

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020



SPORT | 8

It would be a loss for Indian cricket if Rohit isn't made T20 skipper, says Gambhir

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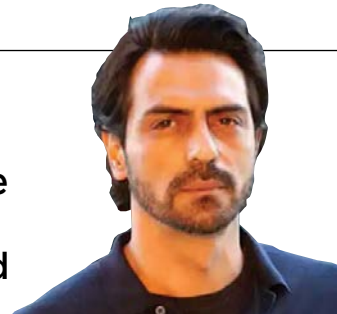


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President Trump not conceding defeat is 'an embarrassment': Biden

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Bollywood-drugs nexus case has now cast its net around Arjun Rampal & his girlfriend



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WINDOWS



The sails of the Sydney Opera House are illuminated by a projection of poppies to mark World War I Remembrance Day in Sydney on Wednesday. — AFP

No Chhath Puja at public places in Delhi amid Covid

New Delhi: The DDMA has instructed officials to ensure that Chhath Puja this year is not performed at public places, river banks and temples in Delhi, citing the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in the national capital. An order issued by chief secretary and Delhi Disaster Management Authority executive committee chairman Vijay Dev has issued directions to all DMs and DCPs for strict compliance and to encourage people to celebrate Chhath at their homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. — PTI
Full report on Page 3

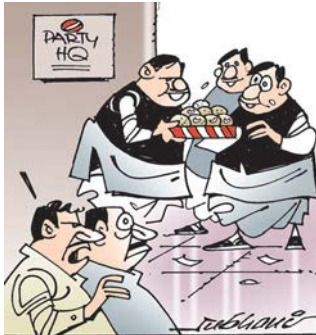
HC raps Kejri gov't over Covid handling

New Delhi: Lambasting the AAP government for its alleged lackadaisical approach in handling the Covid-19 cases, the Delhi HC has sought to know the reason as to why a slew of businesses and activities have been reopened in the city despite close to 8,000 cases being reported every day. **Full report on Page 2**

6 of family found dead in Odisha dist

Bhubaneswar: Six members of a family were on Wednesday morning found dead inside their house at Sanrapada under Patnagarh police limits in Bolangir district on Wednesday. Neighbours said there was a quarrel in the family on Tuesday night night. **Full report on Page 4**

COUNTERPOINT



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

WEATHER

Max: 28°C
Min: 13°C
RH: 53%
Rain: Nil
Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula Dwadasi till 9.26 pm
Star: Hasta till 1.52 am (Friday)
Varjyam: 11.54 am to 1.20 pm
Durmuhurtam: 10.08 am to 10.53 am; 2.37 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.28 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.41 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.09 AM
MOONSET TODAY 3.41 PM

BIHAR POLLS PM thanks voters for 'saaf-suthra' mandate, their faith in democracy

All promises will be fulfilled: Modi

YOJNA GUSAI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in Delhi, Mr Modi also gave rest to speculation about whether or not incumbent chief minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar will continue to hold the top post in the state due to his party's dismal performance. Mr Modi insisted that the ruling NDA will fulfil its promises made under Mr Kumar's leadership.

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

Mr Kumar also thanked the Prime Minister for his support.

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

Praising Bihar's voters as "paarkhi (good at judging)" and "jaagrook (aware)," Mr Modi, who was showered with flower



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flashes the victory sign at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday, a day after the National Democratic Alliance garnered a majority in the Bihar Assembly polls.

petals and chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" upon his arrival, said Bihar is "most special" and its voters have once again proved why the state is called the land of democracy. Mr Modi said the BJP's governance model is the reason behind its success and that the development plank won the polls.

"The secret of winning the election is sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas. This victory is of the youth, women, poor, farmers, aspiration and pride... Bihar has once again proved why it is called the land of democracy," said the PM. He said 21st century voters are making it clear that they will vote for only

The secret of winning the election is sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas. This victory is of the youth, women, poor, farmers, aspiration and pride...

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

those who are committed to development and have been choosing those who work for the country and are interested in it. He said the poll results have also endorsed the way the government has tackled the Covid-19 pandemic.

While thanking the people of Bihar and the BJP-NDA cadres for the poll victory, Mr Modi, without naming anyone, took on the Opposition, in particular the Congress, saying, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, many political parties are becoming a "threat to the democracy" as they are limiting themselves to dynasty politics or just one family.

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

At the same time, Mr Modi also sent a message

■ Out of 56 byelection seats, party won only 12

Dissent may rise in Cong after Bihar, bypolls' fiasco

ASHHAR KHAN
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

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

both the Assembly seats in the state. Apart from his assigned state, Mr Surjewala was also deeply involved in Bihar where the Congress just about managed to win 19 out of the 70 seats it had contested. Similar was the case in Telangana and Odisha where the party lost one and two seats respectively. The in-charge of these states are Manickam

Tagore and A Chella Kumar respectively. All these appointments were made recently, in September this year.

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

In Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, the Congress won one seat each primarily because the Congress is in power in the state and the state chief ministers put their weight behind the party candidates. Bhakta Charan Das and Kuljeet Nagra, **Turn to Page 4**

India, China move closer to LAC pact on disengagement

PLA may vacate Finger 4 to 8 area

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

Another meeting of the two corps commanders is likely to be held soon to thrash out the disengagement plan, and if all goes smoothly, the entire disengagement process in Pangong Tso can even be completed by the end of November, sources said, but then added: "These proposals are under consideration... but there is no agreement yet."

Going by the plan under discussion, the area between Finger 4 and Finger 8 will be designated as a "no-go zone" and troops from neither India or China will patrol it. This plan was discussed during the eighth round of the corps commanders' meeting on November 6 in Chushul, on India's side of the Line of Actual Control. Under the proposal, the Indian and Chinese armies will remove their heavy artillery and tanks from the forward positions and move them back to their depth areas. There are many places where Indian and Chinese tanks are in close proximity. As per the third proposal, which will be discussed soon, India will withdraw its troops from the strategically important heights on the southern bank of Pangong Tso, which they occupied in a pre-emptive action in August.

However, India will move extremely cautiously in implementing these steps and will verify each move before taking the next one.

Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane had said Tuesday he was hopeful that the Indian and **Turn to Page 4**

More forces sent to LoC to foil fresh incursions

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

More seniority reinforcements have been rushed to the India-Pakistan border to check any infiltration attempts by militants from across the Line of Control. This follows a high-level security review after the Machil encounter two days ago, where four securitymen, including an Army officer, and three militants were killed.

The incident took place as the militants were trying to enter India from launchpads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The men were being aided by

a Pakistan Army border action team.

With specific intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants were waiting at launchpads across the LoC, extra reinforcements were sent to strategic locations. Sources say in the last two months, despite 20-plus infiltration attempts, not one had been successful.

Security sources in J&K are hopeful of a quieter winter as they say only 200 militants continue to be active in the Valley, and if there are no new incursions, these men can be eliminated in fresh operations. **More on Page 4**

OTT platforms to be under I&B ministry

New Delhi, Nov. 11: The government has brought OTT platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+ Hotstar besides other online news and current affairs content under the ambit of the ministry of information and broadcasting, giving it powers to regulate policies and rules for the digital space.

So far, there was no law or autonomous body governing digital content in India.

Digital media is already regulated through the Information Technology Act and other laws, albeit within the framework of the Constitution that guarantees freedom of speech, veteran media insiders pointed out.

— PTI
More on Page 3

Cabinet clears 'PLI' sops for 10 sectors

To boost manufacturing, create jobs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

Under the five-year scheme that will continue till 2025, extra domestic production will be encouraged in sectors like advanced chemistry cell (ACC) batteries, white goods, speciality steel, pharmaceuticals,

auto components, food products, telecom, textiles and electronic products as well as solar photo voltaic modules.

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

ACC battery production is among the 10 key sectors identified by the Centre for inclusion in **Turn to Page 4**

■ Legislators chant 'Hong Kong add oil, together we stand'

HK's pro-democracy lawmakers quit

Hong Kong, Nov. 11: Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers have resigned en masse following a move by the city's government to disqualify four pro-democracy legislators.

The pro-democracy camp announced their decision in a news conference Wednesday, hours after the Hong Kong government said it would be disqualifying four pro-democracy legislators Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok, Kwok Ka-ki and Kenneth Leung from the legislature.

The disqualifications came after China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, which held meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, passed a resolution stating that those who support Hong Kong's inde-



Pro-democracy legislators pose for a photo before a press conference at Legislative Council in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. — AP

pendence or refuse to acknowledge China's sovereignty over the city, as well as commit acts that threaten national security or ask external forces to interfere in the city's affairs, should be disqualified. "Today we will resign from our positions,

because our partners, our colleagues have been disqualified by the central government's ruthless move," Wu Chi-wai, convener of the pro-democracy camp, said at the news conference. "Although we are facing a lot of difficulties in the

coming future for the fight of democracy, but we will never, never give up," he said.

Wu said that the pro-democracy legislators will hand in their resignation letters on Thursday. During the news conference, pro-democracy lawmakers chanted "Hong Kong add oil, together we stand" while holding hands.

Earlier in the year, the four now-disqualified pro-democracy lawmakers were barred from running for legislative elections originally scheduled for September, prior to the government stating that it would postpone the elections by a year due to the coronavirus situation. The four lawmakers later remained in their posts following the postponement. — AP

SHORT TAKES

KARAWAL NAGAR:
MAN KILLS KIN
AND SURRENDERS

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man allegedly strangled his sister-in-law to death over a dispute and then surrendered to police in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar area on Tuesday afternoon. The accused has been identified as Rohit, a resident of Karawal Nagar and he used to work as an electrician in the area. According to Ved Prakash Surya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northeast district, on Tuesday at around 3:30 PM, Rohit came to the DCP office and told police that he had killed his sister-in-law. "He told police that the body was lying in his house following which a police team was dispatched for the spot," said the DCP adding that the Station House Officer (SHO) along with other staff members of the Karawal Nagar police station went to the spot and found the body of a woman there. "Rohit told police that they used to fight frequently as the woman wanted him to live with her and away from his mother. Rohit's elder brother died by suicide three years ago and his wife was living with him," said the DCP. "On Tuesday, a quarrel broke out between them over the issue following which Rohit strangled her around 2.30 pm," said the DCP.

Delhi Police arrests
fraudster from Noida

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly duping over 100 investors on the pretext of promising them higher returns in his commercial project based in Noida. The accused has been identified as Satinder Singh Bhasin, a resident of Rajouri Garden in west Delhi. Police said that the accused was arrested on Tuesday and he was also released on bail as per directions of a Delhi court. According to Dr O.P. Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, the matter came to light in 2018, when police received several complaints from various people against Bhasin and his company. "According to the complainants, in 2012-13, alleged company Mist Avenue Pvt. Ltd. Invited people through an advertisement to invest in one of its Nodia-based projects.

'Cow slaughterer'
arrested in Noida

New Delhi: An alleged cow slaughterer was held after he suffered injuries in a gunfight with police in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida, officials said on Wednesday. A partner of the accused, however, managed to escape during the gunfight that broke out in Knowledge Park police station area late on Tuesday, they said. "The duo was on a motorcycle when they were gestured to stop for checking by the local police in the night. But, instead of stopping, they tried to escape and opened fire on the police team," said Greater Noida police officer Vishal Pandey.

Kejriwal asks Dr Vardhan for extra beds in Centre-run hospitals
HC slams Kejri govt for Covid laxitySANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

Lambasting the AAP government for its alleged lackadaisical approach in handling the Covid-19 cases in the national capital, the Delhi high court, on Wednesday, sought to know the reason as to why a slew of businesses and activities have been reopened in the city despite close to 8,000 cases being reported every day. A two-judge bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramaniam Prasad said that when Delhi was "hands down beating" Maharashtra and Kerala in the number of daily new cases in the past two weeks, what concrete steps have been taken by the AAP government to contain the spread of the deadly infection.

The court noted that the daily number of new Covid-19 cases received for November 10 was at 8,593 and "still counting" and the number of containment zones in the city was 4,016.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has already requested Union health minister Harsh Vardhan for augmenting the bed capacity in the Central government-run hospitals in Delhi in view of revised projections of up to 15,000 Covid-19 cases per day in the coming

Most Covid patients **diabetic: Docs**AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

As we enter the tenth month of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, doctors at a city hospital has observed that a majority patients who suffered from severe complications of Covid-19, were chronic patients of Type II Diabetes. They claimed that while the majority of these diabetic patients were between the age group of 28-60 years (and onwards), the percentage of men was higher.

Senior consultant, pulmonology and respiratory

weeks under the third surge of the coronavirus infection in the national capital.

In a letter to Dr Vardhan last week, Mr Kejriwal cited a shortfall of around 4,900 beds in hospitals, seeking the Union minister's direction to the hospitals run by the Central government in Delhi to provide at least 1,092 additional beds including 300 ICU beds with the required medical staff.

The chief minister said Delhi is witnessing a renewed increase in the number of Covid-19 cases for the last few days and cited the revised response strategy 3.0 of the Dr Paul

medicine, Indraaprastha Apollo Hospitals, Dr Nikhil Modi said, "Out of all patients admitted/treated at Indraaprastha Apollo Hospitals for severe complications of Covid-19, 20-30 per cent had diabetes as an underlying health condition. These patients have been chronic cases of diabetes who had been on strict medications and daily doses of insulin. This metabolic disease impacts multiple organs and when coupled with the inflammation caused by Covid-19, the consequences can be life threatening."

Committee, projecting up to 15,000 coronavirus cases per day during the third surge in the upcoming weeks due to the rising pollution, celebration of festivals, wedding season, and other factors.

At present, Delhi has a total bed capacity of 15,713, including ICU beds, for Covid-19 patients.

As per the latest sero survey report of the government, the antibodies' presence was detected in 25 per cent of the persons tested which meant that one in four persons has been infected by Covid-19. "No household has been left untouched," the high court said on Wednesday

while referring to the survey data and questioned as to why the AAP government was relaxing norms in such a situation when other similarly placed states were bringing in restrictions.

The bench questioned the Delhi government's strategy of unlocking almost everything, including granting permission for 200 people to gather at weddings, allowing public transport to function at full capacity, tehbazaari, and gatherings with no social distancing and lack of masks in public places.

"The rates in the city are mind-boggling. The number of deaths every day is in double figures. What's with the Delhi government allowing all the lockdown when the cases are skyrocketing? Why have you opened everything? What are the strategies that you are following?" it questioned.

Coming down heavily on the Delhi government, represented by additional counsel Satyakam, the bench said, "You (Delhi) have seen the heights which no other state in the country has seen. When the numbers are decreasing in all the states, why are numbers rising only in your state? Either there is no control or there is lack of control."

Delhi's air improves to
'very poor' from 'severe'AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

After remaining in the "severe" zone for six days on the trot, Delhi's air quality improved slightly on Wednesday as a change in the wind direction reduced the contribution of stubble burning to the pollution, though it was still in the 'very poor' category.

The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 344. The 24-hour average AQI was 476 on Tuesday.

An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe", while the AQI above 500 falls in the severe plus category.

The national capital had witnessed six consecutive 'severe' air quality days till Tuesday. It had recorded seven such days in November last year.

THE neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, and Gurgaon, which fall in the National Capital Region, also recorded their AQI in 'poor' and 'very poor' categories

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (327), Ghaziabad (360), Noida (309), Greater Noida (340), and Gurgaon (288), which fall in the National Capital Region (NCR), also recorded their AQI in "poor" and "very poor" categories on Wednesday.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) ordered the closure of hot mix plants and stone crushers in Delhi-NCR till November 17 in view of a likely increase in pollution levels during the coming days, when a number of festivals will be celebrated.

It also asked the gov-

ernments of Punjab and Haryana to take immediate stringent actions to curb stubble burning and authorities in Delhi-NCR to strictly check biomass burning.

The levels of PM2.5 'which is about three percent the diameter of a human hair and can lead to premature deaths from heart and lung diseases' was 177 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 5 pm, below the emergency threshold of 300 µg/m3.

The safe limit is 60 µg/m3. On Tuesday, PM2.5 levels had soared to 528 µg/m3 in the afternoon. PM10 level stood at 343 µg/m3 at 5 pm.

It had peaked at 685 µg/m3 on Tuesday, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India and 500 µg/m3 is the emergency threshold.

12-feet-tall air
purifier installed
at Gandhi NagarAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The East Delhi will get a giant air purifier, in Gandhi Nagar market, which is touted as Asia's largest readymade garment hub. The 12-feet-tall air purifier can cover an area of 1,000 square metre (sqm) and is fully automatic. East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir to inaugurate the air purifier on Thursday. This will be the second such machine to be used to clean the air in the national capital.

The purifier is installed by the Gautam Gambhir Foundation (GGF).

The first smog tower was installed in Lajpat Nagar in January for which the assistance was also provided by the Cricketer turned politician. Gandhi Nagar is one of the busiest wholesale markets in Delhi.

Following the positive response from the people of the market and also the persistent demand from the residents of the neighbourhood, Gambhir is planning to install similar air purifiers in markets across East Delhi, said his office.

Homeo trial for
Covid cure: HC
seeks reply
from AAP govtAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The Delhi High Court asked the AAP government on Wednesday as to why it was not writing to the CCRH for carrying out clinical trials of homeopathic medicines for prevention and cure of Covid-19 despite requests from two doctors. "Why are you resisting it? Obtain instructions on why you (Delhi government) have not written to CCRH," a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramaniam Prasad said to the counsel appearing for the AAP government.

The bench issued the direction after impleading the Delhi government as party in the matter which was listed for further hearing on November 19.

The Delhi government was made a party on the suggestion by the counsel for the Ayush Ministry and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).

Delhi's daily Covid
cases cross 8,000
mark for first timeAGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

This was the first time when daily Covid-19 cases crossed the 8,000 mark in Delhi on Wednesday as the national capital reported 8,593 cases. The total tally of the city now stands at 45,9975 and the positivity rate has jumped to 13.40 per cent. In the last 24 hours, 64,121 tested have been conducted and 85 deaths have been reported. Over 24,000 people in Delhi are now under home isolation, the health bulletin said. Earlier, the city recorded 7,830 fresh infections which was the highest till on Tuesday.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has requested Union health minister Harsh Vardhan for augmenting the bed capacity in the central government-run hospitals in Delhi, in view of revised projections of up to 15,000 Covid-19 cases per day in the coming weeks under the third surge of the coronavirus infection in the national capital.

In a letter to Mr. Vardhan last week, Mr. Kejriwal cited a shortfall of around 4,900 beds in hospitals, seeking the

Union minister's direction to the hospitals run by the central government in Delhi to provide at least 1,092 additional beds, including 300 ICU beds, with the required medical staff.

The chief minister said Delhi is witnessing a renewed increase in the number of Covid-19 cases for the last few days and cited the revised response strategy 3.0 of the Dr. Paul Committee, projecting up to 15,000 coronavirus cases per day during the third surge in the upcoming weeks due to the rising pollution, celebration of festivals, wedding season and other factors.

At present, Delhi has a total bed capacity of 15,713, including ICU beds, for Covid-19 patients, he pointed out.

The Delhi government said it is increasing the number of Covid tests to help control the spread. One of these methods is "targeted testing" in markets during the festive season.

Both shopkeepers and customers who appear for festive shopping are being tested. Besides, the staff in restaurants and others are also having to undergo RT-PCR tests amid the festive rush.

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/
SHORT ORIGATION /DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel/Partially Cancel/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Festival Special Trains/Parcel Express Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation at Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF MAIL / EXPRESS TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02425/02426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	12.11.2020
22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat	12.11.2020
02462 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Express	12.11.2020
02461 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	13.11.2020
02011/02012 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express	12.11.2020
05211 Darbhanga Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Express	12.11.2020
05212 Amritsar Jn.-Darbhanga Jn. Express	14.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS	
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02422 Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Express	12.11.2020
02421 Ajmer-Jammu Tawi Express	13.11.2020
02231 Lucknow - Chandigarh Express	12.11.2020
02232 Chandigarh-Lucknow Express	13.11.2020
04888 Barmer - Rishikesh Express	12.11.2020
04887 Rishikesh - Barmer Express	13.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bhathinda Express	upto 20.11.2020
04520 Bhathinda-Delhi Jn. Express	12.11.2020 to 21.11.2020
04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	12.11.2020 to 19.11.2020
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Express	13.11.2020 to 20.11.2020
02471/02472 Shri Ganganagar - Delhi Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Express	13.11.2020
04924 Chandigarh - Gorakhpur Express	12.11.2020
04923 Gorakhpur - Chandigarh Express	13.11.2020
05097 Bhagalpur - Jammu Tawi Express	12.11.2020
02588 Jammu Tawi - Gorakhpur Express	14.11.2020
09611 Ajmer - Amritsar Jn. Express	12.11.2020
09614 Amritsar Jn. - Ajmer Express	13.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 11.11.2020
02904 Golden Temple Mail	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	12.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 11.11.2020
02926 Amritsar-Bandra Terminus Special Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020
02715 Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	of 11.11.2020
02716 Sachkhand Express	from New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	13.11.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Firozpur	of 11.11.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Firozpur-Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020
04649/73 Jaynagar-Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 11.11.2020
04650/74 Amritsar-Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Exp.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020
02057 New Delhi - Una Himachal Janshatabdi	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt. - Una Himachal	12.11.2020
02058 Una Himachal - New Delhi Janshatabdi	from Ambala Cantt.	Una Himachal - Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020
02237 Varanasi-Jammu Tawi Festival Special	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Jammu Tawi	12.11.2020
02238 Jammu Tawi-Varanasi Festival Special	from Saharanpur	Jammu Tawi-Saharanpur	13.11.2020

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF PARCEL SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
00901 Bandra(T)-Jammu Tawi	At Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Jammu Tawi	of 11.11.2020
00902 Jammu Tawi-Bandra(T)	From Ambala Cantt.	Jammu Tawi-Ambala Cantt.	13.11.2020
00467 Howrah-Amritsar Jn.	At Delhi	Delhi - Amritsar Jn.	12.11.2020

DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgahar Spl.	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Bhanumangarh	of 10.11.2020
05910 Lalgahar-Dibrugarh Spl.	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	12.11.2020

Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in



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Integrated Helpline No. 139

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
1st Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. 454-ACS/C/Vehicle/TKJ Dated: 03.11.2020

Name of work and location	"Hiring of 03 (three) Nos. Non-AC Vehicle such as "Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle" on the monthly basis for a period of 02 (Two) years for the officers working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi.
1. The tender which was scheduled to be opened on 26.11.2020 will now open on 11.12.2020. Tender document will be available on www.reps.gov.in All other contents of the tender notice will remain unchanged. 1st corrigendum is also available on www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in No.: 454-ACS/C/Vehicle/TKJ Dated: 10.11.2020 2490/2020	

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SEARCH FOR MISSING



Girja

General public is hereby informed that one lady Name: Girja, W/o: Rakesh, R/o: H.No. C-1/605, G.No. 22, Harsh Vihar, Delhi Age: about 25 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Brown Colour Sari and Black Colour Sleeper in feet has been missing since 01.10.2020 from the area of P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 50A, Dated 13.10.2020 has been lodged at P.S., Harsh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641, Ext. 2101
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22342073, 22342074

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)
GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/182/e-tendering (Short-Term) Dated:-07.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5
Outsourcing of Manpower for operation of Central Heating System at Govt. Dental College and IMPARD, Sgr from 15th November 2020 to 15th March 2021.	5.00	500	10000	Available

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 07.11.2020 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 08.11.2020(10:00 hrs) to 13.11.2020(14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 13.11.2020(16:00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

MHCHD/TS/5540-45 Dt:-07.11.2020
DIPK-8650/20 Dated 10.11.2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS
Due to operational reasons following Special Trains will remain temporarily cancelled on the dates shown against each :-

Train No. & Train Name	Date from originating station
04041 Delhi Jn. - Dehradun Special Train	Upto 20.11.2020
04042 Dehradun - Delhi Jn. Special Train	12.11.2020 to 21.11.2020

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security Helpline No. 182

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SHORT TAKES

TOP COURT GRANTS BAIL TO ARNAB GOSWAMI

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAHA EXPERIENCE CAME HANDY IN BIHAR: FADNAVIS

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has ruled out the possibility of 'Maharashtra pattern' in Bihar after the assembly polls. The BJP is firm on its word and Nitish Kumar will become the Bihar CM, he said.

When asked whether Maharashtra pattern would be repeated in Bihar, Mr Fadnavis said, "Both are different states. In Bihar, only Bihar pattern will work. Accordingly, there will be a NDA government with Nitish Kumar as CM."

The BJP had promised that Nitish Kumar will be the CM of Bihar. It has already been announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP will keep its word. In Maharashtra, Mr Modi had said in front of Uddhav Thackeray that the CM will be from BJP and we remained firm on that, he added.

Last year, the Shiv Sena broke its alliance with the BJP after the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha polls over a dispute on the chief minister's post.

GANJA PEDDLERS ARRESTED; PROPERTY SEIZED

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO
NABARANGPUR, NOV. 11

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

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

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

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

BJP improves strike rate since 2015; RJD, Cong scoring rate dips

AIMIM, which had no seats in 2015, scored a strike rate of 35% and clocked 1.24% votes

Patna, Nov. 11: With Bihar witnessing a thrilling contest for the 243 Assembly seats on Tuesday, the victory for the NDA may be attributed to the BJPs much improved strike rate since the last election and a slide in the RJD's and Congress' scoring rate.

The BJP increased its strike rate from 37.75 per cent in 2015 to 67.3 per cent in 2020, while the RJD's number came down from an impressive 79.2 per cent last polls to 52 per cent this time.

The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan's overall strike rate was also brought down significantly by the Congress which slid from 65.85 per cent in the 2015 polls to 27.14 per cent this poll, a decline of over 38 per cent.

The BJP had contested 157 seats in 2015, when it was a rival of the JD(U) and the RJD, and had won 53. It added 19 more seats to its 2015 tally, even though it contested 47 fewer seats than the previous election.

The RJD, however, had contested 101 seats and won 80 (SR 79.2 per cent) in 2015. It contested 144 seats, 43 more than last time, but won 75, five less than 2015, bringing their strike rate down to 52.

A better strike rate for the BJP also meant that a negative swing in its vote share since 2015 — from 24.42 per cent to 19.5 per cent — did not have any impact on their seats tally.

As for the RJD, their high-er vote share of 23.1 per cent this time around — 3.6 percentage point higher than the BJP's — could fetch it just one seat more than the saffron party.

Also the RJD's vote share jumped from 18.35 per cent, explained by the larger number of constituencies they contested this poll, but their seats tally came down due to a reduced strike rate.

BJP's partner JD(U), which fought the 2015 election in alliance with the RJD and the Congress, has not only suffered in terms of vote share but also in strike rate which relegated it to the third position in the current state Assembly elections after the RJD and the saffron party.

The Nitish Kumar-led party had contested 101 seats in 2015, winning 71 of them at a strike rate of 69.3 per cent.

In the 2020 polls, the party contested 115 seats and won just 43, their strike rate down to 37.4 per cent, a negative swing of almost 32 per cent, which was in a way compensated by the BJP's upswing of over 33 per cent.

The JD(U)'s vote share came down marginally from 16.83 per cent to 15.39 per cent, a decrease of 1.44 per-



BJP party workers celebrate NDA's victory in Bihar Assembly elections, in Mumbai, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020. (PTI Photo/Shashank Parade)(PTI11-11-2020_000101A)(PTI11-11-2020_000155A)

centage point, most of which can be attributed to the LJP's upswing of 0.83 percentage point.

RJD ally Congress contested 70 seats this time and won 19, eight fewer than 2015 when it had fielded candidates in 41 constituencies. The party, however, has improved its vote share from 6.6 per cent to 9.4 per cent.

The biggest gainers in terms of strike rate this time were the three Left parties — the CPI-ML (SR 63.15% from less than four), CPI-M (SR 50% from zero) and CPI (SR 33.33% from zero) — and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM which won five of the 20 constituencies (SR 35%) it fought.

In 2015, the CPI-ML (Liberation) has contested 98 seats and won just three at a strike rate of less than four per cent, but it improved to 63.15 per cent this time winning 12 of the 19 contested.

The CPI(M) and the CPI, both of whom had drawn blank in the 2015 polls, scored a strike of 50 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively, this year in the four and six seats they contested.

The AIMIM, which had no seats in 2015 with a .21 per cent votes share, improved on both counts as it scored a strike rate of 35 per cent and clocked 1.24 per cent votes.

Though their five seats do not look significant in an Assembly of 243 members, they dented the Mahagathbandhan's chances from the Kosi-Seemanchal region which went to polls in the third and final phase.

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

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

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

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

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

Destiny of dynasts: Lalu's sons win; Sharad, Shatru's kids lose

Patna, Nov. 11: They entered the Bihar poll battle to protect and carry forward their fathers' political legacy, but many of them could not win their own seat though some tasted victory.

Among the most famous victorious dynasts are RJD president Lalu Prasad's two sons — Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav — who romped home comfortably from Raghopur and Hasanpur seats respectively.

But veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav's 30-year-old daughter Subhasini Raj Rao, who contested from Bihariganj seat on a Congress ticket, could not get the chance to serve his father's "karambhoomi" (place of work) of Madhepura.

Ms Subhasini lost to seasoned politician and sitting MLA Neeranjana Mehta of Nitish Kumar's JD(U) by over 19,000 votes.

Luv Sinha, son of actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who was contesting on a Congress ticket from Bankipur seat in the heart of Patna lost to BJP's Nitin Nabin by over 27,000 votes.

Among the victorious candidates are Shreyasi Singh (Jamui seat), commonwealth games shooting medal winner and daughter of former union minister Digvijay Singh,

● **Veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav's 30-year-old daughter Subhasini Raj Rao, who contested from Bihariganj seat on a Congress ticket, could not get the chance to serve his father's 'karambhoomi' (place of work) of Madhepura**

Sanjiv Chaurasia (Digha), son of Sikkim governor Ganga Prasad, Rahul Tiwari (Shahpur), son of RJD vice president Shivanand Tiwari, and Sudhakar Singh (Ramgarh), son of state RJD president Jagdanand Singh.

Nitish Mishra, son of three-term former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra, emerged victorious from Jhanyharpur seat on a BJP ticket and Alok Mehta, son of late RJD leader Tulsi Das Mehta, won from Ujiyarpur constituency on a RJD ticket.

But, the list of those failing in the poll test is longer.

Veteran Congress leader Sadanand Singh's son Subhanand Mukesh, who contested in place of his father, lost to Pawan Yadav of the BJP on Kahalgau seat by over 44,000 votes. Sadanand Singh repre-

sented the seat eight times before deciding to hand over the baton to his son.

In Chapra, senior RJD leader Prabhunath Singh's son Randhir Kumar Singh was humbled by sitting MLA C N Gupta (BJP).

JD(U)'s Nikhil Mandel, grandson of Mandal Commission report's author B.P. Mandal, lost to experienced Chandrasekhar of the RJD on the Madhepura seat.

Nikhil's father Manindra Kumar Mandal had represented the seat twice on a JD(U) ticket, but he retreated in the background and gave a chance to his son who could not make it to the assembly.

Among other notable losers are — Chandrika Roy, son of former chief minister Daroga Prasad Rai, from Parsa. Roy, also the father Tej Pratap Yadav's estranged wife Aishwarya, had switched over to the JD(U) from the RJD, but received drubbing at the hands of another turnout Chhotelal Rai who moved to Lalu Prasad's party leaving Nitish Kumar's.

A fight among two brothers took place in Jokihat seat in Araria district, where sons of former union minister Mohammad Taslimuddin were pitted against each other. — *PTI*

Many won with razor-thin victory margins in Bihar

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

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

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

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

A further break-up of the 11 seats showed that the victory margin in six were

Buoyed Owaisi gears up for WB, UP polls

Hyderabad, Nov. 11: Buoyed by the result of the Bihar Assembly election, Asaduddin Owaisi's party



— All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen or AIMIM, which won five seats, is now looking to spread its wings to states such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Speaking with reporters in Hyderabad, Mr Owaisi said his party will fight for justice in Bihar's Seemanchal region.

Reacting to allegations that his party was dividing anti-BJP votes, Mr Owaisi said he was running a political party that has a right to contest on its own.

"You mean we should not fight elections. You (Congress) went and sat in Shiv Sena's lap (in Maharashtra). If anyone asks why did you fight the elections... I will fight in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and will fight every election in the country," he said.

"Do I need to ask anyone's permission to fight the polls," he said when asked whether the party would contest in any other state.

"AIMIM will fight in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Time only will tell with whom we will ally," Mr Owaisi added.

Attacking Congress leader from West Bengal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, for reportedly calling AIMIM a "vote cutter" in the Bihar polls, Mr Owaisi sought to know what he has done for the welfare of Muslims in his constituency. — *PTI*

No Chhath Puja in Delhi's public places this year

AGE CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

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

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

Govt brings news, films, audiovisual content on online platforms under I&B ministry

New Delhi, Nov. 11: The government has brought films, audiovisuals, news and current affairs content on online platforms under the domain of the ministry of information and broadcasting.

According to a notification issued by the cabinet secretariat on Tuesday night, content made available by online providers such as Netflix will also come under the ministry.

The notification, signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, said the decision has been taken in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution, by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and it will come into effect immediately.

With this, the ministry of information and broadcasting has the power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents and films available on online platforms.

These rules may be called the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Seventh Amendment Rules, 2020. They shall come into force at once.

In the Government of India (Allocation of Business, 1961, in THE SECOND SCHEDULE,

under the heading 'MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SOOCHANA AUR PRASARAN MANTAL/RALAYA)' after entry 22, the following sub-heading and entries shall be inserted, namely:- VA. DIGITAL/ONLINE MEDIA. 22A. Films and Audio-Visual programmes made available by online content providers. 22B. News and current affairs content on online platforms, it said.

The decision to put OTT platforms under the I&B ministry could put Indian content creators at a disadvantage on the world stage and curtail the creative and personal freedom of makers as well as viewers, a cross-section of writers and directors said.

Several other major OTT platforms declined to comment on the development when contacted. "It puts Indian content creators at a disadvantage when they are competing on the world stage. I don't know what one can do...I don't know the legal ramifications of this. It is too premature to talk what can be done. We should wait and hope things will get clear when the guidelines or whatever is the intent comes into play," Kagi said.

Kagi, who has made Honeymoon Travels Pvt Ltd, was one of the directors on Amazon Prime Video's show *Made in Heaven* along with Zoya Akhtar and Alankrita

● **THE DECISION** to put OTT platforms under the I&B ministry could put Indian content creators at a disadvantage on the world stage and curtail the creative and personal freedom of makers as well as viewers, a cross-section of writers and directors said.

creators, we want to ensure this act not only takes cognisance of the nature of content being released, but also ensures that we safeguard creativity in this rapidly growing sector, Bedi said.

Several other major OTT platforms declined to comment on the development when contacted.

"It puts Indian content creators at a disadvantage when they are competing on the world stage. I don't know what one can do...I don't know the legal ramifications of this. It is too premature to talk what can be done. We should wait and hope things will get clear when the guidelines or whatever is the intent comes into play," Kagi said.

Kagi, who has made Honeymoon Travels Pvt Ltd, was one of the directors on Amazon Prime Video's show *Made in Heaven* along with Zoya Akhtar and Alankrita

Shrivastava.

However, nothing specific has been said regarding censorship, except that it is coming under the ambit of I&B ministry. I should wait to hear what exactly this means," she said, adding that creators are asked for many cuts even though films are certified 'A'.

Shrivastava, known for *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare*, said she did not know the details of the decision but was fundamentally opposed to censorship.

"I believe there should be no censorship regardless of the medium. Films and series can be age certified and classified but a free and democratic country should let its adult citizens decide what they would like to watch or not watch in a theatre, or on their phones and computers. The choice must belong to the citizen," Shrivastava said. "Aligarh" director Mehta, who made his streaming debut recently with the acclaimed *Scam 1992* on SonyLIV, said the decision wasn't unexpected but was a reason for despair.

"This desperation for control of free speech and expression does not augur well. I am currently very

disappointed," Mehta said.

Anshuman, the director-writer of *Mirzapur* and *Inside Edge* on Amazon Prime Video, termed the move unacceptable and appealed to viewers and creators to band together and challenge the censorship in any and every manner.

"Whatever happened to the understanding with (Prakash) Javadekar that OTT will be self-regulated? The govt is giving in to the basest demands of prudes. How is this progress in any manner? Don't like it, don't watch it. Don't impose your regressive views on a billion people. Where is the public discourse before this autocratic decision was announced? And what's the process to appeal, if there's one at all?" he wrote on Twitter.

With OTT, he said, you have enough tech to ensure children can't access whatever it is you consider objectionable content.

The state has no business interfering in personal choices of viewers and creative expression of makers. It's really simple: educate people to turn off their device if they don't like what they see — they have a million other choices today," he said. — *PTI*

SHORT TAKES

NIA arrests 'LeT' man from K'taka

Kolkata: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an alleged member of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) from Karnataka for his link in a case of recruitment of fresh minds in the terror outfit in West Bengal. Sayyad M. Idris (28), the accused, was caught in a raid by the NIA on Tuesday. He is a resident of Uttara Kannada. According to the NIA, Sayyad was "part of various social media groups run by Pakistani-based LeT handlers in their effort to recruit individuals for sleeper cells of LeT and for furthering terrorist activities". Sayyad will be produced at the NIA in Kolkata on a transit remand following his production at the Uttara Kannada Court. The NIA took over the case, initially started at Baduria police station in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal on March 18 this year.

Ulfa(I) leader gives up arms in M'laya

New Delhi: Drishti Rajkhowa, the second-in-command of militant group Ulfa (Independent) has surrendered in Meghalaya, government sources said on Wednesday. Rajkhowa is currently under the custody of the Army intelligence and is being brought to Assam, they said. He is known to be a close confidant of Paresh Baruah, the so-called "commander-in-chief" of United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent). The sources said Rajkhowa was based in Bangladesh till recently and came to Meghalaya a few weeks ago. His surrender is a major setback for the group, said a senior security expert. The ULFA(I) has been demanding an independent state of Assam. — PTI

6 family members found dead, mass murder suspected

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 11

Six members of a family were on Wednesday morning found dead inside their house at Sanrapada under Patnagarh police limits in Bolangir district on Wednesday. Additional superintendent of police (ASP) of Bolangir, Manoranjan Pradhan, who visited the spot informed that the body of a man along with his wife and four children were recovered from their house. "The reasons behind the deaths are being probed into. A scientific team has been engaged to assist the probe. We suspect it to be a case mass murder. There are severe injury marks on the bodies of the victims. I am personally supervising the investigation. The reasons behind the deaths of the six people will come out very soon," Mr Pradhan added. The neighbours of the deceased spotted them lying under a blanket and informed the police who later confirmed their death. Neighbours said there was a quarrel in the family on Tuesday night night. The police has seized a blood-stained axe and liquor bottle from the spot.

All promises will be fulfilled: Modi

■ **Continued from Page 1**
to the Mamata Banerjee-led ruling TMC in West Bengal where Assembly polls are lined up early next year, that it should "read the writing on the wall" as killing BJP supporters will not help in winning a mandate. The BJP has been accusing the TMC of political killing of its workers and supporters in the state.

Mr Modi also thanked BJP president J.P. Nadda for steering the party's campaign in the just concluded polls. He also thanked people for the BJP's performance in the bypolls in several states.

Calling "naari shakti (women's power)" as the "silent voter" of the BJP, Mr Modi said this silent voter has been continuously supporting the party — in both rural and urban areas — while the youth have faith in democracy. He also said that no polling and peaceful voting were the distinctive features of polls in Bihar where booth capturing used to be the headlines earlier.

With the festive season just around the corner, Mr Modi asked people to celebrate Diwali with full fervour while taking care of their family and remaining cautious. He also asked people to be "vocal for local" while purchasing goods.

Additional forces rushed to LoC to foil fresh incursions

Move after security review in wake of Machil encounter 2 days ago

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

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

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

The incident took place while the militants were trying to infiltrate into India from one of the launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). These militants were

■ Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are already hopeful that the overall security scenario in the Valley would improve considerably during the winter season

■ Sources have confirmed that in the past two months, despite more than 20 attempts of infiltration, not a single one has been successful

backed by the border action team (BAT) of the Pak Army, which was assisting in their infiltration bid. This resulted in a fierce encounter in which four brave Indian security personnel were killed.

Following this incident and amid specific intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants were waiting at the launch pads, a major review of security was done along the Indo-Pak

border following which sources said additional reinforcements were rushed to certain strategic locations.

Security forces in J&K are already hopeful that the overall security scenario in the Valley would improve considerably during the winter season as they have been able to successfully thwart major infiltration attempts from terror outfits in PoK. This,

sources claim, would have a direct impact on the security situation as militant groups were facing a severe crunch of both men and material. Sources have confirmed that in the past two months, despite more than 20 infiltration attempts, not a single one has been successful.

Senior security officials claimed that successfully checking infiltration will have a direct impact on the Kashmir security situation as militants here are facing severe shortage of both men and material.

"The total number of active militants in the Valley is now less than 200. We are confident now that no reinforcements are coming from across the border," the official added.



People seen violating social distancing norms shop for lanterns at a roadside stall ahead of Diwali in Mumbai on Wednesday.

44,281 new Covid cases, 512 deaths in last 24 hrs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

The total number of novel coronavirus cases in India reached over 86.50 lakh on Wednesday with 44,281 new detections. Delhi, Kerala and West Bengal reported highest cases among all other states and Union Territories. The total number of deaths in the country is little over 1.27 lakh out of which 512 fatalities were recorded in the last one day.

The active caseload of India has fallen under the 5 lakh mark for the first time after 106 days. Today, the total burden of active cases is 4,94,657 (it was 4,96,988 on July 28) and now stands at 5.73 per cent of the total positive cases.

The total recoveries have crossed the 80 lakh mark and recovery rate has increased to 92.79 per cent.

COVID WATCH
86.5 lakh
CASES ACROSS NATION
80 lakh
PEOPLE CURED SO FAR

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan held meeting with seven states — Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura Meghalaya and Goa — and urged them to focus on enhanced testing, especially in districts with higher Covid-19 positivity and places of large gatherings like markets and workplaces. The minister had earlier held discussions with Delhi and Kerala governments on virus containment measures.

Dr Harsh Vardhan noted that although the active cases have come down in Maharashtra, it continues to have a large active caseload, with a high fatality rate (2.6 per cent) which increases to 3.5 per cent in and around Mumbai. CFR in Uttarakhand is higher than the national average at 1.64 per cent and active cases are on the rise in Manipur too. Higher positivity in the state is indicative of hidden transmission, the minister said. Similarly, 40 per cent of total deaths were recorded in the last one month in Goa which the minister said is a cause of worry. With 70 per cent of cases concentrated in Aizawl, Mizoram is also seeing a further rise in active cases; Tripura and Meghalaya are witnessing higher deaths (37 per cent) in the active age groups (45-60 years).

Modi: India has moved from tax terrorism to tax transparency

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday underscored tax reforms of the past six years to say India has moved from tax terrorism to tax transparency.

Speaking at the inauguration of an office-cum-residential complex of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Cuttack, he highlighted the reduction in the corporate tax rate, simplified rate structure for individual taxpayers, faceless appeals and quick refunds. "Tax terrorism was a common refrain during past governments," he said.

"The change from tax terrorism to tax transparency has happened because we have propagated the concept of reform, perform and transform," he emphasised. — PTI

PM Modi set to co-chair virtual India-Asean meet

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 11

India and Southeast Asian grouping Asean will hold their 17th summit on Thursday at a time when the Indo-Pacific region is becoming the most crucial and watched strategic maritime region in the world.

Asean has 10 member-nations that are — Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei. The 17th Asean-India Summit will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc, with the leaders of all 10 Asean member-nations scheduled to participate in the summit.

Vietnam is the current chair of Asean and has extremely close strategic

■ **VIETNAM IS** the current chair of Asean and has extremely close strategic ties with India. Delhi on Wednesday said the summit would 'review the status of Asean-India Strategic Partnership and take stock of progress made in key areas'

ties with India. New Delhi on Wednesday said the summit would "review the status of Asean-India Strategic Partnership and take stock of progress made in key areas such as connectivity, maritime cooperation, trade and commerce, education and capacity building".

The summit is being held at a time when the "Quad" countries — the United States, India, Japan and Australia — have

stepped up cooperation in the maritime region in the face of aggressive Chinese military behaviour in the region. The Quad has also been voicing strong support for Asean-Centrality and Asean-led mechanisms in the regional architecture for the Indo-Pacific. China has maritime territorial disputes with some of the Asean nations.

It may be recalled that heads of government/state of the 10 Asean nations had attended India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2018, in a major boost in India's engagement with the Asean countries. The Asean nations had then also sought a greater role for India in the region.

"The Leaders will discuss ways to further strengthen Asean-India engagement," the MEA said.

Assam board bans crackers' use, but Himanta objects

Says Hindus have right to celebrate festivals

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 11

A day after Pollution Control Board (PCB) banned the use of firecrackers, Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Wednesday said that Hindus have the right to celebrate festivals and the state government has no plan to restrict celebration including the use of firecrackers.

In a social media post through his official Twitter handle which has gone viral, the minister said, "Like any other religion, Hindus have the right to celebrate festivals. With improvement in COVID19 situation in Assam, we plan no restrictions on celebration including use of Firecrackers. However, kindly remember, self-restraint is key to combat COVID19."

Earlier Pollution Control Board (PCB), Assam, in a notification stated, "There will be total ban against sale or



use of all kinds of fire crackers in the Guwahati city from midnight of November, 9-10, 2020 to the midnight of November 30 - December 1, 2020 to be reviewed thereafter.

Except Guwahati in other areas only green crackers can be sold and bursting is allowed only for two hours during Deepawali festivals from 8 pm to 10 pm; during Chatt Puja from 6 am to 8 am and during Christmas and New year eve from 11.55 pm to 12.30 am."

Prior to the notification of the Pollution Control Board, deputy commissioner of Police, central police district, had prohibit use of fireworks and bursting of crackers etc., within 500 meters radius from the Guwahati Refinery, Noonmati, Oil India Pumping Station, Satgaon and Oil Pipelines within Central Police District area.

Jaishankar holds talks with Brazil FM on bilateral ties

New Delhi, Nov. 11: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday held an extensive exchange of views with his Brazilian counterpart Ernesto Araujo, and the two leaders agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in global affairs and discussed opportunities to strengthen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership in a post-Covid world.

In a virtual meeting, the two ministers discussed

the importance of India-Brazil cooperation in economic recovery efforts, healthcare, supply chain resilience, cyber security and reformed multilateralism, according to a statement issued by the external affairs ministry.

"The ministers discussed opportunities to strengthen the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership in a post-Covid world and noted the importance of India-Brazil cooperation," the statement said. — PTI

Dissent may rise in Cong after Bihar, bypolls' fiasco

■ **Continued from Page 1**
recently appointed to oversee the states of Manipur and Nagaland, could not help the party to even open its score in these states. Even after the high-octane campaign against the BJP's Yogi Adityanath government in UP over the issues of migrant labourer crisis and the Hathras rape case, the party drew a blank across seven seats. In the Deoria Assembly segment, which is in the home district of state Congress chief Ajay Kumar 'Lallu', the Congress candidate got a little over 3,00 votes and a vote-share of just 2.17 per cent. Insiders claim that since these appointments took place after the CWC meeting in which the letter written by the 23 party leaders was discussed, the appointments have the imprint of Rahul Gandhi. They further add that resentment is brewing against these leaders because the party has not

been able to make any impact in these states.

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

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

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

'Fought to weaken JDU'

■ **Continued from Page 1**
with CM Nitish Kumar, said that "the grand victory for NDA shows that people have faith in PM Modi and it is important that the BJP gets stronger for the development of the state".

Mr Paswan says that the Bihar election has also changed the perception of the LJP — that it can only contest in alliance with other parties. He also said that his party will continue to

support Mr Modi at the Centre, but can never support Nitish Kumar and Sushil Kumar Modi in Bihar.

"Around 25 lakh voters trusted 'Bihar First, Bihar First' and we are happy that despite contesting alone our party's vote share increased by 6 per cent. Earlier people used to call us a 'Pichlaggu party' but this election has changed that image," Mr Paswan said.

Cabinet clears 'PLI' sops

■ **Continued from Page 1**
the PLI scheme. The Centre feels the scheme will enhance exports and make domestic manufacturers globally competitive. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, elaborating on the scheme to the media after the Cabinet meeting, said there would not be any cap on the number of companies participating. However, any new sector

that has to be included in the scheme will need fresh Cabinet approval.

Official sources said the Centre included these 10 sectors as these are areas where India has a significant marketshare in production for global markets, and after inclusion not only could India emerge as a major player in the manufacture of these products, but there would be big jump in the creation of job

India, China move closer to LAC pact on disengagement

■ **Continued from Page 1**
Chinese militaries will be able to reach an agreement on disengagement and de-escalation of tensions in eastern Ladakh. He had said senior military commanders of India and China were holding talks to iron out the modalities for de-escalation of tensions in eastern Ladakh. "We are hopeful of reaching an agreement which is mutually acceptable and is beneficial in keeping with the overarching policy guidelines," the Army Chief had said.

It is important to note that earlier too, first in June and then in July, India and China had agreed to mutually move back from the Galwan Valley, Gogra Post, Hot Springs and Pangong Tso. But it was only in the Galwan Valley that troops from both sides had moved back to some extent. In Pangong Tso,



Army Chief Gen. M.M. Naravane on a two-day visit to Army formations in Uttarakhand to review the security situation and preparedness along LAC with China.

the Chinese Army had refused to move back from the ridgelines of Finger 4. In Gogra Post and Hot Springs, there was no clarity on the disengagement. Besides, in Depsang plains, the Chinese troops have been preventing the Indian Army from conducting patrols. The Depsang issue will be separately discussed with the PLA.

It remains to be seen if this time the Chinese Army will fulfil its promise and restore the status quo at the LAC, which it violated in May 2020.

THE ASIAN AGE

12 NOVEMBER 2020

Something for everyone, except for Congress, LJP

It is a signal political achievement for the NDA, powered by the BJP, to win a fourth straight term in Bihar. The results were announced in the early hours of Tuesday, so fierce was the contest. The exit polls got it all wrong, having predicted a sweeping victory for the challengers, such as the electrifying response, especially among young voters, elicited by the tornado-style campaigning of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and his promise of 10 lakh government jobs. All things considered, however, the median voter appeared to choose the tried and tested NDA led by the staid CM Nitish Kumar.

Although Mr Kumar's JD(U)-BJP coalition government had spectacularly failed to rise to the challenge posed by the twin crises produced by Covid and reverse migration, it managed to pull off a wafer-thin win. It does say something about the state of governance, though, and about the voters' despair with the political system, that some seven lakh voters chose "NOTA".

The BJP by itself could not win enough seats to be in the striking range of power. As a result, the LJP's game can be thought of as having misfired.

Perhaps the energetic campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi helped to turn the tide against the challenger since the PM's speeches — aside from routinely invoking development — did not neglect to polarise votes, invoking religious symbols, while another star BJP campaigner, the UP CM Yogi Adityanath, was outright communal in his pitch.

The Hyderabad-headquartered MIM, which appears to be trying to emerge as the country's so-called Muslim party with a nationwide spread, also threw its hat in the ring in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal districts of Bihar, and cut into anti-NDA votes. The same is the case with locally influential individual politicians who in the past have

been on the same side as the various Mahagathbandhan parties. The votes polled by the "others" category was nearly as high as 20 per cent, in the main hurting the NDA's principal challengers — the Magathbandhan alliance of RJD, Congress and the Left parties, including the CPI(ML).

The LJP, led by Chirag Paswan, widely suspected to have opted out of NDA in Bihar at the BJP's behest, energetically opposed CM Kumar in order to give the saffron party a chance to have its own CM in Bihar for the first time. This marginal player succeeded in substantially damaging Mr Kumar's JD(U). But the BJP by itself could not win enough seats to be in the striking range of power. As a result, the game can be thought of as having misfired. BJP has no option but to let Mr Kumar return as CM, although the JD(U) has 43 seats as against BJP's 74. How this affects the JD(U)-BJP dynamics within government is a future discussion.

RJD has emerged with 75 seats, the highest for any party, and Bihar can said to have found a new political leader in Mr Yadav. He went beyond his father Lalu Yadav's "social justice" plank, invoked "economic justice", and fielded upper caste candidates. The Congress, aside from helping consolidate a good section of the minorities' vote for the Opposition alliance, failed to make serious inroads among the upper castes.

The Left parties — CPI(ML), CPI and CPI(M) — have done quite well and could make a mark by joining a non-Left alliance. It is to be seen if with their agitation culture, they can keep the government on its toes. This election had a little bit for everyone, except LJP, and was not unduly partial to any party.

Bypoll wins overrated

The BJP resoundingly won the Assembly byelections in several states for which results were announced on Tuesday, and this has led not a few party leaders to believe that their political grip over the country has once again been demonstrated. A closer look reveals, however, that this is an exaggerated case of self-exaltation.

The BJP's self-praise had some takers since the byelection results came on the same day that the NDA in Bihar retained the government in a bruising fight, the equivalent of ferocious trench warfare in a military encounter.

After the BJP took hold of the government in Madhya Pradesh by inducing large-scale defections through the use of money power earlier this year, there was never any doubt over the byelection results since state legislature byelections are typically won by the party ruling the state, exceptions apart.

In the context of MP, and in particular the part played by Congress defector Jyotiraditya Scindia in delivering MLAs loyal to him to the BJP, it can now be said that his chances of being made a minister in the Narendra Modi government as reward have brightened. He has helped the Chouhan government gain an Assembly majority. However, three BJP ministers were defeated.

In the byelection the BJP won all the eight seats in Gujarat, six on seven in UP, two out of two in Karnataka and the lone seat in Manipur, where its nominee was elected unopposed. These were all bypoll deliverables. But the saffron party surprised the ruling TRS in Telangana by wresting the lone Assembly seat from it for which byelection was held — no doubt for local reasons.

In contrast, it lost the lone seat in Haryana to the Congress for which byelection was held, although it is the governing party in the state. In Odisha, the ruling BJD kept the BJP at bay for the seat for which there was polling, and the Congress comfortably won byelections in Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand. It is best not to read too much into state byelection results.

THE ASIAN AGE

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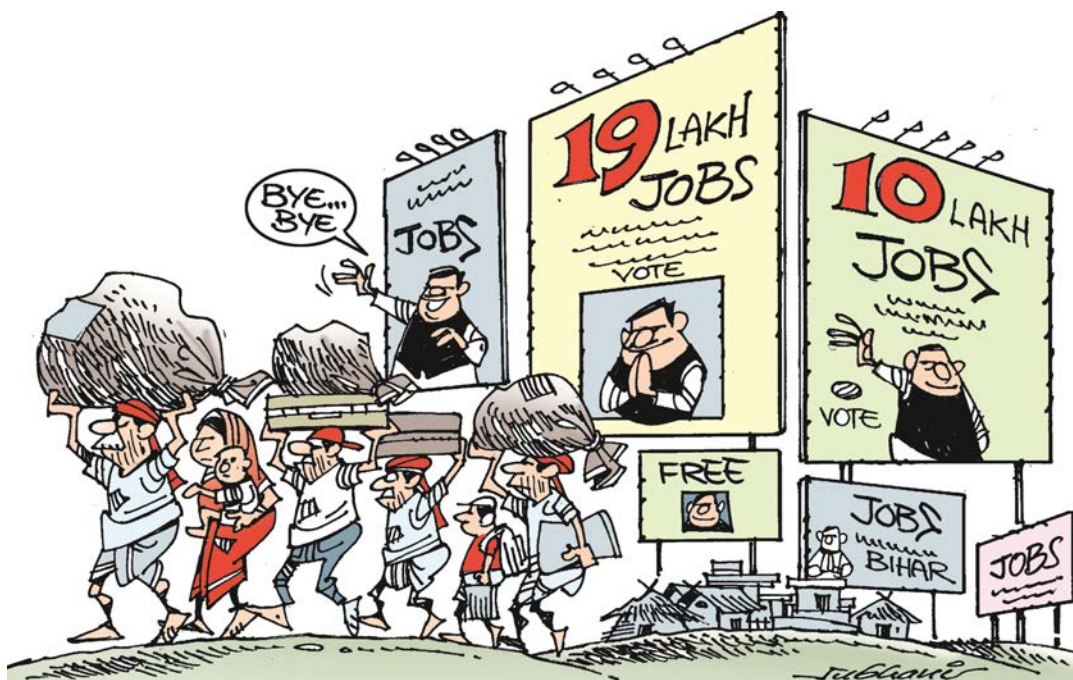
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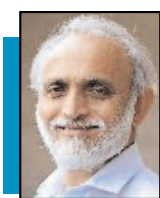
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Subhani



No real winner in Bihar; Nitish, Tejashwi lose out



Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

The 2020 Bihar Assembly election has ended without any real winners.

Political analyst and psephologist Yogendra Yadav had rightly observed on NDTV that no party or leader has got a mandate in this election. There is no hung Assembly, true, and the National Democratic Alliance comprising mainly the Janata Dal (United) and the BJP just managed to get past the winning line, even as the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-led Mahagathbandhan lost a closely fought electoral battle.

But the poll outcome has left the leaders in the battle in the lurch, as it were. Chief minister Nitish Kumar has lost the battle because his JD(U) fared rather badly, winning just 43 to the 70 seats his party had won in 2015, which was less than that of the JD(U)'s then ally, the RJD, which had won 80 seats then, but he retained his chief minister's post. And he will be doing so again this time as well.

For more reasons than one, the BJP has decided that Nitish Kumar would remain the chief minister, even though the saffron party has now got many more seats than the JD(U) and has thus become the senior partner in the alliance. It is a strange situation, where a chief ministerial claimant in a coalition gets what he wants despite his party not commanding a majority. It remains to be debated whether this is due to the political stature of Nitish Kumar. But his position is a political anomaly, for all that.

For the second time in a row, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Midas touch failed to work as well as hoped for in the Bihar Assembly election, the first time being in 2015. Somehow, his messianic zeal seems to leave the Bihari voter cold. And it has shown once again that the BJP cannot ever hope to win on its own, though it has struck a good strike rate winning 74 of the 101 seats it has contested in a House of 243.

Tejashwi Yadav, 31, heading the Rashtriya Janata Dal, is indeed the new star on Bihar's political horizon, though the RJD's limitations, as that of the BJP and JD(U), have become clear once again. The RJD had won 80 seats in 2015, though it had contested only 100-odd seats then. This time around, the party had contested 144 seats, but it has won a little more than half of them, 75.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party colleagues have declared themselves to be the winners in Bihar, which is technically true, and it is a fact that at the end of the day it is what matters. As the anchor of a major English television news channel crowed in approval of the BJP and NDA, more for the BJP than for the NDA, that winning even with a narrow margin is okay because "jo jeeta wahi sikandar". But Bihar's political chequerboard remains

The BJP has decided that Nitish Kumar would remain the chief minister, even though the saffron party has now got many more seats than the JD(U) and has thus become the senior partner in the alliance

For the second time in a row, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Midas touch failed to work as well as hoped for, the first time being in 2015. Somehow, his messianic zeal seems to leave the Bihari voter cold.

defiant, where no one party or leader seems to find approval from the people in the state. Each party and each leader is confined to a demarcated sphere of influence. The challenge for any claimant to political leadership in the state is whether he or she can reach out to the people at large across the state. The BJP in 2015 tried to test its strength on its own, as a matter of fact it was forced to do so, and it had won just 54 seats, and that too after Mr Modi's impressive performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. And it has happened again. Mr Modi's success in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls was not of much help for his party in the Assembly election a year later. It is an interesting political fact that Mr Modi seems to find acceptance across the state in a parliamentary, but not in an Assembly, election.

The voter in Bihar can be blamed for narrow-minded caste fidelity, but in a society where different castes or social groups jostle for power it also ensures a certain democratic balance of power. And the quality of democracy in Bihar is higher because of this untidy caste equilibrium, and unlike in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, no single party can hope to take the spoils home.

The BJP cannot be the domineering and divisive force in Bihar that it is in Uttar Pradesh. In Bihar, the BJP has no choice but to share political space with the Communist parties and minority-based ones like that of the All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM). The democratic space in

Bihar is accommodative of political diversity.

There is no ignoring the disparity between a democratically savvy Bihar, and Mr Modi was right to recall the democratic heritage of Bihar which precedes the founders of Jainism and Buddhism, and the economically backward and socially retrogressive polity of today. The paradox cannot be explained away. Vaishali in ancient Bihar was not only a proud republic but it was also a prosperous city-state. And the province was also an enviable seat of Buddhist and Brahminical learning. Present-day Bihar, caught as it is in the throes of impoverishment and casteism, is a far cry from the old, sophisticated politics of the region.

The people of Bihar have shown in this election, as they have in previous ones, that they hold the overweening politicians through their voting power. And it is they who will have to transform Bihar in the economic and social spheres. While caste can be useful in keeping democracy alive because the political competition among the different caste groups keeps democracy vibrant, it becomes a barrier to achieve prosperity and well-being. They should keep away caste in the workplace and classroom but put it to good use in the political arena. Its political sophistication is of little use if the people remain poor. It is possible that politicians would perforce usher in economic and social modernisation in the state as Nitish Kumar has been trying to do in the past 15 years, and Lalu Prasad Yadav did, however erratically, in the 15 years before. But it is the people who have to take charge of the state's economic development and direct the political leaders to do what needs to be done.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS

IPL: A GREAT JOB

Sports, sportsmen and sports lovers have won again against the raging covid pandemic.

The very successful Indian Premier League tournament ended on a high note with Mumbai Indians kissing the trophy in its 13th edition. Kudos to the BCCI, the UAE cricket authority and all stake-holders for putting their hearts and hands together and making the tournament a big success. The bio-secure bubble, in which a huge number of players from various nations representing the various IPL clubs were safely sheltered, is a model for future tournaments.

M. Pradyu Kannur

SIMILARLY DIFFERENT

THERE IS AN uncanny similarity between the post-poll scenarios that have been thrown up in the aftermath of the recently concluded races to the White House and the throne of Patna. In both the cases, the losers are complaining of electoral malpractices allegedly indulged in by the winners. Also, the two vanquished parties are toying with the idea of taking legal recourse to get their grievances redressed.

Arun Malankar Mumbai

RETICENT PUTIN, XI

IT IS THREE DAYS now since the US declared its President-Elect. But the leaders of two most prominent nations are yet to congratulate him. Vladimir Putin is holding back his welcome message to Joe Biden out of his comradely feeling for Donald Trump as much as his purported involvement in the 2016 elections. But in the case of Xi Jinping of China, it is more to cock a snook at "the tallest and purest" of democracies that clearly has some of its pillars rusting. But in all this, Mr Trump is less a perpetrator and more a person who has only brought the sad reality under the spotlight.

R. Narayanan Navi Mumbai

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Sriram Karri



Dubbaka nailbiter may have changed Telangana politics

Away from the scrutinising glare of most of the national media, which was riveted on the electoral verdict of Bihar, the results of a bypoll to Dubbaka Assembly constituency in Telangana unfolded like a last-over thriller of an IPL match.

The voters of the predominantly rural constituency, which lies between the VIP constituencies of Gajwel (represented by chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao) and Siddipet (represented by finance minister T. Harish Rao and nephew of CM Rao), and close to Sircilla, represented by IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao (son of CM Rao), opted for the BJP's Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao over TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha, widow of Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy, whose death a few months ago necessitated the bypoll by a margin of 1,079 votes.

The 23 rounds of counting saw a see-saw battle, with the BJP leading in all but one of the first 12 rounds, the TRS pulling back the lead between rounds 13 and 19, and taking a slim lead, with the BJP bouncing

back in the last four to bag 62,772 votes against TRS, which bagged 61,302 votes. The Congress was a distant third with 21,819 votes.

Since its formation in 2001, the TRS has been a champion in winning byelections. It has built an enviable election machinery, not too unlike the BJP nationally, with a combination of perfect campaign strategy and messaging, phenomenal online media dominance, micro-management at booth level, an enthused cadre, a well-crafted narrative, peerless orators as star campaigners, backed by money power and misuse of official machinery, which adds up to its unbeatable track record, especially since it came to power in 2014.

It helps that while CM K. Chandrashekar Rao is the tallest leader in the state, there are no measurable rivals to take on him. The first setback the TRS suffered in a long time was in the Lok Sabha elections of 2019, where it lost eight of the 17 seats it contested but blamed it on the Modi wave. After all, the pink party, which had successfully led a campaign for a separate statehood for

Telangana, had swept the Assembly elections which they called for ahead of schedule in December 2018.

With the win in Dubbaka, BJP now has a second MLA in Raghunandan Rao, after Raja Singh, in the 119-member legislative Assembly, which reveals how powerfully the TRS is perched for the rest of its three years term in office.

Yet, the TRS is nervous, unusually and extremely nervous. Since N.T. Rama Rao made his political debut in the early 1980s founding the Telugu Desam, ending the Congress monopoly over power in the Telugu region, no party or leader has won a third consecutive term, which TRS would attempt in the next Assembly elections.

Surmounting history defying odds might not be too daunting for TRS, which succeeded in the struggle for a separate Telangana where all others failed in the past, but the anti-incumbency is visibly taking a toll. In Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency, K. Kavitha, CM Rao's daughter and sitting MP lost to a debutant in 2014, a statement of personal anger of the

voters against a single family with too many members in office.

Today, the TRS will rue that it precipitated the decline and uprooting of several parties in the state — YSRC, Telugu Desam, and finally the Congress, its last rival in the state. The 19-MLA Congress legislative party was split and two-thirds merged into the TRS, reducing it to a symbolic Opposition. The TRS was elated it had achieved a no- Opposition polity but missed the looming danger ahead; nature abhors a vacuum and the BJP was willing to fill it, optimistic Telangana could be the second state in south after Karnataka where it could form a government.

Under a new aggressive party president, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Telangana BJP has been able to create a look of a potential challenger to TRS. They won Dubbaka under an excruciating set of challenges. There is a statewide shift of youth, a large number of them unemployed and angry, towards the saffron party. The twin narratives of development and Hindutva are fuelling a surcharged

political atmosphere akin to the days of the struggle for statehood. With the pink party being pushed to the backfoot for the first time.

In coming months, anti-TRS forces — which had become despondent and dismayed — have an address to congregate — the BJP office. Political leaders, cadre and commoners are abuzz with excitement because the BJP is more than capable of responding to the usual arm-twisting tactics of the TRS, or even better them.

With the MIM being an ally of the TRS, the BJP has fodder aplenty to explain grievances nursed, real or imagined, and pin it on the doorstep of CM Chandrashekar Rao's appeasement politics.

BJP has two MLAs now, but TRS knows its history — after all, with two MPs in Lok Sabha in 1984 — Dr A.K. Patel (Mehsana, Gujarat) and Chandupatla Janga Reddy (Hanamkonda, Telangana, the-then Andhra Pradesh) — could rise to win absolutely majority in Parliament within three decades. Three years might be sufficient for BJP to conquer a small state.

IN BRIEF FIRE BURNS TENTS IN GREEK CAMP

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

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

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

POPE FRANCIS VOWS TO END SEXUAL ABUSE

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

Francis concluded his weekly general audience Wednesday by recalling that the report into the "painful case" of the former high-ranking American cardinal had been released the previous day.

"I renew my closeness to victims of any abuse and commitment of the church to eradicate this evil," Francis said.

He then paused silently for nearly a minute, apparently in prayer.

The Vatican report blamed a host of bishops, cardinals and popes for downplaying and dismissing mountains of evidence of McCarrick's misconduct starting in the 1990s.

The report blamed St. John Paul II, however, for having appointed McCarrick archbishop of Washington in 2000, and made him a cardinal, despite having commissioned an inquiry that found he had shared his bed with seminarians. In his remarks Wednesday, however, Francis held John Paul up for praise.

Noting that Wednesday marked Poland's independence day, Francis quoted John Paul as telling young people what it means to be truly free.

"While we thank the Lord for the gift of national and personal freedom, what St. John Paul II taught young people comes to mind," Francis said.

BAHRAIN'S PM PRINCE KHALIFA DIES

Dubai, Nov. 11: Bahrain's Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, one of the world's longest-serving prime ministers who led his island nation's government for decades and survived the 2011 Arab Spring protests that demanded his ouster over corruption allegations, died on Wednesday. He was 84.

Bahrain's state-run news agency announced his death, saying he had been receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the United States, without elaborating.

The Mayo Clinic did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Prince Khalifa's power and wealth could be seen everywhere in this small nation off the coast of Saudi Arabia home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

His official portrait hung for decades on walls alongside the country's ruler. He had his own private island where he met foreign dignitaries, complete with a marina and a park that had peacocks and gazelle roam its grounds.

The prince represented an older style of Gulf leadership, one that granted patronage and favours for support of the Sunni Al Khalifa family.

That style would be challenged in the 2011 protests by the island's Shiite majority and others, who demonstrated against him over long-running corruption allegations surrounding his rule.

Though less powerful and frailer in recent years, his machinations still drew attention in the kingdom as a new generation now jostles for power.

Embarrassed Trump didn't concede poll defeat: Biden

Prez-elect says it will not help President's legacy, transition plans remain unaffected

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

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

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

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

The Trump administration's refusal to initiate the transition process "does not change the dynamic at all in what we're able to do," Biden said. "We don't see anything that's slowing us down, quite frankly," he said.

"At the end of the day, you know, it's all going to come to fruition on January 20," he added, referring to inauguration day.

"Between now and then my hope and expectation is that the American people do know and do understand that there has been a transition. Even among Republicans...who voted for the president, I understand the sense of loss, I get that," he said. — PTI

● **GEORGIA OFFICIALS** have announced an audit of presidential poll results that will trigger a full hand recount. Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said that his office wants the process to begin by the end of the week and he expects it to take until Nov. 20.

UK plans ban on junk food online advertising

London, Nov. 11: he UK government has launched a consultation process on proposals to ban online adverts for food that are high in fat, sugar and salt to tackle the obesity crisis.

The joint department of health and social care and the department for digital, culture, media and sport initiative is aimed at protecting children from developing long-term unhealthy eating habits.

The new consultation, which will run for six weeks starting this week, will gather views from the public and industry stakeholders to understand the impact and challenges of introducing a total ban on the advertising of these products online, to help people live healthier lives and tackle childhood obesity.

We know as children spend more time online, parents want to be reassured they are not being exposed to adverts promoting unhealthy foods, which can affect eating habits for life, said UK health secretary Matt Hancock. This will be a world-leading measure to tackle the obesity challenges we face now but it will also address a problem that will only become more prominent in the future, he said.

The government referenced research which shows that children are exposed to over 15 billion adverts for products high in fat, sugar and salt online every year. — PTI



US President-elect Joe Biden listens as Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris addresses the media about the Trump administration's lawsuit to overturn the Affordable Care Act at the Queen Theater in Wilmington, Delaware on Tuesday. Biden also answered questions about the process of the transition.

— AFP

Pompeo: Smooth transition to 2nd Trump administration

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

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

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

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

world should have every confidence that the transition necessary to make sure that the State Department is functional today, successful today, and successful with the president who's in office on January 20th a minute after noon will also be successful.

"I went through a transition on the front and I've been on the other side of this. I'm very confident that we will do all the things that are necessary to make sure that the government, the United States government will continue to perform its national security function as we go forward," he said.

Responding to questions if he believed there is widespread voter fraud, Pompeo said that he has been getting calls from all across the world. — PTI

KASH PATEL IS CHIEF OF STAFF TO DEF SECY

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

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

— PTI

Scientists find proof of two-way virus transmission in mink farms

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

While the virus was initially introduced from humans to the minks, the researchers, including B-as B. Oude Munnink from the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, said it has since evolved. "More research in minks and other mustelid species is important to understand if these spec-

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

In response, they said an extensive surveillance system was set up. The researchers performed an in-depth investigation among the first 16 infected mink farms in the Netherlands using a combination of coronavirus diagnostics, whole-genome sequencing, and in-depth interviews with farm workers. By the end of June,

● **MORE RESEARCH** in minks and other mustelid species is important to understand if these species are at risk of becoming a reservoir of SARS-CoV-2.

BAS B. OUDE MUNNINK, Researcher, Erasmus University Medical Center, the Netherlands

they found that 66 of 97 of the mink farm residents, employees and/or contacts tested had evidence for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

According to the study,

the mink virus genome analysis revealed a diversity of sequences. These large clusters of infection were initiated by Covid-19 cases with viruses that bear the "D614G mutation", which has come to dominate human infections in several parts of the world, the scientists said. They also found that some people were infected with strains of the virus with an animal sequence signature, providing evidence of animal to human transmission. However, they did not find any evidence of spillover to people living in close proximity to mink farms. — PTI

REVIEW | ODYSSEY

Given challenges, next launches being considered from 2026 to 2028

Nasa needs time to bring back Mars rocks

Cape Canaveral (US), Nov. 11: NASA is underestimating the amount of time and money it will take to bring Mars rocks back to Earth in the coming decade, an independent panel said Tuesday. The review board suggested that NASA and the European Space Agency consider bumping the next launches in the sample-return effort from 2026 to 2028, given all the technological challenges.

These delays will increase costs, pushing the planning budget to \$4 billion or more — \$1 billion more than currently envisioned by NASA.

● **DELAYS WILL** increase costs, pushing the planning budget to \$4 billion or more — \$1 billion more than currently envisioned by NASA.

● **THE GOAL IS** to get the samples back in the early 2030s. In order to do that, the space agencies have teamed up to develop a lander to fetch the samples.

February. It's aiming for Jezero Crater, believed to be an ancient river delta that may have once harbored microscopic life.

Scientists want to analyze these samples in the best labs on Earth, in hopes of ascertaining whether life ever existed in the

planet's lush, wet past. The goal is to get the samples back in the early 2030s. In order to do that, the space agencies have teamed up to develop a lander to fetch the samples, a rocket to get them off the Martian surface and an orbiting spacecraft to accept them and return them to Earth.

All this gear will require two separate launches from Earth. The chairman of the review board, David Thompson, retired chief executive of Orbital ATK, told reporters a two-year launch delay is advisable for the best chances of success. At the same time, however, no one is suggesting that NASA slow down, stressed panel member Maria Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

— AP

Asteroid samples escaping from jammed NASA craft

Cape Canaveral, Nov. 11: A NASA spacecraft is stuffed with so much asteroid rubble from this week's grab that it's jammed open and precious particles are drifting away in space, scientists said Friday.

Scientists announced the news three days after the spacecraft named Osiris-Rex briefly touched asteroid Benu, NASA's first attempt at such a mission. The mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona,

Explosions mar WW-I ceremony at Saudi cemetery

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

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

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

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion. Saudi officials and state-run media in the kingdom have not commented on the attack.

Jiddah, the Red Sea port city, saw its Ottoman tro-

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

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

France has suffered two deadly Islamic extremist attacks in the past month. Three people were killed in a church in the southern city of Nice, and a teacher was beheaded outside Paris for showing caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad to his class for a debate on free expression.

— AP

Pak US embassy goofs up on PM

Islamabad, Nov. 11: The United States embassy in Islamabad on Wednesday issued an apology for sharing a Twitter post which indirectly called Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan a "demagogue and dictator." On Tuesday night, the US embassy re-tweeted a post by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Ahsan Iqbal, where he shows a screenshot of an article by *The Washington Post* titled "Trump's defeat is a blow for the world's demagogues and dictators".

Along with the screen grab, Iqbal wrote: "We have one in Pakistan too. He will be shown the way out soon." Iqbal's lines were a clear reference to Prime Minister Khan. The embassy's post went viral within minutes and it faced severe backlash from the supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

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

Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazarri and Sindh Governor Imran

12 BILLIONAIRES IN PAKISTAN'S NAT'L ASSEMBLY

Islamabad, Nov. 11: There are 12 billionaires in Pakistan's National Assembly while most of the other lawmakers were also wealthy, possessing large properties in the country and abroad and massive investments in stocks, according to a media report on Wednesday. The lawmakers who are rolling in money and are holding precious assets include top politicians from almost all the mainstream parties, the *Dawn News* reported.

Landlords and capitalists dominate Pakistan's 342-member National Assembly — the lower legislative house — with the majority of members possessing huge pieces of land and massive investments in stocks, shares and industrial units, it said, citing the statement of assets of the lawmakers for year 2019. — PTI

Ismael have demanded an apology from the US embassy. US embassy is still working in Trumpian mode in support of convicted absconder and intervening brazenly in our internal politics," Mazari said, referring to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

— PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,593.67	0.73
Nifty 50	12,749.15	0.93
S&P 500*	3,570.69	0.71
Dollar (₹)	74.37	-0.24
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.63	-0.37
Euro (₹)	87.69	-0.13
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,114.3	0.005
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.43	0.82
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.903	-0.014
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.960	0.00

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Taiwan processor chipmaker to set up \$3.5 bn US arm

A Taiwanese maker of processor chips for Apple and other customers plans to invest \$3.5 billion to set up a US subsidiary amid American concern about relying too heavily on sources in Asia for high-tech components. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the world's biggest contract producer of semiconductors, said its board approved the plan to set up the subsidiary in Arizona.

Murugappan steps down as chairman of Tube, Chola



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

Brokers unhappy with T+1 settlement move

Stock brokers' association Anmi has raised concern on the proposal to lower the settlement cycle for completion of share transactions to T+1. In its letter to Sebi, Anmi said the implementation of the new system would increase working capital requirements for brokers and enhance the workload on the banks and depository participants (DPs). Currently, trades are settled after two working days (T+2).

ICICI Bank retail mortgage book crosses ₹2 L cr

Second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank said its retail mortgage book has crossed the Rs 2-lakh crore mark recently and October witnessed the highest ever disbursements. The bank said it had touched the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in 2016 and expects the Rs 3-lakh crore mark to happen sooner. Its executive director Anup Bagchi attributed the growth to digital processes, which aid a third of the loans.

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

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 11

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

"The PLI announcement of Rs 1,45,000 crore across 10 key sectors till 2025 is a strategic policy intervention. Coming at the back of Covid-19 and the general slowdown, this is expected to boost production, lead to job creation and ultimately be a major kicker for GDP and taxes," said Sangita Reddy, president, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industries (Ficci). "The government has carefully chosen the sectors for the PLI scheme. There could be more sectors that would receive the PLI benefits in the future," she added.

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

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

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

Sangita Reddy, president, Ficci

The industry was eagerly awaiting for this scheme to increase its competitiveness and take the growth of the sector to the next level

Kenichi Ayukawa, president, Siam

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

Dinesh Dua, chairman, Pharmexcil

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 firms to be part of MSCI India Index

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

Bank staff to get 15-20% pay hike



FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 11

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

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

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

"In addition, employees will get leave benefit,

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

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

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

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

Gland Pharma gets poor retail, HNI response

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Gland Pharma's initial public offering was over-subscribed more than two times on the final day, with qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) coming to the issue's rescue, as the retail individual investors and high net worth investors portion were undersubscribed.

Gland Pharma's Rs 6,479.55-crore issue was priced at Rs 1,490 to Rs 1,500 for a Re 1 face value share.

As per the NSE data, the public issue was subscribed 2.06 times till 1800 hours.

According to the persons closely working with the merchant bankers for the issue, QIB portion was subscribed 6.39 times while HNI portion was subscribed 0.5 times and retail individual investors category was subscribed 0.24 times.

Last Friday, Gland Pharma had raised Rs 1943.86 crore from 70 anchor investors ahead of the IPO. Gland's public offer was the largest pharma company IPO in recent times.

Retail still in recovery mode, durables see modest growth

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 11

Buoyed by festive demand, organised retail sales of consumer durables and electronics posted a positive growth in October. Other retail categories too continued to recover towards last year's levels but still stayed in the contraction phase.

Overall, retail made a steady month-on-month recovery with sales at -31 per cent in the month of October from -50 per cent in the September quarter and -78 per cent in June quarter, as per the data from the Retailers Association of India.

Till September, all the major categories have been reporting de-growth. However, categories such as consumer durables and electronics registered a muted growth of 2 per cent in September and further 8 per cent year-on-year sales growth in October.

In the month of October, Samsung claimed to have seen 68 per cent growth in premium sales while overall sales grew by 36 per cent.



Samsung has seen consumers in small towns in India buying premium television, refrigerators, washing machines and microwave ovens this festive season. Its consumer electronics business too grew 32 per cent in October.

"We are beginning to see green shoots of recovery with a steady month-on-month improvement for businesses. However, we are yet to catch up to last year's levels. Further improvement in business will depend upon how the pandemic situation further plays out and how fast the businesses can go towards recovery," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers

Association of India.

Quick service restaurants, which had been degrowing 75 per cent in September, made a major recovery to -35 per cent in October. Apparel and clothing recovered from -52 per cent to -30 per cent.

According to Motilal Oswal Financial Services, apparel retailers have been looking to take a large part of their businesses and assets online. Retailers want to use stores as an inventory sourcing point and for pickups and drops.

The RAI survey found that food and grocery sold by organised retailers too has recovered from -24 per cent to -10 per cent.

Market sees flood of dollars post-US polls

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 11

Sensex and Nifty-50 marked eighth straight day of gains, closing at new all-time high on the back of heavy foreign portfolio investor (FPI) buying post-the US elections.

The Sensex gained 316 points to close at new all time high of Rs 43,593.67 after touching an all-time high of 43,708.47. The Nifty-50 closed at 12,749.15, up 118 points or 0.93 per cent after touching an intra-day high of 12,769.75.

FPIs were net buyers of equities worth Rs 6,207.19 crore while the domestic institutional investors booked profit worth Rs 3,463.86 crore.

Counter-shifting to left out sectors was again seen in the market on Wednesday, as index heavyweight Reliance Industries fell 4.20 per cent on the BSE. Other heavyweight losers included HDFC Bank (-0.28 per cent), Hindustan Unilever (-0.34 per cent), IndusInd Bank (-5.62 per cent) and Titan Industries (-2.33 per cent).

The top Sensex gainers included Tata Steel (7.39 per cent), Axis Bank (4.28

per cent), Bajaj Finserv (3.94 per cent), ITC (3.87 per cent), Kotak Bank (3.12 per cent) and Sun Pharma (3.01 per cent).

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The domestic market displayed positivity, largely owing to sectors like pharma, metals and IT while some volatility was exhibited in the broad market. The latest update on Covid vaccine has lifted the spirit of western markets, with Europe showing fast recovery in anticipation of rapid roll-out. In the US, markets witnessed a shift in investment from technology based to cyclical & small-cap companies in order to take benefit from a reviving economy."

"We feel that the world's financial market is getting a lot of new money, which was on-hold during the US election period while the actual outcome is much better. Markets have rapidly reached to premium level with over-optimism supported by easy money. Caution is advised in the short-term, as production and distribution wise the real benefit will take time," Nair said.

Vehicle sales in October			
Total No. of units sold			
	Oct 2019	Oct 2020	
Passenger cars	9.68%	1,66,568	1,82,692
Two-wheelers	16.88%	17,57,180	20,53,814
Three-wheelers	-60.91%	66,985	26,187
Total passenger vehicles*	14.16%	2,71,737	3,10,294

*BMW, Mercedes, Tata Motors & Volvo Aug. data is not available Source: Siam

LTC SCHEME: GOVT STAFF'S KIN ALSO ELIGIBLE

New Delhi, Nov. 11: Central government employees availing the of the LTC cash voucher scheme can purchase goods or services in the name of spouse or other family members eligible for Leave Travel Concession fare.

The second set of FAQ issued by the Department of Expenditure also clarified that an employee can claim reimbursement for the purchase of goods and services attracting GST of 12 per cent or more, on or after October 12 even if s/he has not exercised the option of availing the scheme.

The government on October 12 announced the LTC cash voucher scheme under which employees can purchase any goods or services with a GST rate of 12 per cent or above to avail the benefit.

To a query on whether purchase receipt can be in the name of any dependent, the FAQ said, "The invoices of the goods and services purchased as per the scheme may be in the name of spouse or any family member who are eligible for LTC fare as declared in the service records".

The department said the special cash package scheme in lieu of one LTC is to "compensate and incentivise consumption" by government employees and the benefits can be availed of up to March 31, 2021.

The FAQ also clarified that purchase of goods or services on EMI is also permissible. — PTI

Honda says will be first to mass produce level 3 autonomous cars

Tokyo, Nov. 11: Japan's Honda Motor Co said on Wednesday it will be the world's first automaker to mass produce sensor-packed level 3 autonomous cars that will allow drivers to let their vehicles navigate congested expressway traffic.

"Honda is planning to launch sales of a Honda Legend (luxury sedan) equipped with the newly approved automated driving equipment" before the end of March 2021, Honda said in a press release.

The race to build self-driving cars is a key technology battleground for automakers, with technology companies such as Google parent Alphabet



Inc also investing billions of dollars in a field expected to boost car sales.

Japan's government earlier in the day awarded a safety certification to Honda's autonomous "Traffic Jam Pilot" driving technology, which legally allow drivers to take their eyes off the road.

"Self driving cars are expected to play a big role

in helping reduce traffic accidents, provide transportation for the elderly and improve logistics," said Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

There are six levels of vehicle autonomy, from 0 to 5, ranging from manual cars or those with simple functions such as cruise control to fully self-driving vehicles that would not need steering wheels, or brake and acceleration pedals.

Level 2 cars, which are currently on public roads, can control their own speed and steering, but must have an alert driver able to take control at all times. —Reuters

SHORT TAKES

Babar elated over Pak captaincy

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

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

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

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

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

Malik, Aamir miss out on Kiwi tour

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

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

Maradona needs family support

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

"Diego Maradona, in certain issues, is just like everyone else ... with the same limitations, difficulties and advantages that any human being has," Daz said in an interview. — AP

Brazil, Argentina gear up for WC

Rio De Janeiro: Brazil must confront a growing injury list that includes Neymar as they resume World Cup qualifying this week, while Argentina are out to extend their perfect start at home to neighbours Paraguay. Copa America champions Brazil host Venezuela in Sao Paulo on Friday chasing a third win in as many matches after launching their Qatar 2022 campaign with victories over Bolivia and Peru. Argentina, who began qualifying with narrow wins over Ecuador and Bolivia, are hoping Lionel Messi will be fit for both their games against Paraguay and Peru. — AFP

Live on TV

GOLF

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

FOOTBALL

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

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

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ALLROUND SHOW

Hunger and working on nitty gritty did it for MI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI



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

Captain all praise for bowlers

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

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

team couldn't quite recover.

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

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

that?" he said.

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

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

Also, Rohit Sharma believes that his style of

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

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

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

— PTI

ROHIT RUES SURYA'S RUN OUT IN FINAL

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

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

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

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

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

Bowlers lost it in powerplay: Iyer

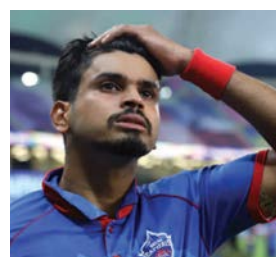
Dubai, Nov. 11: Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer says his otherwise outstanding bowlers "lost it in powerplay" after a disastrous start prevented them from posting a challenging total in the IPL final against Mumbai Indians.

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

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

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

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



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

— SHREYAS IYER
Delhi Capitals captain

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

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

Make Rohit T20 captain: Gautam

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

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

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

"Yes, a captain is only as good as his team and I completely agree with that, but what are the parameters to judge a captain on who is good and who isn't? The parameters and benchmark should be the same. Rohit has led his team (MI) to five IPL titles," he added.

MI won an unprecedented fifth IPL title by beating DC by five wickets in Dubai on Tuesday night.

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

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



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

— GAUTAM GAMBHIR
former India player

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

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

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

— PTI

INDIGENOUS JERSEY FOR AUSSIES IN T20 vs INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

WI players breach bubble, bear brunt

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

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

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

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

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

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

— AP

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

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

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

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

He said neither the

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

That is why many sports

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

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

Covid-19 situation in the country has given us a

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

judge said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI