

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 8 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 31.4°C
Min: 21.1°C
RH: 50%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 31/20 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+41,039) DEATHS (+588)

84,97,319 1,26,116

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,607) (+6)

TS: 2,48,891 1,372

(+2,367) (+11)

AP: 8,40,730 6,779

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

4,99,64,915

DEATHS 12,53,156

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 216

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana

Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula

Saptami till 7.27 am

Star: Pushyami till 8.42 am

Varjyam: 9.28 pm to 11.04 pm

Durmuhurtam: 4.08 pm to 4.53 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HILJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 21, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.16 am

Zohar: 12.10 pm

Asar: 4.07 pm

Maghrib: 5.49 pm

Isha: 6.58 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.18 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM

MOONSET 12.37 AM

MOONRISE NA

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

FASTags must for all four-wheelers

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said it has made FASTags mandatory for all four-wheelers including old vehicles from January 1, 2020. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a notification for promotion of digital and IT based payment of fees through FASTags. The government has issued a notification "making FASTag mandatory to be available by January 1, 2021 in old vehicles also i.e. M and N category (four wheelers) sold before December 1, 2017 through amendments in CMVR, 1989", the MoRTH said in a statement.

GO | HYDERABAD

Double-decker buses might return

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Hyderabad may soon see double-decker buses running on city roads again. Minister K.T. Rama Rao set the ball rolling with his post on Twitter on Saturday, reminiscing of travelling in the iconic double-decker bus to school.

It all started off with a post from Twitter user Shaker Hussain, who had tagged Rama Rao and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar



Picture of a double-decker bus posted on Twitter by Shaker Hussain.

Rao on an old photograph of a double-decker bus on

Tank Bund, and asked if the service could be resumed for tourists if not as a regular bus service.

Replying to this, Rama Rao asked transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar if there was any chance of bringing back the double-deckers.

The transport minister replied that he would speak to the authorities to look into the possibilities.

Rama Rao's post read: "I have many fond memories of riding the double-decker bus on my way to St.

George's Grammar School at Abids. Not sure why they were taken off the roads. Any chance we can bring them back?"

Asked about the possibility of reintroducing the buses, Sunil Sharma, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation incharge managing director, told *Deccan Chronicle* that a meeting with all stakeholders will take place on this next week.

■ Page 4: KTR's post gets major support



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

WORLD | 7

Is Murdoch dumping Trump?



SPORTS | 8

Djokovic equals Sampras's No. 1 record

TABLOID

Ajay Devgn to direct Big B



Vol. 20 No. 163 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹6.00

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

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

Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Biden served as vice-president under former president Barack



Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Senator Kamala Harris, 56, who is of Indian origin, has become the first ever woman vice-president-elect of the US. She would also be the country's first Indian-origin, first Black and first African American vice-president of the country. Biden and Harris would



be sworn in on January 20.

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

KCR PROMISES LAND TO BUILD GLOBAL FILM CITY

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced on Saturday that a film city of international standards would be set up on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The government would acquire 1,500 to 2,000 acres of land for the film city.

The Chief Minister also said that cinema theatres can reopen now that the unlock process has begun.

He was interacting with film actors Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna who met him to hand over cheques of ₹1 crore and ₹50 lakh respectively for flood-relief operations.

Chandrashekar Rao said a delegation of officials and film personalities would visit Bulgaria and study the facilities offered by the renowned Nu Boyana Film Studios. The delegation would then prepare plans for the film city of Hyderabad.

The CM said about 10 lakh people were directly or indirectly dependent on the film industry in the state.

■ Page 4: Film shoot cancellations cost jobs



Isro launches the 51st mission of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) carrying the all-weather earth imaging satellite EOS along with nine international satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. — DC

Earth imaging satellite in orbit

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, NOV. 6

In its first launch this year, India's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, placed the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-01) and nine foreign satellites into their designated orbits after a textbook-perfect blast-off from the spaceport at Sriharikota near Nellore

on Saturday.

Minutes before the launch, heavy downpour and lightning at the Sriharikota range (SHAR) caused some concern at the mission control in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC).

The countdown was halted 18 minutes before launch.

■ Page 4: Launch put off by nine minutes

GHMC polls: BJP zeroes in on 'Mana Hyderabad, Mana BJP'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The Telangana state BJP on Saturday decided to fight the ensuing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections on slogans like 'Save Hyderabad from Majlis and TRS' and 'Mana (Our) Hyderabad- Mana BJP'.

BJP state president

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, senior party leaders D.K. Aruna, Dr K. Laxman, N. Ramachander Rao, Mantri Srinivasulu, Gujjula Premender Reddy and other office-bearers met at the state party office here to finalise the poll strategy.

Sources in the party disclosed that they have

decided to focus on the failures of the ruling party in fulfilling its poll promises made during the last GHMC elections. It was also decided to expose the alleged irregularities in distribution of financial assistance of ₹10,000 to each flood-affected family.

■ Page 4: Corporators pocketed ₹500 cr: BJP

Exit polls give RJD edge in hung Bihar Assembly

Mahagathbandhan likely to go beyond magic number 122

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

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

The exit polls predicted that the RJD-Congress' Mahagathbandhan may get 123 seats and form the government. The magic number in Bihar Assembly is 122. According to Polls of Polls (which takes an average of various exit polls), the JD(U)-BJP's NDA, led by incumbent chief minister Nitish Kumar, will manage to get 110 seats, the Chirag Paswan-led LJP will bag just four and others put together with Independents will get five seats.

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

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

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

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

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 7

Exit polls on November 3 byelelections to 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh by two media organisations have predicted a robust show by the ruling BJP, enabling Shivraj government to gain majority in the House. The BJP requires nine MLAs to cross the halfway mark.

The exit polls have fore-

● THE BJP needs to secure 116 seats to gain majority

● IT NEEDED just nine MLAs to cross the halfway mark in the Assembly

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

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

declare that the Mahagathbandhan will sweep Bihar this year, bagging 180 seats (plus or minus 11 seats),

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

KCR wants Yadadri temple reopened in two months

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday announced that the Yadadri temple will be renovated to become one of prestigious pilgrimage places in the country.

While reviewing the work with senior officers, the Chief Minister asked officials to expedite the works so that the temple could reopen for the devotees in next two months.

Rama Rao announced that seven acres of land at Yadadri would be donated to the Telangana State

Road Transport Corporation as the state government is utilising its land for the expansion of the temple.

He instructed the officials to ensure that the tourists from abroad felt comfortable during their visit to the temple. The Chief Minister suggested constructing food courts which would serve continental food to the tourists.

Chandrashekar Rao asked the officials to make use of 11 acres which were earmarked for parking, food courts and restaurants and ensure that parking

facilities were created for 3,000 vehicles.

The Chief Minister said the Laxminarasimha Swamy temple complex should be made to reflect and highlight spirituality.

The Chief Minister said the infrastructure facilities should be created while keeping in view the several poojas performed at the temple, the services conducted for the presiding deity and the number of devotees visiting the temple. He also instructed the officials to ensure that the construction works epitomise beauty.

TELANGANA SEES 1,607 NEW COVID CASES IN 1 DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

As many as 1,607 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in the state on Friday by the health department on Saturday. IT said six more people lost their lives to the disease in the 24-hour period ending 8 pm on Friday. These latest figures take the cases to 2,48,891 and the toll to 1,372. The Greater Hyderabad area continued to stay on top of all districts in number of cases each day, recording 296 fresh cases.

■ Full report on Page 2

Adilabad cotton farmers rue price drop

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, NOV. 7

The high natural moisture content in cotton amid foggy conditions during the onset of winter season has hit cotton prices in the erstwhile Adilabad district.

Many farmers are drying their produce in front of their houses to bring down the moisture content to within the permitted limit to get a good price. One can find heaps of cotton produce meant for drying everywhere in villages.

District officials asked the farmers to bring the produce to the market yard to sell only after drying it at their houses to get MSP of Rs 5,825 per quintal with the moisture content up to eight percent. The market yard officials and private cotton traders deduct the amount from the MSP for more than eight percent moisture.

Gangula Morkhanade of Seethagondi village in Gudihathnoor mandal said that the high moisture content and weather conditions have hit them financially and spelled huge losses for farmers. He said nearly 40 percent moisture content exists in the produce just after picking them from the fields. It is coming down to 24 or 25 percent after being shifted to their



Farmer Gangula Morkhanade keeps his cotton in the sun for drying and reduce moisture after bringing it from the field in Seethagondi in Gudihathnoor in Adilabad district. — DC

homes for drying.

"The moisture content is again coming down to 14 to 15 percent content after three to four days of drying", said Morkhanade adding that it was a lengthy process and required a lot of patience.

Adilabad market yard officials issued mandal-wise coupons to the farm-

ers in order to bring the cotton produce on a particular day.

Anand Rao, a farmer from Adilabad rural mandal, said that private cotton traders are exploiting them and offering low prices by taking advantage of the high natural moisture content.

He alleged that even

'mediators' had colluded with private ginning and pressing factory owners and are not bargaining for a high price. He said farmers must be around when the produce is being weighed and when prices are being fixed so that they could do away with mediators in order to get a good price.

IN BRIEF

Lawyers' forum seeks quota

Hyderabad: Advocates of Lawyers Forum for Social Justice on Saturday met Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan on Saturday and sought that consideration be given to candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women while appointing judges in the High Court Nagula Srinivas Yadav and Samala Ravinder pointed out that there is no judge in Telangana High Court from SC or ST community. The advocates told media that CJ Chauhan had assured them that these sections would be included in future appointments of judges.

Man held for harassment

Hyderabad: A man accused of harassing and extorting several women was arrested by the Meerpet police on Saturday. The case came to light when a victim, a college employee, lodged a complaint claiming that the accused, Aslam, her colleague, had taken her picture without consent and was demanding ₹3 lakh from her not to release it. During the course of investigation, it came to light that the accused had blackmailed other students of the college where the accused and the complainant worked. Some students came forward and lodged complaints against the accused, after which cases were registered against him. In the early hours of Saturday morning, the police apprehended the 22-year-old accused, from Gayathrinagar, Meerpet, and seized his mobile phone.

RTC in deal with airport

Hyderabad: The TS Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) and GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide cargo services on Saturday. Sunil Sharma, managing director TSRTC, signed the MoU with GMR' CEO, Cargo, Saurabh in the presence of transport minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar. The minister said the RTC's cargo and parcel service was the brainchild of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. He said TSRTC had a good image in the eyes of people. Sunil Sharma said TSRTC was ready with infrastructure like vehicles and staff. The services will be started on Sunday.

TUNGABHADRA PUSHKARAMS FROM NOV. 20

DURGAM SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Endowment minister A. Indrakaran Reddy has said that Tungabhadra pushkarams will start at 1.23 pm in Alampur on November 20 and conclude on December 1.

The minister along with his colleagues Singireddy Niranjan Reddy and Srinivas Goud conducted a review meeting with officials on the arrangements for the pushkaralu in Alampur.

Later, Indrakaran Reddy, briefing mediapersons, said that they will strictly abide by Covid-19 guidelines and appealed to the devotees to cooperate in this regard, including when taking the holy dip and while offering prayers.

He said that they have provided sufficient facilities at the pushkaram ghats, particularly for women and aged persons. He said that they have instructed officials to complete all the works before the commencement of the pushkarams. Adequate sanitation staff and medical teams are being put in place, he said.

Stating that keeping in mind the undercurrent at Tungabhadra, "Boats and swimmers will be kept at the ghats and barricades would be erected," Indrakaran Reddy said. The ministers visited Jogulamba temple in Alampur, where they were welcomed by the temple's executive officer and other officials.

● **A. INDRAKARAN REDDY** said that they will strictly abide by Covid-19 guidelines and appealed to the devotees to cooperate in this regard, including when taking the holy dip and while offering prayers. Sufficient facilities have been provided at the pushkaram ghats.

TS suffers over ₹52K crore loss

Pandemic impacts state's revenue; officials suggest revision of budgets, allocations in view of heavy fall

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The state government has faced an overall loss of ₹52,750 crore revenue so far this financial year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and related lockdown.

This was informed by finance department authorities to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday.

The Chief Minister was holding a meeting with officials of the finance department at Pragathi Bhavan on the state's financial condition following the pandemic and for a mid-term review of the 2020-21 Budget.

The officials suggested revision of budget estimates and allocations in view of the heavy fall in the revenues.

They were instructed to

fix priorities and prepare a financial management plan. The officials said the government received ₹39,608 crore from April to October in the last fiscal through taxes and other resources.

In the current fiscal, it had received ₹33,704 crore in the same period.

The officials said that the 2020-21 budget proposals were prepared with an estimated 15 per cent

growth in the state's revenue, but the pandemic had adversely impacted the projections.

They said that ₹1,15,900 crore revenue was estimated in the current fiscal but state could generate only ₹68,781 crore by the end of the fiscal. Officials told the Chief Minister that there was a considerable decrease in the state government's share in the Central taxes.

They explained that the Union Budget 2020-21 had mentioned that the Centre would allocate ₹16,727 crore to Telangana state. The state has to get ₹8,363 crore from April to October, but it received only ₹6,339 crore.

The officials pointed out that as on date there is a reduction of ₹2,025 crore in taxes and by the end of financial year it is estimated that the state would get

₹11,898 crore instead of ₹16,727 crore. Due to decrease in the devolution from the Centre, Telangana state would lose ₹4,829 crore, the officials added.

They further pointed out that the Centre has projected ₹9,725 crore in the 2020-21 Budget under several centrally sponsored and assisted schemes to the state, but actual receipts so far were only

₹4,592 crore though the actual due was ₹5,763 crore.

"There is a loss of ₹1,081 crore from Central funds that are supposed to be received by October-end. By the end of this financial year, the state may get ₹8,923 crore instead of ₹9,725 crore. There will be an ₹802 crore cut in funds for centrally sponsored and assisted schemes," the officials said.

CA students can opt for Jan exam

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

Following requests from students to postpone the exams scheduled from November 21, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on Saturday announced that the students who have submitted online applications for the November 2020 examination cycle will be allowed to carry forward their candidature to the exam to be held in January 2021.

This year, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the exams scheduled to be held in May were postponed multiple times

and merged with the November exams. The latest announcement has come as a matter of relief to several students who were worried about the safety issues during the pandemic.

As per the latest announcement, the examination fees and exemption, if any, of the student that opts out will automatically be carried forward to the next examination. This exam of November will not be counted.

The announcement with the detailed schedule shall be issued in the second half of December, ICAI said.

TS to discuss UGC terms tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The education department is likely to discuss on Monday, the new guidelines of the University Grants Commission on reopening of higher education institutions.

The meeting will be chaired by special chief secretary Chitra Ramachandran.

Prof. Papi Reddy of the Telangana state Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), said, "All heads of department have been instructed to attend the meeting. We will give our recommendations and proposals in line with the guidelines, and seek permis-

sion from the government to go ahead with the same." Prof. Reddy did not wish to divulge any more details on the nature of proposals.

The University Grants Commission on Thursday had released guidelines advising higher education institutions outside containment zones to reopen in phases, starting first with research, masters and final-year undergraduate students.

The number of students attending classes on campus, at a given time, should not be more than half the student strength, the guidelines stated listing details.



TPCC working president, Ponnamp Prabhakar takes signatures from farmers in Nagunur village of Karimnagar rural mandal on Saturday. The programme is part of Signature campaign the Congress has initiated against the agriculture laws brought out by the state and Central government.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Congress gears up to hold maha dharna on Nov. 12

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 7

The working president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), Ponnamp Prabhakar on Saturday appealed to the farmers and partymen to participate in large numbers in the maha dharna and laying siege of the collectorate on November 12.

The move is part of Congress, farmers' signature campaign programme launched, against the new agriculture policies adopted by the state and the Central governments.

Mr Prabhakar, along with the district unit leaders, visited Nagunur village in Karimnagar rural mandal and made the farmers aware of the demerits of the new agricultural policies. Later he collected their signatures.

● **SEEKS compensation immediately for crop loss on par with those affected in Hyderabad and to fix MSP of ₹2,500 for the fine variety of paddy.**

The BJP government in the new laws has said that farmers can sell their produce anywhere in the country, why is it not fixing a benchmark MSP for various crops, he questioned.

The Central government is trying to privatise all government sectors to benefit the corporates, besides trying to make agriculture a business. With the new agriculture laws, even though farmers will become labourers in their fields. They will not have the right to cultivate the crops they want. For this reason, Congress has taken up a massive move-

ment against the BJP government, he said.

Mr Prabhakar criticised Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for not waiving farm loans for the past two years, as well as not announcing a Minimum Support Price for fine variety paddy. The incessant rains witnessed in the recent past damaged cotton crops. He alleged that instead of announcing compensation, the government is refusing to purchase the cotton from the farmers.

He demanded the government to announce compensation immediately for crop loss on par with those affected in Hyderabad and to fix MSP of ₹2,500 for the fine variety of paddy.

He appealed to farmers and partymen to participate in the maha dharna to be held on November 12 in large numbers and make it a grand success.

TS registers 1,607 fresh Covid-19 cases

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

As many as 1,607 new cases of Covid-19 were reported in the state on Friday by the health department on Saturday. IT said six more people lost their lives to the disease in the 24-hour period ending 8 pm on Friday. These latest figures take the cases to 2,48,891 and the toll to 1,372.

The Greater Hyderabad area, which continues to stay on top of all districts in the state in terms of the number of cases each day, recorded 296 fresh cases on Friday. Bhadradi-Kothagudem district saw a surge in cases from 77 on Thursday to 124 on Friday. Ranga Reddy district reported 115 new cases, down by three from the previous day, while Medchal-

Malkajgiri district had 113 cases on Friday against 137 reported on Thursday.

Narayana, for the second time in the past seven days, reported zero cases on Friday, in a repeat of its November 1 feat. This district had been reporting new cases in single digits for some time now. The only other district to report single digit new cases on Friday

was Jogulamba-Gadwal at nine.

The health department said 937 people recovered from the disease on Friday taking the total recoveries to 2,27,583. As many as 19,936 persons were under the 'active cases' category with 2,702 currently being treated in government and private hospitals and the rest in isolation facilities or in isolation at home.

Good Samaritans come to the rescue of a poor family

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 7

A few good samaritans came to the rescue of a family in Thirumalapur village of Ramadagu mandal in Karimnagar district on Saturday. The family were in a dire state as the sole earner had died and their house had collapsed in the recent rains.

Thirupathi (45), a mason and resident of Thirumalapur village of Ramadagu mandal lived with his aged parents Hanumandlu, 80, Bhumavva, 75, two children Abhigna, 10, Navaneeth, 8, and wife.

He was the sole breadwinner for his family.

In the recent heavy rains, his house collapsed. But he was unable to repair it as he did not get work due to Covid-19.

He also suffered from health complications and on October 18 died.

To feed the family, Thirupathi's wife and his



Chairman of Mythri Groups, Kotha Jayapal Reddy along with his friends donates ₹1.75 lakhs to the family of Thirupathi in Thirumalapur village of Ramadagu mandal in Karimnagar on Saturday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

aged mother Bhumavva worked as farm labourers. Hearing this, chairman of Mythri Groups, Kotha

Jayapal Reddy along with his friends donated ₹1.75 lakh to the family to reconstruct their house.

VIRTUAL LOK ADALATS DISPOSE OF 5,600 CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

About 5,000 cases were settled in the first-ever virtual Lok Adalat held by the Telangana State Legal Service Authority (TSLA) on Saturday.

Telangana High Court senior judge Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, who is also executive chairman of the TSLA, inaugurated the virtual Lok Adalat at the Ranga Reddy court and oversaw proceedings at the various Lok Adalat centres across the state.

The virtual Lok Adalat bench at the TS HC was presided over by Justice P. Naveen Rao, chairman of Telangana HC Legal Services Committee. He settled 105 cases and awarded around ₹2.75 crore to beneficiaries.

● **TELANGANA HC senior judge Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao, who is also executive chairman of the TSLA, inaugurated it.**



Students show the smartphones they received from social service organisation Bala Vikasa on Saturday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

NGO gives 750 needy students smartphones

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, NOV. 7

Social service organisation Bala Vikasa on Saturday distributed smartphones to the children of Bala Vikasa women group members in a programme organised at its People Development Training Center at Kazipet.

Shoury Reddy, executive director of Bala Vikasa said that the Covid-19 pandemic is forcing all educational institutions to conduct online classes. Many

● **BALA VIKASA** approached institutional and individual donors to donate to buy smartphones for their children. They also raised fund through crowd-funding.

of the students from economically poor backgrounds were unable to attend online classes as they do not have smartphones.

Considering requests from the Bala Vikasa women group members in its network of villages,

Bala Vikasa approached institutional and individual donors to donate to buy smartphones for their children. They also raised fund through the crowd-funding site Milaap. Donations poured in from Canada and India, and 750 students received smartphones worth ₹60,00,000.

Latha who heads Bala Vikasa women empowerment programme thanked all the donors for their generous contributions. Sivaram, Jyoti and other field coordinators of Bala Vikasa attended the meeting at PDTC.

OTHER STORIES

Sajid is Adilabad DCC in-charge

Adilabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy issued an order, appointing Adilabad district party, minority wing president, Sajid Khan as DCC in-charge until a new DCC president is appointed. The resignation of DCC president Bhargav Deshpande was accepted.

9-YEAR-OLD BOY DROWNS IN CANAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIRMAL, NOV. 7

A 9-year-old boy, accidentally fell into the main canal of the Kadam project, while playing with his brother in Dasthurbad mandal headquarters in Nirmal district on Saturday.

Nikhil, 9, of Kadam mandal, was attending a function at his grandmother's home. While playing, his chappal fell into the canal. He tried to retrieve it and fell into the canal and drowned. After stopping the water flow into the main canal, police and professional swimmers searched for Nikhil but in vain.

'DRUNK EXCISE SI-ENTERS ADVASIS HOMES WITH SHOES'

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, NOV. 7

Advasis of Lendiguda in Jainoor mandal alleged that excise staff came to the village for raids, but did not find any liquor. Among them, one of the excise staff, excise SI Narahari Chary was drunk and entered their houses with his footwear, a taboo in their culture.

They demanded the police register a case against him. The incident took place in Lendiguda village in Jainoor mandal on Friday but came to light on Saturday. The villagers stopped the excise personnel's vehicle and took it to the Jainoor police station.

Jainoor police conducted a breath analyzer test on excise SI Narahari Chary who was said to be drunken. The concerned officials reported the matter to the excise department and sought disciplinary action against the errant officer.

The Advasis of Jainoor, Sirpur (U) and Lingapur mandals have banned liquor sales in their villages and have not allowed liquor shops in their mandals.

Nizam Sugars fate to be decided on Nov. 10

TRS had assured during polls, state would take over factory

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 7

The fate of Nizam Deccan Sugars Limited (NDSL) will be decided on Tuesday, November 10, at a hearing of the New Delhi Tribunal Appellate Court.

Proceedings on reopening of the sugar factory at the tribunal had remained pending for long due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Under the Swiss challenge method, the then Telugu Desam government had sold 49 per cent shares of the Nizam Sugars to a private management that itself held 51 per cent shares.

The private management renamed NSF as Nizam Deccan Sugars Limited and ran it till December 2015.

However, NDSL declared lay-off December 2015 soon after formation of the Telangana state. This belied the hopes of sugarcane farmers and factory workers that Nizam



Nizam Sugars factory at Shakkarnagar in Bodhan in Nizamabad district.

Sugars will achieve its previous glory in the newly formed Telangana state.

In the run up to the elections, the TRS had assured that if it came to power, the state government would take over Nizam Sugars. But the same has not materialised so far.

Due to continuing lay-off at the factory, farmers dependant on it switched over to other crops while its workers have since

then remained unemployed.

In the interim, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had directed that properties of Nizam Sugars be auctioned to settle the debts owed to the private management.

The state government challenged the NCLT order and got a stay from the New Delhi Tribunal Appellate Court. The tribunal had, however, directed the Telangana government and private

■ **SUGARCANE FARMERS**, factory workers and people of Bodhan are eagerly awaiting the verdict on Nizam Sugars.

■ **KAVITHA'S** defeat in the last Parliament elections was due to the people's disappointment of the continued closure of the factory

management to submit a three-page written document on feasibility of Nizam Sugars reopening. Sugarcane farmers, factory workers and people of Bodhan are eagerly awaiting the verdict of the tribunal on Nizam Sugars.

It is said the defeat of K. Kavitha, daughter of CM K. Chandrasekhara Rao, in the last Parliament elections was due to disapproval of the area's people over continued closure of the factory, which the TRS had promised to reopen.

Irrigation official caught taking bribe

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 7



Ravinder Reddy

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sleuths on Saturday caught a deputy executive engineer, Ch. Ravinder Reddy, red-handed taking a bribe of ₹50,000, from a contractor Guguloth Komurelli, to clear his bills for the works expedited under the mission Kakatiya phase - IV in Tharigoppula village.

According to ACB DSP Madhusudhan, the contractor took up the works of renovation of two tanks Jallivarikunta and Gorimallannakunta in the village and completed the works. When Komurelli asked the DEE to clear the bills for his works, Ravinder demanded ₹1 lakh as a bribe. Komurelli informed the

ACB, who hatched a plan to apprehend him. Komurelli told Ravinder he would pay him ₹50,000 cash on Saturday. The officials arrested the DEE while he was accepting the bribe. "We arrested the DEE and took him into custody. We also seized the money. He will be produced before the ACB special court soon," the DSP said.

SRI VARAHA LAKSHMI NARASIMHA SWAMY VARI DEVASTHANAM
SIMHACHALAM - VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT, A.P.-530028.
Ph : 0891-2764949, Fax : 0891-2715435, Email : endow-eosvinsd@gov.in

SEALED TENDER

Rc.No.B1/3474/2020, Dt. 07.11.2020

Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Simhachalam required Audit Firm for a Period of One Year i.e. from the date of Commencement of Agreement. Further details are available on SVLNS Devasthanam

Web Site : www.simhachalamdevasthanam.net

Sd/- V.Trinadha Rao
Executive Officer

TRS MLA abusing youth clip goes viral

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 7

An audio clip of TRS Manakondur MLA, Rasamay Balakishan, abusing a youth and threatening him with dire consequences, has gone viral on various social media platforms in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

The youth, Pothireddy Rajashekar Reddy, resident of Begumpet village of Bejjanki mandal which falls under Manakondur assembly segment frequently questioned the TRS MLA on social media about the delay in the implementation of various developmental works in the region.

Irked by his questions, the MLA said, "There are several works to be done as a MLA. I am trying to solve all the problems one by one in the constituency. How long can I face your abuse, why are you regularly posting on



Rasamay Balakishan, TRS Manakondur MLA

social media against me."

Rajashekar Reddy argued with Balakishan, and when the MLA used filthy language, he warned him.

Rajashekar Reddy told the MLA that he is unfit to be a member of the assembly, and challenged him to prove if he had used filthy language against him in his post. If not, he demanded the MLA resign.

ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK
YEDDUMAILARAM,
SANGAREDDY DIST
PENSION ADALAT
NOTICE

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

It is brought to the notice of all concerned that a nation wide Pension Adalats is proposed to be conducted in the month of DECEMBER 2020 at ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK, YEDDUMAILARAM, SANGAREDDY DIST. 502205 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING for which a suitable date shall be communicated in due course. The main objective of this Adalat would be prompt resolution of pensioners' grievances, within the framework of extant policy guidelines.

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

PH: 040-23283419/ 040-23283472.

Email: ofmkadmin.off@ofb.gov.in

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

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

Dr Sandeep ranks 3rd in DM entrance

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 7



Dr Sandeep Marasakatla

Dr Sandeep Marasakatla, a post-graduate student of the Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Nagunur in Karimnagar secured the third rank in the national-level Doctorate in Medicine-Neurology (DM) entrance exam conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans).

The Dean of PIMS college, Dr Achanta Vivekanand congratulated Dr Sandeep on his achievement and said, "Nimhans is among the best medical colleges in India. Many students aspire to get admission into this college. What Dr Sandeep has achieved is a great feat."

Dr Sandeep hails from Hyderabad. His father Ananda Rao, is an ex-serviceman from the Air Force and mother Shoba Rani, a housewife. He has two brothers one elder and the other younger to him.

Dr Sandeep says, "I do not have any medical background. But after securing good marks in SSC, my father and grandfather advised me to take B.P.C and aim for a seat in medicine on completion of my Intermediate."

The interest to become a doctor grew in his first attempt, he secured a seat in the Gandhi Medical College and graduated in 2019. While pursuing graduation, he focused on reading the theory portion of the subjects he would later take up while doing his post-graduation.

He says, "In the first year, I had time on hand for

revision and focused on attempting questions from the last five years. I read specialised books, which helped me save time and achieve the third rank and seat in Nimhans."

Later while doing his post-graduation, he used a study plan to track his study preparation. He said, "After my work, I study and would focus on important topics. I stuck to my study plan. The portions I would leave out the previous day. I would cover them the next day."

Daily he studied for 5-6 hours, and in the last two months, he spent studying up to eight hours. Ask him the secret to his success; he says, hard work and commitment. He acknowledges the support of Prof. Ranjith, who helped him crack the exam, his family and his friends.

For those preparing for the exam, Dr Sandeep says, "Besides hard work one needs to have a strong desire and confidence in oneself. Prepare according to the subject, revise and focus on the important topics. Solve previous question papers." He signs off saying that along with setting a schedule, stick to it daily.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

BANJARAHILLS ROAD,2 Near KBR Park 350 North, Road No.1 615yards, MasabTank 3,000yards JubileeHills Road No.92 300yards, Road no.45 1,000yards, Road No.36 1200yards, Road No.10 1400yards, Kondapur 1200yards & Rental income properties 5Cr to 50Cr 9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/AT000614)

FLATS

✓ **3 BEDROOM** 2400 sft duplex flat with 2 car parking and servant quarters for sale in Sri Niketan Apartments, Palace Colony, Basheerbagh. Contact 8143144154, 9885536329. (W/2021/AT000602)

KONDAPUR BESIDE vijetha super market & cyber meadows after chirech public school ready to move in West facing- 4bhk 2600 sft, east facing- 2bhk 1350 sft, delux standalone apartment Rs: 5800/- per sft ph:7995889398 / 9 8 6 6 2 6 7 4 7 6 (HYMM/2021/C03486)

MANIKONDA,ALKAPURI TOWN-SHIP Highrise super luxury 2 & 3 BHK Flats with all amenities. Prelaunch offer Rs 3300 Loan amount Rs 4500/ sft 9866549820 (HYMM/2021/C03549)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

GATED COMMUNITY JubileeHills Whisper Valley 475 yards, Madhapur 250 yards 4500 sft, Kondapur 350 yards 4900sft, 480 yards 4600sft, Hitech City 350 yards 4500sft, Financial District surroundings areas, Aditya casa grande, Ektha Highland, Eden garden, River edge, Villa greens, Legend chimes and more villas in Gandipet, Tellopur, Kollur 8884872389, 9985888511. (W/2021/AT000616)

LAND

GACHIBOWLI FINANCIAL district near vattinagulapalli 111GO-500yards, 1000 N/E, 2,000yards, 1Acre, 3Acres, 5Acres, 10Acres. Molnabad 1Acres, 5Acres, 12Acres. Jonnada-shankarpalli main

Road 3000yards, 5Acres,10, 15Acres & In R1-zone's mokila, Tellopur, nallagandla, osmanna-gar plots/lands available. 9985888511, 8884872389. (W/2021/AT000617)

100 ACRES Land Shankarpalli-Mominpet 100 Feet Road, Yanakethala Village, Per Acre 1.10 Crore & 26 Acres Commercial Land at Mominpet Kesaram Village, 8 KM From Mominpet, Per Acre Cost: 45Lacs, Negotiable, Ch.V.Raju Ph: 9440770235/ 6 2 8 1 2 4 3 8 1 4 (HYMM/2021/C03701)

PLOTS

BANJARAHILLS 350, 500 North 600 West JubileeHills 200 South 400North 500East 600East 717 East 1200East 1500West Filmnagar 110yards Journalist Colony 300 Nandagirihills 600North Madhapur kavurhills 500East Gachibowli Jayabheri HUDA 934 N/E JubileeHills and Banjarahills independent houses 10Cr to 50Cr, All commercial plots with tenant properties.9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/AT000615)

INDEPENDENT GATED Community HMDA Approved Open Plots For Sale At Babinagar to Bhuvanagiri Low Cost Best Investment. Ready to Construct, all Facility, Bank Loan Available, Cont: 8 6 8 5 7 5 1 5 1 1. (HYCL/2021/C01533)

PLOT FOR Sale, N/F, 30Ft Road (R/F 79X72) LRS clear, Suitable for any small unit like Kitchen for Hotel, UPVC Manufacturing, Carpenter, Laundry, Warehouse, Apartment, Stockyard, etc. @ Lakshmi Enclave, Macha Bollaram, near by Bollaram Rly Station, Sanjeev Reddy F/H Road. Contact: 9246159757. (S/2021/C01324)

URGENT 160 Sqr Yards Plot for Sale Boduppal Chenchagcharla Krishna Nagar Colony size 30x48 West Face 25' Road Cont Anand 9 7 0 4 2 1 7 8 6 1 (HYMM/2021/C03693)

MAHABUBNAGAR - Jachcharla National Highway facing DTCP approved layout - Good View - Plots available of sizes 400 Sqyds each. Contact: 9000050360, 9014308136 (W/2021/AT000582)

COMMERCIAL ZONE 10 Acres Land for sale at Timmapur to Maheshwaram Road, close to Bangalore Highway & One Acre

fully developed Farmhouse R1- Zone & 5 Acres Land R1- Zone & Appa Junction, Aziznagar, 15 Acres & Kanapur, close to Kokapet 5 Acres Farm Land. Contact: 09346601919 (Ganesh). (A/2021/C00062)

REAL ESTATE

PLOT REQUIRED

PLOTS REQUIRED: Hayathnagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Abdullapurmet, Amberpet, Munugur, Turkayamjal, Ragananaguda, Mangalpally, Torru, Koheda, Batasingaram, Brahmanapally, Injapur, Nadergul, Shamirpet, Pasumamula, Ramdasapally. Ph:9666660371 (HYCL/2021/C01364)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

✓ **MEDCHAL NH** Facing HMDA approved Commercial Complex suitable for Offices, Banquets, Retail, Hospitals, Clinics/Diagnostic, etc; 3rd and 4th floor available. Each floor area: 3600 Sft. Contact: 9000050360, 9014308136 (W/2021/AT000583)

FLATS

THREE AND MORE

TO-LET 2BHK flat 1131sft. With cupboards and 3BHK flat 1832sft. Fully furnished. Prithvi Gangra Vihar, behind Ombooks, Kompalli, Cell: 9959760194, 9014247413 (R/2021/C00002)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

1/2 BHK Flat Second Floor Independent House For Rent in Chikkadpally Only Vegetarians 13000/16000 Contact 9 4 9 1 8 8 5 1 8 0 (HYMM/2021/C03749)

LEASE

COMMERCIAL

LEASE/ RENT: Centrally located Bomma Venkanna building, Ashoknagar, Karimnagar. Ground floor/ First floor/ 2nd floor. Total 9000 sft (each 3000 sft) Suitable

for showrooms/ Banks/ Offices. Contact: 9849007740, 8328091118 (R/2021/C00003)

SITUATION VACANT

ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

WANTED DYNAMIC marketing agents, team leaders & Marketing managers M/F for A reputed company to market DTCP approved venture at srissailam highway facing near kadthal town & mysigandi temple, attractive commission +incentives will be given contact :KVNRF infra developers Veera nag towers Habsiguda main road, Habsiguda Hyderabad ph.8019817777, 9441822727 (HYMM/2021/C03653)

✓ **WANTED SALES** Coordinator on district wise basis for multilevel marketing company based at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, engaged in processed dry fruits, seeds, nutraceuticals and home hygienic products. Qualification: 8 to 10 years MLM marketing experience. Attractive salary with good commission. mail id: bvrganicsknl@gmail.com, Mobile : No.8688820408 (W/2021/AT000606)

ENGINEERS A WELL Experienced part time S.W.E in Data Analysis, Development Reporting (Cognos) and Business Objects (E.T.L Knowledge preparable) High Salary Ph: 9247902273, 040-29562274 (HYMM/2021/C03739)

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WANTED M/F Marketing Executives, Agents, Retired Employees, Housewives For Realstate Co. Full/ Part-time, Salary+ Commission Based, also Required Female Telecallers. Contact: 8688575151/ 6 3 0 9 6 0 3 2 1 7 (HYCL/2021/C01534)

BUSINESS OFFER

FAST GROWING ISO, Food Processing & Manufacturing Company at Hyderabad, looking for Sound Investors, must have capacity to invest 10-12 Crore. Contact: 7569693324. (S/2021/C01331)

CONSTRUCTION/FABRICATION

BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

✓ **WE UNDERTAKE** building construction works with Quality materials TATA steel,Ultratech cement, River sand, Vitrified Tiles, Asian paints, Teakwood Doors and Windows, branded electrical conduits, Branded sanitary fittings, with skilled manpower time bound construction.GHMC plan approvals @ 1400/-per sq ft. all over hyderabad. S P Road Marredpally. Call 9515346397 (W/2021/AT000588)

EDUCATIONAL

DISTANCE EDUCATION

✓ **ONLY FOR Educational Consultants/Academics.No Advance Fee. Students please no call. Contact for Verifiable + Fast Track :Graduation (15,000)/B.Ed.-M.Ed.-NCTE Recognised (30000)/BBA-MBA-BCA-MCA (20-25,000)/from Government University.WES Documentation & Attestation Support Available. 47-years Educational Experience. Shiksha Bharti,Varanasi.Mobile: 9519759663, 9915103781.Email: shikshabharti88@yahoo.com (HYMM/2021/C03649)**

EDUCATIONAL

✓ **EXAMS 2020**, Join Direct SSC/INTER, B.A.,B.Com, B.Ed.,B.Sc., BCA, B.Tech., M.A.,M.Com, M.Sc.,MBA,MCA Diploma Polytechnic. ANM/GNM/ DPT/BPT/ DMLT/BMLT/ X-Ray Technician/ Dental Technician/ MPH/PH.D. WES/QAS/ Applying. "Certificate Attestations For all Countries Possible". Ph:7981597599/ 7981598278. "LMRA INSTITUTIONS." (HYMM/2021/C03658)

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

CHRISTIAN

WWW.EASYCHRISTIANVIVAH.C

OM RS.365 for 365 Days, First, Second, Late & Urgent Marriages. Lakhs of People are seeing from India & Abroad, No Settlement Fees, Ph/Whatspp: 9440506441. (HYMM/2021/C03818)

COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDES WANTED. Cosmopolitan. 46yrs, 6feet Graduate, Businessman seprated looking for a understandable partner qualified below 40years with a good soul For a long term relationship. samar19742020@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C01577)

MUSLIM

ASM FAMILY invites alliance for their son 32 Years, 5'7", handsome, B.Tech, Software Engineer, Team Leader in MNC from Andhra/Rayalaseema families only. Contact: 96180-64754 (W/2021/AT000505)

GROOM WANTED

CHRISTIAN

FAIR& SLIM B.Tech MBA 5.3, 26, working ADP seeks Protestant born again believer, 27-30 post-graduate with good job. Whatsapp Photo & Biodata: 9490166468. (A/2021/C00356)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCE: www.ermusa.net for unmarried Telugu Christians in USA. Event on 28th Nov 2020. (HYCL/2021/C01445)

Chronicle

BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED / DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS at

KARIMNAGAR

H.No.1-21/12/1, Charlabhukur Road, Muggdampur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186

9000650508

e-mail: krmadv@deccanmail.com

9121183123

NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

Funds matter much in this name game

The BJP is wondering how to stop state governments renaming Central government-funded schemes after its leaders. N. Chandrababu Naidu started the trend, which has been kept up by the YSR government which is naming schemes after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy or his father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. The BJP cites the case of YSR Rythu Bharosa, offering ₹12,500 per head, of which ₹6,000 comes from the Centre's PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The Centre pays ₹10,000 per person under the PM Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi. It has been renamed Jagananna Thodu in AP, without any financial addition from the state government. The PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evan Utthaan Mahabhayan has been renamed locally. AP BJP senior leader S. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy asked the CM to fund the schemes on his own and name them after himself or his late father.

Naveen out, KCR's aide is top spy

TS Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu sprang a surprise on babudom by dumping senior cop Naveen Chand, who recently retired as Intelligence chief. This is a crucial post — the incumbent moves closely with the political boss. At a time when babus were expecting Naveen to continue in office in one form or the other even after his superannuation, the Chief Minister decided otherwise. His confidant and retired intelligence official Prabhakar Rao was asked to manage the show till a regular officer is found for the job. There may be no surprise if the ad-hoc arrangement continues. There is another version that Naveen was not very keen on staying in the job because Prabhakar Rao wielded more influence with KCR than him in intelligence matters.

Airbus needed for TD's jumbo panel

N. Chandrababu Naidu, a Congressman in his early days, has taken a leaf out of the party's book decades after leaving it. He recently announced the state executive committee with more than 200 leaders, something that has never happened in the TD. There are about 18 each of vice-presidents and general secretaries and 100-odd secretaries. It reminded everyone of the Congress culture in which everyone is a leader and the party has no cadre. Naidu's move left the leaders unhappy because they feel the sanctity of the post is lost. "As it is, we are in the Opposition and carry less weight. Having these many leaders leaves us in an awkward position," lamented a leader. "Naidu should have given us preference when in power," he said, reinforcing the criticism that Naidu doesn't believe in empowering the cadre with nominated posts while in power but remembers them only when out of power. "We need an Airbus to carry the state committee to the Mahanadu," quipped a leader.



TRS discusses margin in Dubbak

While victory appears certain for the TRS in the Dubbak bypoll, there is some post-election uncertainty over the margin. In the initial days, it was stated that the party would get a one-lakh vote majority over either the Congress or the BJP. In fact, the popular narrative was that everyone else would lose their deposits. Talk of the margin has now ebbed. Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav seemed to inadvertently express these concerns. Replying to a journalist, he said, albeit in a lighter vein, "The winner will be allowed to enter the Assembly even if she wins by a margin of one vote." This reflects the mood, a party leader said. The answer will be available by noon on November 12.



REGION

SHORT TAKES

FILM SHOOT CANCELLATIONS COST JOBS: CM

From page 1

Due to the cancellation of shootings and closure of theatres, they had lost their means of livelihood.

He noted that the recovery rate of Coronavirus cases in the state is at 91.88 per cent and said film-related activity could resume.

With regard to the film city, he said that plots would be allocated to film production companies to set up studios with state-of-the-art technologies.

A provision will be created at the film city for an airstrip and for other facilities.

Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna told the CM that shootings had resumed following permissions given by the government and theatres would be open shortly.

CORPORATORS POCKETED ₹500 CR: BJP

From page 1

BJP leaders alleged that most of the ₹500 crore released by the state government went into the pockets of the TRS corporators and this has caused a lot of heartburn among the victims.

Sources said that the party had decided to take these irregularities to the public and explore possibilities of initiating criminal action in this regard.

Sources said the BJP would be concentrating its fire on the TRS and MIM as the Congress had almost lost its foothold in the city.

Sources disclosed that the leaders exuded confidence of winning the Dubbak Assembly seat.

● **SOURCES SAID** that the party had decided to take these irregularities to the public and explore possibilities of initiating criminal action in this regard.

Land to Shankar was conditional, HC told

Telangana says director had assured investment

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

The state government told the Telangana High Court said five acres of land had been allotted to film director N. Shankar at Mokila village at ₹5 per acre on the basis of certain assurances provided by him.

Replying to questions posed by the court, Arvind Kumar, principal secretary, municipal administration, said Shankar was a well-known director from the state with 36 years of experience in the film industry. The land was allotted to him only on basis of his assurance that he will invest nearly ₹50 crore to set up a world-class film studio and training institute.

The government and Shankar filed the affidavits

● **WITH REGARD** to the apprehension that land worth around ₹5 crores per acre had been given to the director for ₹5 lakh, the government said that registered valuation was ₹20 lakhs per acre. It said that land along the Mokila main road was valued at ₹2 crore, but the land to Shankar was 2 km to the interior.

on a PIL which has challenged the allotment of the parcel of land. The PIL is coming up for hearing on November 18.

The government said that Shankar had committed to providing regular employment to 100 people and temporary employment to another 100, apart from recruiting cine workers. The government submitted that Shankar had already

deposited ₹4.40 crore to invest in the land as per his commitment.

With regard to the apprehension that land worth around ₹5 crores per acre had been given to the director for ₹5 lakh, the government said that registered valuation was ₹20 lakhs per acre. It said that land along the Mokila main road was valued at ₹2 crore, but the land to Shankar was 2 km to the interior.

In a separate affidavit, Shankar submitted to the court that he had not used his popularity or his local origins to get the land from the TS government. The then undivided AP government had agreed to give him the land in 2012, but it did not materialise. After the state formation, the government had allotted the land, he told the court.

Thanksgiving a low-key affair this yr

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 7

It's Thanksgiving Sunday, and churches across the state are gearing up for celebrating one of the more important days in their annual calendar, even as the devout and the faithful on their part, prepare to take part in this annual harvest festival.

While in the United States of America, where it emerged as a major celebration, Thanksgiving is marked with sumptuous turkey dinners, it is celebrated a little differently here.

Typically, on Thanksgiving Sunday, members bring a portion of their harvest, including fruit, crops or sheep and goat, and donate them to the churches, while some donate part of their salaries. The amount collected by the churches through cash donations or auction of the harvest offerings is used for charitable activities of the respective churches.

This year, the churches are keeping Thanksgiving celebrations low-key because of the prevalence of Covid-19. One of the standard fixtures during these celebrations, setting up of stalls, will not be there.

Natish Prem Kumar, a regular at these celebrations and who every year sets up one such stall, said "Many people donate fruits and vegetables to the church, which are then auctioned with the proceeds going to the church. This year, this activity has been suspended due to the pandemic precautions."

M.A. Daniel, Resident Bishop of Hyderabad Regional Conference (HRC), said the second Sunday of November is marked as Thanksgiving or Harvest Sunday. Around 300 churches in the HRC will celebrate the event. "This is an expression of love and gratitude to God," he said.

Samuel Prabhu Kiran Gattu of Millennium Methodist Church in SD

Road, Secunderabad, said, "From the days of my grandparents, our family has been encouraged to take part wholeheartedly in the celebrations and thank God for the blessings he has showered on us."

Medak Cathedral is celebrating its Harvest Festival on Sunday. "Many non-Christians also take part in this festival."

The whole church is decorated with vegetables and fruits, which are donated by a Hindu fruit and vegetable wholesaler. Some bring sheep, some bring vegetables and fruits from their farms," Rev. Andrews Prem Sukumar, Presbytery in-charge of Medak Cathedral, told DC.

Wesley Church at Ramkote, which has a membership of thousands of families, has extended the Thanksgiving Sunday for the subsequent three Sundays, to avoid large crowds on November 8, as a part of Covid-19 precaution, Rev U. Daniel of the church said.

KTR'S POST GETS MAJOR SUPPORT

From page 1

Rama Rao's post has already garnered major support for the idea of bringing the double-deckers back, and several people recalled their memories from over 15 years ago.

A Twitter user said, "I have the same memory of double-decker bus from St. George's Grammar School. Though I used to travel in an auto (rickshaw), my first picnic from the school was to the zoo and they took us in a double-decker bus, my only ride in a double-decker."

Another user, supporting the idea, added, "It will give an amazing look to the city... London, Dubai also have double-decker buses. Looking (at the city) from these buses is just amazing. Please bring them back in their modern avatar."

The buses were discontinued about 15 years ago due to operational costs, according to Venkateshwarlu, TSRTC executive director. He said that running the double-deckers was not economically viable when compared to the regular buses. Nearly 100 double-decker buses were operational earlier, he added.

PSLV launch put off by nine minutes

From page 1

After hectic deliberations, the scientists led by Dr K. Sivan, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and senior scientists S. Somanath and P. Kunhikrishnan decided to postpone the launch by nine minutes. The countdown resumed, and the rocket, designated PSLV-C49, blasted off at 3.11 pm instead of the scheduled 3.02 pm.

After 15 minutes and 20 seconds, EOS-01 was injected into its orbit. Subsequently, nine commercial satellites were released into their intended orbits.

After separation, the two solar arrays of EOS-01 were deployed automatically and the ISRO Telemetry and Command Network at Bengaluru assumed control of the satellite.

In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration. "PSLV-C49 successfully placed all ten satellites precisely into their 575-km orbit," Dr Sivan declared and congratulated the launch vehicle and satellite

● **ISRO TOOK** almost three months for the launch of Saturday's mission due to the Covid-19 regulations which mandated use of limited manpower.

teams for rising to the occasion amidst the Covid-19 restrictions.

EOS-01, earlier known as RISAT-2BR2, is an earth observation satellite intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. The international satellites — one from Lithuania, four each from Luxembourg and the USA — were launched under commercial agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), department of space.

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

ISRO used the PSLV-DL variant, which has two strap-on boosters

with 12 tonnes of propellant, for the mission. This variant was first used to launch a Microsat-R satellite on January 24, 2019.

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

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

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

In view of the Covid-19 guidelines, former chairmen of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and directors of various ISRO units were not invited to witness the launch.

NEET qualifiers await AP's merit list

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 7

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

Several students who have secured All India ranks will have to opt for their college for admission into MBBS / dental when Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) holds its second counselling from November 13 to 18. Once they exercise this option,

they will not be able to change their option. If the aspirants know that they have got a better rank at the state level, they will exercise the choice for a better college on the basis of their state rank rather than their nation-wide rank.

Though neighbouring Telangana has already announced its state merit list on November 1, NTR University has not yet issued a notification asking candidates to submit their details for counselling. The reason for this is said to be AP High Court's order from the last academic

year when trouble broke out pertaining to counselling process for admission to NEET PG.

The HC had then directed the state government to work out modalities for conducting counselling, which would not lead to mistakes again. Based on it, university authorities are eagerly awaiting issue of G. O. by the state government.

Sources privy to these developments say though the Department of Higher Education has taken up the issue with Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney underlining

the urgency of conducting counselling for MBBS/BDS courses, there seems to be some delay. Authorities at NTR University maintain that once the GO is issued for conduct of counselling, it will take them two weeks to prepare the state merit list and announce it. This is because they will have to seek applications from students to submit their details, verify the details, and then prepare the merit list keeping in mind reservations pertaining to OC, BC, SC, ST, local and non-local categories.

IN BRIEF

STAN SWAMY
SEEKS COURT NOD
TO USE SIPPER

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 7

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVE COVID
CASES STAY
BELOW 6 LAKH

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

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

A total of 78,19,886 people have recuperated from Covid-19 so far pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further declined to 1.48 per cent.

The number of active cases of Covid-19 remained below 6 lakh for the ninth consecutive day.

There are 5,16,632 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 6.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

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

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 11,65,42,304 samples have been tested up to November 6 with 11,13,209samples being tested on Friday.

The 577 new fatalities include 161 from Maharashtra, 64 from Delhi, 55 from West Bengal, 52 from Chhattisgarh, 35 from Karnataka, and 27 each from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Total 1,25,562 deaths reported so far in the country include 44,965 from Maharashtra, 11,347 from Karnataka, 11,299 from Tamil Nadu, 7,177 from West Bengal, 7,155 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,833 from Delhi, 6,768 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,295 from Punjab, and 3,748 from Gujarat. The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

“Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research,” the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification.

SHIVRAJ SAYS
NATH WOING
BJP MLAS

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPLA, NOV. 7

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

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

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

As many as 22 Congress lawmakers resigned from the assembly and subsequently from their party in March to pull down the Nath government.

Shivraj said Mr Nath first took the step to woo 2 BJP MLAs into his party after Congress came to power in the state in 2018. “Mr Nath has introduced the culture of horse trading in MP by wooing 2 BJP MLAs. He is now accusing BJP of trading MLAs”, he added.

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

‘Valley has less than
200 militants now’

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 7

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are extremely optimistic that 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 Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

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.

Intelligence inputs had revealed that 250-300 militants were waiting at the various launchpads close to the Line of Control and International Border along with Pakistan. Following this security forces had further strengthen their three-tier anti-infiltration grid.

Senior security officials claimed successfully checking infiltration will have a direct impact on the Kashmir security situation as militants here were facing sever shortage of both men and material. “The total number of active militants in

the Kashmir Valley is now less than 200. We are confident now that no reinforcements are coming from across the border we will launch a fresh operation to eliminate the remaining active militants in the region,” the official added.

Top security sources have confirmed that in the past two months despite more than 20 infiltration attempts not a single attempt was successful. “Any attempt to push militants into India from across the border have failed completely due to the pro-active surveillance undertaken by the Army along with BSF, CRPF and the local police,” a senior security official said.

What is even more significant is that despite Pakistan Army deploying its Border Action teams (BAT) which helps facilitate infiltration by militants has also failed completely in its attempts this winter season. This is largely on account of the new surveillance and patrolling strategies adopted. In the past Pak Army’s BAT has been involved in targeted attacks on Indian security personnel.

J&K ALLIANCE
TO CONTEST
LOCAL POLLS

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 7

The recently formed alliance of Jammu and Kashmir’s regional opposition parties and their allies from the national Left parties has decided to contest the elections for the District Development Councils and vacant seats of Panchayats in the Union Territory (UT) unitedly.

After holding day-long deliberations at the residence of its president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah in Jammu on Saturday, the ‘People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD)’ spokesman Sajad Gani Lone said that all seven member parties will unitedly fight these elections.

He said, “The PAGD has unanimously decided to fight the DDC elections unitedly. Despite the abruptness of the DDC elections in terms of timing it is important that this sacred space in democracy is not allowed to be invaded and marauded by divisive forces”.

The J&K administration had announced to hold the first ever DDC elections in eight phases from last week of November.

TOUGH | TALK Abdullah wants J&K’s special status restored

Raut tells Farooq to go to Pak

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 7

Shiv Sena on Saturday slammed former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah saying Article 370 has no place in India and he can go to Pakistan and implement it there. “If Farooq Abdullah wants, he can go to Pakistan and implement Article 370 there. In India, there is no place for Article 370 and 35A,” Sanjay Raut said.

Mr Abdullah, speaking in a rally on November 6, had

● Mr Abdullah, also the president of the NC, was recently appointed as the chairman of the just floated Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration.

vowed to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. “I will not die until the constitutional rights of my people are given back.... I am here to do something for the people and the day I will finish my work, I will leave this world,” he said.

Article 370 had granted a

special status to Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Narendra Modi-led BJP government had abrogated law in August 2019 and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

Mr Abdullah, also the president of the National Conference, was recently appointed as the chairman of the just floated Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti is his deputy. The alliance’s objective is to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Sena few days back had also opposed the BJP over the recent decision of permitting people across the country to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Raut, in his weekly column in party’s mouthpiece *Saamna*, said that some days ago, the police stopped the youths who had gone to Srinagar’s Lal Chowk to hoist tricolor. “If we can’t hoist our national flag on that land, then what is the fun to invite countrymen for buying land in Jammu and Kashmir,” he asked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Similarly, Pappu Yadav’s JAP is also likely to make the contest tough for NDA and the Grand Alliance in



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

- PTI

the Kosi region where Yadavs and Backwards are the deciding factors. Pappu Yadav contested from Madhepura.

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

Casting of votes began at 7 am at all 33,782 polling stations where as many EVM sets and VVPAT machines were installed and paramilitary forces deployed to maintain order, officials said.

In 2015 polls, the JD(U) as part of the Grand Alliance

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

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

Other Central leaders of the BJP who toured Bihar for campaigning were party’s national president J.P. Nadda, defence minister Rajnath Singh, MOS

home Nityanand Rai, Union ministers Giriraj Singh and Ashwini Choubey.

In all the three phases the BJP took the campaign beyond local issues by speaking about the abrogation of Article 370 and Pakistan-backed terror. Mr Adityanath took up Ram Temple in Ayodhya and triple talaq and while addressing rallies. He had created a flutter by bringing up the CAA and NRC issue while campaigning in Seemanchal ahead of the third phase of polls.

Meanwhile, the younger brother of jailed criminal Bittu Singh, wanted in more than a dozen murder and extortion cases, was shot dead on Saturday near a polling booth in the

district when he was going to cast the ballot, police said.

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

He said the assailant pumped eight bullets in Beni Singhs body and fled from the spot.

Beni Singh was killed barely 100 meters of a polling booth near his home when he was going to cast his vote, the police said.

Locals and Singhs relative created a ruckus after the incident following which the SP and other officials reached the spot to pacify them.

Bombay HC issues notices to Maha,
Mumbai CP in TRP scan case

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 7

The Bombay High Court on Saturday asked the state government and Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh to reply a plea filed by Hansa Research Group Pvt Ltd, the complainant in the television rating points (TRP) scam, alleging harassment by the police.

The petition filed by the company and three of its senior officials alleged that the city police was conducting the probe in an illegal and highly objectionable manner.

The petition claimed that the company’s officials were being harassed and coerced into making false statements against a particular news channel and sought for the probe to be transferred to the CBI.

The petition has named assistant police inspector Sachin Waze and assistant commissioner of police Shashank Sandbhor as the ones who were harassing them.

On Saturday, advocate Devadutt Kamat, appearing for the government, Param Bir Singh and the two police officers, refuted the allegations and said the petitioners are being called for questioning only when required.

He further told the court that investigation in the case is still on and certain material has also come to the fore against the petitioners.

The bench, however, noted that since the petitioners are complainant in the case, they should not be called to the police station without any reason.

“They are the complainant and not the accused in the case. We are not saying stop the investigation, but call them only when required and on specific days and for reasonable time,” Justice Shinde said.

Mr Kamat agreed and told the court that the petitioners would be called for questioning twice a week for a reasonable time.

The bench then posted the petition for further hearing on November 25 and directed the respondents (the gov-

● Hansa Research Group had lodged a complaint against its employee Vishal Bhandari on October 6 after he was found allegedly accepting payments illegally to make certain households watch specific TV channels, allegedly to fudge TV TRP ratings.

● Ten arrests have been made so far, including those of former employees of the company.

● The police, after preliminary inquiry, had claimed that two local regional channels and Republic TV was also involved in the scam.

ernment, Param Bir Singh, Sachin Waze and Shashank Sandbhor) to file their affidavits.

The petitioner’s advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan argued that the police were pressurising the petitioners to implicate certain news channels.

“The police were repeatedly coercing the petitioners to make false and incorrect statements. When the petitioners expressed inability to do so, they were threatened by the police saying they would be booked in the same offence and placed under arrest,” the petition said.

The company claimed that their senior officials are being harassed by the city police, which calls them for recording of statement at odd hours and then detaining them in the Crime Branch office for long hours and threatening that they would be placed under arrest.

“There has been a constant threat by the police that the petitioners would be arrested for conniving and being hand in gloves with *Republic TV*,” the petition said.

It also sought a stay on the investigation being conducted by the city police in the case and a direction to not take any coercive steps against the petitioners.

The plea claimed that the FIR was registered on

HC reserves order
on Arnab’s bail plea

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 7

The Bombay High Court on Saturday reserved its order on *Republic TV* Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami’s interim bail plea.

When his lawyer Harish Salve insisted that an ad-interim relief be granted, the court said it will reserve orders and will pronounce them some day in the coming week.

The division bench assured that the court will pronounce the order as early as possible.

Meanwhile, the HC said Mr Goswami can move the sessions court for regular bail in the meantime.

The bench clarified that the pendency of the case in the High Court will not be an impediment for the petitioners to seek regular bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the concerned court. If such an application is made, the court ordered, the same should be decided by the concerned court within four days of the filing.

After hearing arguments from all sides for more than six hours, the division

October 6, 2020 and since then the police has been harassing the petitioner company and its officials, asking them to make false and incorrect statements.

“Later, media reports quoting the police said that preliminary forensic audit report has revealed suspicious transaction of Rs 32 lakh between the petitioner company and *Republic TV*. The petitioner has no dealing with *Republic TV* directly,” the petition claimed.

“The petitioner’s group company Hansa Vision had a transaction with *Republic TV* in 2017. There has been no dealing in the year 2018 and 2019,” it added.

The petition claimed that the company and its offi-

SOVAN TO PLAY
ACTIVE ROLE IN
BJP AHEAD OF
WB ELECTIONS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 7

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

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

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

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

On Mr Shah he said, “He wanted to know the situation. I tried to explain the issues to him. He tried to understand them during our exchange of opinion.”

bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik said, “We will pass the order at the earliest. The pendency of this matter does not preclude you (Goswami) or the other accused from approaching the concerned lower court seeking regular bail.”

The high court was hearing petitions filed by Goswami, a high-profile TV journalist, and two other accused – Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sarda – seeking interim bail and challenging their “illegal arrest”.

The trio were arrested by Alibaug police in Maharashtra’s Raigad district on November 4 in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by the accused’s respective firms. The petitions also sought a stay to the investigation and quashing of the FIR.

The HC, meanwhile, also sought response from the state government on a petition filed by Anvay Naik’s daughter Adnya Naik seeking a fresh probe by an independent agency.

It will be heard on December 8.

cials are suffering collateral damage as they are being used by the police to fight their battle against certain sections of the media.

Hansa Research Group had lodged a complaint against its employee Vishal Bhandari on October 6 after he was found allegedly accepting payments illegally to make certain households watch specific TV channels, allegedly to fudge TV TRP ratings.

Ten arrests have been made so far, including those of former employees of the company.

The police, after preliminary inquiry, had claimed that two local regional channels and *Republic TV* was also involved in the scam.



DECCAN Chronicle

8 NOVEMBER 2020



Shashi Warriar

Off the beaten track

Plotting a son-rise on shifting sands

Lying in bed at night at home by Someshwar beach, it's hard to believe that the economy has slowed down. The quiet is broken by the roar of diesel engines as trucks carry sand away from the beach. It's all illegal, this sand mining, but it goes on through the night and most of the day despite recent headlines in a newspaper claiming that the Mangalore police have cracked down on it.

Complaints to the local police had unexpected consequences. They brought a visitation from a gangster — a minor gangster, but big enough to deter senior citizens — who was recently released from prison after serving a sentence for murder. That was the end of the complaints.

I considered going higher up, to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, but then that's time-consuming and useless. I went to the DC a couple of years ago with a complaint about the local panchayat breaking all sorts of rules for friends and relatives. After a dozen calls, four visits to his office and six hours of waiting, I got three minutes in the presence of the man to explain these troubles. A month later, there was a letter from his office saying that my complaint had been transferred to the local authorities, who would get back to me. They never did: it was like asking a burglar to investigate her own crimes.

At my wits' end, I thought I'd wait for my friend Murthy, the one with the contacts in high places, to visit. Thanks to the lockdown, he's been in these parts for some months, and drops in once in a while to drink my most expensive whiskey. The least he could do in return, I thought, was to get some high-up to stop the sand mining, which is destroying what's left of the beach after the sea is done with it.

Murthy turned up one weekend. My wife, being aware of his habits, went off to watch TV, leaving the two of us to ourselves. I still haven't figured out how he managed to swallow, with no sign of haste, two large pegs of scotch, without giving me a chance to edge a word into the conversation. But then he bit into a samosa that was a little too spicy for him and had to shut up for a moment to let his tongue cool off and I grabbed the opportunity to present my case.

You have to hand it to the man. I gabbed my problems in the thirty seconds or so that it took him to recover, and he grasped it all. "So now you want me to see whether I can persuade some big shot to stop this illegal sand mining, someone with enough clout to avoid interference from local gangsters or officials or both." "Yes," I responded, and sat back to receive the flood of the rest of his monologue.

As he left that night, he paused at the door of his cab, an anonymous white hatchback, very unlike the Mercedes in which he made his first visit to my house. "I'm not sure it'll work," he said. "No one else wants this to stop."

"What do you mean?" I asked. "A few people here, a hundred voters, maybe, want the mining to stop," he replied. "Thousands of others, voters for whom the sand means business, or work, or hope, will want it to continue."

"The whole beach and the township will be gone in twenty years," I said. "Name one leader who looks beyond the next elections," he told me. "Twenty years is long past any politician's horizon. Five years is the absolute maximum."

He dropped in again just three days later. My hopes rose when he walked in, but fell again when he started talking. For the first time in my experience, he seemed chastened, apologetic, and even humble. "What happened?" I asked.

"I blew it," he said, with uncharacteristic directness. "One of these VIPs invited me home a couple of days ago. He told me that his security level had just been upgraded, so he's got an armed guard now. His teenage son wanted to borrow the guard's pistol to shoot at coconuts on a palm, and the bodyguard refused to hand it over. The VIP was chewing out the bodyguard when I got to his place, and eventually the bodyguard had to submit. After the boy went out, weapon in hand, the VIP turned to me, smiled, and said, 'Boys will be boys. I was just like that at his age.' He was in a good mood, for he then asked, 'What can I do for you?'"

"I told him about the sand mining and the beach disappearing and so on, and he seemed to be thinking about it. I should have shut up then but instead I told him you were afraid your township would disappear under the waves in twenty years."

"His face lit up. 'Does that mean that fifteen years from now we'll build a sea wall there?' he asked. I told him yes, and he smiled happily. 'Elections are a part of politics,' he said, 'and you get used to winning about half the time. The important thing is your first election. If you win that, you're doing fine. Building a sea wall there after some years will fund my son's first election. So tell your friend not to worry. We'll build him a sea wall to keep his house safe.'

I didn't know what to say, so I got up to fetch Murthy a whiskey. He read my mind, for he said, "I can't stay for a drink. I've got to move on."

"Where?" I asked, surprised. "Back to that VIP. It's the son's birthday today, and he's having a party... I'll get my scotch there."

Shashi Warriar has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.

Subhani



Biden takes high road, Trumpism is still alive



K.C. Singh

America's presidential election on November 3 took pollsters, Democrats and the world by surprise when the early results showed President Donald Trump leading in most swing states, including in the so-called Democratic "Blue Wall" states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. Mr Trump had snatched these Rust Belt states from the Democrats in 2016, and their 46 Electoral College votes secured Mr Trump's victory four years ago.

Former vice-president Joe Biden told his party that as someone born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he could reclaim the wall by bonding with the alienated working class, who had defected to Mr Trump, who in 2016 played on the twin fears of these people. One, deindustrialisation caused by the 1970s' oil price rise, and then globalisation that stretched supply chains worldwide. China's manufacturing prowess after joining the World Trade Organisation in 2001 turned global trade upside down. China built huge trade surpluses, while the US expended money on two costly wars abroad. Mr Trump exploited these fears and xenophobia under his "America First" slogan.

The power of his message is clear despite Mr Biden flipping Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and, more significantly, Georgia after three decades of Republican dominance. Of the 150 million votes cast, the heaviest ever, Mr Trump has under half. It signals a deeply divided nation, with one half wedded to a divisive, racist and exclusionist vision. Recounting looms in Georgia, as the voting gap is within the 0.5 per cent difference mandated as a pre-condition. In Pennsylvania, carrying which will take Mr Biden across the 270 mark to victory, with each group of mail-in ballots counted Mr Biden's lead increases. The main news networks, however, haven't yet called the election as the uncounted votes exceed Mr Biden's lead.

This argument doesn't

wash as Republicans have done well to keep Senate control and Mr Trump's votes exceed his 2016 tally. Mr Biden simply got more votes, breaking existing records. In a similar situation in 2016, Hillary Clinton was advised by then President Barack Obama to concede to avoid uncertainty. But Mr Trump has no adviser with the gravitas of James Baker, who convinced a cornered Richard Nixon that his only good option was to resign after the Watergate scandal. Mr Trump seems to think he can reel-back Arizona, where he's cutting Mr Biden's lead, see a turnaround in Pennsylvania as more votes are counted and keep Georgia logjammed in recounts or legal challenges. A protracted stand-off, he hopes, can somehow retrieve the situation, maybe by going to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, even senior Republican leaders fear speaking the truth to Mr Trump as they can see his mesmerising grip on a huge electoral base, which many senators have just enashed.

After waiting unsuccessfully for the election to be called, Joe Biden finally addressed the nation. He chose the high road, promising to heal divides, promising to deal with the economy, climate change and the pandemic. He recommended patience, and unlike Mr Trump endorsed the integrity of the electoral process.

He assumed the posture of de facto winner by promising to again address the nation the following day. Slowly, senior Republicans are moving away from solidly backing

Mr Trump in his unconstitutional statements and unbecoming conduct. If Mr Biden widens his Pennsylvania lead to where it is seen as irreversible and the election is called, the wind may leak out of Trumpian bravado. A Biden presidency appears inevitable.

All nations are observing silently the high theatre in world's most powerful democracy. A senior BJP leader has written, as head of a party-linked think tank, to indirectly convey the government's thinking. He incorrectly claims no Republican President lost reelection in a century, forgetting George H.W. Bush's loss to Bill Clinton in 1992. Naturally, he ignores the "Abki baar" slogan Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised in Houston, crossing the line between personal friendship and political endorsement of Mr Trump. He now avows permanence of interests and not friends as the guiding principle.

A Biden presidency means both continuity and change. The basic trajectory of India-US relations will continue, but its momentum will be conditioned by how Mr Biden handles China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Trade ties would not be treated as Mr Trump did by seeking make-or-break solutions. Climate change provides a new area of convergence, which Mr Trump contemptuously ignored. But the Democrats would hold India to a higher standard of liberal democracy than the government in New Delhi is used to. Kamala Harris will remember the insulting treatment of her comrade Pramila Jayapal, convincingly re-elected, by external affairs minister S. Jaishankar. India has an outstanding ambassador in Washington, on a third posting there, having relationships with both sides. But then, as the BJP ideologue wrote, interests can outrank kinship or friendship.

The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.

The basic trajectory of India-US relations will continue, but its momentum will be conditioned by how Mr Biden handles China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran

LETTERS

POLICE ACTION

It is extremely unfortunate that cops are behaving like this (Cop assaults, abuses DC photographer on duty, DC, Nov. 7). It only reflects on their poor training to act in a professional manner. The fact that he disregarded the media accreditation card clearly shows that he is not bothered to follow procedures. One can imagine the plight of ordinary citizens if a reputed newspaper photographer is facing such excesses by law enforcement officials.

Kumar Shastri
Hyderabad

DATA CENTRES

Amazon setting up its data centres in Hyderabad is good news for Telangana state (Amazon to set up data centres in Hyderabad, DC, Nov. 7). It will create great an impetus for employment generation in a direct and indirect manner. Kudos to the state government for taking the lead in attracting FDI.

P.R. Ravinder
Hyderabad

INTERNET EDUCATION

Internet education has several advantages. The disadvantage of crowded classrooms (including backbenchers) is nullified. Almost zero disturbances. If required, class can be recorded and revised. Every student can see board notes and hear clearly. Their doubts can be clarified by teachers by chatting or on Whatsapp. Internet education cannot be compared to destructive habits on gadgets. In the long run, it becomes inexpensive. Students spend more time on gadgets for other activities.

P.N. Sreelekha
Secunderabad

ARNAB'S ARREST

It is a fact that not all arrests of high-profile individuals are motivated to bring a culprit to book. Arrests are sometimes made for personal vendetta against inconvenient opponents. This is like politicians breaking alliances for personal gain disregarding long standing ideological alliances.

K. Srinivasa Charyulu
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

State to seek more aid for Pochampad

BY A STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD, November 7
The State Government would ask the Centre to provide additional funds to meet the expenditure on Pochampad Project.

A minimum amount of six crore rupees is required this year to complete the target of work on Pochampad Project.

This, an official spokesman said, was in addition to the allotments already made for the year. "We are short of funds and unless the funds are augmented, it is difficult to achieve the target," the spokesman said.

He said that the State's finances were tied up with committed expenditure and it was not possible to divert funds from any other schemes for Pochampad. He also said that the Government was trying to get some amount for the project from the Telangana Regional Committee. The spokesman said that Mr. R. V. Raman, programme adviser to the Planning Commission, headed the Central team of officials to inspect the flood damage in the City.

Aakar Patel



Amid new dawn in the US, India may now have to work differently

An American from Chennai won re-election this past week. Her name is Pramila Jayapal and she heads the Congressional Progressive Caucus. A few months ago, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar cancelled a meeting with the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, which included its Republican chairman and Democratic members. Mr Jaishankar refused to meet them because the group included Pramila Jayapal, who had pushed a resolution demanding that India end the communications blackout in Kashmir. Mr Jaishankar told the Americans that he would meet them only if they dropped Ms Jayapal from the group. Of course, the Americans refused.

Mr Jaishankar is paid by us to defend India abroad but chose instead to duck the meeting as it would involve a difficult conversation or perhaps he was just afraid of a confrontation. After his running away was widely reported in the American media, Senator Kamala Harris of California had tweeted: "It's wrong for any foreign government to tell Congress what members are allowed in meetings on Capitol Hill."

Mr Jaishankar felt he could afford to do this as the US administration was headed by Republican Donald Trump, who doesn't care about human rights. It will not be possible for Mr Jaishankar to do what he did in December 2019 again. The BJP has invested a lot in doing what no other Indian government has done before — meddle in the US elections and try and get Mr Trump elected again. A group called the "Overseas Friends of the BJP" had registered itself officially as a foreign agent in the US in September. After this was discovered, the party instructed these Indian Americans to help Mr Trump in their "personal capacity" and to not use the BJP's name, but it is clear that they are all BJP supporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself asked Indians in the US to vote for Mr Trump at the "Howdy Modi" rally in September 2019. Or at least that is one interpretation we can give to his line "Ab ki baar Trump sarkar". What happens now that Mr Trump is on his way out? The BJP has begun backpedalling from its recklessness. It trotted out in-house intellectual Ram Madhav to write a newspaper arti-

cle on Saturday that "US-India ties stand on a bipartisan and strong footing". Mr Madhav wrote: "Some in India believe Biden-Harris would be bad news for US-India relations."

Actually, nobody believes that. Mr Madhav is confusing the BJP with India. There is no question that US India relations run deep and at times there is a civilisational connect between the two nations. This is not such a time. India has taken a turn towards majoritarianism. The Indian State is bullying and harassing its own citizens at a scale which has alarmed the world. Pramila Jayapal and Kamala Harris did not casually take up the issues they chose to. They will not stop taking them up now as the previously partisan BJP now pleads for bipartisan support. Events in America have strengthened the hand of those leaders there who wish India well but think of India as being a collection of Indians. If Indians are mistreated, they will object. The Democratic Party fought this election on a very liberal platform. On the question of human rights, the most powerful message they were aligned with was Black Lives

Matter. This part of the Democratic Party (which includes Ms Jayapal) has become stronger inside because of the success of the human rights messaging.

Most Indians may not know that in April India was earmarked as a "Country of Particular Concern" by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Its report said that "India took a sharp downward turn in 2019" because the Modi government "instituted national-level policies violating religious freedom across India, especially for Muslims". It said of the Citizenship Amendment Act that "this law is meant to provide protection for listed non-Muslim religious communities — but not for Muslims — against exclusion from a nationwide National Register of Citizens and the resulting detention, deportation, and potential statelessness". It said India had seen "nationwide campaigns of harassment and violence against religious minorities to continue with impunity, and engaged in and tolerated hate speech and incitement to violence against them". It names home minister Amit Shah and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath and reproduces their state-

ments. Most important, it has recommended that the US administration act and impose "targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/or barring their entry into the United States under human rights-related financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations". India was able to ignore this till now because Mr Trump was running the administration and he was the one who would decide. India put out a statement that said: "We reject the observations on India in the USCIRF annual report. Its biased and tendentious comments against India are not new. But, on this occasion, its misrepresentation has reached new levels." This was also a form of running away. If you think you are friends with America, you have to convince them that their findings are wrong. Refusing to engage with them is not a solution. It worked when Mr Trump was in charge. It will not work now.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

IN BRIEF

WH CHIEF OF STAFF TESTS VIRUS +VE

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

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

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

BORIS HAILS DIWALI SPIRIT OF VICTORY

London, Nov. 7: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the Diwali spirit of the victory of light over darkness and good over evil as he delivered a message of optimism about overcoming the Coronavirus pandemic for a first-of-its-kind virtual Diwali festival this weekend. Johnson appealed for a “huge collective effort” as England entered its second stay-at-home lockdown earlier this week, to last at least until December 2, in order to curb a surge in coronavirus infections across the country.

“While undoubtedly there are huge challenges ahead, I have every confidence in the resilience and resolve and good sense of people across the country and that together we will overcome this virus, just as Diwali teaches us that light triumphs over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance,” said Johnson.

RAPPER KING VON KILLED IN ATLANTA

Atlanta, Nov. 7: Chicago rapper King Von was among three people shot and killed in a shooting early Friday outside a nightclub in Atlanta that also left three people wounded, state investigators said.

“The preliminary investigation indicates that Dayvon Bennett, aka King Von, and a group of men left the Opium Nightclub and went to the Monaco Hookah Lounge,” the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said in a statement. “Once there, two men approached the group in the parking lot, and the two groups of men started to argue with each other. The argument quickly escalated to gunfire between the two groups.” The GBI said on- and off-duty Atlanta police officers responded and one of each fired shots. “During the shooting incident, six men were shot during the group altercation and officer encounter.”

INDIAN ELECTED TO UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

The victory comes as India gets ready to sit in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for a two-year term beginning January 2021. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said that Maitra was elected on Friday to the UN ACABQ “in a strong display of support by UN member states.”

He expressed confidence that Maitra “will bring an independent, objective and much-needed gender-balanced perspective to the functioning of ACABQ”.

Is Murdoch dumping Trump?

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

New York, Nov. 7: Fox News and the New York Post, magnate Rupert Murdoch's main media outlets, have started distancing themselves from Donald Trump as the US election vote counting drama drags on — a first since the president came to power and a potential turning point.

On Thursday night in Phoenix, Arizona, supporters of Trump bluntly shouted “Fox News Sucks” in reference to the news outfit considered fiercely loyal to the president for the past five years. Fox News infuriated Trump and his people on election night by calling Arizona for Democrat Joe Biden.

Jared Kushner, Trump's advisor and son in law, called Murdoch in vain to try to get that call retracted. Other media held off from calling the battleground state for Biden as the tallying of ballots continued.

Since that night, Fox News has stepped very carefully around allegations of massive vote fraud coming from the Trump campaign and the man himself.

“We just haven't seen it. It hasn't been presented to us,” Fox News anchor Brett Baier said on the air Friday.

So people are asking if Fox News, which helped bring Trump to power in 2016, is in the process of dumping him as Biden closes in on the magic number of 270 electoral votes that would win him the White House.

DePauw University com-

munications professor Jeffrey McCall said Fox News has always had a twin identity — on one hand, star anchors who are more editorialists than journalists and on the other a newsroom that is much more measured. Some Fox journalists, such as Chris Wallace, who was the moderator at the first Trump-Biden debate, are very well respected professionals.

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

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

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

—AFP

AMERICA, I'M honoured that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead will be hard, but I promise: I will be a President for all Americans — whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you placed in me

JOE BIDEN, President-elect

I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT! Bad things took place during those hours where LEGAL TRANSPARENCY was viciously & crudely not allowed. Windows were covered with thick cardboard so observers could not see into the count rooms.

DONALD TRUMP, outgoing Prez

Don rages at ‘bad things’ inside counting rooms

Washington, Nov. 7: Donald Trump on Saturday declared himself as the winner of the November 3 presidential election, even as major American media outlets projected his Democratic rival Joe Biden as next president of the United States. “I WON THIS ELECTION, BY A LOT!”

Trump as major American media outlets declared that he has lost the election and Biden would be the 46th president of the United States. Twitter immediately flagged Trump's tweet

saying that “official sources may not have called the race when this was tweeted. Trump also repeated his allegations of electoral fraud by claiming without evidence that “bad things happened” inside the counting rooms and tens of thousands of votes were illegally received in the key battleground state of Pennsylvania.

The president has repeatedly attempted to question the validity of vote counts in key swing states and made unfounded claims that the election is being “stolen” from him. “Bad things took place during those hours where LEGAL TRANSPARENCY was viciously & crudely not allowed. Tractors blocked doors & windows were covered with thick cardboard so that observers could not see into the count rooms. BAD THINGS HAPPENED INSIDE. BIG CHANGES TOOK PLACE!” he said in a tweet.

Four days after the November 3 presidential election, votes were still being counted in several key battleground states. “This would ALSO change the Election result in numerous States, including Pennsylvania, which everyone thought was easily won on

Election Night, only to see a massive lead disappear. —PTI

Bannon lawyer quits fraud case

New York, Nov. 7: A lawyer for President Donald Trump's former chief strategist, Steve Bannon, quit defending him in a federal fraud case a day after Bannon made inflammatory comments about Dr. Anthony Fauci and FBI Director Christopher Wray.

In a letter dated Friday, defence attorney William Burck told a federal court judge in New York City that he was withdrawing from the case. He did not give a reason why. Reached by email, Burck declined to discuss the decision. The lawyer quit after Bannon suggested on an online broadcast that Fauci and Wray should be beheaded for being disloyal to the president. The remarks prompted Twitter to permanently suspend Bannon's account.

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

● IN A letter dated Friday, defence attorney William Burck told a federal court judge in New York City that he was withdrawing from the case.

either get with the programme or you are gone.” Bannon, 66, is facing charges he ripped off Trump supporters as an organiser of a group called “We Build The Wall” that portrayed itself as eager to help the president build a barrier along the US-Mexico border. He has pleaded not guilty.

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

—AP

Protesters crying foul over vote counts simmer safety concerns

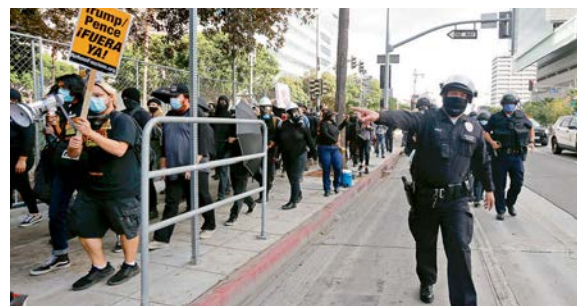
Washington, Nov. 7: Pro-Trump protesters — some of them openly carrying rifles and handguns — rallied outside vote-tabulation centres in a few cities around the country Friday, responding to groundless accusations from President Donald Trump that the Democrats were trying to steal the White House.

Election officials in several states where Democrat Joe Biden was ahead said the anger outside their doors made them fear for the safety of their employees. Roughly 100 Trump supporters gathered for a third straight day in front of the elections centre in Phoenix, where hundreds of workers were processing and counting ballots.

“Arrest the poll workers!” the crowd chanted, demanding four more years in office for Trump. Sheriff's deputies kept protesters in a “free speech” zone away from the entrance to the building. “When we start auditing some of these voter rolls, their fraud may actually be exposed,” conservative activist Charlie Kirk told the crowd, eliciting cheers.

In Detroit, dozens of Trump supporters returned to the streets outside the city's convention centre, where election workers counted ballots. “Stop the steal!” the protesters chanted. Some carried signs that read, “Make Elections Fair Again” and “We Love Trump”.

—AP



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

MAIL BALLOTS

1942

Congress passed the first law that guaranteed the right to vote in federal elections to members of the Armed Forces who were away during wartime

2016

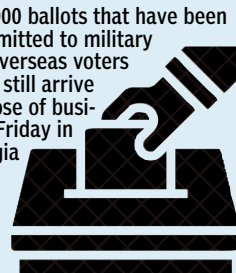
North Carolina received nearly 11,000 ballots from uniformed service members; Georgia received more than 5,600 ballots; Pennsylvania received nearly 7,800 and Nevada about 2,700

● 2009: Congress passed a bill requiring states to set up a system to transmit absentee ballots to military and civilian voters who were overseas during federal elections

● 28 states and the District of Columbia accept and count ballots that arrive from overseas after election day

● 3 days after polls, mail ballots accepted in Georgia as long as they are postmarked by Election Day. North Carolina accepts them until November 12; and Nevada and Pennsylvania until November 10

● 8,900 ballots that have been transmitted to military and overseas voters could still arrive by close of business Friday in Georgia



Why Nevada counting dragging?

Carson City (US), Nov. 7: The pace of vote-counting in Nevada is being criticised for taking too long and it's even become fodder for online jokes. But government officials say they are emphasising accuracy over speed in a year when processing an unprecedented flood of mail-in ballots under extended deadlines is taking more time.

“We told everyone early on that results would take

at least ten days,” Secretary of State spokeswoman Jennifer A Russell said in an email. The Legislature passed a bill in August to send all active voters mail-in ballots in hopes of curbing, or at least not fuelling, the spread of the Coronavirus. Those postmarked by Election Day can be counted if they arrive at election offices within seven days, which is Tuesday.

And they continue to

come in, though the number arriving each day is expected to dwindle.

“It's been a different year for us,” said Deanna Spikula, registrar of voters in Washoe County, the state's second-largest county that includes Reno. “The volume is definitely something that we've never seen before in the state as far as receiving and processing mail-in ballots.”

—AP

Biden: Youngest senator to oldest Prez

Washington, Nov. 7: Third time lucky is an apt phrase to describe the remarkable rise of Joe Biden, a veteran in US politics for around five decades, from being one of the youngest senators in history to the oldest American president.

The 77-year-old six-term Democratic senator, who triumphed over incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential election, ran twice unsuccessfully for president — in 1988 and 2008. The president dreams that the veteran leader from Delaware had harboured since child-

hood seemed all but over for a third time until he won South Carolina's Democratic Party primary on February 29, forcing most rivals out of the race and making one of the most dramatic comebacks in American political history. Biden served two terms in the White House as former president Barack Obama's vice president, capitalised on that experience to portray himself as a tested leader and a better alternative to Republican incumbent President Donald Trump.

While accepting the Democratic presidential nomination in August,

Biden pledged to restore the “soul of America”, and be an “ally of the light, not the darkness.” “The current president has cloaked America in darkness for much too long. Too much anger. Too much fear. Too much division. If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I will be an ally of the light, not of the darkness,” he said.

He has a strong track record of being an ardent advocate of a strong India-US relationship. From playing a key role in the passage of India-US civil nuclear deal during a

Republican administration to setting up the goal of a \$500 billion in bilateral trade, Biden has strong ties with the Indian leadership across the aisle and has a large number of Indian-Americans within his close circuit. At a fundraiser in July, Biden had said that India and the United States were natural partners. “That partnership, a strategic partnership, is necessary and important in our security,” he said when asked whether India is critical to the US' national security.

Referring to his eight years as the vice president, Biden said that he

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

Born in Pennsylvania in 1942, Joe Robinette Biden Jr studied at the University of Delaware and then earned a law degree from Syracuse University in 1968.

—PTI

TOUGH ROAD FOR DON TO GET SC TO INTERVENE

Washington, Nov. 7: President Donald Trump has repeatedly said there's one place he wants to determine the outcome of the presidential election: the US Supreme Court. But he may have a difficult time ever getting there.

Over the last two days, Trump has leaned in to the idea that the high court should get involved in the election as it did in 2000. Then, the court effectively settled the contested election for President George W. Bush in a 5-4 decision that split the court's liberals and conservatives. Today, six members of the court are conservatives, including three nominated by Trump.

But the outcome of this year's election seemed to be shaping up very differently from 2000, when Florida's electoral votes delivered the presidency to George W. Bush. Then, Bush led in Florida and went to court to stop a recount.

Trump, for his part, has suggested a strategy that would focus on multiple states where the winning margins appear to be slim. But he might have to persuade the Supreme Court to set aside votes in two or more states to prevent Joe Biden from becoming president.

Chief Justice John Roberts, for his part, is not likely to want the election to come down to himself and his colleagues. Roberts, who was not on the court for Bush v Gore in 2000 but was a lawyer for Bush, has often tried to distance the court from the political branches of government and the politics he thinks could hurt the court's reputation.

It's also not clear what legal issues might cause the justices to step in. Trump has made repeated, unsubstantiated claims of election fraud. Lawsuits filed by his campaign so far have been small-scale efforts unlikely to affect many votes, and some already have been dismissed. Still, Trump has focused on the high court.

—AP

SHORT TAKES

Saints top for 1st time in 32 years

London: Southampton swept to the top of the Premier League for the first time since 1988 with a 2-0 win against Newcastle, while Burnley remain without a victory this season after they were held to a 0-0 draw at Brighton on Friday. Goals from Che Adams and Stuart Armstrong ensured Southampton finished the day at the summit of the English top-flight table for the first time since Chris Nicholl's team 32 years ago. It is Ralph Hasenhuttl in charge of the Saints now and the Austrian has masterminded a remarkable revival on the south-coast. Just over a year after they were humiliated in a 9-0 thrashing by Leicester at St Mary's, Southampton have been transformed so thoroughly that they now look capable of beating anyone in the country on their day. Sustaining their place at the top is likely to prove a step too far, yet there is no reason why they shouldn't dream of European qualification and even a surprise bid to finish in the top four. — AFP

Ram reaches Challenger final

Eckental, Germany: Indian ace Ramkumar Ramanathan fought back from a set down to beat Germany's Marvin Moller 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 and enter the final of the Eckental Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday. Ramkumar fired 12 aces and won five of seven break points on his way to the final of the Euro 88,520 event. Ramkumar will face Sebastian Korda of United States in the final on Sunday. This is his fifth singles final on the Challenger circuit. He has never won a title. On Friday, Ramkumar achieved the best performance of the season by reaching the semifinals with a straight set 6-2, 6-1 win over Evgeny Donskoy of Russia. Before this event, making the Bangkok Challenger quarterfinals in January was the unseeded Indian's best result. Entering the last-four clash on the back of a convincing quarterfinal win over Donskoy, Ramkumar started the match on the wrong foot, losing the first set 4-6. — PTI

Azam leads Pak's rout of Zimbabwe

Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Skipper Babar Azam smashed a robust half-century to lead Pakistan's six-wicket rout of Zimbabwe in the first Twenty20 international in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Azam proved yet again why he is one of the top batsmen in white-ball cricket with an attractive 55-ball 82 to anchor Pakistan's chase of a modest 157-run target in 18.5 overs. The win gives Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match series and a 12th straight win over Zimbabwe in all Twenty20 international cricket. Wesley Madhevere struck a maiden half-century to lead Zimbabwe to 156-6 after they won the toss and batted. Azam punched nine boundaries and a six during his 80-run stand for the third wicket with Mohammad Hafeez, who made 36. — AFP

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 156/6 (Madhevere 70, Rauf 2/25, 2/37) lost to Pakistan 157/4 (Babar 32, Hafeez 36, Muzarhani 2/26).

Live on TV

CRICKET

IPL: Qualifier 2 — Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals from 7.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

Women's Big Bash League: Brisbane Heat vs Melbourne Stars from 8.15 am on Sony Six

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters: Semifinal from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: West Brom vs Tottenham Hotspur from 5.30 pm; Leicester City vs Wolverhampton from 7.30 pm; Manchester City vs Liverpool from 10 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

Italian League: Lazio vs Juventus from 5 pm; Atalanta vs Inter Milan from 7.30 pm; Bologna vs Napoli from 10.30 pm; AC Milan vs Verona from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Thiago Santos vs Glover Teixeira and other bouts from 8.30 am on Sony Ten 2

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagtiyal Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

Can Delhi eclipse Sun?

Inconsistent Capitals face red-hot Hyderabad in Qualifier 2

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7 Peaking at the right time and with all their boxes ticked, Sunrisers Hyderabad are certain to hold sway over a dishevelled Delhi Capitals in the second Indian Premier League qualifier here on Sunday. The past couple of weeks have been a picture in contrast for the two franchises.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

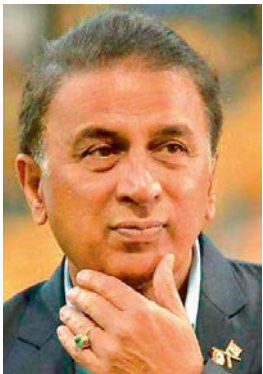
However, the bowling unit has done well save a few occasions like the first qualifier, where Mumbai Indians batting took them apart. Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets), Anrich Nrtje (20) and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) have done exceedingly well in most of the games. — PTI

Gavaskar blames Kohli's batting skills for RCB exit

Dubai, Nov. 7: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has partly attributed the Royal Challengers Bangalore's failure to go all the way in the 13th IPL to captain Virat Kohli's inability to live up to his high standards with the bat.

RCB were knocked out of the tournament after losing by six wickets to former champions Sunrisers Hyderabad in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

"Looking at the high standards that he sets for himself, maybe he would say he didn't quite match that and that's one of the reasons why RCB weren't able to go through," Gavaskar told broadcaster Star Sports. "...Because when he scores those big runs



Sunil Gavaskar

along with AB de Villiers, they invariably have big scores."

Kohli made a little over 450 runs in 15 matches at a strike rate of 121.35 and his team often struggled to get going in the

middle-overs.

The batting legend pointed out that the RCB's bowling lacked enough firepower to consistently challenge the opposition and prevail.

"If anything, their bowling has always been their weak point. Even now, in this particular team, they have got an Aaron Finch, who is a fine T20 player, young Devdutt Padikkal, who began well and then Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers, then you have really got it made," he added.

Gavaskar also believed that the RCB must find a player who can play the role of the finisher and suggested that Shivam Dube can fit into that role. — PTI



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain David Warner (left) with his Delhi Capitals counterpart Shreyas Iyer.

— BCCI

NUMBERS GAME

HEAD TO HEAD

- OVERALL:
- Matches: 17
- Hyderabad: 11
- Delhi: 6

MEETING IN LEAGUE STAGE

- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 15 runs in Abu Dhabi.
- Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Delhi Capitals by 88 runs at Dubai.

FOR THE RECORD

- Warner with 546 runs at an average of 42 in 15 innings is the second highest run-getter in this IPL.
- Kagiso Rabada with 25 wickets at an average of 19.48 in 15 innings is the second highest wicket-taker in this IPL.

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Holder praises his bowlers for 'using skills and brains'

Abu Dhabi, Nov. 7: West Indies captain Jason Holder, whose late inclusion galvanised a much-improved SRH, praised his side's bowlers for "using brains" as much as skills which earned them a place in the second IPL qualifier against Delhi Capitals.

Sunrisers bowlers stifled RCB to a paltry score of 131 and won the 'Eliminator' by 6 wickets with Holder playing an important all-round role with 3 for 25 and 24 not out off 20 balls.

"For me, it's all about execution. We have had

lots of discussions about certain players and in the heat of the battle, it's all about executing. Led by our bowlers, we have used our skills and our brains," Holder said.

The Caribbean skipper is happy that SRH have "peaked at the right time".

"Morale is really good as we have done well at the back half of the tournament. We peaked at the right stage and (we are) carrying good momentum. Different guys have put up hands on different occasions. One more good effort and we will be in the

finals," he said.

For Holder, who has made the difference with his steady medium pace, picking up 13 wickets in six games, it was being in a good space after two difficult years when he hardly bowled due to a shoulder injury.

"I have had a few injuries in the last couple of years, which have hampered my preparations. I had a bad shoulder and had surgeries. So, I worked a little harder, fine-tuned my skills. I am in a good space and that gives me confidence," Holder said. — PTI

RCB SHOULD REMOVE VIRAT FROM HOT SEAT: GAMBHIR

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

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

Asked if Kohli should be removed from RCB's captaincy, Gambhir told 'ESPNCricinfo', "100 per cent, because the problem is about accountability.

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

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

"So it has to be accountability," Gambhir, who led KKR to two IPL titles in 2012 and 2014, said on the show 'Time Out'.

Gambhir has been a staunch critic of Kohli's IPL leadership over the years but he insisted that there is nothing personal. "...but somewhere down the line, he needs to put his hand up and say, 'yes, I am responsible. I am accountable'."

— PTI

Novak bags 6th year-end No. 1 spot

Djokovic equals Sampras' record

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"To see Novak achieve this for the sixth time and

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

— NOVAK DJOKOVIC
Serbian tennis star

match Pete's record is simply incredible, and he continues to cement his place in the history books."

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

However, he was disqualified from the US Open for hitting a line judge with a ball before his bid to win a second Roland Garros ended in a tame defeat to Nadal in the final.

Djokovic was virtually assured of ending 2020 on top of the rankings when he reached the quarterfinals in Vienna last month.

He was stunned 6-2, 6-1 by Italian lucky loser Lorenzo Sonego in the Austrian capital, suffering the heaviest loss of his career in a best-of-three sets clash. — AFP



Supernovas edge past Trailblazers, in final

Sharjah, Nov. 7: Two-time champions Supernovas defeated Trailblazers by two runs in a must-win game to enter the final of the Women's T20 Challenge here on Saturday.

Opener Chamari Atapattu top-scored with a 67-run knock as Supernovas posted 146 for six after opting to bat.

Trailblazers were then restricted to 144 for five in 20 overs.

Electing to bat, Supernovas rode on Atapattu's aggressive 47-ball 67, which was studded with five fours and four sixes, and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's big shots (31 off 29) in the slog overs to post a challenging total on board.

Supernovas were going strong at 80 for no loss in 10 overs but the Trailblazers spinners Harleen Deol (1/34) and Salma Khatun (1/25) pulled things back, giving away just 23 runs in next five overs.

However, Harmanpreet exploded in the 19th over, smashing a four and a six to pile up 15 runs to take them close to 150-mark.

Opener Chamari Atapattu top-scored with a 67-run knock as Supernovas posted 146 for six after opting to bat.

For Trailblazers, experienced Jhulan Goswami was the best bowler with figures of one for 17 from 4 overs, while Harleen and Khatun picked up a wicket each. There were also three runs in Supernovas' innings.

Earlier, left-handed opener Atapattu looked for runs from the word go and made her intentions clear with two boundaries in the second over of the innings bowled by Deepti Sharma.

Later in the fourth over, the Sri Lankan nonchalantly lost one over mid-off for a six and then swept Deepti for a boundary as Supernovas amassed 15 runs. — PTI

Brief Scores: Supernovas 146/6 (Chamari Atapattu 67, Harmanpreet Kaur 31; Jhulan Goswami 1/17) bt Trailblazers 144/5 (Deepti Sharma 43 n.o., Shakera Selman 2/31).

Delhi have to put up an all-round show to beat SRH



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

Which team will play Mumbai Indians in the IPL final on Tuesday?

It is perilous to pick winners in a format which is known to throw up topsy-turvy results. I have so often ended up my foot in the mouth after making was seemed a 'safe' forecast, that I now leave predictions to the more brave or foolhardy.

Yet, how the two teams — Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals — which

clash today for a place in Tuesday's final is worth a study simply because of the hugely contrasting style in which they've reached this situation.

When the tournament started, DC couldn't put a foot wrong and SRH couldn't put a foot right. Midway through the league stage, DC seemed the strongest rivals for Mumbai Indians, SRH appeared lackluster, and still seeking their best combo.

Cut to the last fortnight,

and the scenario changes dramatically. DC, after a spate of wins, suddenly hit a slump, got stranded on 14 points for a long while, and only just made it to the play-offs.

That they finished no.2 on the points table was statistical fact, but in terms of quality of performance, DC were not quite the same, exciting, winning side that one saw at the start of the tournament.

Some stats here to explain the turmoil DC has undergone. They've lost five of their last six matches. In the first qualifier, they were 0-3 against MI chasing 200 and lost by a whopping 57 runs margin.

The top order, full of youthful energy and bravado, now appears as hardy as papadum, which was

amply evident in the first qualifier against Mumbai when DC were reduced to 0-3!

Shaw, Pant, and Rahane have been struggling badly, which is adding pressure not just on Iyer and Stonis, but also the bowlers. DC's bowling which was the most penetrative when the tournament started appears to have lost edge. Even Rabada has been innocuous.

Contrast this with SRH in the past fortnight. Starting with two defeats, the team picked up momentum towards the end of the league stage, and now has five successive wins to its credit.

This includes a massive 10-wicket victory over Mumbai in the last league match, which no other

team has managed in this tournament, and saw SRH leapfrog over hapless KKR into the play-offs.

Their next match, against RCB, was a cliff-hanger, victory coming only in the final over. The calmness of Williamson and the rich experience of Holder saw them through.

These two wins showed how quickly and well SRH could adapt to different pitches and situations. That's because they've struck a formidable combination nearing the end of the league phase.

Though hit by injuries (Mitch Marsh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Williamson, Vijay Shankar, Saha have been casualties, long or short term), SRH have been able to find adequate replace-

ment, regroup in time, and now look like the team to beat.

So remarkable has been their turnaround after losing their first two matches that SRH can afford to leave out senior pro and white ball specialist Johny Bairstow from the playing side without worry.

The batting leans heavily dependent on Warner no doubt, but in crunch situations, other batters have delivered too. Williamson's composed half century and fine partnership with Holder took the team home under pressure against RCB.

It's in the bowling though that SRH have stood out, more so after Holder's inclusion. The attack now has a fine blend of quality pacers and spinners.

Diminutive leg spinner Rashid Khan has been the stand out performer, with others only a whit behind.

The IPL is played at frenetic pace, players and teams that show stamina, physical and mental, are most likely to succeed. This also finds expression in the composition of the playing sides.

It is no surprise that Mumbai Indians have made the least changes in the tournament followed by SRH, allowing, of course, for those forced by injury. What DC are up against tonight is a well-balanced, ambitious team led aggressively by captain Warner that is refusing to yield an inch. To beat this team, Delhi have to put up a capital show in every sense of the word.