just produced 207 million units, he said.

Biden on cusp of making history; Don path bumpy

Razor thin margins put both contestants on tenterhooks

Washington, Nov. 5: US Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden appeared to be on the cusp of making history along with his running mate Senator Kamala Harris, while President Donald Trump continued to have a bumpy and narrow path to victory as counting of votes in some key battleground States entered its last stretch.

As per projections made by major media outlets, Biden has 264 electoral college votes, just six votes short of the magical number of 270 out of 538 required to win the presidency. However, for news outlets like CNN, Biden has 253 electoral college votes as it has still not called Arizona, which has 11 votes and counting of votes continued.

Trump is projected to get 214 electoral college votes, which is 56 votes less than the magical figure of 270. Races in some of the key battleground states have not been called yet. These



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden puts his face mask on after speaking in Wilmington on Wednesday.

— AP

states are Pennsylvania, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona and Nevada.

In Pennsylvania, which has 20 electoral college votes, Trump is leading by 135,671 votes with 91 per cent of the votes being counted. Over the past one

day, his lead has reduced considerably. In North Carolina, which has 15 votes, the president has a lead of 77,337 votes with 95 per cent of the votes being counted so far.

To reach the magical figure of 270, Trump needs to

win Pennsylvania (20), North Carolina (15) and Georgia (16) and either of Arizona (11) or Nevada (six), which appears to be a tall order.

■ Page 5: Path for victory is easier for Biden

India won't back down: Rajnath

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday that "no matter what the sacrifice" India was "determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression", as the military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh is in the seventh month.

Mr Singh's comments

while India and China are due to hold the eighth round of corps commanders' level talks on Friday. Till now, the two countries have failed to reach any agreement on total disengagement from the flash-points in Ladakh and are gearing up to keep their troops at forward positions during the harsh winter ahead.

Friday's meeting of the Indian and Chinese generals, which will be held at

Chushul in eastern Ladakh, will be the first under the new commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon. The earlier meetings were headed on the Indian side by Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, who has now been made commandant of the Indian Military Academy. The Chinese side will be led by its South Xinjiang Military Region head, Maj. Gen. Liu Lin.

The defence minister

noted that India is facing multiple challenges on its borders. "India is a peace-loving country. We believe differences should not become disputes. We attach importance to the peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue. However, India is determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unilateralism and aggression, no matter what the sacrifice," Mr Singh said.

Get 100% BIS 916 hallmarked and responsibly sourced gold at the same best rate in every state.

MALABAR
GOLD & DIAMONDS
CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF LIFE

ONE INDIA ONE GOLD RATE

#GlowAsOne

This Dhanteras book your jewellery by paying minimum **10%** onwards in advance and get the jewellery at the booked rate or prevailing rate whichever is lower.
Also take home Silver free equal to the weight of gold.

UPTO 40% DISCOUNT ON
VALUE ADDITION OF GOLD JEWELLERY

UPTO 20% DISCOUNT ON
DIAMOND VALUE

TAKE HOME
RESPONSIBLY SOURCED
22K & 24K GOLD
COINS AND BARS
THIS FESTIVE SEASON

To Browse Our Latest Festive Collection Walk-in To Your Nearest Store Or Visit
malabargoldanddiamonds.com

5% EXTRA CASHBACK

*Min. Trn.: ₹25,000, Max. Cashback: ₹2,500 per credit card account. Validity: 05 Nov - 14 Nov 2020. T&C Apply.

MALABAR PROMISE

COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY | ASSURED LIFETIME MAINTENANCE | ZERO-DEDUCTION GOLD EXCHANGE
100% BIS 916 HALLMARKED GOLD | TESTED & CERTIFIED DIAMONDS | GUARANTEED BUYBACK |
YOUR JEWELLERY IS INSURED | KARAT ANALYSER FACILITY | RESPONSIBLY SOURCED GOLD

Call: 1800 5720 916 | 040 68138916

INDIA | USA | SINGAPORE | MALAYSIA | UAE | QATAR | KSA | OMAN | KUWAIT | BAHRAIN
Opening Shortly At: Kammanahalli (Bengaluru), Dwarka (Delhi), Ghaziabad & Thane

*Conditions apply

SHORT TAKES

REPALLE MLA WANTS SCHOOLS CLOSED IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Telugu Desam Repalle MLA Anagani Satya Prasad on Thursday appealed to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to withdraw his government's decision to reopen the schools in view of the dangerous threat of the second wave of the Coronavirus epidemic.

In a letter sent to the CM, Satya Prasad demanded that the Government give the best medical care to all those teachers, students and staff who got infected at schools in the past three days after reopening. He claimed that as per reports, over 240 teachers and hundreds of students reported virus positive during this short period itself.

The TD MLA told the Chief Minister that the entire world was reeling under Covid with second and third waves and many countries have not reopened their schools even now. He mentioned that over 22 states in India have decided against reopening the schools and preferring digital modes of imparting education.

TD TO GOVT: DISTRIBUTE TIDCO HOUSES

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, NOV. 5

TD politburo member Redd-epagari Srinivasa Reddy demanded that Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation (APTIDCO) houses built during the last government regime be distributed to the poor during the upcoming Sankranti festival.

Of the 60,000 acres collected for the distribution of housing space, only 2,000 acres are in court. Srinivasa Reddy questioned why the house sites in the remaining 58,000 acres were not being given to the beneficiaries.

TD OBJECTS TO ALLEGATIONS ON PROJECT BY BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Former minister and Telugu Desam leader K.S. Jawahar on Thursday advised BJP AP president Somu Veerajra to check his facts correctly before resorting to a negative campaign against the previous Chandrababu Naidu regime on the issue of the Polavaram project works.

Jawahar accused Veerajra of surrendering to the ruling YSRC to the extent that the BJP leader was merely reading out the script given by the Jagan Mohan Reddy Government.

SUBSIDY TO ALL MOVIES FILMED IN AP SOUGHT

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The Movie Artists Association of Andhra Pradesh (MAAAP) and the AP Film Chamber of Commerce sought an increase in subsidy to Rs 50 lakh from the present Rs 10 lakh per film by the AP government. The chamber leaders further sought swift issuing of permissions to film shootings through a single-window system.

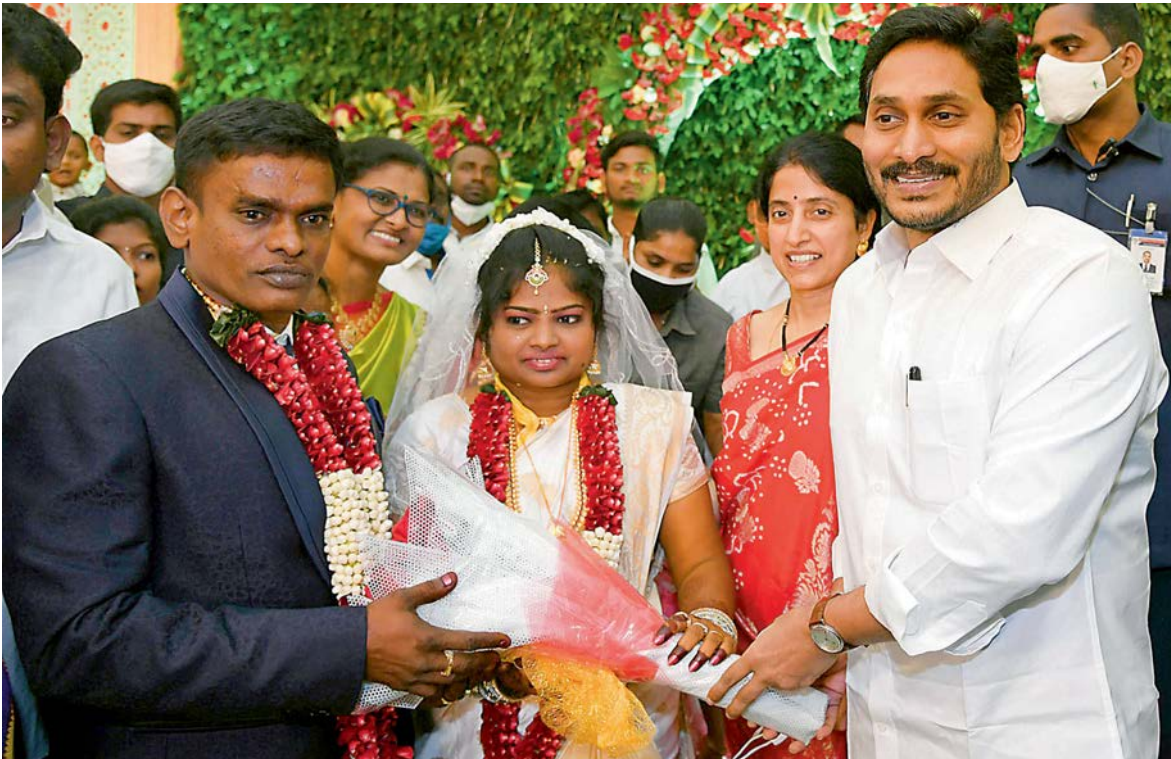
After the MAAAP meeting on film shootings at Tenali on Thursday, it's founder president and film director Dileep Raja said the meeting thanked the AP government for issuing orders relaxing norms to get permission for cinema shootings in the state.

He said that members thanked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for announcing ₹10 lakh subsidy for a movie for conducting film shooting in AP and said that in view of increased expenses the Telugu film industry, the members sought increase in subsidy to ₹50 lakh per movie.

He said that there were allegations about getting of lands by others in the name of Telugu film industry for the establishment of studios at Visakhapatnam. Mr Dileep Raja said that the meeting sought probe into the anomalies registered in the 50 acres lands at Visakhapatnam.

AP Film Chamber of Commerce president Ambati Madhumohan Krishna objected to the decision of the government about providing subsidy to only 15 movies, and sought subsidy to all movies filmed in AP.

Hearty congratulations



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his wife Bharathi congratulate B. Ravi Prasad, office subordinate at the CMO, and his wife, on their marriage day at a Kalyanamandapam in Tadepalli near Vijayawada on Thursday. — DC

Comprehensive land survey in 100 years

Survey will provide permanent land ownership, says minister

MD ILYAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The AP government will conduct a comprehensive land survey after a gap of 100 years in the state on January 1. The AP Cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy held on Thursday approved the land survey decision.

Addressing a press meet after the Cabinet meeting, minister for agriculture Kurasala Kanna Babu said that the Cabinet has approved the YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana', a comprehensive land survey, which would start on January 1.

He said the survey will provide permanent land ownership, with every inch of land in the state being resurveyed using the latest technology like drones, with 4,500 survey teams and 15,000 surveyors at an estimated cost of about ₹1,000 crore. He said that the state would mark the boundaries, issue passbooks to landowners, and further set up a mobile court to resolve land disputes on the spot. He stated that such a survey was overdue and will be held in the state after a gap of over 100 years.

The minister said that the Cabinet also approved the construction of Integrated Data Centre, Integrated IT and Business Park, recreation centre and Skill Development University in Visakhapatnam at a cost of ₹14,630 crore and the project will be taken up by Adani Group.

He stated that Opposition Telugu Desam leaders were spreading false news that the Adani Group had left the project. He stated further that in fact the Chief Minister and state government had sanctioned the projects and signed an MoU by allocating 150 acres to create employment for 25,000 people. He recalled that for the same project, the previous TD government had given 500 acres of land and agreed for 6,000 jobs.

Mr Kanna Babu said that

Major policy shift in sand supply

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Thursday took two important decisions on sand supply and Machilipatnam port which eventually encourages private participation.

The Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government launched a new sand policy last year, which it claimed had freed sand reaches from the clutches of Telugu Desam leaders. The government promised to make sand available at the doorsteps of consumer without any hassle and at a cheaper price.

The state Cabinet, however, decided to withdraw from the sand supply as part of upgrading the existing policy.

According to an official note on Cabinet decisions, the government will entrust the excavation, storage and supply to any Central agency on nomination basis. It will invite private agencies through transparent bidding process to do the same, if the Central agencies do not

the Cabinet also approved land allocation to 16 new medical colleges in various districts. He mentioned that land was allotted to the Andhra Cricket Association on a 33-year lease to set up cricket stadiums in Srikakulam and Kadapa districts.

He said that the ban on gambling, online-offline betting, use and sale of drugs and narcotics across the state would be brought under the jurisdiction of the State Enforcement Bureau (SEB). The minister added that the smuggling of red sanders was assigned to SEB along with the Task Force.

The minister said the Cabinet had agreed to pay ₹1,050 crore interest-free

evince any interest.

"We are also clueless about inviting Central agencies because the AP Mineral Development Corporation itself is a State Level Public Enterprise," said a senior official. The ruling party leaders are also worried about Opposition taking advantage of the government's major deviation – leaving customers in lurch by asking them to arrange vehicle on their own to carry sand to their doorstep. "It is again leaving the trade to middlemen and transporters," said a ruling party leader.

The government also decided to develop Machilipatnam port in "Land Lord" model in which it would bear the entire cost of construction, ₹5,000 crore in the first phase in this case, and privatise operations. The government, which is committed to building the port, did not opt for Public Private Partnership model, wherein the concessionaire will have to mobilise finances, construct the port and operate it.

loans to farmers, which the TD government had kept pending. ₹510 crore will be deposited into the accounts of 14.58 lakh farmers on November 17 for the year 2019-20.

He disclosed that the state Cabinet has given its nod for calling tenders to set up a 10,000 MW solar power plant to provide nine-hour power supply to farmers. The Jagananna Thodu scheme has also been approved to provide interest-free ₹10,000 financial assistance to small traders, hawkers and artisans. The scheme will be launched on November 24. Similarly, the Cabinet approved Aarogyasri scheme for six districts from November 10.

the cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Police asked the agitators to vacate the protest camp but they refused.

DOOR-DELIVERY OF RATION FROM JANUARY 1: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Dairy farming is poised for a major boost in Andhra Pradesh and ration rice will be door delivered from January 1, announced Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Chairing a meeting of the state Cabinet, the CM stressed on the need to development dairy units and empower women self-help groups by providing ₹1,362.22 crore as loans.

Briefing the media about the Cabinet decisions, agriculture minister Kurasala Kanna Babu said in all, each of the 9,899 villages in AP produce 500 litres of milk per day. Hence, the government has decided to establish Bulk Milk Cooling Units (BMCUs). For heralding a white revolution in the state, the state government has signed an MoU with Amul for starting their operations in Andhra Pradesh.

Kanna Babu announced that for transporting ration rice to households, the state government has decided to utilise 9,260 mobile vehicles, 80 per cent of which will be given to SC, ST, BC and minorities and 20 per cent to EBCs. "To curb smuggling and misuse, all these vehicles will be equipped with GPS to track them in real-time. Rice will be packed in reusable bags as part of the government's efforts to protect the environment," he underlined.

● The CM stressed on the need to development dairy units and empower women self-help groups by providing ₹1,362.22 crore as loans.

As a result, police formed a security cordon for safe passage of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his convoy.

AP records rise in liquor sale after dip in prices

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Sale of premium and medium brands of liquor has gone up as the state government recently has reduced the price of liquor in AP helping it to earn good revenue.

The state government issued GO MS No. 312 dated 29-10-2020 reducing the price of liquor of several brands by a minimum of ₹50 to ₹100 per 180/200 ml to a maximum of ₹1,350 per 1,000 ml and above. As the reduced price had come into effect from October 30, the state witnessed a surge in sale of liquor mainly of premium and medium brands.

Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited has registered 2.70 lakh cases of liquor sold from October 30 to November 2 this year against 1.35 lakh cases of liquor sold from September 30 to October 2, indicating the quantity of sale of liquor had doubled.

Though the state government managed to control smuggling of non-duty paid liquor from neighbouring states as guzzlers used to smuggle them as they used to cost high in AP when compared with other states, the state government faces another task to curb such illegal practice by making popular brands of liquor available in the state.

While appreciating the efforts of the state government to reduce the price of liquor of some brands, a section of liquor consumers complain that as some popular brands of liquor are not available in the state, they are still looking for such brands to be smuggled from neighbouring states. They appeal to the state government to make some popular brands of liquor also available in the state so that it will help tackle smuggling of liquor into the state from other states and even avoid loss of revenue to the state exchequer.

Sources say that despite stringent norms being imposed by the state government to curb smuggling of liquor into the state from neighbouring states as part of its broader plan to impose prohibition of liquor, a section of people are smuggling required brands of liquor and even delivering at the doorsteps of guzzlers to avoid detection by the law-enforcing authorities.

The APSBCL managing director D. Vasudeva Reddy said, "Following downward revision of price of some brands of



Illegal imports of NDPL continues

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, NOV. 5

The desire to have their favourite brand liquor, which is not available in the state, has made some boozers to explore all options to get it from the neighbouring states. This appears to have opened up opportunities and worked to the advantage of unscrupulous elements from the bordering districts who are desperate to make some fast bucks by smuggling non-duty paid liquor into AP from other states.

Despite a ban imposed on this by the state government, illegal imports of liquor from neighbouring Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu continues, resulting in huge loss to the state's excise revenue. The seizures and arrests made by the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) and police in the recent past have indicated the intensity of smuggling of liquor from other states.

It may be noted that the SEB recently made some observations that smuggling of premium and medium brands liquor into the state have been increased since May, 2020, because of the increased prices of liquor in AP due to upward revision of rates when compared to the prevailing prices of liquor in the neighbouring states. An analysis of inflow of illegal liquor

into the state between September 15 and October 15 revealed that 1,211 cases of smuggling have been registered, out of which 630 cases are in respect of liquor smuggling from Telangana, 546 cases from Karnataka, 24 cases from Odisha and 11 cases from Tamil Nadu.

The Chittoor district, which shares borders with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu appears to be having a greater number of liquor smuggling cases. As per the data, over 750 cases related to smuggling of NDPL from Karnataka have been booked in the district up to mid-October this year.

In all, over 22,746 litres of liquor and 539 vehicles were seized and over 1,148 bootleggers were arrested in connection with these cases. This phenomenon is not confined to Chittoor, but also prevails in districts like Anantapur, Kurnool and Nellore, which share borders with other states.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr Rishanth Reddy, ASP, SEB – Chittoor, however, claimed that there have been no cases of transportation in huge quantities, but there are instances when individuals resort to liquor smuggling from other states. He reiterated that they have set up check posts at borders and strict surveillance is in place to curb the liquor flow from other states.

Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up for the launch of PSLV-C49 with an Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and 9 satellites of international customers on November 7 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shar, Sriarikota. The rehearsal for the first launch in 2020 is under progress at Shar.

The earth observation satellite is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. The customer satellites are being launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Department of Space.

Meanwhile, the Mission Readiness Review Committee headed by Prof. B.N. Suresh gave clearance for the launch during a meeting held in virtual mode on Thursday. According to sources in Shar, the countdown for the launch would commence 26 hours before the launch at 1.02 pm on Friday, November 6, and the launch is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

The chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation, Dr K. Sivan, is likely to reach Shar to witness the launch either on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, sources said.

For the first time, the ISRO has restricted visitors and even media for the launch in view of Corona.

Initial four years of MOM data is already available at ISRO - ISSDC website (https://www.issdc.gov.in). More than 6800 users have registered and more than 25800 downloads of science data has been carried out so far. MOM has produced more than 30 publications in peer reviewed journals.

Indian Space Research Organisation has released Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA) payload data from September 24, 2017 to September 23, 2019, to the public on the occasion of its 7th year of launch

into the state between September 15 and October 15 revealed that 1,211 cases of smuggling have been registered, out of which 630 cases are in respect of liquor smuggling from Telangana, 546 cases from Karnataka, 24 cases from Odisha and 11 cases from Tamil Nadu.

The Chittoor district, which shares borders with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu appears to be having a greater number of liquor smuggling cases. As per the data, over 750 cases related to smuggling of NDPL from Karnataka have been booked in the district up to mid-October this year.

In all, over 22,746 litres of liquor and 539 vehicles were seized and over 1,148 bootleggers were arrested in connection with these cases. This phenomenon is not confined to Chittoor, but also prevails in districts like Anantapur, Kurnool and Nellore, which share borders with other states.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr Rishanth Reddy, ASP, SEB – Chittoor, however, claimed that there have been no cases of transportation in huge quantities, but there are instances when individuals resort to liquor smuggling from other states. He reiterated that they have set up check posts at borders and strict surveillance is in place to curb the liquor flow from other states.

stores having all top brands of liquor in the state soon, we will address the issue of non-availability of some brands of liquor so that consumers can get liquor of the choice of their brand relatively at low cost and consume them instead of resorting to smuggling from outside the state."

26-hr countdown for PSLV-C49 launch

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 5

Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up for the launch of PSLV-C49 with an Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 and 9 satellites of international customers on November 7 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Shar, Sriarikota. The rehearsal for the first launch in 2020 is under progress at Shar.

The earth observation satellite is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

The customer satellites are being launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Department of Space.

Meanwhile, the Mission Readiness Review Committee headed by

ISRO RELEASES MOM PAYLOAD DATA TO MARK 7TH YEAR OF LAUNCH

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 5

Indian Space Research Organisation has released Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA) payload data from September 24, 2017 to September 23, 2019, to the public on the occasion of its 7th year of launch

(5th November 2020). Initial four years of MOM data is already available at ISRO - ISSDC website (https://www.issdc.gov.in). More than 6800 users have registered and more than 25800 downloads of science data has been carried out so far. MOM has produced more than 30 publications in peer reviewed journals.

AIR | POLLUTION

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday reserved its orders regarding pollution caused by the use of firecrackers beyond the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi and issued notices to 18 states and Union Territories, including Telangana and

Tribunal says it may consider prohibiting use of firecrackers

NGT gives another day to AP, TS

Andhra Pradesh, where air quality does not meet the Central Pollution Control Board norms.

The Tribunal said its orders would be uploaded on its website by 10.30 am on November 9. The states and UTs have been asked to file reports with the NGT by 4 pm on Friday. It might be recalled that the NGT on Wednesday had expanded

the ambit of hearing cases on pollution by use of firecrackers beyond the NCR and issued notices to several states and Union Territories. The green panel sought response from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The tribunal said it may have to consider prohibiting the use of firecrackers to protect the health of the vulnerable groups in 122 non-attainment cities—of which even Hyderabad is one—where air quality, as per record maintained by

the CPCB, is generally beyond permissible limits. In 2019, post-Diwali, the air in Hyderabad had plunged to the very 'poor' category. The Particulate Matter 2.5 microns in thickness (PM2.5) were three times above the permitted levels and PM10 twice above the acceptable levels compared to the week before the festival.



OTHER STORIES

FACP for ex-chief of Homi Bhaba hospital

Visakhapatnam: Former founder director of Homi Bhaba Cancer Hospital and Research Centre Dr D. Raghunadha Rao has been elected to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians. ACP Fellows have the right to hold office in the College and sponsor other candidates for Fellowship.

CBI probe sought into KSEZ lands issue

Kakinada: All India Forward Bloc has said that any company in Kakinada Special Economic Zone can't claim the lands in the area as there is no right to anybody for selling it or purchasing it as the lands have not been acquired under Chapter 7 of the Land Acquisition Act. AIFB state secretary Inapurapu Suryanarayana said that the then district collector in the year 2005, issued KSEZ Land Acquisition notification without taking consent of the Union government and the farmers belonging to 2,180 acres have not taken any compensation from the companies or the government. He demanded that the government make a probe on the KSEZ land issue with the CBI.

Teen ends lifer after not allowed to marry

Tirupati: A teenager ended his life on Thursday by reportedly consuming pesticide after his parents refused his choice of bride. The incident took place at Ramarao colony in Madanapalle of Chittoor district. According to the police, the deceased was identified as Ganesh (19), a construction worker from the town. He had informed his parents about the girl he was in love with and sought their permission to marry her. But Ganesh's parents refused to accept his choice and allegedly tried to make arrangements for his marriage with another girl. Unable to go ahead with his parent's choice, he reportedly consumed pesticide and died on Thursday. Police have registered a case.

Man kills wife in Kadapa district

Kadapa: A man from Kasinayana mandal allegedly killed his wife suspecting her fidelity on Thursday. According to the information from the sub-divisional police officer, Mydukur, Bangi Vijayakumar, this incident took place in Chinnyayapalle village of Avadhutha Kasinayana mandal on Thursday. Ayyaluri Veera Mohan Reddy, the son of the accused, complained to the police about the incident. The accused Ayyaluri Pulla Reddy suspecting his wife Ayyaluri Narayanamma's (51) fidelity killed her with an unidentified weapon. He took the body to his farm and hid it under the bushes and fled after locking his house. As the woman disappeared, her son and relatives searched for her and found the body in the farm. They informed the police. Mydukur DSP Vijay Kumar and his staff rushed to the spot and sent the body for autopsy after the inquest. B. Kodur police registered a case.

40 kg of ganja seized at Kurnool

Kurnool: An inter-state ganja peddlers gang was busted by Special Enforcement Bureau at Kurnool on and seized 40 kg of Ganja and arrested five persons on Thursday. Kurnool DSP Venkata Ramaiah said that the seized ganja worth is ₹5,00,000. The accused were arrested near Panchalingala check post while they have sifting ganja to Bengaluru by vehicle, DSP said. The arrested include Miryala Roshan (Vizag), Puttadi Satish (Narsipatnam), Smitha Francis (Shimoga), S Vijay (Bangalore), and Ismail (Haveri, Karnataka). The police said Miryala Roshan and Puttadi Satish used to befriend tourists to Visakhapatnam agency area and befriend with them and used to sell ganja.

YSRC to launch 10-day mass contact drive

Plan to revive contact with people in view of local body polls

MD. ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The ruling YSR Congress will launch a 10-day mass contact programme called *Prajalalo Nadu-Prajala Kosam Nedu* from Friday. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked all elected representatives and party cadre to create awareness among people about the government fulfilling all its election promises and obtain feedback on how to improve delivery mechanisms.

Though the party maintained that the programme was intended to commemorate three years of Jagan's Praja Sankalpa Yatra that he embarked on November 6, 2017, leaders admit in private that it was kind of a revival campaign for local body polls. "We may not have much choice but hold elections at the earliest. The 10-day programme will help us revive contact with people," said a minister. The CM discussed in detail about the programme at the Cabinet meet.

Sources said the government was not hopeful of postponing elections till the retirement of State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar in March next year. "The High Court is currently hearing the case relating to holding elections and the SEC expressed its preparedness to hold it," sources in the government said adding that judiciary in general was leaving it to the SEC or Election Commission of India, as the case may be, to take a decision on elections.

Senior political analysts stated that the though the YSRC government is good at implementation of welfare schemes, it is poor in campaigning about the government's initiatives. They recalled that the earlier TD government used to provide welfare schemes and sops through their ministers and party legislators apart from large scale campaign over those initiatives. They said that at present all the welfare schemes reach the doorsteps of people without any intervention from YSRC ministers,



File photo of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy interacts with people at various places of Andhra Pradesh. — DC

Videos to create awareness on poll promises fulfilled

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

Coinciding with the three years of the launch of the Praja Sankalpa Yatra, YSRC Congress leaders and cadre will take up the 'Prajalalo Nadu -Prajalakosam Nedu' programme for ten days and explain how 90 percent of the promises made were fulfilled by the Government.

Government Advisor (Public Affairs), Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy told media here on Thursday that the Party will organize rallies and events across the state as part of the awareness programme. He said that YSRC President and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the only

leader who has fulfilled his poll promises and implemented the welfare schemes in a prescribed time frame setting an example for reliability and accountability and YSRC leaders and activists are very proud of the Chief Minister.

Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy said that after the completion of one year in office, the Government has released a pamphlet with the achievements and a calendar for the forthcoming schemes. He said that the party has prepared a Video and Pamphlet with title 'Prajalalo Nadu-Prajalakosam Nedu' with the promises he made during his Padayatra that were fulfilled after YSRC

came into power. The Leaders and cadre would be meeting the people with this pamphlet and videos and will get feedback on the implementation of the welfare schemes and how to provide better services. Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy said that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has fulfilled all the promises in 14 months of his governance that were promised during his 14-month padayatra, but for some major projects or long term schemes. He claimed, "The Chief Minister has implemented all the welfare schemes despite Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impact on the state added to the previous government's unclear debts."

body elections turned inevitable, then the 10-day campaign of YSRC would be helpful.

YSRC leaders prepared campaign materials, including audios and videos, for use during the campaign. Majority of people have benefited from at least one welfare scheme of the YSRC government. Hence, the party decided to visit every house during the campaign to create a "feel-good" vibe.

YSRC legislator G. Srinivas Reddy, government

adviser (public affairs), Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, party's central office in-charge L. Appi Reddy and others said that YSRC campaign would launch on November 6 all over AP and will be held in a festive manner. They said the party will gather feedback from people about government administration, welfare schemes implementation, village and ward secretariat system and other services for the betterment of governance.

Corona recovery rate rises to 96.57%

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 5

The dropping of Coronavirus positive cases continued with the registration of 2,745 new positive cases on Thursday in AP against an earlier average of 10,000 cases per day. The total positive cases reached 8,35,953 on Thursday in which 8,07,318 were total recoveries, 21,878 were total active cases and 6,757 were total Corona deaths.

The recovery rate continues to increase with more new recoveries. It was 96.57 per cent as a total of 8,07,318 patients recovered in the state.

The positivity rate of the 84.20 lakh samples tested till date has come down to 9.93 per cent while the positivity rate of the 85,364 samples tested in the past day was 3.22 per cent.

The West Godavari district was on top in single day highest Corona cases of 428 on Thursday and registration of a huge number of Corona cases

TEACHERS, STAFF MEMBERS, STUDENTS TEST POSITIVE IN VIZAG, ELURU

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM /ELURU, NOV. 5

There was a spurt in the positive cases among the teachers who were being put to screening under the supervision of the DM&HO. On Thursday day 46 teachers and four staff members tested positive. On Wednesday one teacher and his relative, a student of the Ravikamatam school tested positive. The DMHO has to screen 6,410 teachers of secondary schools which opened on November 2. So far 4,827 teachers were tested and of them 56 tested positive so far and remaining 1,583 to be tested.

Meanwhile, as many as five teachers and 17 students got Covid-19 virus continuing in the duo Godavari districts. Further 2,292 patients

in Eluru in West Godavari district. The Educational Department officials said that the teachers and the students were tested before reopening the schools, but the test reports came to them on Thursday.

One lecturer at Buttayigudem Junior College also got the virus. The ZP High Schools at Singarajupalem, Kuchimpudi, P. Meraka, Peddipalem and others will be disinfected.

District Education Officer P.V. Renuka said that these teachers and students were checked on October 27 or so, but the test reports came on Thursday. He said that all Covid-19 protocols and precautions are being taken in all the schools in West Godavari district.

were discharged after the cure in the past 24 hours. A total of 13 Corona

deaths registered on Thursday.

The highest number of three deaths registered in Krishna district in the past 24 hours, followed by two deaths each in Chittoor and Visakhapatnam districts, one each in Anantapur, East Godavari, Guntur, Sriakulam, Praskasam and West Godavari districts. East Godavari registered a total of 1,17,614 cases and top among all districts and West Godavari in the second place with reaching 87,638 total positive cases.

As many as 85,364 Corona tests conducted in the past 24-hours in which 2,745 were diagnosed as Covid-19 positive. AP tested a total of 84,27,629 samples for Corona till date and is in top place in Covid-19 tests.

The single day highest number of 428 Corona positive cases was registered in West Godavari district in the past 24-hours increasing the total to 87,638 in which 2,480 were active cases.

Two girls elope to live as couple in Kurnool district

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL NOV. 5

Two girls eloped, causing tense moments for their parents in Kurnool on Thursday.

The girls, one of them was a degree student at KVR government college, left a note saying they were good friends and want to live together. Police inspector said a case was registered.

Both of them have been identified as Pushpa Latha, resident of Narsimha Reddy Nagar in the city, and Simran, a first-year degree student of KVR College, resident of Santhoshnagar in the city.

According to circle inspector Maheswara Reddy, both of them had maintained friendship during their Intermediate.

Though one of them stopped studies, they continued their dating and friendship regularly.

In the meantime, they planned to marry each other and went out of

their homes on Wednesday evening.

The CI said that Pushpa Latha left from home with ₹50,000 cash and picked up her friend Simran who was already getting ready to leave home. Simran, however, sent a text message by phone to her mother Khatun Bee as she along with Pushpa Lahta went out of homes and they wanted to live happily as they loved each other.

She also asked her mother in her text message not to try any marriage proposals to her because she and Pushpa Latha will marry each other.

The circle inspector said that they registered a case based on complaints given by their mothers Pravathamma and Khatun.

Started a manhunt for escaping minor girls in the name of love, he added.

At present mobile phones of the duo have been getting switched off, stated the circle inspector.

Somireddy for action against illegal mining of sand, gravel

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 5

Former minister and TD politiburo member Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy demanded that the collector of SPSR Nellore district take steps to prevent illegal mining in various parts of the district.

In a letter addressed to the collector on Thursday, he alleged that illegal mining is rampant at Sarvepalli, Kasumuru, Pidathapoluru and Musunurupalem villages in Sarvepalli constituency.

Alleging that gravel, sand

and soil are being excavated even in water bodies using earthmoving machines during broad daylight, Mr Chandramohan Reddy said officials concerned turned a blind eye to the illegal activity even after he took the issue to their notice several times over the phone.

Claiming that the TD government took several measures to prevent illegal mining in Sarvepalli region, he alleged that the activity is very high in the industrial areas of Venkatachalam and Muthukuru now.

"The mafia is not even

WALKERS PROTEST MCT'S MOVE TO COLLECT ENTRY FEE

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, NOV. 5

The move by the Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) to levy the entry fee for morning walkers at the Prakasam municipal park has miffed the denizens, who staged a demonstration against the civic body here on Thursday. The civic body has recently re-developed the Prakasam municipal park, located on the Tirumala bypass road. The MCT has spent ₹15 crore to modernise the park and for providing amenities like walking track, skating track etc.

Every day, at least 1,500 residents of the city, including senior citizens, come to the Prakasam park for their morning walk. Earlier, there were no user charges for the morning walkers, but now the civic body has decided to collect a fee of ₹100 per month from each walker.

On Thursday, the civic staff asked all visitors to get monthly or yearly passes if they want to continue taking morning walks on the premises of the park. The new entry fee rule seems to have irked the morning walkers, who with the support of DYFI leaders staged a protest against the civic body's move.

sparing the mount located close to Kasumuru Dargah," Mr Reddy said while pointing to the illegal mining going on round the clock from last one week.

He urged the collector to intervene and stop the illegal mining and recover the value of minerals excavated from the persons responsible for the operations.

Mr Chandramohan Reddy advised the collector to activate mining, revenue, vigilance and special enforcement bureau officials to keep a tab on unauthorised mining of valuable minerals.

RESIDENTS OF BORDER AP VILLAGE PROTEST AGAINST TN LIQUOR SHOP

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 5

Residents of Karuru village in Tada mandal of SPSR Nellore district located close to Tamil Nadu border resorted to a protest against Tamil Nadu proposal to set up a wine shop near the habitation.

According to locals, excise officials of Tamil Nadu planned to open the shop in a piece of land belonging to their state situated adjacent to Karur village.

The habitants of Karuru including 100 odd women staged a demonstration before the site earmarked for the liquor shop after the officials allegedly ignored their pleas to drop the proposal.

Police from Tada and neighbouring Rambakkam (Tamil Nadu) rushed to the spot and attempted to convince the villagers to relent, but they demanded for an assurance.

Reminding that the proposed wine shop is accessible only through the village, the residents of Karuru threatened to block the access if the officials proceed with the proposal.

However, they relented after police said they would take the issue to the notice of higher authorities to find a solution.

FIRE MISHAP AT VSP INHOUSE POWER PLANT

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 5

Fire broke out at an in-house thermal power plant of Vizag Steel Plant due to leakage of oil from the lubrication system in the turbine area. There was no loss of life or injuries to any employees working there. Reports said the property damage is being assessed. The authorities are making efforts to restore the plant at the earliest. There is no interruption of production.

The management of RINL in a statement said the fire was reported at 4.45 am due to leakage of oil.

Air traffic gradually booms in Kadapa airport

NAGESWARA RAO BALLEDA | DC KADAPA, NOV. 5

The number of air passengers is on the rise as the corona cases are gradually declining. Many were reluctant to travel during the corona.

The number of passengers on buses and trains is also gradually increasing. More and more people are now opting for air travel to

reach their destinations faster. This is evident from the statistics of those travelling from Kadapa Airport during the last two to three months.

Special precautions were taken at Kadapa airport in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

In addition to thermal screening for every passenger at the airport, all seats on the plane are also being sanitised. As well as all the

MONTH	PASSENGERS
May 2020	314
June	3,183
July	2,060
August	2,060
September	1,416
October	5,125

chairs in the airport lounge and waiting hall, the entire surroundings are sanitised. The number of passengers

has been increasing day by day due to the special precautions taken.

A few months ago, travellers from Hyderabad and Chennai also underwent corona tests and moved to quarantine for those in need.

Airport officials say the number of passengers has increased significantly as a result of all these precautions.

Presently there are flights

to Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Chennai, and Belgaum.

Airport director Pusarla Sivaprasad said the number of passengers had increased significantly by taking all precautions. While only 314 people flew in May this year, it revealed that as of October 5, 125 passengers had travelled on various flights.

This shows that we are meeting the expectations of the passengers, he added.



IN BRIEF

ODISHA FARMERS
OPPOSE NEW
FARM LAWSAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |
DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 5

Thousands of farmers under the banner of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan on Thursday marched to Bhubaneswar as a mark of protest against the three farm laws passed by the Narendra Modi government in the monsoon session of the Parliament.

The outfit leaders alleged that all democratic norms were flouted to get the three farm reform Bills passed in a hurry.

Before the farmers entered the heart of the city, the police swung into action and stopped the march at Hi-Tech Hospital Square and took into custody several leaders, including Akshay Kumar, Seshadeb Nanda and Manohar Ali.

Protesting the arrest of their leaders, the farmers sat on a dharna on the National Highway 6. A scuffle broke out between the outfit members and police, sources said.

"We are opposing the Central farm laws including the stoppage of the Minimum Support Price system. Due to such laws, the prices of essential commodities have risen sharply. We also demand amendment of the relief code to provide a compensation of ₹15,000 per acre to farmers for crop loss," said Akshay Kumar.

INDIA FUMES
OVER PAK'S MOVE
ON KARTARPURDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

India on Thursday strongly condemned Pakistan's reported move to "transfer the management and maintenance" of the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee — a body run by Pakistan's minority Sikh Community — to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body.

Asking Islamabad to reverse its "arbitrary" decision, New Delhi said Pakistan's move "runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large", adding that it exposes the "tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities".

The Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara — now located close to the Indo-Pak border in Pakistani Punjab — is the site where the first Guru of the Sikhs and founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak had spent the last years of his life in the 16th century AD.

Both countries had inaugurated the Kartarpur Sahib corridor on both sides of the border (Indian and Pakistani Punjab) a year ago for the 500th birth anniversary of the Guru Nanak.

The MEA said, "This unilateral decision by Pakistan is condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large."

IJU CONDEMNS
ARREST OF
ARNAB GOSWAMI

Hyderabad/Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) strongly condemned the arrest of *Republic TV* Chief Editor Arnab Goswami in Mumbai on Wednesday in a closed and then reopened two-year-old case of alleged abetment of suicide. It termed it as an attack on freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) President K. Sreenivas Reddy and Secretary-General, and member of the Press Council of India Balwinder Singh Jammu said the action of the Mumbai Police smacked of political vendetta against a newsmen who was critical of the state government.

The IJU leaders said, "While we do not approve the brand of journalism Arnab Goswami and his Republic TV practice, the arrest and the way he was arrested exposes the political intent of the Mumbai Police, who are considered to be the best in the country. We would like to point out that attempts to silence criticism, however unreasonable it may be, violates the fundamental right of freedom of the press and freedom of expression."

This is going to be my
last election: Nitish

JD(U) says his statement can not be seen as retirement

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 5

On the last day of the election campaign, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar raised the political pitch by announcing that this was his last election. He gave the statement while addressing a rally in Dhamdaha in Purnea district on Thursday. "All is well that ends well", he said while addressing a gathering of his party's supporters during his public meeting.

While listing his government's achievements during the occasion he said that "a day after there is a poll in Bihar and this is going to be my last elections, now tell me will you vote for our candidate?" His sudden announcement has created a flutter in the political circles especially among NDA leaders who have been aggressively campaigning in Bihar for the last phase of assembly elections.

JD(U) spokesperson Ajay Alok said that "even if he has announced that this is going to be his last elections we know that he will continue to work for the welfare of people. His statement cannot be seen as his retirement, he has a long way to go".

Targeting the opposition alliance, BJP leader Prem Ranjan Patel said that "we don't know what prompted him to announce this but I can say that people of Bihar will not let him retire. People want him because



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrives to offer prayers at the High Court Mazar during Urs festival in Patna on Thursday. — PTI

● The final phase of polls for 78 seats covers the 16 districts of Seemanchal region and north Bihar having a concentration of Muslims, Yadavs and Dalits.

● While addressing a rally in Madhubani on Thursday, Nitish Kumar said that the incident had occurred when he was speaking about the issue of employment.

he has worked for the development of Bihar".

A section in the NDA feels that the aggressive campaigning against him by the Opposition camp may have prompted Nitish to take a decision.

Recently while addressing a rally in Madhubani on Thursday, Nitish Kumar

I NEED NITISHJI'S GOVERNMENT
IN BIHAR, MODI TELLS VOTERSYOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

As the campaigning for the final phase of assembly polls in Bihar came to an end, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made an appeal to the voters for retaining Nitish Kumar-led government so as development related policies "atkae nahin bhatkae nahin" (do not get

him. The incident had occurred when he was speaking about the issue of employment. However, analysts are of the view that he may have said this to attract voters in his party's favour as he has been facing mas-

s stalled or astrayed).

"I am very much convinced about the development of Bihar. I need Nitishji's government in Bihar so that the all round development does not get stalled or gets astray. I am confident that the strength of a double engine will take Bihar to new heights of development in this decade," the Prime Minister wrote.

sive anti-incumbency in the polls. The final phase of polls for 78 seats covers the 16 districts of Seemanchal region and north Bihar having a concentration of Muslims, Yadavs and Dalits.

5- yr term not enough
to drive out 'Mughals'
from Assam: HimantaMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 5

Continuing his tirade against "Muslim Bangladeshi immigrants" defining them as "Mughals", Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Thursday said that five years term was not enough for the BJP-led alliance government to drive out the modern "Mughals" who have succeeded in establishing a very deep root in past 70 years in Assam.

Admitting that these "modern Mughals" have also found place in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Mr Sarma told reporters that his government has decided to approach the Supreme Court after the assembly polls next year for complete re-verification of the NRC.

Accusing former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela of messing up with the process of updating the NRC and misleading the apex court also, Mr Sarma said that they will bring all these anomalies to the notice of the apex

court besides taking action against Mr Hajela.

Asserting that BJP was committed to drive out "modern Mughals" from the state, Mr Sarma who was supervising the construction of a new six-lane bridge on Brahmaputra in Guwahati, came down heavily on All India United Democratic Front and accused them of patron of these "Mughals". "Mughals" have become a constant reference, a significant metaphor in Assam politics. It started recently with Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal referring it for AIUDF which allegedly carries the "Bangladeshi" party tag.

"The indigenous communities are not safe and secure as the Mughal aggression is still on," Mr Sonowal said. He had made an appeal to people to unite and defeat the illegal immigrants' conspiracy to take over Assam.

The BJP has upped the ante against the AIUDF amidst the talks about its proposed alliance with the Congress.

Shah begins WB visit, says
we will create 'Sonar Bangla'RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 5

Kickstarting the BJP's campaign for the next year's Assembly Election in West Bengal union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday declared the "wheels of oppression" by the ruling Trinamul Congress on the saffron party workers have rung the "death knell" of Mamata Banerjee government to pave way for the BJP to come to power with

two-thirds majority in the state.

Paying tribute to tribal icon Birsu Munda in Bankura on the first day of his two-day visit, Mr Shah told the media, "The way the wheels of oppression have been run over the BJP workers here, I can clearly see that the death knell of the Mamata Banerjee government has been sounded. In the coming days the BJP will come to power with two-third majority here."

He said, "Bengal is located on the boundary of the country. It's security is related to the internal security of the nation. I appeal the people of Bengal to oust the present government to ensure the nation's security, jobs to the unemployed youth and relief to the poor from their plight. Please give the BJP a chance. We will work all out to create 'Sonar Bangla' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership."

VIJAY SCOTCHES
REPORTS ON
POLITICAL PLUNGEANUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
I DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

High drama prevailed on Thursday evening after K-town was agog with reports that its A-Lister Vijay is finally making his foray into politics and that his father, veteran film-maker SA Chandrasekar (SAC), had turned the actor's Makkal Iyakkam into a political party.

When DC contacted Vijay's spokesperson Jagadish, he rubbished the reports of the actor floating any party and added the buzz on it was untrue.

However, soon it was revealed that it was SAC who has enrolled the name All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, with the Election Commission of India, awaiting registration. SAC confirmed to DC that he had applied for registration of a political party in the name All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam. "It is my initiative. It is not Vijay's political party and he has nothing to do with this whatsoever," the ace director said.

Minutes after SAC stated that he had submitted the application to the ECI, Vijay dissociated himself with his dad's political party. In a strongly worded statement, the Sarcar star said, "I came to know through the media that my father Mr. S. A. Chandrasekar has started a political party. I inform my fans and the public that there is no connection directly or indirectly between the political party that my father has started and me. By this, I mean that I will not be constrained by any actions that may take place in the future in connection with politics."

Vijay also urged his fans not to join or serve the party just because his father started it. "I request my fans to not join the political party that my father has started or work for it. There is no relationship between that party and our 'Iyakkam' (fan club)," he quipped.

In a warning tone the actor concluded his statement saying, "Strict action will be taken against anyone who uses or engage in any activities involving my name, pictures or my All-India Thalpathy Vijay Makkal Iyakkam."

Though the statement came sans the signature of Vijay, his publicist Riaz affirmed that it is an official note from the actor.

Maha may also
ban firecrackers
this DiwaliSONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday urged the citizens to celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The minister said that the issue has already been discussed in the cabinet meeting, but the decision on it is yet to be taken.

Rajasthan, West Bengal and New Delhi have already banned the firecrackers in view of the Covid-19.

Mr Tope held a meeting with officials of the state task force and death audit committee set up on the background of Coronavirus.

The state is taking precautions against the second wave of Covid-19, the minister said adding that as a precautionary measure, the state government has decided to increase fever surveillance in the state.

After the cabinet meeting, Mr Tope said that the second wave of infection is already in European countries including Spain, France, UK. He also said that if the precautions are not taken, it would have an adverse impact on the state's efforts to check the spread of coronavirus.

"The smoke emanating from firecrackers would weaken the respiratory system. We have held a discussion in the cabinet meeting. The people of the state should celebrate Diwali without firecrackers. The people would respond to the appeal," the public health minister said.

Mr Tope said he would also take up the issue with chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Firecracker emissions create a heavy

layer of smoke in the air, which can cause breathing problems, he said.

It has also been discussed whether environment friendly firecrackers can be used, Mr Tope added.

According to reports, the state health officials are bracing for a second wave in state, possibly in December or January when it gets cooler. "Considering the onset of winter, the state government plans to increase fever surveillance across the state for early detection of the Covid-19 infection," Mr Tope said.

The government will also increase testing at malls, shopping complexes, grocery shops and public transport, among others, as these locations have been identified as "super-spreader", the minister said. Apart from this, the state government has decided to extend the decision to reserve 80 per cent beds in private hospitals for Covid-19 patients, he added.

The number of daily coronavirus infections in Maharashtra have been falling constantly over the last 40 days.

The state's Covid-19 tally on Thursday crossed the 17 lakh-mark after it recorded 5,246 fresh cases, a state health department official said.

With the addition of the new cases in the last 24 hours, the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 17,03,444.

The state also reported 117 more deaths, taking the fatality count to 44,804.

Mumbai city reported 841 positive cases, which pushed its overall case count to 2,61,681, while its death toll rose to 10,377 with 25 more patients succumbing to the infection.

HARYANVIS FIRST: STATE ASSEMBLY
PASSES BILL ON 75 PC JOB QUOTA

Chandigarh, Nov. 5: The Haryana Assembly on Thursday passed a bill to give 75 per cent reservation in the private sector to job seekers from the state, a key poll promise made by ruling alliance partner Jannayak Janta Party.

The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 provides the quota for local people in private sector jobs

that offer a salary of less than ₹50,000 a month.

Only 10 per cent of the recruitment by a company needs to be from the district in which it is located — the rest of the quota can be filled from other districts in the state. The quota will initially apply for 10 years, according to the bill which now needs the assent of the state Governor to become law. — PTI

No relief for Arnab, HC to hear bail plea today

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The Bombay High Court will on Friday hear a plea filed by *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami seeking interim bail in the 2018 abetment of suicide case in which he has been arrested. HC also directed Goswami's lawyer to make Akshata Naik wife of deceased Anvay Naik and the Central government as a party in the plea and serve a copy of plea to them. HC will also hear application of Adnya Naik, daughter of deceased Anvay Naik, seeking re-investigation of A summary report filed by Police in connection with the suicide of her father.

Mr Goswami's Counsel Harish Salve on Thursday argued that nothing will happen if applicant Goswami is allowed to go out on bail and sought an interim bail for him.

Mr Salve further sought that FIR against his client should be quashed and questioned illegal arrest

made by the police. Abad Ponda, second lawyer of Mr Goswami, termed re-investigation of abetment to suicide case illegal and pressed for interim relief. He further argued that commencement of new investigation after re-opening the shut case is contrary to the well settled principle of law.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik directed Mr Goswami to make the complainant in the case, Akshata Naik, Anvay's wife, and Central government parties in the case and said, "We have to hear all the parties concerned before considering the interim bail sought by the applicant. We have to hear the complainant who is family of the deceased. The family has also filed a petition seeking transfer of probe."

Mr Goswami was arrested on Wednesday from his residence at Lower Parel in Mumbai and was taken to the Alibaug police station in neighbouring Raigad dis-

trict. He was produced before a magistrate's court which remanded him in judicial custody till November 18. Mr Goswami then moved the High Court.

Mr Ponda informed the HC that a bail plea filed before the Alibaug magistrate's court has been withdrawn. "The magistrate had not given clarity on when the bail plea would be heard and had also expressed difficulty in hearing the same as the case lies in the jurisdiction of the sessions court. Hence, we are seeking for interim bail here in high court," he said.

The petition alleged that Goswami and his son were assaulted by the police team when it arrested the journalist in a motivated, false and closed case. This is another attempt of political witch-hunt and vendetta politics against the petitioner and his channel, it alleged.

A case that was decisively closed was reopened for forcibly arresting the petitioner "in a prima facie act

of revenge and vengeance for his news coverage", it said. It claimed that in May 2018, the police had recorded the statements of Mr Goswami and two senior officials of *Republic TV*, and he had also provided documents to the police about the business transactions with Naik's company.

Mr Goswami's company ARG Outlier had paid over 90 per cent of the amount due to Naik's firm Concorde Designs as per the contract, it claimed.

"In July 2019, the entire balance amount due was transferred to the bank account of Naik's company but the amount was returned because the account was inoperative," it said.

Meanwhile, the Alibaug police in Raigad district on Thursday filed a revision application before a sessions court challenging the order passed by the magistrate remanding Mr Goswami and two others to judicial custody in the case. Chief Judicial Magistrate

Sunaina Pingle had on Wednesday remanded Goswami and the two others accused in judicial custody till November 18.

After hearing arguments from both sides for almost six hours, the magistrate passed an order at around 11.30pm. After perusal of the case diary and other relevant documents, the magistrate noted that the prosecution has failed to prima facie establish a link between the deceased and the accused persons.

"Taking into consideration the reasons behind the arrest of the accused persons and the arguments put forth by the accused persons, the arrest appears to be prima facie illegal," the CJM said.

The police said the Chief Judicial Magistrate court had erred in not considering the submissions and grounds submitted by the prosecution while seeking custody of Mr Goswami and two other arrested accused Feroze Shaikh and Nitesh Sarda.

IN BRIEF

THREE HAFIZ SAEED AIDES SENTENCED

Lahore, Nov. 5: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday handed down up to 16 years' imprisonment to three top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in two cases of terror financing.

The Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore convicted Saeed's brother-in-law Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

The JuD leaders were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttari announced the sentence in two cases of 2019.

UK FURLOUGH WAGE PLAN EXTENDED

London, Nov. 5: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak on Thursday extended the furlough, or taxpayer-funded wage support scheme, until the end of March next year.

Sunak, who has been leading the UK's economic response to the Coronavirus pandemic, made a statement in Parliament to confirm that the scheme will pay up to 80 per cent of employee wages up to £2,500 a month, with a review of the policy scheduled for January next year.

The revised version of the furlough or forced leave scheme, which is designed for employees to hold on to their jobs through lockdown, will mean that anyone made redundant after September 23 can be re-hired and put back on furlough. "I've always said I would do whatever it takes to protect jobs and livelihoods across the UK," he said.

DUBAI DRAW: INDIAN EXPAT WINS \$1 MN

Dubai, Nov. 5: An Indian expat in Bahrain has won a whopping \$1 million in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire draw. Sunil Kumar Kathuria, 33, who works as a sales person for a private company in Manama, became the 342nd person to win the million dollars on Wednesday, *Gulf News* reported.

A resident of Manama, he won \$1 million with his ticket purchased online on October 17. He is also the 170th Indian to win \$1 million at the DDF Millennium Millionaire draw. "I am a second generation expat living here (in Bahrain). It has been almost 10-12 years since I visited Dubai. I will make a trip sometime," Kathuria was quoted as saying by the report.

"It (money) will be put to good use. I want to do some charity, perhaps buy a home. I will discuss with my parents and see what to do with it. Right now we are just excited with the win," he said. According to DDF organisers, Indian nationals make up the highest number of Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire ticket buyers.

VATICAN NOD TO PRIEST SEX ABUSE PROBE

Warsaw, Nov. 5: The Vatican has ordered an investigation into allegations that a now-retired archbishop in Poland was negligent in investigating reports of sex abuse of minors by priests in his Gdansk archdiocese.

The Vatican Embassy in predominantly Roman Catholic Poland said the archbishop of Warsaw had been assigned to conduct the probe and that the preliminary investigation into Archbishop Slawoj Leszek Glodz has been completed. The embassy provided no details about the outcome in a statement issued this week.

Pope Francis accepted Glodz's resignation on his 75th birthday in August, a sign he was taking the allegations against the archbishop seriously. Glodz, who had also served as the chief chaplain of Poland's armed force, denies any negligence. Abuse survivors included Glodz in a report identifying two dozen current and retired Polish bishops accused of protecting predator priests. The report was delivered to Francis on the eve of his 2019 global abuse prevention summit at the Vatican.

Oregon police face off with far-left protesters, arrest 10

Riot declared in Portland, emergency order extended fearing violence

Portland, Nov. 5: Oregon police and National Guard troops in camouflage trucks pursued far-left protesters around the US city of Portland as a riot was declared late Wednesday, making at least 10 arrests.

The northwestern city that has seen continuous protests since summer had been placed on high alert by Governor Kate Brown, who extended an election-night emergency order amid fears of violent clashes over the contested US polls.

A heavy law enforcement presence flooded the streets after a handful of demonstrators broke off from hundreds-strong anti-Trump protests to shatter storefront windows, and a man believed to have thrown a Molotov cocktail was arrested.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office cited "widespread violence" in the city's downtown area, including glass bottles thrown at police who advanced on demonstrators. An *AFP* journalist at the scene witnessed two arrests during a skirmish on a street corner that left protester Michael Ream with a bloody face.

"It's the same thing it always is — just horrible conduct of the police force and the terrible legacy that they carry every day," the 38-year-old PhD student told *AFP* as police handcuffed him.

Asked whether this week's contested election had brought him to the streets, he replied: "More or less. I mean, I haven't been out (protesting) in a while." Portland has seen months of clashes between police and demonstrators, angered at the repeated killings of POC Americans by law enforcement officers across the country. — *AFP*



An Oregon State Trooper hits a protester with his baton while dispersing a crowd of protesters in Portland, Oregon on Thursday. Protests, some peaceful and others violent, broke out in Portland as the presidential election remained undecided. — *AFP*

No comments: UN spokesman

United Nations, Nov. 5: A spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said that he has no comments as of now on the 2020 US Presidential Election and the process is being watched closely. "No, not at this point. I mean, we're all watching, obviously, closely. The process is still... is

● **SPOKESMAN FOR the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric was responding to a question whether Trump's assertion that he won the poll is helpful or dangerous.**

playing itself out. We do not have a comment at

this point," Spokesman for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric said on Wednesday. He was responding to a question on if he has a comment yet on the US election and whether President Donald Trump's assertion that he won the election is "helpful or dangerous." — *PTI*

Over 12 Indian Americans win polls

Washington, Nov. 5: More than a dozen Indian Americans have won state-level elections. This is besides the four Indian Americans elected to the US House of Representatives: Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi.

The five women elected are Jenifer Rajkumar to

the New York Assembly, Nima Kulkarni to the Kentucky State House, Keshia Ram to the Vermont State Senate, Vandana Slatter to the Washington State House, Padma Kuppala to the Michigan State House, Niraj Antani to the Ohio State Senate, Jay Chaudhuri re-elected to the North Carolina State Senate,

Amish Shah to the Arizona State House, Nikil Saval to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Ranjeev Puri to the Michigan State House, Jeremy Cooney to the New York State Senate. Ash Kalra has been re-elected to the California State Assembly for the third consecutive term. Ravi Sandill has won the

District Court Judge polls in Texas. Keshia Ram is the first woman of colour elected to the Vermont State Senate, Nikil Saval is the first Indo-American elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Jenifer Rajkumar is the first South Asian woman elected to the New York state office. — *PTI*

UK min warns of virus fines

London, Nov. 5: The UK government on Thursday reminded people about the tough fines in place over severe breaches as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown in order to try and control the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, expected to last at least until December 2.

UK Justice Secretary Robert Buckland said that while the police forces of the country will continue to follow the principle of policing by consent, they would respond to "egregious breaches" and hand out fines where necessary. Under the legal requirements in place, people have been told to stay at home unless leaving for work if they can't work from home or to shop for essentials or a form of daily exercise.

All non-essential shops, pubs, bars, restaurants and gyms have been ordered to close and households are also banned from mixing indoors or in private gardens, unless in a so-called "support bubble". There is a £200 fine for each breach which doubles on every offence up to a maximum of £6,400 and organisers of large gatherings face a £10,000 fine.

U.S. SETS RECORD WITH OVER 1LAKH NEW INFECTIONS

Washington, Nov. 5: The United States set another record for daily confirmed Coronavirus cases as states around the country posted all-time highs, underscoring the vexing issue that confronts the winner of the presidential race. The surging cases and hospitalisations reflect the challenge that either President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will face in the coming months over the pandemic, with winter and the holidays approaching. Public health experts fear potentially dire consequences. — *AP*

"Where a more intense intervention is needed then the police will be involved and of course the fine structure is still in force," Buckland told the BBC. "I think the message has to go out very clearly that this will only work if we all play our part," he said. — *PTI*

Don immigration rule takes effect

Chicago, Nov. 5: A federal appeals court has allowed a Trump administration rule that would deny green cards to immigrants who use public benefits like food stamps to go back into effect while it considers the case.

The Election Day development was the latest dizzying twist in a legal battle over the controversial rule that the Trump administration argues helps ensure those who are self-sufficient come to the country. On Monday, US District Judge Gary Feinerman in Chicago struck down

the rule and US Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped applying it to pending applications.

Government attorneys appealed, and the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals put a hold on the ruling the next day, allowing the restrictions to take effect again. USCIS spokesman Matthew Bourke said Wednesday that the agency would immediately restart applying the rule to pending cases, but not "re-adjudicate any applications or petitions that were approved" in light of Monday's decision.

Under the Trump administration rule, officials can deny permanent residency to legal immigrants over their use of food stamps, Medicaid or other public benefits. Green card applicants must show they wouldn't be burdens to the country, or "public charges". Immigrant rights advocates deemed it a "wealth test," while health experts warned of poorer health outcomes and rising costs as low-income migrants chose between necessary services and trying to stay in the country legally.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Cook County filed the lawsuit in Chicago and planned to submit arguments to the appeals court this month. "It's no surprise that Trump's team is attempting to remove barriers that wouldn't allow enforcement of his unlawful public charge definition, even after the courts clapped back at him earlier this week," Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, whose office argued the case, said in a statement. — *AP*

Despite virus, TJ Karachi meet today

Lahore, Nov. 5: Facing intense pressure from religious leaders, the Pakistan government has allowed thousands of Tableeghi Jamaat members to hold a three-day gathering in Lahore starting from Friday despite an uptick in the number of new Coronavirus cases. "The government has allowed the Tableeghi Jamaat to hold annual religious congregation in Raiwind with the participation of 54,000 followers," said a handout

issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government on Thursday.

It added that the three-day congregation will start on Friday and attendees have started to arrive from across the country. However, no one from outside the country is allowed to participate in the religious gathering, the statement read. The government said the COVID-19 rules will be strictly followed in the congregation. — *PTI*

Man charged under new Oz foreign laws

Melbourne, Nov. 5: A 65-year-old man has become the first person to be charged under Australia's foreign interference laws that were passed two years ago, police said Thursday.

Di Sanh Duong has a relationship with a foreign intelligence agency, an Australian Federal Police statement said. Police would not name the country, but the legislation largely targets China's growing influence. Duong was charged

in the Melbourne Magistrates Court on Thursday with preparing for a foreign interference offense, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

He was released on bail to appear in court again in March. The charge followed a yearlong investigation by the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force which was led by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's domestic spy agency. — *AP*

Extradite Nirav, Mallya from UK soon, says India

London, Nov. 5: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held talks with British Home Secretary Priti Patel in London during which he strongly underlined India's interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, and fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla visited London where he held discussions with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad, on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

"We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible," said Shringla. "Also, Nirav Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard," he said. Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts.

He is currently on bail, undergoing a "confidential" legal issue before Patel can consider sign-



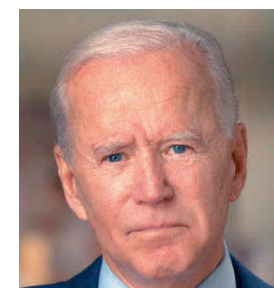
Vijay Mallya



Nirav Modi

ing off on his extradition order. On the other hand, Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant accused of fraud and money laundering in relation to the state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), is currently lodged in Wandsworth Prison in London as he fights his extradition to India at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Shringla arrived in London following visits to Paris and Berlin on Tuesday and has held a series of meetings to cover a wide range of issues, including the India-UK vaccine partnership in a post-Coronavirus world and climate change as well as highlighting India's outlook on the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region. On India-UK bilateral ties, he noted the backdrop of Britain's exit from the European Union. — *PTI*



Joe Biden

BIDEN VOWS TO REJOIN PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Washington, Nov. 5: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has pledged that his administration would rejoin the historic Paris Agreement on climate change. Biden, 77, has not won the presidential elections yet, but is inching closer to be declared the winner by garnering 253 electoral votes out of the required 270. His Republican rival and incumbent US President Donald Trump has got 213 electoral votes, according to latest projections released by the US media. On November 4, the US formally withdrew from the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a decision originally announced three years ago.

"Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it," Biden tweeted on Wednesday night, reflecting his decision to reverse one of the key policies of the Trump administration on day one. The US, under the Obama administration, had acceded to the Paris Agreement in 2016. It was a signature achievement of the Obama administration.

The Paris accord committed the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures below 2C above pre-industrial levels and attempting to limit them even more, to a 1.5C rise. Trump argues that the agreement is disadvantageous for the US, while it gives benefits to countries like China, Russia and India. — *PTI*

FLOOD | FURY

28th storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, ties a record set in 2005

Eta: 5 killed, fishermen stranded in Atlantic

Tegucigalpa, Nov. 5: Honduras girded for further floods and landslides even as Storm Eta weakened into a tropical depression on Wednesday on its course towards Florida, after at least five deaths and dozens of fishermen left stranded in the Atlantic.

Eta, one of the most powerful storms to strike Central America in years, hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane before weakening as it swept over neighbouring Honduras.

Eta is forecast to return to sea and regain momentum as a tropical storm, reaching Cuba and south-

ern Florida this weekend, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Across swathes of Nicaragua and Honduras, the storm has damaged homes, roads and bridges, forcing thousands of people to flee to shelters.

With alerts active for "life-threatening" flash flooding, Honduras declared a state of emergency, allowing officials to order evacuations.

The most important thing is human life," government spokesman Carlos Madero told reporters.

By evening, Eta was about 70 miles (115 km) east of the Honduran capital of

Tegucigalpa, and blowing maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph).

Amid the pummeling rain, a 15-year-old boy drowned trying to cross a river and a 13-year-old girl died in a landslide on her home.

Dozens of people living along Tegucigalpa's Choluteca river evacuated as the water overflowed from the banks.

About 60 fishermen were trapped at sea in the eastern Mosquitia region of Honduras, possibly taking shelter on Caribbean keys, and had not yet returned by evening, said Robin Morales, a representative

of the local population.

The deluge was so extreme in the northern Honduran city of El Progreso that a prison flooded to waist level and 604 inmates were transferred to local gyms, officials said.

In Nicaragua, the storm downed trees and power lines and caused serious flooding. Local media reported that two wildcat miners were killed by a mudslide.

Eta is the 28th named tropical storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, tying a record set in 2005, the NHC said.

— *Reuters*



Officers of the National Police and residents rescue children at the Alemania suburb in the city of El Progreso, 260 kms north of Tegucigalpa in Honduras, which was flooded by the overflow of the La Arenera stream, due to the heavy rains caused by Hurricane Eta. — *AFP*

DECCAN
Chronicle
6 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden or Trump? US is facing uncertain future

Three days after a deeply divided America went to the polls to elect its next President, we still don't know for sure if Donald Trump will stay at the White House for the next four years, or if his Democratic challenger Joe Biden – and his running mate Kamala Devi Harris – will take the oath of office on January 20 next. With this election having seen a record turnout, and over 100 million votes – close to half the total – being cast ahead of the actual date, not to mention the larger-than-usual number of mail-in ballots (particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in which the US recorded the largest number of cases), the counting is still going on relentlessly in several of the so-called “battleground” states.

At the point of writing while it does appear Mr Biden, the former vice-president who served under President Barack Obama, is likely to get a clear majority of the popular vote, and is far closer than Mr Trump, the incumbent, to reaching the 270 magic figure in the Electoral College, and becoming America's 46th President, nothing is ever certain till he actually reaches that mark. That might happen tonight, or sooner, or it may take many days, if not weeks, but the rules of the game require that all ballots must be counted.

We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy

Shockingly, however, the sitting President, who is sworn to uphold the US Constitution, doesn't seem to feel so, and in an outrageous statement at the White House on Wednesday demanded the counting be halted and declared that he had already won. This while votes were still being tallied in several states, and he himself was leading in some of them. He also threatened to move the Supreme Court to get the count halted, and by Thursday his campaign's legal teams followed through in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia, and sought a recount in Wisconsin, which had gone in Mr Biden's favour, to stave off the President's defeat. We don't know yet how the US courts, including the Supreme Court (which has a conservative majority inclined towards Mr Trump's right-wing ideology), will react to the President's manoeuvres, but if the vote count is halted anywhere till every ballot was recorded, it will be a terrible negation of the people's rights in a country that prides itself as the world's oldest democracy.

If Mr Biden does succeed finally in making it to the White House, despite all the impediments put in his way, he will find that governing will not be an easy task. Disappointingly for him, the vote on Tuesday was not the decisive rejection of “Trumpism” he and his party had campaigned for, and though the Democrats managed to retain control of the House of Representatives, their likely failure to wrest back control of the Senate means that a Biden administration will face roadblocks all the way, and perhaps be forced to resort to executive orders to deliver on its agenda. While a change of guard in Washington may be welcomed in most of the world, especially among America's closest allies, Mr Biden might find his diplomatic skills may first have to be deployed to work with the Senate's Republican leaders. The strong India-US strategic partnership is expected to remain on track, as it has bipartisan support in America, but New Delhi should be prepared for some pinpricks.

Alimony guidelines welcome

The Supreme Court's order laying down guidelines for the lower courts when deciding petitions for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases is a welcome step on many counts. First and foremost is that there is a set of guidelines to be followed by family courts, magistrates and lower courts to ensure uniformity and consistency in such cases. This should help early settlement of cases as the presiding judges have a solid base to build their orders on. The second is that maintenance will be paid from the date of filing of a petition in a court. This one norm will disincentivise husbands from prolonging such cases, which often end up in the Supreme Court. The court has observed that the pendency of the cases and the final settlement, could take years and the estranged partner would be living a miserable life, unable to meet life's expenses. The guidelines assure the woman a source of money even if it comes bit late. In economic parlance, she can monetise her petition and escape penury.

The apex court has taken care to make the process of deciding alimony as transparent and just as possible. The courts must henceforth take into account the financial position and assets of both the partners before deciding the quantum of maintenance; the expenses of the children and the basic needs, and the spiralling inflation should also be factored in while arriving at a sum. That the court has attached such orders the authority of an order of a civil court will enable the aggrieved partner to approach the authorities to enforce it, should there be a breach. In short, through a single order, the apex court has some shed light into the lives of thousands of women whom patriarchy had dumped into the dungeons of misery on the watch of a heartless judicial system. They can now hope for an escape.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamani, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

Vishakhapatnam: Survey No.1/5A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Vishakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

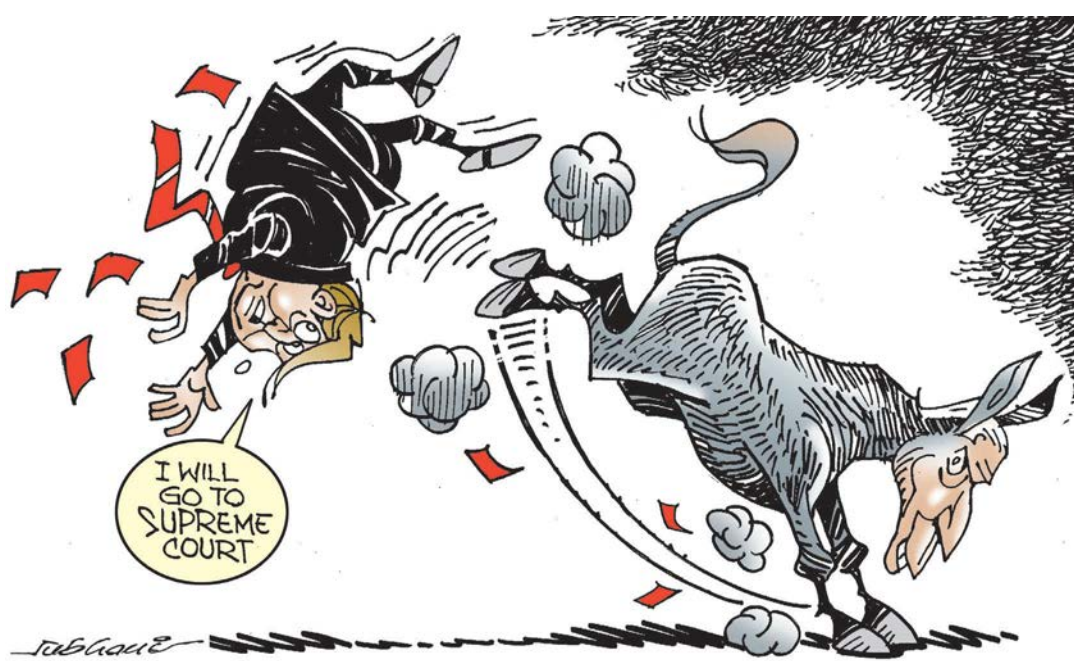
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalappally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chermudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



Pakistan in free fall is dangerous for India



Syed Ata Hasnain

Pakistan is in the news again, this time over lo o m i n g threats to the Imran Khan government from a surprisingly united Opposition. Coupled with the bankruptcy of the economy, the cozying up to Turkey and Malaysia's wholly Islamist agenda, the fall-out with France over the recent terror and *Charlie Hebdo* cartoon issue, and its retention on the Financial Action Task Force's grey list; all these are creating a spectre of uncertainty and despair. The visible symptoms of the Opposition taking Imran Khan's government to the cleaners are there for all to see. Massive demonstrations under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) were held in Gujranwala and other cities. The PDM is an 11-party conglomerate (not an alliance yet) that has surprisingly seen Bilawal Bhutto's PPP and Nawaz Sharif's PML(N), represented physically on the frontlines by his daughter Maryam Nawaz, coming together with Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam. It includes Balochistan National Party chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal. The objective is to rid Pakistan of the rule of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that was catapulted to power by the Pakistan Army in 2018. The ultimate intent is, of course, to remove the all-pervasive hand of the Army from Pakistan's politics. These leaders hope to throw up a civil society movement to achieve that, but Pakistan's civil society along with its media have been emaciated over the years. In 1968, Ayub Khan could be overthrown partially due to the powerful civil society-led movement in the streets, although it did lead to the imposition of martial law. Ever

since the overthrow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977, the powerful Pakistan Army has ensured the further weakening of civil society and the media to obviate the possibility of popular street revolts. The “Deep State”, which runs Pakistan, despite the front of so-called elected civilian governments, has cleverly used the draw of religion and ideology along with outsourced power to the clergy to keep intact its influence and power. But now things seem to be changing, with the altered circumstances. Can these circumstances make a difference in the internal power game in Pakistan?

We have earlier seen massive turnouts of people in Pakistan, but mostly on religious and ideological calls. Islamabad was blockaded by such calls many times in the past five years. This time it is for a political cause after long, and unity among political parties isn't something to be easily expected. Things appear much more serious with the two strongest parties PML(N) and PPP having set aside their differences for the moment and agreed upon a compromise leader in Maulana Fazlur Rehman. This unity may not last long due to their regional power bases attempting to upend each other. The PDM proposes to launch a mass protest campaign comprising public gatherings, political rallies, no-confidence motions, en masse resignations from assemblies and, finally, a long march in January that will culminate in a sit-in in Islamabad until their demands are met. Sticking together long enough to see it through will be a major challenge. The Army may have some ways of its own to break this unity; an offer of power to one

party may well be on the cards: anything is possible in Pakistan's fractious politics.

What does favour the Opposition is the abysmal state of the economy and the fact that Imran Khan and the Army have little clue on what to do about it. In addition, the most emotive issue of Kashmir seems to be slipping from the Pakistan government's hands after the Indian moves of August 5, 2019, which abrogated all special constitutional provisions for J&K. In a recent move, Saudi Arabia released a new banknote and the world map displayed on the obverse side of the note doesn't show Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir as parts of Pakistan. This coming from a nation that supported Pakistan for many years and was responsible for almost all its economic bailouts clearly shows that its interests do not lie with Pakistan's awkward internal politics or its inability to pursue American-Saudi interests. Pakistan's support to Turkey and Malaysia in an apparent bid to cultivate new power equations within the Islamic world is bringing it to grief with Saudi Arabia. Now with further efforts to be more Islamic than the others, by taking on France, Pakistan is actually falling foul with the Western world in general without considering the future of its economic bailouts; as China's largesse is not unending. China, that invested \$60 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, is also hand in glove with the Islamabad regime in exploiting Balochistan and Sindh, which is

When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution

fuelling discontent among the people of these provinces.

Where the Opposition has a slight advantage is that the Army may have no plan to step in to directly rule a nation with a bankrupt economy. Thus, martial law is a long shot and unlikely. The fairly professional Pakistan Army may appear to be united behind its chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa. However, the ambitions that subordinate generals harbour are rarely known. The batches of generals who were overlooked for the top slot due the controversial three-year extension given to Gen. Bajwa by Imran Khan, would yet wish to see his back. With a new government there could be the possibility of a new Army leadership, though Gen. Bajwa will use all his guile to stay on and be the guiding light to a new dispensation if he ditches Imran Khan.

The Pakistan Army under Gen. Bajwa does not seem to be as intelligently energetic as in the past. Its handling of the Sindh police case in the totally unnecessary effort to intimidate Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, Safdar Awan, has badly let down its image. What also appears true is the inability of the Pakistan Army to push back sufficiently on J&K. It may rest content with what has happened in Ladakh but another year in J&K with the networks under strain, different leaderships wiped out and fresh ones unable to infiltrate, is likely to see much higher advantage to India. It is at such times that India needs its antennae up higher than usual. When an adversary's military used to internal control at its bidding and perceived success in a proxy war which it intends fighting for long, suddenly finds itself under pressure from different directions with few good options, it is time for caution. A Pakistan in free fall is always unpredictable and thus dangerous.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps

LETTERS

US POLLS

The world's top nation is unable to hold elections without a glitch. Even after its experience in the year 2000, they do not seem to have learnt a lesson. The very system of declaring the winner of 270 or more electoral college votes disregarding the popular vote is incorrect if not outrightly wrong.

Govardhana Myneedu
Vijayawada

The inscrutable America's presidential elections are seemingly special on many accounts this time. Though the triumph eludes the incumbent President Trump narrowly, he tries his luck by going to court on poll results. He cried foul on electoral process itself though he is at the steering seat. The election expenditure is at its peak during a pandemic. Both presidential candidates have crossed the limits of decorum with their very personal attacks.

Dr D.V.G.Sankararao
Vizianagaram

LAWLESS LAWMAKERS

All politicians of different ideologies are on same wavelength when it comes to conviction by courts and six year ban to contest elections (*SC to Centre: Life ban for convicted, DC, Nov. 5*). Lawmakers with criminal antecedents are a dime a dozen and will protect their position in the guise constitutional immunity of elected and escape conviction and ban. We have a very poor conviction rate of politicians and justice gets delayed interminably. No other country gives so many rights, perks and privileges including pensions to representatives and any law to set the matters right will be thwarted.

Parthasarathy Mandadi
Tirupati

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN
Chronicle

Compensation to princes: Decision deferred

NEW DELHI, Nov. 5.

A special meeting of the Union Cabinet today discussed the draft scheme of compensation and transitory allowances to be paid to the former rulers but deferred a decision.

The matter is again expected to be considered by the cabinet in the next few days.

The main issue posed before the Cabinet was whether it was desirable to take a decision on the compensation question when the legality of the Government's derecognition order was being considered by the Supreme Court.

Raj Mohan Tella



IPL's purpose to boost talent, but cricket should always come first

For a cricket spectator like me, the IPL or the Indian Premier League presents long periods of intense self-absorption. But I am sometimes intrigued by what could have been the actual purpose of this greatly addictive tournament.

Great cricket, a revenue opportunity for the cricket board, advertisers getting to reach cricket-worshipping India, spectators banding together as fan armies — all of this, yes, but the one that appeals to me deeply is this — it is a platform for young cricketers to play, compete with some of the best players in the world and gain that much-needed international exposure.

Imagine a T. Natarajan bowling to Chris Gayle. Or an Ankit S. Rajpoot getting advice from Steve Smith. IPL seems to help in gaining confidence, earning a standing and possibly even bolstering their self-worth. For some of them, it has

paved the way to donning the India colours. If you ask me, this is the real worth of IPL.

“*Yatra pratibha avsara prapnoti-hi*”, which means “Where talent meets opportunity”. This is what is inscribed on the IPL trophy. And this rings so true hearing Hyderabad bowler Mohammed Siraj's down-to-earth articulation of his humble beginnings and passion for cricket. How cricket and his IPL earnings gave him an opportunity to provide basic creature comforts to his parents and brother. This season, Siraj has hit the headlines in IPL for several reasons. And now he is also a part of the Indian Test team. There are many more young cricketers who have stories similar to Siraj's. All of which reflect IPL's real brand purpose.

But does purpose really matter? Especially for brands and businesses? We hear so much talk from mar-

keting wizards that purpose guides brands and purpose it is when you have to connect with the new, thinking consumer. Some pundits even say that purpose means brands having a point of view and appeal to the higher, emotional needs of a consumer. No disagreements on that. But isn't the fundamental question the ability of a brand to deliver a functional benefit, solve a problem or meet a need? Certainly, a brand can advocate a purpose, but while doing that the assumption is that the functional aspects are getting delivered. Because that allows for basic survival of the brand. And purpose helps building on it with elements of emotion and differentiation.

In the difficult times we live in now, when survival of businesses seems to be paramount, functionality is at the core. It cannot be sacrificed for purpose. And merely having one is not enough. What pur-

pose does have a Parle G have, except to give us all a satisfying and value for money biscuit time? It is in fact one of India's most popular comfort food. Or for that matter isn't the purpose of all payment apps to deliver convenience and speed while protecting our details? But if you were to say a hospital brand or an organic food company needs to have a purpose, I would agree. Purpose is not a holy grail. Marketers need to prioritise functionality and layer this with the avowed purpose. I would suggest a four-point check list for deciding on the purpose — understand the functional benefits of your brand, assess the emotional dimensions your brand can shoulder, do a pulse check on your more vocal target audiences, their needs and aspirations, and draw a strong connection between the purpose and your line of business.

Switching back to IPL and brand

purpose in that context — don't we all need to have great, gripping and enjoyable cricket first, then as fans or rather as consumers of cricket, we move our attention to the other outcomes, like young names getting recognised and gaining a semblance of financial stability? Just imagine; if IPL were to only tell you they were bringing young cricketers together and providing them a platform. Would you watch IPL with the same enthusiasm? Well as a fan and cricket lover you would want the big names, the fanfare, the myths and stories that cricket creates and the nailbiting finishes — all of which are the promise of IPL. After that comes the purpose that has let a Mohammed Siraj bowl us over...

Raj Mohan Tella is the founder of Brandlogues, a global brand consulting firm. He can be reached at rajmohan@brandlogues.com.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,340.16	1.78
Nifty 50	12,120.30	1.78
S&P 500*	3,513.95	2.05
Dollar (₹)	74.39	0.48
Pound Sterling (₹)	96.84	-0.14
Euro (₹)	87.48	-0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,980▲158	0.30
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	40.86	-0.37
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.858	-0.001
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.766	-0.002

* As of 8:30 PM IST

PLI scheme for agro-chemicals mfg on cards

The government will bring a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of agro-chemicals, minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said. "Like we brought in the pharma sector, we will bring a production-linked incentive scheme for chemicals which are used in agro. Some basic chemicals are the same for all," he said addressing a webinar.

Hyundai drives in all new i20 at ₹6.8 lakh



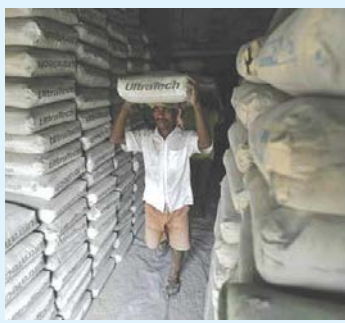
Hyundai, India's second biggest carmaker, launched its all-new fourth generation Hyundai i20 premium hatchback with prices for the petrol versions starting at Rs 6.80 lakh and the diesel version starting at Rs 8.20 lakh to aggressively push sales in the festive season. The new Hyundai i20 will take on Tata Altroz, Maruti Suzuki Baleno, Toyota Glanza, Volkswagen Polo and Honda Jazz.

Sebi ups foreign investment limit for MFs, ETFs

The Sebi enhanced foreign investment limit for individual fund houses to \$600 million from \$300 million now. The watchdog also increased domestic mutual funds' foreign investment limit in the overseas exchange-traded fund (ETF) to \$200 million. Currently, it is capped at \$50 million. The aggregate ceiling remains at \$7 billion for overseas mutual fund investment and \$1 billion for overseas ETFs.

Dalmia Bharat net rises over six-fold to ₹232 cr

Cement maker Dalmia Bharat reported an over six-fold increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 232 crore for the second quarter, helped by higher sales volume. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 36 crore during the July-September quarter a year ago. Its revenue from operations was up 7.78 per cent at Rs 2,410 crore. Total expenses were at Rs 2,083 crore against Rs 2,270 crore a year ago.



■ Recovery halts in Bharat; net 5.5L jobs lost 50L find salaried jobs in October

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 5

Though close to 50 lakh jobs were created for the salaried class in October, huge employment losses in rural India has halted the job recovery seen in the country since May this year. October recorded the first fall in jobs since May, with around 5.5 lakh losing employment during the month, according to think-tank CMIE. Rural small traders and wage labourers accounted for most of the employment loss.

It looks the job scenario has deteriorated after seeing a rapid recovery from May onwards. CMIE says the process of recovery of jobs that was robust during May, June and July and slowed down in August and September has now reversed into a fall in employment in October.

Of the 121 million jobs lost in April, 110 million jobs came back during May, June and July. Then, August and September saw the addition of only 5 million jobs. Now, October recorded the first fall since the recovery began, according to CMIE.

The IHS Markit Services PMI survey too found that employment had declined in October, despite the optimism towards the year-ahead outlook strengthening. Amid reports of workers on leave failing to return and difficulties in hiring staff due to the pandemic, services employment decreased again in



October, the survey said.

Commenting on the CMIE survey, Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services, said the job losses have happened among small traders and wage labourers in the rural areas. The employment among these categories dipped almost 10.6 million from 130 million to 120 million in a month's time. However, the salaried class added close to 5 million jobs and businesses and farmers another five million, which led to a net job loss of 5.5 lakh, she said.

"The job losses could have happened probably due to the migration of hawkers and wage labourers back to the cities. Due to this migration, rural jobs show a clear dip, but urban centres have not added jobs as companies are still working on limited manpower," Shah added.

This fall in employment has come at a time the demand for jobs is rising. The count of the unemployed who were willing to work increased by 12 million in October.

Accordingly, the employment rate—which measures the extent available labour resources (people available to work) are being used—deteriorated in October. It fell from 38 per cent in September to 37.8 per cent in October. This is an outcome of a combination of a stagnant labour participation rate and an increase in the unemployment rate.

The labour participation rate as of October 2020 remains significantly lower than the levels seen till February 2020. The employment rate had shed a massive 12.2 percentage points in April. Much of this, 10.4 percentage points, was recovered during May, June and July.

The employment rate has been falling every year since 2016-17. It fell by 1.13 percentage points in 2017-18, then by 1.46 percentage points in 2018-19 and by 0.46 percentage points in 2019-20. If this trend were to continue, 2020-21 would see another fall of about one percentage point in the employment rate even if there were no lockdown.

Saudi fund PIF puts ₹9,555 cr in Reliance Retail Ventures

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm on Thursday raised Rs 9,555 crore from Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, taking total fundraise in the last two months to Rs 47,265 crore.

PIF will take a 2.04 per cent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values RRVL, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.58 lakh crore.

This is second investment by the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund in an Ambani firm. It had previously picked up 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance, for Rs 11,367 crore.

"This investment will further strengthen PIF's presence in India's dynamic economy and promising retail market segment," the statement said.

"The transaction is in line with PIF's strategy as a leading global investor with a proven track-record of investing in innovative and transformative companies globally and develop strong partnerships with leading groups in their respective markets," it said.

India's retail sector is one of the largest in the world and accounts for over 10 per cent of its GDP, which presents meaningful growth potential.

Ambani said: "I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance."

— PTI

RBI makes co-lending easier for banks & NBFCs

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

In a bid to improve the flow of credit to the unserved sectors of the economy and to make funds affordable for them, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday revised the guidelines for banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies, to jointly lend to the priority sector. Analysts said the co-lending scheme would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their retail loan growth.

"The primary focus of the revised scheme, rechristened as "Co-Lending Model" (CLM), is to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy and make available funds to the ultimate beneficiary at an affordable cost, considering the lower cost of funds from banks and



greater reach of the NBFCs," the RBI said in a release.

The CLM is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the RBI in September 2018. Under CLM, banks are permitted to co-lend with all registered NBFCs (including HFCs) based on a prior agreement, the RBI said, adding that "the co-lending banks will take their share of the individual loans on a back-to-back basis in their books. However, NBFCs shall be required to retain a minimum of 20 per cent share of the

individual loans on their books. The guidelines state that if the bank can exercise its discretion regarding taking into its books the loans originated by NBFC as per the agreement, the arrangement will be akin to a direct assignment transaction. The NBFC will not have to maintain the minimum holding period (MHP).

Anil Gupta, vice-president and sector head—financial sector ratings, Icrs, said, "Under the CLM, if NBFCs and banks have a prior co-lending arrangement, NBFCs can immediately sell down their loan portfolio to banks without completing the minimum holding period requirement under the direct assignment transactions. This would lead to better churning of funds by NBFCs and improve their ability to drive their retail credit growth."

Market excited over a likely Biden win

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 5

The stock market surged for the fourth straight session to close at over eight-month high, with Sensex and Nifty-50 gaining over 1.75 per cent, in line with the gains in the global markets on emerging US presidential election trends showing Joe Biden leading the race for White House.

Foreign institutional investors were major buyers, by Rs 5,368.31 crore, in the Indian market as per provisional data.

Investors perceive a Biden victory to be good for the global markets and economies and this led to buying in equities all over the world, analysts said.

Following over two per cent gains in the overnight US market, the Indian market, like its peers Asia, made a gap-up opening with the Sensex opening 496 points up at

41,112 and rose steadily through the session to close 724 points up at 41,340.

After a long time, all the 30 Sensex constituents closed in the green led by big gains for the financials mainly banks, IT and index heavy weight Reliance Industries.

The broader market was equally euphoric, with BSE Mid-cap and BSE Small-cap indices gaining 1.74 per cent and 1.70 per cent, respectively.

Adani renames Oz unit to save skin

JAMES THORNHILL
NOV. 5

Enterprises Ltd renamed its Australian mining unit in a move critics see as aimed at distancing the rest of the conglomerate from a contentious new coal development.

Adani last year won approval to proceed with the 10 million-tonne per annum Carmichael thermal coal project after a decade-long struggle with regulators and environmental protesters. Carmichael became a lightning rod for climate campaigners because it will open up a new region to coal mining, connecting the Galilee Basin to Queensland's freight network via a new rail line.

The company has renamed itself Bravus Mining & Resources to mark the 10-year anniversary of its operations in the country, and the project's move into the construction phase, chief executive officer David Borshoff said in a statement.

"Adani knows its brand is toxic, which is why insurers, financiers and other contractors continue to abandon it," said Christian Slattery from the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Apollo Syndicate Management last week became the latest insurer to say it would not renew a policy for the project. Meanwhile, Siemens AG earlier this year said it would honor a contract to supply signalling systems to the Carmichael rail link, defying a backlash from activists in Australia and Germany. Adani is self-financing the mine after failing to secure external backing.

Borshoff said Carmichael was on track to produce its first coal in 2021, and had already secured a market for its output in India and Asia. "The quality of coal from the Carmichael Mine is better than the coal it will replace in the market," Borshoff said. "It will produce fewer emissions when burnt to produce electricity." — Bloomberg

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin likely in Feb: ICMR

KRISHNA N. DAS
NEW DELHI, NOV. 5

A government-backed Covid-19 vaccine could be launched as early as February—months earlier than expected—as last-stage trials begin this month and studies have so far showed it is safe and effective, a senior government scientist told Reuters.

Bharat Biotech, a private company that is developing Covaxin with the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), had earlier hoped to launch it only in the second quarter of next year.

"The vaccine has shown good efficacy," senior ICMR scientist Rajni Kant, who is also a member of its Covid-19 task-force, said at the



research body's New Delhi headquarters on Thursday.

"It is expected that by the beginning of next year, February or March, something would be available."

Bharat Biotech could not immediately be contacted. A launch in February would make Covaxin the first India-made vaccine to be rolled out.

The country's cases of coronavirus infections rose by 50,201 cases on

even before the third-stage trials are over.

"It has shown safety and efficacy in the phase 1 and 2 trials and in the animal studies, so it is safe but you can't be 100 per cent sure unless the phase 3 trials are over," Kant said.

"There may be some risk, if you are ready to take the risk, you can take the vaccine. If necessary, the government can think of giving the vaccine in an emergency situation."

Health minister Harsh Vardhan said in September the government was considering granting an emergency authorisation for a Covid-19 vaccine, particularly for the elderly and people in high-risk workplaces.

— Reuters

IndiGo defies gloom, in talks for big engine order

ANURAG KOTOKY
NOV. 5

IndiGo, India's biggest airline, is in talks with Pratt & Whitney and CFM International Inc for its next batch of jet engine orders, according to people familiar with the matter, a rare sign of deal-making in

a sector that's been paralysed by the pandemic.

The discussions with the rival manufacturers relate to engines that would power about 150 new Airbus SE A320neo jets, the people said, asking not to be identified because the negotiations are private.

Based on the size of

IndiGo's last engine order—a \$20 billion transaction with CFM that covered 280 planes and was the largest engine order in history—the new agreement could be worth around \$10.7 billion, including service, repair, and maintenance. The pandemic presents a unique opportunity,

however, for IndiGo to potentially bargain with the engine makers, both of which it now counts as suppliers.

A representative for IndiGo declined to comment. Spokespeople for Pratt & Whitney and CFM didn't immediately respond.

—Bloomberg

Flipkart invests in USPL to lift up fashion portfolio

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 5

The Flipkart Group on Thursday announced a strategic investment in USPL, a premium youth-focused fashion brand house, in an attempt to strengthen its fashion portfolio.

This is a Series F funding for USPL from the Flipkart Group along with participation from existing investor Accel Partners. This investment will significantly step up the online strategy of USPL by strengthening the existing longstanding engagement between the company and the Flipkart Group.

USPL has built a portfolio of premier fashion brands that uniquely cater to the sensibilities, design and fitment needs for the young Indian. Wrogn, USPL's flagship brand, is one of the fastest growing men's casual wear brands in India at scale and has been amongst the leading brands on Myntra over the last few years.

USPL brands are also present in more than 750 offline retail outlets in over 100 cities in India. USPL has been growing at 40-50 per cent year-on-year, a release said.

Ms Anjana Reddy, the founder & CEO of USPL, said, "Over the years, USPL has been home to some of India's best-known fashion brands for youth. The last few months have provided a great opportunity for us to consolidate our market leadership among home-grown brands catering to the youth and expand our market share."

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO, Flipkart Group, said, "USPL's unique brands, backed by celebrity endorsements, have a strong appeal for the young fashion-driven Indian consumer. This investment will help USPL and the Flipkart Group find deeper synergies."

FALLING | INVENTORY

Increasing use of bifacial panel raises demand for glass

Glass shortage threatens solar panel industry

Nov 5: The world's biggest solar power company says a shortage of glass is raising costs and delaying production of new panels, throwing a wrench into China's plans to accelerate its shift to clean power.

Prices for glass that coats photovoltaic panels have risen 71 per cent since July, and manufacturers are struggling to produce it fast enough to keep more than a week's worth of sales in inventory, according to Daiwa Capital Markets. The shortage comes as the solar industry turns toward bifacial panels, which increase both power output and glass requirements.

Solar panel producers like Longi Green Energy Technology Co have asked the government in China, home to most solar manufacturing, to address the situation by approving new factories. Otherwise price hikes may make solar power too expensive, halting the industry's momentum.



"If solar power generators see solar projects as uneconomical, they will delay investing in new projects and that will drag down solar demand," said Charles Jiang, general manager of the supply chain management centre at Longi, the world's biggest solar company by market capitalisation. "Solar power plant profits will drop below acceptable levels without government subsidies if glass makers go on to push up the

costs."

In 2018, with the energy intensive and polluting glass industry facing over-capacity issues, China's government forbade companies from adding new production capacity. Longi and five other major solar companies on Tuesday met with government officials and appealed for them to remove the restrictions, at least for solar glass.

Glass demand has also been rising within the solar industry because of the increasing prominence of bifacial panels, which coat both the top and bottom with glass, allowing for a slight uptick in power generation from sunlight reflected off the ground. Such panels are expected to make up half the market in 2022, up from about 14 per cent last year, according to analysts at Sunwah Kingsway.

Stocks of solar glass manufacturers have soared this year, with

Xinyi Solar Holdings Ltd more than doubling and Flat Glass Group Co nearly quadrupling in market value in Hong Kong.

For panel makers, glass now accounts for about 20 per cent of the total cost of production, up from about 10 per cent, Longi's Jiang said. Because glass factories take so long to build, the solar industry could be 20 per cent to 30 per cent short of the glass it needs next year, with the market not being back in balance until 2022, he said.

The shortage is coming at an inopportune time as solar developers are rushing to finish projects by the end of this year to secure government subsidies. It also threatens to halt momentum just as the Chinese government considers increasing renewable power additions as the country aims to rein in pollution and become carbon neutral by 2060.

— Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Usman's bro jailed for fake terror plot

Sydney: Australian international cricketer Usman Khawaja's older brother was jailed on Thursday after being sentenced for his actions in framing a colleague using a fake terror plot. Arsalan Tariq Khawaja admitted forging entries in the notebook of his University of New South Wales co-worker Kamer Nizamdeen in August 2018 after being jealous of Nizamdeen's contact with a mutual female friend. Nizamdeen was arrested, locked up in a maximum-security jail for four weeks and incorrectly labeled a terrorist in the media before police discovered he had been set up. Khawaja also admitted phoning authorities in 2017 about a love rival, another man of whom he was jealous, and made visa and terrorism accusations including that the man had trained overseas. In the New South Wales District Court, Judge Robert Weber jailed the 40-year-old Khawaja for four years and six months with a non-parole period of two years and six months. Khawaja made entries on at least 22 pages of a notebook and handed it to university staff. The notebook contained death threats against then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the governor-general, as well as lists to attack police stations, the Boxing Day cricket test match in Melbourne and landmarks. — *PTI*

1,000th win for Nadal in Paris

Paris: Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches on Wednesday by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters, while Diego Schwartzman and Alexander Zverev also reached the third round. The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark. The Spaniard had to fight back against fellow Spanish veteran Lopez, 39, but did enough to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week. Meanwhile, Argentinian Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of reaching the ATP Tour Finals for the first time thanks to a third-round thrashing of Alejandro Davidovich Fokina at the Paris Masters on Thursday. The sixth seed raced to a 6-1, 6-1 victory in only an hour and will face either third seed Daniil Medvedev or Australia's Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals on Friday. — *AFP*

Bopanna-Marach make quarters

Paris: India's Rohan Bopanna and Austrian Oliver Marach stunned ninth seeds Fabrice Martin and Jean-Julien Rojer in a hard-fought second round encounter to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Paris Masters tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Austrian pair came from behind to defeat their fancied rivals 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 in the round of 16 tie Wednesday night. After losing the first set, the duo of Bopanna and Marach won the second to put the pressure on the French-Dutch pair. In the tie breaker, the 40-year-old Bopanna brought all his experience into play and was helped by Marach's resolve to win the match. The Indian-Austrian duo will face the eighth seed pairing of Edouard Roger-Vasselin and Jurgen Melzer in the quarterfinals on Friday. Bopanna and Marach had defeated the Serbian pair of Dusan Lajovic and Nikola Cicic 7-5, 7-6 to move into the round of 16. — *PTI*

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Eliminator — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Royal Challengers Bangalore from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Adelaide Strikers from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Quarterfinals from 6.30 pm (session 1) and 11 pm (sessions 2) on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

Italian League: Sassuolo vs Udinese from 1.15 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

WWE

NXT: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

MIGHTY IN FINAL

Ishan, Suryakumar punch big as Mumbai mum Delhi

Dubai, Nov. 5: Defending champions Mumbai Indians reached their sixth Indian Premier League final beating Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in the first Qualifier on Thursday.

Batting first, MI scored 200 for 5 riding on half-centuries from Suryakumar Yadav (51 off 38 balls) and Ishan Kishan (55 no off 30 balls). Hardik Pandya also scored 37 off 14 balls.

In reply, Delhi Capitals finished on 143 for 8 with Jasprit Bumrah taking 4 for 14.

Suryakumar Yadav's near flawless half-century complemented by Hardik Pandya's death-over fireworks saw Mumbai Indians put up an above-par 200 for 5 against Delhi Capitals in the first qualifier of the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Surya smashed his way to a 51 off 38 balls to lay a foundation that was enough for Hardik murder the bowling with five sixes in his 14-ball-37.

In between, Ishan Kishan was an ideal anchor with a priceless half-century (55 off 30 balls), adding 60 for the sixth wicket with Hardik in only 3.5 overs.

While Ravichandran Ashwin (3/29 in 4 overs) shone brightly with his cerebral bowling, Shreyas Iyer's captaincy left a lot to be desired due to negative tactics as far as his pace department was concerned.

Starting with left-arm seam of Daniel Sams (0/44 in 4 overs) badly backfired and even worse was Kagiso Rabada (0/4 in 4 overs) and Anrich Nortje (1/50 in 4 overs) also had a forgettable day at the office.

In all, Mumbai Indians hit 15 fours and 12 sixes, a testimony to the number of bad balls bowled by the Capitals attack, especially their speed merchants,



Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians plays a shot against Delhi Capitals during their Indian Premier League match at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — *BCCI*

who were bowling short of length consistently.

At the start, Rohit Sharma (0)'s dodgy hamstring did play its part as Ashwin bowled an off-break and the MI captain didn't move his front foot enough to cover the spin and was adjudged leg before. De Kock and Surya however continued in full flow as the boundaries and sixes continued to flow from their blades during the 62-run stand in only 6.1 overs. — *PTI*

SCORECARD

Mumbai Indians Innings: Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40, Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Nortje 51, Ishan Kishan not out 55, Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0, Krunal Pandya c Sams b Stoinis 13, Hardik Pandya not out 37. Extras (B-1, LB-2, W-1) 4. **Total (for 5 wickets in 20 overs) 200.**

FoW: 1-16, 2-78, 3-100, 4-101, 5-140. **Bowling:** Sams 4-0-44-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-29-3, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-42-0, Axar Patel 3-0-27-0, Anrich Nortje 4-0-50-1, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-5-1.

Delhi Capitals: P. Shaw c de Kock b Boult 0, Shikhar Dhawan b Bumrah 0, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Boult 0, S. Iyer c Rohit b Bumrah 12, Stoinis b Bumrah 65, R. Pant c Suryakumar b K. Pandya 3, Axar Patel c Chahar b Pollard 42, Sams c de Kock b Bumrah 0, Rabada not out 15, Nortje not out 0. Extras (W-6) 6. **Total (for 8 wickets in 20 overs) 143.**

FoW: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-20, 5-41, 6-112, 7-112, 8-141. **Bowling:** Boult 2-1-9-2, Bumrah 4-1-14-4, K. Pandya 4-0-22-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pollard 4-0-36-1, R. Chahar 2-0-35-0.

Sunrisers look for fresh push

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 5: With momentum on their side, a confident Sunrisers Hyderabad would look for another complete performance to continue their forward march in the IPL when they face a struggling Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator here on Friday.

Pushed to the wall after a slow start to the tournament, SRH produced a lion-hearted effort in the second leg and peaked at the right time to qualify for the play-offs by finishing third in the league standings, just ahead of RCB.

It has been contrasting results for the two teams in the business end of the tournament.

While RCB suffered four consecutive defeats to finish the league stage at the fourth spot, SRH registered a hat-trick of wins to edge past Virat Kohli's men in the standings.

NUMBERS GAME	
HEAD TO HEAD	
OVERALL:	● Matches: 16 ● Hyderabad: 8 ● Bangalore: 7 ● Tied: 1 (Sunrisers Hyderabad won in super over after match ended in a tie)
MEETING IN 2020	
● Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Dubai.	● Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 5 wickets at Sharjah.
FOR THE RECORD	
● Devdutt Padikkal with 472 runs at an average of 33.71 in 14 innings of as many matches is the top scorer for Royal Challengers Bangalore in this IPL.	● Rashid Khan who claimed 19 wickets at an average of 15.57, is the highest wicket-taker for Sunrisers Hyderabad in this IPL.

— *S. PERVEZ KAISER*

SRH made a remarkable turnaround in their final three games — defeating Delhi Capitals, RCB and table-toppers Mumbai Indians to book their last-fourth berth.

And come Friday, SRH would be brimming with confidence, especially after their 10-wicket win

over MI in the last must-win game.

The credit for SRH's success in the past few matches goes to the opening pair of Warner and Wriddhiman Saha.

The duo has clicked upfront and has so far shared two century stands — 107 against DC

and then 151 against MI.

While Warner has led SRH from the front, scoring 529 runs from 14 games to occupy the second spot in the scorers' list, Saha (184 runs from 3 matches) has proved that the SRH team management has erred in benching him for 11 ties.

On the other hand, knowing very well that another blunder could send them packing, the Kohli-led RCB have a lot to ponder over.

Young Devdutt Padikkal, who scored his fifth fifty of the event in their last game, has been consistent at the top but Kohli needs to step up as of late, his strike rate has come under the scanner.

Kohli and AB de Villiers need to take responsibility in the big match for RCB, which also features the likes of Chris Morris, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar and bats quite deep. — *PTI*

'TEMPERATURE DROP MADE CHASE EASIER'

Mumbai, Nov. 5: Batting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that with temperatures dropping in the UAE, it has become easier to chase in the ongoing IPL as the tournament enters its business end during which the dew factor has also come into play.

"The tournament started six weeks ago. What the temperature was back then compared to what it is now, on an average it has dropped by six degrees," Tendulkar said on *100MB* app.

"Also if you look at shadows, the positioning is such, sunset timing is different. All these things affect the pitch. The pitch temperature was earlier coming down only in the second innings," cricket legend Tendulkar further added. — *PTI*

Sophie trailblazes misfiring Velocity

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone grabbed four wickets for just nine runs in a sensational bowling display to help Trailblazers beat Velocity by nine wickets in their Women's T20 Challenge match here on Thursday.

Englishwoman Ecclestone, ranked number one in the ICC T20 rankings, was well supported by veteran Jhulan Goswami (2/13) and Rajeshwari Gaekwad (2/13) as Trailblazers dismissed Velocity in 15.1 overs.

Trailblazers then chased down the small target of 48 in just 7.5 overs with opener Deandra Dottin and Richa Ghosh remaining not out on 29 and 13 respectively.

Despite their win against Supernovas on Wednesday, Velocity's net run rate would take a beating after Thursday's loss and that could hit them hard.

It was, however, a quiet start in the run chase for the Trailblazers as the Velocity bowlers denied them any loose balls. Dottin and captain Smriti Mandhana (6) were finding hard to get the boundaries. Mandhana finally went for the aerial route but perished in the process.

The Trailblazers were 28 for 1 at the end of powerplay and they ended the match in quick time with Ghosh hitting a six to take her side to victory. Velocity captain Mithali



Sophie Ecclestone of Trailblazers in action against Velocity during their Women's T20 Challenge match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. — *BCCI*

Raj's decision to bat first backfired as half of her batswomen were back in the dressing room inside powerplay for just 22 runs.

Shafali threatened to play a big innings as she hit a four and a six early one but the seasoned Goswami outfoxed the youngster, sending her stumps cart-wheeling. — *PTI*

BRIEF SCORES

■ Velocity 47 in 15.1 overs (Shafali Verma 13; Sophie Ecclestone 4-9, J. Goswami 2-13, RS Gayakwad 2-13) lost to Trailblazers 49/1 in 7.5 overs (Dottin not out 29)

Back-to-back games got to us: Mithali

Sharjah, Nov. 5: The legendary Mithali Raj, who is leading the Velocity team in the Women's T20 Challenge on Thursday, admitted the difficulty of play back-to-back matches with less than 12 hours of recovery time in sultry conditions.

Mithali said her side didn't have enough time recuperate as they crumbled to a nine-wicket defeat in the hands of Trailblazers.

"As far as playing in the afternoon definitely we haven't even got 12 hours to recover from yesterday's game."

"So clearly yes, it has been difficult for the girls to prepare themselves and come back and play the afternoon game after playing last night," Mithali

said in the post match press conference.

While the other two teams have rest days between their games, Velocity played two consecutive games in less than 24 hours in addition to the travel between Dubai and Sharjah.

As a result Velocity put up a disappointing show to be bundled for a paltry 47 in 15.1 overs as the Trailblazers chased down the target in 7.5 overs.

Talking about the top ranked ICC T20 bowler Sophie Ecclestone Mithali said the Englishwomen did well to quickly adapt to the conditions. That's why she's number one because she has come up with a game plan," Mithali said. — *PTI*

WORKING ON WEAKNESS, FITNESS HELPED: BISHT

Sharjah, Nov. 5: Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht said working on her bowling skills and fitness during the coronavirus-induced break helped her to execute the plans as she returned with a three-wicket haul to guide Velocity to a five-wicket win over Supernovas here.

Ekta (3 for 22) claimed wickets off successive deliveries in the last over as defending champions Supernovas could not accelerate in the death overs to be restricted for a paltry 126 for 8 in the opening match of the Women's T20 Challenge.

"In the lockdown, I stayed back in Almorah and worked on my bowling weakness with my coach. I also worked on fitness and it really helped. We had a long gap after a hectic season so it was good to be back," she said during the press conference. — *PTI*

Barca, Juventus clinch wins; PSG, Man U come croppers

Paris, Nov. 5: Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Viktor Tsygankov grabbed a consolation for Coronavirushit Dynamo as Barca, winless in four games in La Liga, recorded their third successive Group 'G' victory to stay three points clear of Juventus.

Cristiano Ronaldo made his first start for the Italian cham-

pions since September after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone in Budapest by Alvaro Morata, whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

Paulo Dybala added a third before an own goal from Lasha Dvali, with Franck Boli netting for the hosts in the final minute.

United lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir. Demba Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

Anthony Martial's header cut

the deficit before half-time but United saw their momentum in Group 'H' halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month.

Emil Forsberg's penalty earned Leipzig a 2-1 victory as they came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up. Angel di Maria had given PSG an early lead in Germany but Christopher Nkunku levelled before half-time for Leipzig and Forsberg converted from the spot in the 57th minute before the visitors had both Idrissa Gueye and Presnel Kimpembe sent off.

Meanwhile, Chelsea strolled to a 3-0 win at home against Rennes. — *AFP*



Lionel Messi (right) of Barcelona vies with Dynamo Kiev's Illia Zabarnyi during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Wednesday. — *AFP*