

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | WEDNESDAY 25 | NOVEMBER 2020

## WEATHER



**Max:** 28°C  
**Min:** 25°C  
**Rainfall:** 42 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Karthigai 10  
**Tithi:** Ekadashi  
**Star:** Uthirattathi  
**Rahukalam:**  
12 noon to 1.30 pm  
**Yamagandam:**  
7.30 am to 9 am  
**PRAYERS**

**Fajar:** 4.57 am  
**Zohar:** 12 noon  
**Asar:** 3.13 pm

**Maghrib:** 5.39 pm  
**Isha:** 6.54 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 5.40 PM

**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.13 AM

**MOONRISE TODAY** 2.32 PM

**MOONSET TOMORROW** 2.52 AM

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+38,296)	(+407)
92,16,049	1,34,661

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,557 )  
TN: 7,73,176 11,639

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,98,59,168

### DEATHS

14,08,821

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES  
218

worldometers.info

## Nifty closes above 13,000 on vaccine hopes

**Mumbai:** Indian equity indices conquered new peaks on Tuesday, with the Nifty closing above the 13,000-level for the first time, as banking, FMCG and auto stocks saw heavy buying amid optimism over COVID-19 vaccine progress and unabated foreign capital inflows. A strengthening rupee further boosted investor confidence, traders said. After scaling a lifetime intra-day high of 44,601.63, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 445.87 points or 1.01 per cent higher at a record 44,523.02.

## Covid: Los Angeles to consider stay-home order

**Los Angeles:** Officials in the nation's largest county will discuss a possible stay-home order just days before Thanksgiving after a spike of coronavirus cases surpassed a threshold set by Los Angeles public health officials to trigger one.

## COUNTER POINT



...first dose to healthcare workers, political leaders and people of the states where elections are due!

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC**  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 24

A 2001 act which granted ownership of state land to occupants across Jammu & Kashmir but was declared “illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable” by the high court recently has stirred a new political controversy in the erstwhile state and beyond. The J&K administration on Tuesday released a list of the beneficiaries of alleged illegal mutations under or in the garb of the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants)

Act, 2001, commonly known as “Roshni Act”.

Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have been named in the list which alleges that their residential house in Jammu is built over an area of nearly one acre which includes state land “physically encroached but not shown in revenue records other than Roshni Act”, a charge denied by the father-son duo. It also highlighted that the headquarters of the party in twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu were legalised under the controversial act.

### J&K LAND SCAM

● **The list of beneficiaries made public on Tuesday names former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, former finance minister Haseeb Drabu, his wife, Congress leader Krishna Kumar Amla who is the owner of Srinagar's Broadway Hotel among beneficiaries under Roshni Act that was enacted in 2001 and declared illegal last month**

Mr Farooq Abdullah strongly refuted the allegation. “I’m not a beneficiary of the Roshni Act. I’ve not availed of the scheme for either my Srinagar residence

or that in Jammu residence,” he said.

The NC in a statement alleged that the “news” that its president is a beneficiary of the Roshni scheme “is



Biden has chosen former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen to serve as first woman treasury secretary.

### DON STILL REFUSES TO CONCEDE

## Finally, Trump green light to Biden transition

**Washington, Nov. 24:** The federal government recognised President-elect Joe Biden as the “apparent winner” of the Nov. 3 election on Monday, formally starting the transition of power after President Donald Trump spent weeks testing the boundaries of American democracy. He relented after suffering yet more legal and procedural defeats in his seemingly futile effort to overturn the election with baseless claims of fraud.

Trump still refused to concede and vowed to continue to fight in court after General Services Administrator Emily Murphy gave the green light for Biden to coordinate with federal agencies ahead of his Jan. 20 inauguration. But Trump did tweet that he was directing his team to cooperate on the transition.

Monday's fast-moving series of events seemed to let much of the air out of Trump's frantic efforts to undermine the will of the people in what has amounted to a weekslong stress test for American



Biden has chosen former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen to serve as first woman treasury secretary.

democracy. But Trump's attempts to foment a crisis of confidence in the political system and the fairness of U.S. elections haven't ended and are likely to persist well beyond his lame-duck presidency.

Murphy, explaining her decision, cited “recent developments involving legal challenges and certifications of election results.”

— AP

## STATE | 4

**Complaints against Surappa can be sent**



**Netanyahu says he'll pay a visit to Bahrain soon**

## WORLD | 7

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**Thapa shines in Chennaiyin win**



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### COVID-19 SITUATION

## PM: Get cold storage ready for vaccines

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

With the Covid-19 pandemic intensifying across India and Delhi leading the nation with a daily death rate of over 100, far above the national average, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday gave an assurance that whenever it becomes available, the vaccine will be accessible to all citizens and the government will ensure it meets the necessary scientific criteria. The PM was chairing a virtual meeting with the chief ministers of the eight worst-affected states, including his home state Gujarat. The government has, however, ruled out a nationwide lockdown to control the pandemic.

Mr Modi sought unity among states to combat the pandemic, but also attacked political rivals, and sources said that during the meeting he accused the Opposition of playing politics over the issue.

He even pulled up Haryana chief minister M.L. Khattar for not coming up with a better strategy to combat the pandemic, as West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee sought her state's GST dues from the Centre.

Mr Modi added that the Centre's aim was to bring down the fatality rate, now at 1.7 per cent, to less than one per cent.

The PM convened the meeting as India saw 37,975 new Covid infections



reported in the past 24 hours, taking the nation's caseload to 91.77 lakhs, while recoveries crossed 86 lakhs, the Union health ministry's data showed. While the national daily virus case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban areas – including Delhi – have seen a surge, leading to enforcement of several measures, including curfews, in some cities.

Calling for raising the frequency of RT-PCR tests (considered the most accurate in terms of detecting the coronavirus infection), Mr Modi also said cold storage facilities for storing the vaccine must be made available on a priority basis. He added efforts were on to make medical colleges and district hospitals self-sufficient in oxygen generation, and said the process for establishing over 160 new oxygen plants was under way.

Attacking his political rivals, Mr Modi said at the meeting that while no one can forecast when the vaccine will come, “some people” were playing politics over it and nobody can stop them from doing so.

# Nivar pounds Chennai, Pondy with rain

## Cyclonic storm to make landfall today on East Coast

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Cyclone Nivar is expected to intensify into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS) by late evening Wednesday.

“Cyclone Nivar to cross Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram as a very severe cyclonic storm during the late evening of 25th November,” the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

While intermittent rains lashed several parts of the state and the UT Tuesday, multiple state and central agencies, including the Coast Guard, the National Disaster Response Force, the fire and rescue services, have deployed their assets and 40,000 first response personnel are ready to tackle the fury of the cyclone.

IMD has also forecast extremely heavy rainfall over coastal and north interior districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between November 24 and 25 due to the cyclone. The sea conditions were rough to very rough along the coast and a tidal wave of about one meter height is likely to inundate low lying areas of north coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The defence police relations unit on its Twitter handle said the Coast Guard in coordination with state and district administrations has ensured safe return of fishing boats.

Four Offshore Patrol Vessels have been deployed by the Coast Guard for disaster relief and two heli-



● **With the suspension of bus services in Pudukottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Chengelpet from Tuesday afternoon, the roads were deserted in the regions and only a minimum number of buses could be seen on the city roads**

copters are on standby for post-landfall rescue and relief.

As many as three Dornier aircraft are on standby at Visakhapatnam and 15 disaster relief teams are ready to assist the state governments. ■ **P3**

## Southern Railway cancels 24 spl trains from Egmore

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Owing to cyclone Nivar, Southern Railway on Tuesday announced the cancellation of 24 special trains connecting Chennai Egmore and the southern districts of the state on November 25. The Southern Railway has cancelled the trains that operate in the delta region on November 24 and 25. Southern railway released a statement containing the list of trains cancelled. They also added that full refund shall be granted for those who have booked

tickets in those cancelled trains.

Southern Railway also announced that the Suburban trains were cancelled in Chennai on Wednesday from 10 am until further notice as part of the precautionary measures taken for the Cyclone Nivar.

For the tickets booked in the railway counter, can claim the refund by surrendering the tickets to the counter within 15 days of the scheduled departure of the train which is usually 3 days. Other protocols will remain the same for the refund. ■ **P3**

## Public holiday declared today

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 24

A holiday has been declared in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for Wednesday in view of the cyclone's expected land-fall while transport services have been suspended.

“It is a holiday tomorrow in Tamil Nadu. It is a general holiday. However, those involved in essential services will be working,” Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami told reporters and appealed to the people to stay indoors.

## Sacked Jawan loses election appeal against Modi

**New Delhi, Nov. 24:** The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed the appeal of sacked BSF Jawan Tej Bahadur against the rejection of his nomination papers to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Varanasi and seeking to declare the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from that constituency as void.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said there is “no merit in the appeal” and the court does not consider it necessary to issue notice to Modi who was elected from Varanasi constituency. — *PTI*

# Sedition case: Kangana, sister get interim relief from arrest

**Mumbai, Nov. 24:** The Bombay high court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel in connection with an FIR registered against them under sedition and other charges, and directed them to appear before Mumbai Police on January 8.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik also questioned the police for invoking the sedition charge in the case, and said it was of the prima facie opinion



that the Indian Penal Code Section 124A (sedition) was wrongly invoked.

“If someone does not fall in line with the government, then can sedition charges be invoked?” the court asked. The HC also said three summonses were issued by the police

to the sisters and the same needed to be honoured.

The FIR was lodged pursuant to orders passed by the Bandra magistrate's court directing the police to carry out an inquiry against Ranaut and her sister following a complaint lodged against them for allegedly “trying to create hatred and communal tension” through their posts on social media. The high court was hearing a petition filed by Ranaut and her sister, seeking to quash the FIR and the October 17 order passed by the magistrate. — *PTI*

## DoT accepts proposal on ‘0’ prefix for all calls from landlines to mobiles

**New Delhi, Nov 24:** Callers will soon be required to add ‘0’ prefix for making calls from landlines to mobile phones in the country, with the telecom department asking telcos to make necessary arrangements by January 1 to implement the new system.

The department has accepted sectoral regulator Trai's recommendation for having the ‘0’ prefix for such calls, a move that will

create sufficient numbering space for telecom services.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) in a circular on “modification of dialling pattern from fixed line numbers to cellular mobile numbers” said in order to ensure adequate numbering resources for fixed line and mobile services, Trai's recommendations dated May 29, 2020 have been accepted by the

Department.

“Following may be implemented...Fixed-to-mobile calls shall be dialled with prefix ‘0’.

Suitable announcement may be fed in the fixed line switches to apprise the fixed line subscribers about the requirement of dialling the prefix ‘0’ for all fixed-to-mobile calls,” DoT said in a circular dated November 20.

This announcement

should be played whenever a subscriber dials a fixed-to-mobile call without prefixing ‘0’, it said.

“All the fixed line subscribers should be provided with ₹0 dialling facility, that is, STD dialling facility,” said the circular posted on DoT's website.

DoT said that time till January 1 is allowed to all the telecom service providers to implement this new system. — *PTI*

# Abdullahs accused of land encroachment, deny any wrongdoing

## Para-athlete, climate activist among Indian women in BBC's top 100 for 2020

**London, Nov. 24:** Indian para-athlete and current para-badminton world champion Manasi Joshi and climate activist Ridhima Pandey are among four Indian women to be included in the ‘BBC 100 Women 2020’ list released on Tuesday.

The list, which celebrates inspirational and influential women across the globe from high profile names to unsung

heroes, also includes 82-year-old Bilkis Bano for leading a peaceful protest against the new citizenship law and Isaivani for breaking male domination in the field of Tamil Nadu's Gaana singing.

“In a year of unprecedented turbulence, this year's theme is?How Women Led Change in 2020’ and celebrates some of the scientists, public health experts, and

healthcare workers who have helped us weather the storm of the global pandemic, as well as women from other industries who have all been leaders of change in their own way ? from politicians, lawyers and architects to actors, writers, athletes, singers and those who have sought to improve the lives of others in their community,” the BBC said in a statement. — *PTI*



  
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**FLOODED ROADS:** Anna Salai, GST Road and Kathipara junction were among the locations that witnessed traffic snarls and several places came under sheets of water and vehicles moved at a slow pace.

**MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE:** Municipal administration minister S. P. Velumani visited the Greater Chennai Corporation's control room for a review meet and flagged off a 'Mobile Command and Control Centre'.

**METRO SERVICES:** Chennai metro rail will follow the holiday train services timetable on November 25 and will operate services from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SHORT TAKES

'Won't be repeat of 2015 floods in city'

Chennai, Nov 24: The Tamil Nadu government is pulling out all stops to ensure no repeat of the 2015 floods in the city, as they mounted a vigil on four reservoirs, anticipating a rapid rise in water levels in view of heavy rains forecast due to cyclone Nivar, likely to cross the state coast on Wednesday. The administration has taken necessary precautions to release the water in phases and avert flooding, as in 2015, in the event of upsurge in the storage levels, a senior PWD department official said. The combined storage level in the reservoirs at Poondi, Cholavaram, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam stood at 64.15 per cent or 8.156 tmc ft against the full capacity of 12.713 tmc ft which is slightly higher compared to the quantum two days ago. Chembarambakkam which has nearly 80 per cent water (21.22 feet against its full level capacity of 24 feet) has become a cause for concern for residents, reminding them of the 2015 deluge. "Even if rains were to lash the metro, owing to the approaching cyclone, causing the water to rise sharply, there should not be any threat," a senior PWD official claimed. When the issue was taken up with Commissioner of Revenue Administration, K Phanindra Reddy, he said the inflow into Chembarambakkam lake would be around 6,500 cusecs only when there are heavy rains and this can be easily diverted to Adyar river, which has a capacity to carry 60,000 cusecs water.

'Nagapattinam all set to face storm'

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC NAGAPATTINAM, NOV. 24

The district administration here is taking all precautions to safeguard people in the district from 'Nivar', said Collector Praveen P Nair. He said that people were advised not to come out of houses. Public transport network has been cancelled from Monday afternoon, and there will be no bus services for the next two days. Principal secretary, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Development, and monitoring officer, Nagapattinam district, C Munianathan, accompanied by the collector, inspected arrangements taken at Velankanni and Thalaigaiyiru areas. Other related arrangements like draining of rain water, supply of essentials, uninterrupted drinking water supply, have all been set in place. People living along the coastal and low lying areas have been asked to move immediately to their nearest cyclone protection centre.



City Police Commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal inspecting an inundated area in the city on Tuesday.

Southern Railway on high alert

A ARUL PALANI | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 24

In the wake of the Cyclone Nivar' threat, John Thomas, general manager, Southern Railway has conducted several rounds of meeting, through video conferencing on Tuesday. Concerned principal head of the departments (PHODs) and divisional railway managers of six divisions took part in the meeting. B.G. Mallya, additional general manager, also attended the review meeting. The GM reviewed the preparedness of the railway in tackling Cyclone Nivar and issued various instructions. An emergency control cell has been set up in the control offices of both headquarters and divisions from Tuesday. The control room has been manned round the clock by senior officials and they monitor the ground situation and will co-ordinate with the state government officials as and when required. Instructions have been

Chennai braces for cyclone Nivar

24x7 control rooms set up

Relief and food centres ready

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 24

With the 'Cyclone Nivar' expected to make landfall in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has made arrangements to face any kind of emergency. Meghanath Reddy, deputy commissioner, (revenue), GCC, told *DC* that they are fully prepared to face the cyclone. Rescue teams and special officials have been deployed to provide special focus on the 19 low-lying spots in the city. Apart from this, 169 relief and food centres have been set up. Out of which, 77 in zone V and IX have been opened. The rest will be opened if need arises', he said. He also urged the people to stay safe inside their houses. The corporation authorities have also set up a 24x7 control room for people to contact if there is any emergency. The numbers are 044 2538 4530, 044 2538 4530, 044 2538 4540, 1913 (24X7). Meanwhile, the city witnessed a long spell of heavy rain right from the wee hours of Tuesday, inundating many arterial roads in the city. According to the State Disaster Management Authority, the city received 465.40mm rain-

fall till 9am. The area wise data says Mambalam got the highest amount of rain (82.60) followed by Alandur (70.40), Aynavaram (52) and Purasawakkam (51). City police commissioner Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal said that 12 disaster rescue teams have been deployed in the city. On Tuesday, the police team along with Tangadco and slum clearance board officials cleared the inundated roads. In order to avoid any untoward incidents, teams have been entrusted to assist people with necessary drinking water. The commissioner has also visited the Egmore-Mandiyat road to monitor the works. The residents of the coastal areas expressed confidence in facing any emergency on Wednesday. Kennit Raj, a fishermen community leader at Pattinapakkam, said that they had already shifted their boats and fishing equipment to the safest place. The corporation authorities have also set up relief centres in the area. All fishermen are asked not to venture into the sea as the sea turns rough', he said. He also said all people in the area are on high alert and they are instructed by authorities to stay home during cyclone.

Maps braces for cyclone

Chennai, Nov 24: Unit II at the Madras Atomic Power Station (Maps) in neighbouring Kalpakkam was operating at full capacity of 220MW and all the systems were expected to 'successfully' withstand the impact of Cyclone 'Nivar' when it crosses the eastern coast, a top official said on Tuesday. The atomic power station situation is located about 70 km from Chennai on the East Coast Road. "All the plant systems are operating normal and expected to successfully withstand the impact of cyclone Nivar, when it crosses the coast," IGCAR station director M Srinivas said. The cyclone protection machinery at the site has been 'activated' and all measures including placing sandbags on the coastal sides. — *PTI*

Flight services disrupted

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Heavy rains due to the onset of Cyclone Nivar, which would cross the coast between Tamil Nadu and Puducherry resulted in disruption of domestic flights services in Chennai airport on Tuesday. According to airport sources, at least seven flights from various destinations were delayed from one hour up to two hours. One Chennai-Tiruchy flight scheduled to depart from Chennai airport by 8: 35 pm has been cancelled. A private flight with 117 passengers from Jaipur scheduled to land at Chennai by 3:15 pm, was unable to make a landing at the airport due to poor visibility and water-logged runways. Sources said the flights landed after 5: 30 pm.



Fishermen removing their boats at Kasimedu fishing harbour on Tuesday.

— *DC*

People's safety first, says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 24

The government's priority was to protect the people and ensure that they were safe and secure and in no way affected by the heavy rains or the severe cyclone that is likely to cross the coast along Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said on Tuesday. Addressing the media after inspecting the round-the-clock control room set up the Ezhilagam office complex in Chepauk for managing the situation arising of the Cyclone Nivar hitting the coast possibly at Puducherry, Palaniswami announced a public holiday in the State on Wednesday. All precautionary measures had been taken and district Collectors had been given due instructions to take care of the people, who should not suffer in any way, and rescue and relief operations were kept in readiness, the Chief Minister said. He said 4,133 disaster prone places had been identified and authorities were on alert mode, monitoring those spots closely with a view to rush in for rescue operations. Relief



CM K. Palaniswami reviews preparedness and the functioning of the control room set up by the state disaster management department on Tuesday.

— *DC*

camps had been kept in readiness at 3,344 places to accommodate people even as they were evacuated from their homes. A total of 43,409 trained rescue personnel, including 14,232 women were ready for relief operations in the State, he said. He said 8,871 personnel were kept ready to rescue marooned cattle alone, besides 9,909 for removing fallen trees, 5,505 police personnel and 691 Home Guards who had been trained by the State Disaster Relief Force. Apart from that 4,699 fire service personnel and 9,859 volunteers trained in disaster management are waiting to help people any

time. Already nine camps had been opened and 254 persons provided shelter, he said. People living in low lying areas in the districts of Chidambaram, Vridhachalam, Cuddalore and Ariyalur had been provided access to relief camps, he said. In terms of equipment required for disaster relief, too, the State was ready, the Chief Minister said, giving a brief list of what was readily available for immediate deployment: 3915 tree cutters, 2,897 JCR, 2115 generators to ensure water supply, 485 high power pumps to drain water and 465 Ambulances. Urging the people not to come out of their homes when Cyclone Nivar hit the land, he announced the cancellation of bus services in the disaster prone districts. Only people working in the essential services would function and it would be a holiday for others, he said. Speaking about Nivar, he quoted Indian Meteorological Department's forecast and said that the cyclone was situated in the Bay of Bengal about 450 km away from the land, moving at a speed of five km per hour and expected to cross at Puducherry. The wind speed at the time was expected to be over 120 km per hour, he said. Answering questions, raising concern over the Chembarambakkam lake in Chennai getting filled up, the Chief Minister said water stood at a level of 21 feet against the full level of 24 feet. Once the level touched the 22 feet mark, water would be released from the lake. It all depended on the amount of rainfall Chennai and its suburbs received, he said. Otherwise, of the 14,139 irrigation tanks in Chennai, 1,519 tanks had been filled to the brim by the rains.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- Do not park vehicles under a tree or near electric poles.
- Keep your mobile phone fully charged.
- Don't venture out of home during cyclone.
- Switch off power and cooking gas supply at the house.
- Don't trust unofficial social media instructions.
- Make sure valuable assets and certificates are kept in a safe place.
- Get an emergency kit ready
- Keep the doors and windows shut.
- Don't stay in the rooftops covered by tin sheets and clothes-line posts.
- Let free the cattle, birds, pups and pets.

PM SPEAKS TO CM, ASSURES ALL SUPPORT

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Chief Minister and assured him of all help and support in tackling the situation arising out of the Nivar crossing the coast. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said he prayed for the safety and welfare of the people in affected areas. D M K President M K Stalin called up his cadre and members of party wings to help people at the time of disaster, by arranging shifting of those affected by the rains or cyclone, providing them food, drinking water or emergency medical help. He urged the cadre to pass information of affected people to the authorities and support relief operations. Similarly, CPM state secretary Balakrishnan also urged his party members and others to take active part in the relief and rescue operations.



Nivar christened by Iran meteorological department

T. SUDHEESH | DC CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Tropical cyclones are not uncommon in the country during the last few years. They came with fancy names, just for causing horror to the people. Those who were trapped in the trail of destruction left by these beautifully named high-speed storms will curse them first. But they will sometimes think how this furious monster got the exotic name. The latest one Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are going to face on Wednesday is 'Nivar'. Originated from the Bay of Bengal, it is expected to make a land-fall in Mamallapuram and Karaikal in Tamil Nadu at about 3.30 pm. The name 'Nivar' came from Iran picked from a list of 169 names released by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) earlier in April. The cyclones that form in every ocean basin across the world are named by the regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs). There are six RSMCs in the world, including the IMD, and five TCWCs. As an RSMC, the IMD names the cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, after following a standard procedure. The IMD is also mandated to issue advisories to 12 other countries in the region on the development of cyclones and storms. It was in 2000, eight



A scene from Kovalam beach.

— *DC*

countries including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand formed the WMO/ESCAP (World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) and started naming the cyclones in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. Each country will submit a set of names which will be used one by one to name the cyclones. The framing of the list began in September 2004 and later 64 names, eight from each country, were finalised and the names are being used sequentially, column-wise. Later in 2018, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen were also added to the panel.

Suggested by Iran, Nivar is one of the names on the April list of IMD. In May, Cyclone Amphan, suggested by Thailand in 2004, left a trail of devastation in West Bengal and Odisha. Some other cyclone names are Aila, Maya, Nargis, Nilofar, Gaja, Okhi, Fani etc. According to the IMD officials, naming a

cyclone helps the authorities to gear up preparations and studies about the cyclones. Name of a cyclone will also help the local officials in planning and communication with people on the ground with great ease. It also could get rid of the physiological impact among the first responders and affected people to greater extent. The naming of cyclones has centuries of history. For instance, the Padre-Ruiz Hurricane of 1834 was named after a Catholic saint in the Dominican Republic, while the San Felipe Hurricane of 1876 was named after a Catholic priest. In 1944, the United States Army Air Forces forecasters at the Saipan Weather Center used to christen storms or hurricanes with the names of wives or girlfriends. India in the new list has suggested names like Prabhanjan, Ghurni, Ambud Tej, Murasu, Ag, Neer, Jaladhi Vyom, Jhar, Probaho and Vega. The next few cyclones will be named Burevi (Maldives), Tauktae (Myanmar), Yaas (Oman), and Gulab (Pakistan).







## SHORT TAKES

CONG LEADERS  
USING WRONG  
PLATFORM: BAGHELRABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, NOV. 24

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday lambasted the Congress leaders who demanded change of party leadership, saying that they were using the wrong platform to raise such an issue.

"Those who talk of change of system, structure and leadership of Congress have chosen the wrong platform to raise the issue", Baghel said in his Twitter post.

Baghel's statement comes in the wake of senior Congress leaders like Gulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal going to the media to express their views on the need for restructuring the party to make it more democratic.

"Congress party is an ideology and ideology has no structure. Ideology is the 'neev' (foundation)", he tweeted.

He dared these leaders to work on the ground. "Hit the street carrying the Tricolor and flag of Congress. Then, the realisation that the problem does not lie in foundation nor in structure (of the party), will come", another Twitter post by him said.

It is time (for the leaders) to put up a fight to save 'idea of India' along with Congress workers, he added.

Baghel, who is known to be a staunch loyalist of former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, has, however, observed the foundation of Congress has always been and will always be strengthened by workers of the party.

ODISHA COPS  
CRACK IIFL  
DACOITY CASEAKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 24

Odisha police on Tuesday claimed it had cracked the IIFL Finance Ltd's office dacoity case in Cuttack by arresting all the four accused and recovering nearly 2 kilograms of gold ornaments from them.

The Twin City Commissioner of Police, Dr Sudhansu Sarangi, said the dacoity was masterminded by an insider of the IIFL Finance Ltd's local unit and the police cracked it with help of experts from Hyderabad.

Dr Sarangi said the mastermind of the crime was Lala Amrit Ray, an employee at the company.

Lala had planned the loot with the help of one of his college friends, identified as Ranjan Behera alias Babu and two others.

On November 19, four miscreants who came on a couple of motorcycles stormed into the IIFL Finance office at Naya Sarak and took away gold ornaments and cash, all estimated to be worth over ₹12 crore. The loot was possible on account of the poor security measures at the office of which the miscreants took full advantage.

There were several loopholes in the security measures at the company which did not bother to even verify the antecedents of its staff before appointing them, said the CP.

Dr Sarangi said Amrit had siphoned off some gold ornaments during his five-year stint with IIFL Finance.

Fearing that his misdeeds would be exposed following the appointment of a new auditor recently, Amrit hatched a plan with his friend to loot cash and gold ornaments from the company before he was caught.

VETERAN  
ACTOR BADOLA  
NO MORE

Mumbai, Nov. 24: Veteran actor Vishwa Mohan Badola, who appeared in several television shows, films and was a prominent name in theatre, has passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 84.

According to a source close to the family, the actor died at his residence here on Monday night.

The veteran also featured in several acclaimed films, including Ashutosh Gowariker's *Swades*, in which played the role of a village leader.

He reunited with Gowariker for the 2008 period drama *Jodhaa Akbar*, featuring Hrithik Roshan and Aishwarya Rai, and also starred in movies like Rajkumar Hirani's *Lage Raho Munnabhai* and *Jolly LLB 2*.

ED RAIDS ON  
SHIV SENA  
MLA SARNAIKSAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday raided premises owned by Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik in connection with a probe into alleged money laundering and detained his son Vihang for questioning at the agency's Ballard Pier office. The ED raided 10 locations in Mumbai and Thane, including premises of security agency 'Tops'.

The raids have been criticised by the Sena leaders.

The officials said that raids began in the morning at multiple locations and they seized several documents and other items related with the probe. The agency detained Vihang and he was taken to the ED office at around 3.15 pm for questioning. "Probe is underway to trail the proceeds of the business to ascertain if the money was illegally laundered overseas. Those involved will be questioned during investigation," the officer said.

RJD fields its  
candidate for  
Speaker's postNAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, NOV. 24

The RJD on Tuesday announced that the party has fielded a candidate for the post of the speaker against the ruling NDA in the newly constituted Bihar Assembly.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said that the party has fielded five-time RJD MLA from Siwan, Awadh Bihari Chaudhary for the post against the ruling NDA nominee and three-time BJP MLA Vijay Kumar Sinha.

"Our nominee for the post of Assembly speaker has submitted his nomination paper even before the ruling NDA announced its candidate. Chaudhary is a five-time MLA and is aware of the Assembly proceedings. The decision to declare him as the candidate for the post was taken during a meeting with all grand alliance partners. We feel that he is the fit candidate for the post of the speaker", Yadav said on Tuesday.

With RJD declaring Chaudhary as the grand alliance candidate, the election scheduled on Wednesday for the post would not be unanimous this time.

This is also the first time since the NDA came to power in 2005 that the BJP has staked claim for the post. During the recently concluded

## Final journey



Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi near the mortal remains of his father and former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi in Guwahati on Tuesday. Tarun Gogoi, 86, passed away at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital, where he was receiving treatment for post-Covid complications. Scores of people and leaders cutting across party lines gathered at Tarun Gogoi's official residence in Dispur to pay their last respects. The Assam government has announced a three-day state mourning in honour of Tarun Gogoi.

UP okays ordinance against  
conversion for marriage

Lucknow, Nov. 24: The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday approved a draft ordinance to deal with religious conversion for the sake of marriage, which could land violators in jail for up to 10 years.

An official spokesperson said the state Cabinet gave its nod to the ordinance at its meeting chaired here by Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath. In recent weeks, BJP-run states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have revealed plans to enact laws to counter alleged attempts to convert Hindu women to Islam in the guise of marriage, which Hindu activists refer to as love jihad.

"The way in which religious conversions are

done using deceit, lies, force and dishonesty is heart wrenching, and it was necessary to have a law in this regard, Cabinet minister and UP government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh said.

He said punishment under the new law is a jail term from one and five years, and a fine of ₹15,000.

But if the woman involved is a minor or belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe, the jail term would range from three to 10 years, he said. The fine would increase to ₹25,000.

In the case of mass conversions, the punishment is from three years to 10 years and a fine of ₹50,000 on the organisations which indulge in it," the minister told reporters.

— PTI

HC upholds right to choose  
partner, faults earlier verdict

Allahabad, Nov. 24: Amid a row over love jihad, the Allahabad High Court has ruled that the right to choose a life partner irrespective of religion is intrinsic to the right to life and personal liberty. The bench contradicted a high court judgement in September and another in 2014 against marriages performed after alleged conversions, saying that the two rulings were not good in law.

Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal made the observations while quashing an FIR lodged by a man against his daughter's husband, whom she married after conversion to Islam. Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals, they said.

While allowing the writ petition by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka Kharwar alias Alia of Kushinagar, the judges cited Article 21 of the Constitution on personal liberty. "To disregard the

choice of a person who is of the age of majority would not only be anti-thesis to the freedom of choice of a grown up individual but would also be a threat to the concept of unity in diversity," they said. We do not see Priyanka Kharwar and Salamat as Hindu and Muslim, rather as two grown up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together peacefully and happily for over a year, they said.

— PTI

After ED,  
Customs arrests  
Kerala CM's  
ex-secretaryGILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 24

The troubles of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's former principal secretary M. Sivasankar are from over with Customs recording his arrest in connection with the gold smuggling case. The Customs officials visited Sivasankar in Kakkanaad jail in Ernakulam district where he is currently under judicial custody in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate earlier. He was arrested by the ED in connection with the money trail associated with the gold smuggling case in which he is the fifth accused.



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav with party MLAs addresses a press conference outside the Bihar Assembly in Patna on Tuesday.

— PTI

Gen Naravane takes stock of army's  
preparedness along borders in NE

New Delhi, Nov. 24: Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the force along the northern borders as well as its counter-militancy operations in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur, officials said.

Gen Naravane arrived in Dimapur in Nagaland on Monday on a three-day visit to various formations under the Eastern Command of the Army to review their operational preparedness.

The Eastern Command is responsible for guarding the Line of Actual

Control in Arunachal Pradesh as well as the Sikkim sectors besides several other areas.

On Monday, the Army Chief was briefed by General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Command Lt Gen Anil Chauhan and General Officer Commanding of Spear Corps Lt Gen R P Kalita on operational preparedness along the northern borders as well as operations in hinterland of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, the Army said in a release.

— PTI

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. R-E-04-2020-21  
Date: 20.11.2020  
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:  

Name of Work	Approx. value
Provision of LED name board at Shree Siddharoodha Swarnji Railway Station-Hubballi.	Rs. 9.94,690/-

  
Last date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 18.12.2020  
For details log on: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Hubballi  
PUB/192/ASPP/PR/SWR/2020-21

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.EMPED-45/2020  
No.EMP/EDTECH-6820/91/182 Date:16.11.2020  
Name for the work "Maintenance Contract of Streetlights inside Township area for a period of 03 (Three) years". Estimated cost : Rs.1,47,43,295/- Last Date & time of submission of Bid : Dt.07.12.2020 up to 18:00 Hrs., Refer our Website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
Executive Engineer (PED-III)  
PPT/PR/308/20-21, DT.20.11.2020

**The Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)  
Corporate Office: 759, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
No. TNHDC/402/SP/20-21 Dt. 25.11.2020  
Sealed tenders are invited for a period of two years from 10.12.2020 to 09.12.2022 towards supply of Gold Medals in various sizes on different weights viz. 40 gm, 24 gm, 10 gm, 8 gm, 6 gm, 4 gm and 2 gm. Our requirement would be about of 5000 grams gold in a year approximately. The sealed tenders will be accepted upto 3.00 p.m. on 08.12.2020. For more details visit <http://www.p.o.o.m.p.u.h.a.r.c.o.m.in/h.d.c.a.a.d> and <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>  
DIPR/4381/TENDER/2020 Managing Director

**सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया**  
**Central Bank of India**  
**THYAGARAYA NAGAR BRANCH: No.11, Rajabathar Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017, Ph: 044 - 2346 4293 / 4294**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Whereas the Authorized Officer of Central Bank of India under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 and Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 07.09.2020, calling upon the borrowers Mr. N. Dhayal and Mrs. D. Menaka, both at: No.23, Vaskinthan Street, Pallavaram, Chennai 600043 A/c No.: 23628899847 and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs.37,91,196/- (which represents Principal plus interest charged up to 07.09.2020 and further interest from 08.09.2020 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrowers and guarantors, both having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules, 2002 on this the 23rd day of November the year 2020.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
The borrowers and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India T-Nagar Branch for an amount of Rs.37,91,196/- as on 07.09.2020 Less recoveries if any and interest thereon from 08.09.2020 and other expenses till date of recovery.  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Property Belonging to Mr. Dayalan S/o P.R.S Natarajan  
All the piece and parcel of the property being Land bearing Plot No 44B2 admeasuring about 2223 sq feet being the southern portion of Plot No. 44B situated at yasin Khan street, Pallavaram Village, Alandur Taluk and comprised in Old Survey No 58/1 and New Survey No 58/1A/1 A2 as per plat. Alandur Village and bounded on the North By : Remaining portion of Plot No.44B bearing Plot No. 44B1, South By: Yasin Khan 20 feet Road, East By : House of Sundar Bai, West By: Plot No 44A. Measuring: On the Northern Side : 31 Feet 8 inches, On the Southern Side: 33 Feet 6 inches, On the Eastern Side: 67 Feet 11 inches, On the Western Side: 69 Feet 6 inches. Together with the residential building thereon and ½ undivided share in the passage admeasuring about 255 sq.feet (i.e 127 ½ sq.feet undivided interest in the common passage). Situate within the registration district of Chennai South & Registration Sub-District of Pallavaram.  
Date : 23.11.2020  
Place: Chennai  
Authorised Officer  
Central Bank of India

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**  
**AVADI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
CHENNAI - 64.  
Roc. No.5922/2020/E2  
TENDER NOTICE  
Dated : 17.11.2020  
Tenders are invited under General Fund by the undersigned at his office up to 3.00 pm on 18.12.2020 for the following work and the same will be opened at 3.30 pm on the same day or any other day specified by the undersigned in the presence of tenders who are present. Tender schedules can be received on payment of schedule cost at Corporation treasury or it can be downloaded from the website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> free of cost on or before 17.12.2020 upto 3.00 pm. The tender will be received on 18.12.2020 upto 3.00 pm both online and in office and the same will be opened at 3.30 pm on 18.12.2020 or any other day specified. The EMD should be attached with the tenders in the form of DD/B/C payable at Chennai. For the tenders submitted through online, the EMD should be received prior to the time for receipt of tenders at designated place. Delay will not be accepted. Commissioner reserves right to accept or reject or cancel the tender without assign other details are available in the tender notice.  

Sl. No.	Description of works	Estimate Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD cost Rs. in Lakhs	Schedule cost Rs.	Period of completion
1.	Supply and Delivery of Robotic sewer cleaning machine 1 No for Under ground sewerage system at Avadi City Municipal Corporation.	39.80	3.98	15,600	1 Month

  
DIPR/4392/TENDER/2020  
Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation



DECCAN Chronicle

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Corporate takeover of banks a dangerous idea

Recommendations of an Internal Working Group (IWG) of the Reserve Bank of India to allow big corporations to promote commercial banks has finally set the stage to turning the clock back on the ownership of lending institutions in the country, nearly 50 years after the Indira Gandhi government nationalised banks.

One of the reasons that forced Prime Minister of the day, Indira Gandhi, to nationalise 14 large private banks in 1969 was that these were owned by big industrialists and that they gave loans to themselves. Ever since this watershed moment in history, successive RBI governors and committees balked at the prospects of allowing industrial houses to promote banking institutions. Even when the RBI relaxed norms for setting up banks, it allowed only two entities — IDFC and Bandhan — to promote full-fledged banks.

The IWG's recommendation on allowing big companies into the banking sector, however, does a somersault on the RBI's past approach. Though the IWG did not lose sight of the possibility of such corporate-promoted banks resorting to connected lending, it noted that allowing such entities would bring in much-needed capital, experience, management expertise, and strategic direction to the banking sector. It also observed that many of such industrial houses have been successfully operating in other financial segments.

Discussing international experience in allowing industrial houses into the banking sectors, IWG argued that there are very few jurisdictions which explicitly disallow large corporate houses. There was, however, no country with a comparable economic and social background as that of India on the list. Most of the countries cited were the Western countries or some smaller countries like Singapore or Malaysia.

In India, a large majority of people still trust banks because they are not allowed to fail. In such circumstances, the trust deficit among people towards the banking sector would lead to the collapse of the banking sector. That is why former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan called the IWG recommendations a bombshell.

In a joint statement, Mr Rajan and former RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya questioned the timing of the decision to discard the cautious approach adopted by the central bank in allowing industrial houses to promote commercial banks. They argued that giving banking licences to industrial houses would allow them to concentrate economic power in their hands. Citing the corporate governance track record in the country, they argued that it would be difficult to ring-fence their banks from lending to their own group companies, which would put their competitors at a great disadvantage.

The IWG's recommendations have also become controversial because all the experts, except one, were of the opinion that large corporates/industrial houses should not be allowed to promote a bank. The IWG, however, went ahead with a recommendation that contradicts the expert advice. This undue haste on the part of the IWG to create a favourable policy framework for industrial houses could create suspicion in the minds of people, which is not conducive for the healthy growth of the banking sector in the country. The RBI governor and board, and also the Central government, should, therefore, exercise abundant caution while acting on this particular recommendation.

A builder of modern Assam

If there is a lesson in the life of former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi, who died on Monday at age 86, it is this: a sympathetic and active consideration of the lives of all communities in a state, a close and pragmatic attachment to ground realities, and an intellectual appreciation of the development paradigm, wins people's hearts — and elections.

Assam's longest-serving CM (2001-16) did not adopt the attitude of either entering a popularity contest or pleasing his party's high command in Delhi. This lent gravitas to his actions. In any objective evaluation, Mr Gogoi will be counted as arguably the most important Assam personality since independence, and among the most important Indians, although the breadth of his achievements remains to be fully appreciated. This Congress leader offers a model to emulate for his party and its leaders, and for other parties and their leaders.

Mr Gogoi did not contest the 1983 election following the call of All Assam Students Union to boycott parliament polls until a resolution of the "foreigners issue" was found. A Congressman through and through, he was not into AASU or AGSP politics but was frank in acknowledging that there was a problem. He also held that some "Indians" had gone to Bangladesh on account of communal problems, only to come back. He did not count them as foreigner. The Congress leader was a strong votary of the Assam Accord patiently negotiated by PM Rajiv Gandhi and wanted the tribunals to identify "illegal" elements to do their work patiently, and with the utmost care (unlike what transpired).

Assam had been wracked by multiple insurgencies. It faced a very serious illegal migrants issue. The state has multiple ethnic, religious and tribal communities. Mr Gogoi negotiated their demands for political participation and socio-economic development with empathy. As CM, he brought a financially bankrupt state back to life, leveraging his personal goodwill with former PM A.B. Vajpayee and home minister L.K. Advani. And he built infrastructure, offered employment opportunities, and encouraged women's participation in panchayat institutions. He acknowledged corruption in his own government. He was a builder of modern Assam.

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**Kochi:** No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408  
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Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu



Who's afraid of Nitin Gadkari?

Union road and transport minister Nitin Gadkari's recent sharp rebuke of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials for the delay in the construction of the NHAI headquarters was delivered with his typical smiling demeanour but carried a lethal punch that shocked the babus. It was surprising in its candour (rare for politicians) and turned what was meant to be a joyous event — the inauguration of the building — into a scathing critique of bureaucratic inefficiency in the country.

This was not meant to turn out like this, more than six years into the rule of the NDA government. When the Narendra Modi sarkar came to power six years ago, it rode in on huge expectations that it would re-energise the economy, oversee infrastructure development, improve the functioning of

the government and tackle corruption. Many of its big-ticket economic reforms are still on the anvil or have been watered down, following political resistance. Two big "reforms", namely demonetisation and a badly implemented GST, have been disastrous. But the one area where the winds of change were felt the most was the bureaucracy. It is clearly evident that despite what some saw as a streak of authoritarianism in Prime Minister Modi's approach, bureaucracy in India was shaken out of its long slumber and was compelled to sit up and take note of his new style of proactive governance.

Now, from hearing it from Mr Gadkari, it appears that in this respect, too, the recalcitrant babus have refused to fall in line with the Modi sarkar's stated culture of direct access, simplifying proce-

It is indeed rare for the political executive to haul up the bureaucracy in the manner that Mr Gadkari did, though the present dispensation at the Centre has moved far more decisively against bureaucratic corruption and inefficiency than its predecessors...

dures and eliminating delays in decision-making and implementation. The situation seems to hark back to the to the days when an administrative paralysis had set in during the UPA-2 government's tenure. Despite green signals from the highest levels, the babus in Lutyens' Delhi refuse to take a deci-

sion and keep the file moving from one ministry to the other.

It is indeed rare for the political executive to haul up the bureaucracy in the manner that Mr Gadkari did, though the present dispensation at the Centre has moved far more decisively against bureaucratic corruption and inefficiency than its predecessors — compulsorily retiring hundreds of babus for corruption and inefficiency. When it came back to power last year, it started with compulsory retirement of 27 IRS officers and followed this up with instructions to various departments to identify deadwood that the government needed to get rid of. This message was underlined again by Mr Gadkari to his captive audience, just in case some babus felt the government was not serious.

But is this the entire picture? Could there be a flip side — that

perhaps it is the workman who is quarrelling with his tools for his own failures? After all, the same babus, who were lambasted by the minister, used the same rules and procedures to build the national highways at a stupendous rate of 30 km a day! It could also be pointed out that the political executive also should share the blame for allowing the "naalayak" and "nikamma" babus to fester in the system because it suits them and their populist policies?

Can Mr Gadkari and the government seize the courage to follow through with its campaign to purge corruption in governance or will the corrosive forces of corrupt netas and babus manage to paper over the cracks and survive?

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@Twitter.com](#). Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani



If 'Trumpism' outlives Trump, America loses



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

A cartoon in London's free and therefore mass circulation *Evening Standard* shows US President Donald Trump screaming: "This totally discredited, completely fraudulent election ... has been won by me." The searing contradiction of that rant may well reflect the profound conviction of the 68 million fanatical Trump devotees. It is what 78-year-old US President-elect Joseph R. (Joe) Biden must address if the next four years of American history are not lost in bitter political wrangling, interminable legal battles, vicious racial conflict and bloody fighting in the streets.

During the last four years the United States suffered what former President Barack Obama calls "truth decay". He warns, moreover, that it will take more than one election — meaning Mr Biden's historic victory this month — to undo the damage done during the Trump presidency. The mix of toxic conspiracy theories, denigration of respected international institutions, intensely narrow nationalism as highlighted by the beligerence of Mr Trump's "America First" slogan, the spate of sackings to purge the administration, especially the Pentagon, of all but Trump loyalists, and a reckless populism that has divided American society from top to bottom has created wounds that are in desperate need of healing.

Abroad, the mix found support only among leaders who share some of Mr Trump's personal and political characteristics — Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and our own Mr Narendra Modi among them. At home, Mr Trump's divisive demagoguery enjoyed the back-

ing — apart from influential power brokers who are always in the shadowy background — of an extreme right-wing fringe, lower income group whites in the so-called "rust belt", and a surprising number of women and Latino voters who also saw Mr Trump as a champion of the underprivileged. Like India's Sangh Parivar, this coalition, too, was able to single out the enemy within and charge it with doing the majority out of its rights. Similarly, Mr Trump accused, without a shred of evidence, countless anonymous enemies as well as the financier George Soros and voting machines manufactured in Venezuela of cheating him of his majority.

A Biden presidency's real tasks lie at home where it must counter such dangerous fantasies and persuade all Americans to accept reality. But what it needs to accomplish abroad naturally commands greater attention in the media outside the United States. India and Britain both offer examples of such expectations. Mr Modi's concern for H-1B visas and Green Cards may not be shared by a Democratic administration, not even by Mr Biden, a friend of India who wrote to President George W. Bush asking him to remove the sanctions on India that President Bill Clinton had imposed after the 1998 Pokharan-II nuclear tests, but saying

During the last four years the United States suffered what former President Barack Obama calls 'truth decay'. He warns, moreover, that it will take more than one election to undo the damage...

It is a matter of regret to the world and should be a matter of shame to the United States that some 30 of Mr Trump's election complaints have already been rejected by the American courts

the time was not ripe for easing up on Pakistan. At the same time, he warned India not to take advantage of the Afghanistan crisis because, as he put it, the whole world, not just the United States, was looking at the Kashmir problem. This comment provoked Jaswant Singh, who was visiting the US as external affairs minister under Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, to cancel his appointment with the then Senator Biden.

As for Britain, Mr Johnson, facing bankruptcy because of the costs of the coronavirus pandemic and nowhere near achieving a divorce settlement with the European Union which he must do by December 31, desperately needs a trade pact with the United States. But whereas President Trump was solidly behind the British Prime Minister, proudly calling himself "Mr Brexit", his Roman Catholic successor with roots in Ireland's County Louth, has not rushed to Britain's defence. On the contrary, he has made it clear that the Good Friday agreement which Mr Clinton had brokered must be honoured and a soft border retained between Ireland and the six British-held counties of Ulster (Northern Ireland).

Beyond such specific challenges, a Biden presidency must reintegrate the United States into pragmatic global politics. It must forge rational new alliances with leaders of the European Union like Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and France's President Emmanuel Macron. It must return to the Paris climate accord and abandon the insensate persecution of Iran in favour of a coordinated strategy to meet Tehran's legitimate

threat perceptions, if any.

Above all, Washington must come to grips with the challenge of a rising China. A firm stand is certainly necessary when it comes to China riding roughshod over the rights of smaller East and Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea as well as China's aggressive militarism in Ladakh. But ranting and raving about the Wuhan virus, drawing facile distinctions between the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, and targeting even the World Health Organisation for apparent subservience to China makes a mockery of diplomatic activism. It is as childish as dubbing North Korea's Kim Jong-un "Rocket Man" until the two finally met under Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's aegis in Singapore. Yesterday's enemy was then transformed into today's sweetheart... until they fell out again!

It is a matter of regret to the world and should be a matter of shame to the United States that some 30 of Mr Trump's election complaints have already been rejected by the American courts, and that a number of civil and criminal charges may be levelled against him after January 20, 2021 when his immunity from prosecution lapses. None of this is a good advertisement for democracy in an increasingly undemocratic and authoritarian environment. The world's only superpower enjoys a responsibility to the global community that goes far beyond the demands of domestic party politics. Americans simply must not allow Trumpism to outlive Donald Trump.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

A number of civil and criminal charges may be levelled against him after January 20, 2021, when his immunity from prosecution lapses. None of this is a good advertisement for democracy

LETTERS

NIVAR A DOUBLE WHAMMY

More of nature's fury in the name of 'Nivar' — a name that stands for 'safety and precaution' as coined by Iran — is expected to wreak havoc along the coastal areas of TN and Pondy in the next two days giving the governments tense moments with regard to precautions and safety of the people (TN districts put on alert as Nivar to hit coast tomorrow, Nov.24). It is of course gratifying to note that governments have announced red alerts and the power supply is to be cut off to prevent electrocution by accident and to top it all, the disaster management staff prior to Nivar's attack has also been deployed in the worst hit areas. It is also advisable that people should not venture out and that would drastically reduce human casualties lest Nivar should be a double whammy along with Covid-19.

E.S.Chandrasekaran  
Chennai

HAPPY TIDINGS

IT'S HEARTENING to learn that Oxford vaccine being developed by AstraZenica and Oxford University is effective (over 70%) against the deadly Covid-19 and it may be available in India by the year end too. The very thinking that a medicine is round the corner makes one feel optimistic about life. It is imperative that the Indian government gets adequate stock of it and gets its logistics right to ensure fair and speedy distribution of the vaccine.

S. Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

A WELCOME DECISION

FOLLOWING STRIDENT criticism and opposition from different quarters against its Kerala police (Amendment) ordinance, which provides for five-year jail term or a fine of ₹10,000 or both for making, expressing, publishing and disseminating the threatening or abusive, humiliating or social media posts, the ruling leftist government in Kerala had made a prudent decision not to implement the ordinance. Agreed, hate campaigns, misinformation and abusive content have seen a humongous rise on social media platforms in recent times, but it does not warrant a draconian piece of legislation. Criminalising online speech by users under vague expressions which is liable to subjective and arbitrary application is an anathema to lofty principles guiding democracy. The sign of a mature democracy lies in its institutions and democratically elected authority not perceiving and treating dissent and legitimate criticism aimed against it as an exercise in bad faith.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan



## IN BRIEF TAIWAN TO BUILD DOMESTIC SUBMARINES

**Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Nov. 24:** Taiwan's president inaugurated the production of domestically made submarines Tuesday in the southern city of Kaohsiung, in a step forward for the island's defence strategy at a time of elevated tensions with China.

"This submarine is an important part of allowing our navy to develop asymmetric warfare and to intimidate and block enemy ships from surrounding Taiwan's main island," said President Tsai Ing-wen. "Now, with the construction of the submarine to its future commission, we will certainly let the world know our persistence in safeguarding our sovereignty."

## B'DESH MAN HELD FOR HINDU ATTACK PLOT

**Singapore, Nov. 24:** A Bangladeshi man, who was plotting attacks against Hindus in his own country and planning to fight in Kashmir, has been arrested by Singapore's security agencies which investigated the suspicious activities of 37 people as part of the heightened security measures in the city-state following recent terror strikes in Europe, the government said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that counter-terrorism investigations into the suspicious activities of 37 people in Singapore have been carried out after most of them posted on social media, inciting violence or stoking community unrest in the aftermath of the terror attacks in France.

Of the 37 people, 14 are Singaporeans and 23 foreigners, mostly Bangladeshis, it said. "The 14 Singaporeans comprise 10 males and four females, and are aged between 19 and 62 years old. Most of them had, in response to the recent terror attacks in France, made social media postings which incited violence or stoked communal unrest," the ministry said.

# Michigan certifies Biden poll victory

**Lansing (US), Nov. 24:** Michigan election officials on Monday certified Democrat Joe Biden's 154,000-vote victory in the state, another setback for President Donald Trump in his futile effort to undermine the results of the Nov. 3 election through baseless legal challenges and unsupported claims of fraud.

The Board of State Canvassers, which has two Republicans and two Democrats, confirmed the results on a 3-0 vote with one abstention. Allies of Trump and losing GOP Senate candidate John James had urged the panel to delay voting for two weeks to audit votes in heavily Democratic Wayne County, home to Detroit. Under Michigan law, Biden claims all 16 electoral votes.

Biden won by 2.8 percentage points — a larger margin than in other states where Trump is contesting the results like Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Some Trump allies had expressed hope that state lawmakers could intervene in selecting Republican electors in states that do not certify. That long shot bid is no longer possible in Michigan.

"The people of Michigan have spoken. President-elect Biden won the State of Michigan by more than 154,000 votes, and he will be our next president on January 20th," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, said in a statement, saying it's "time to put this election behind us."

The Trump legal team dismissed the certification as "simply a procedural step" and insisted it would fight on. But Trump's efforts to stave off the inevitable — formal recognition of his defeat — is facing increasingly stiff resistance from the courts and fellow Republicans with just three weeks to go until the Electoral College meets to certify Biden's victory.



Janet Yellen

## YELLEN MAY BE SELECTED AS TREASURY SECY

**Washington, Nov. 24:** US President-elect Joe Biden is planning to nominate former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as his Treasury Secretary to lead his economic response to the raging Coronavirus pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the world's biggest economy and led millions of Americans to lose their jobs. A formal announcement on 74-year-old Yellen would be made soon, according to *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. The Treasury Secretary is 5th in the presidential line of succession.

— PTI

gnition of his defeat — is facing increasingly stiff resistance from the courts and fellow Republicans with just three weeks to go until the Electoral College meets to certify Biden's victory.

## INDIA KEY PARTNER IN ENGAGING CHINA: BLINKEN

**Washington, Nov. 24:** India and the US face a common challenge in the form of an "increasingly assertive" China and New Delhi has to be a key partner in engaging with Beijing from a position of strength, believes long-time national security and foreign policy expert Antony Blinken, who could be President-elect Joe Biden's probable pick for the post of the Secretary of State.

Blinken made these comments during a community outreach programme with the Indian-Americans organised by the Biden campaign on the occasion of India's Independence Day on August 15.

He alleged that US President Donald Trump has helped China advance key strategic goals by weakening American alliances, leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill, and abandoning American values and giving Beijing a green light to trample on democracy in Hong Kong.

— PTI

# US virus response: Thanksgiving could prove to be make or break

**Washington, Nov. 24:** In Pennsylvania, if you're having friends over to socialise, you're supposed to wear a mask — and so are your friends. That's the rule, but Barb Chestnut has no intention of following it.

"No one is going to tell me what I can or not do in my own home" said Chestnut, 60, of Shippensburg. "They do not pay my bills and they are not going to tell me what to do." As governors and mayors grapple with an out-of-control pandemic, they are ratcheting up mask mandates and imposing restrictions on small indoor gatherings, which have been blamed for accelerating the spread of the coronavirus.

But while such measures carry the weight of law, they are, in practical terms, unenforceable, and officials are banking on voluntary compliance instead. Good luck with that. While many are undoubtedly heeding public health advice — downsizing Thanksgiving plans, avoiding get-togethers, wearing masks when they're around people who don't live with them — it's inevitable that a segment of the population will blow off new state and local restrictions and socialise anyway.

Experts say that could put greater stress on overburdened hospitals and lead to an even bigger spike in sickness and death over the holidays.

— AP

## NETANYAHU SAYS HE'LL PAY A VISIT TO BAHRAIN SOON

**Jerusalem, Nov. 24:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he spoke with the crown prince of Bahrain and would visit the Gulf state soon, a month after the two countries established formal diplomatic relations. Bahrain's foreign minister visited Israel last week in a mark of the warming ties

# China FM in Japan for talks on reviving Covid-hit economies

**Tokyo, Nov. 24:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Japan on Tuesday to meet with his Japanese counterpart and discuss ways to revive their pandemic-hit economies as well as regional concerns over China's growing influence.

During his two-day visit, Wang and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi are to discuss resuming business trips between the world's No. 2 and

No. 3 economies through a "business track" programme that would allow visitors to engage in limited business activity during 14-day quarantine periods. Japan recently launched such arrangements with a few less-infected Asian countries.

Wang's visit comes as Japan is grappling with resurgence of coronavirus infections and the government struggles to balance disease prevention

and the economy. Chinese visitors topped the number of tourists in Japan before the pandemic.

Wang is expected to meet with PM Yoshihide Suga during his Tokyo visit, the first by a top Chinese official since the February visit of Chinese foreign policy chief Yang Jiechi. Japan and China are not currently considering rescheduling Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Japan.

— AP

# Oz airline boss for vaccine passport

**Sydney, Nov. 24:** The boss of Australia's largest airline said Monday that once a coronavirus vaccine becomes widely available, it may require passengers use it before they can travel abroad.

Qantas Chief Executive Alan Joyce said he's been talking to his counterparts at other airlines around the world about the possibility of a "vaccination passport" for overseas travelers.

"We are looking at changing the terms and conditions to say for international travellers that we

will ask people to have the vaccination before they get on the aircraft," Joyce told Australia's *Network Nine* television.

Australia has imposed some of the most severe border restrictions in the world since the pandemic began. It has closed its borders to most international visitors and only allowed its own citizens to travel internationally under special circumstances. Those restrictions have helped the nation of 26 million people tame its outbreak.

— AP

# U.S. PRISONS TO PRIORITISE STAFF TO RECEIVE VIRUS

**Washington, Nov. 24:** The federal prison system will be among the first government agencies to receive the coronavirus vaccine, though initial allotments of the vaccine will be given to staff and not to inmates, even though sickened prisoners vastly outnumber sickened staff. Officials at the federal Bureau of Prisons have been instructing wardens and other staff members to prepare to receive the vaccine within weeks.

— AP

# LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

WEDNESDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2020 | CHENNAI

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	44,523.02 1.01
Nifty 50	13,055.15 1.00
S&P 500*	3,619.28 1.17
Dollar (₹)	73.99 0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.88 0.14
Euro (₹)	87.93 0.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,569▼1,049 2.15
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	47.66 1.60
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.880 0.021
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.865 0.006

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Aibea to join trade unions in strike tomorrow

The All India Bank Employees' Association (Aibea) said it would join the one-day nationwide strike on Nov. 26 called by central trade unions to protest against the government's anti-labour policies. Ten central trade unions, except BMS, will observe a general strike on Thursday. "Lok Sabha in its recently held session has passed three new labour enactments by dismantling existing 27 enactments," the Aibea said.

# ■ Heavy FPI buying pushes indices up Nifty crosses 13000-mark

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

Benchmark index Nifty-50 created a new milestone by crossing the 13000-mark for the first time and closed at a new peak of 13055.15, aided by a sharp rally in financials and auto stocks and heavy foreign portfolio buying.

The index has gained 73.61 per cent from the March low of 7511.10 in the post-Covid rally over optimism around economic revival and robust second quarter corporate earnings.

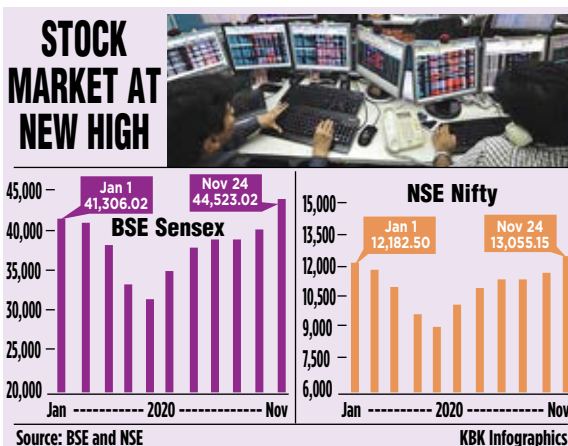
The Nifty gained 128.70 points or 1 per cent on Tuesday to reach the new landmark of 13055.15 after touching an intra-day high of 13079.10 points.

The BSE Sensex also gained 1.01 per cent, or 445.87 points, and closed above the 44,500 mark, at a new all-time high of 44523.02.

BSE's market capitalisation hit a new all-time high of Rs 174.81 lakh crore.

The Nifty Bank Index comprising banks and other financial heavyweights gained 2.46 per cent while the Nifty Auto Index gained 1.71 per cent. The top Nifty gainers included Adani Port (4.46 per cent), Axis Bank (3.93 per cent), HDFC Bank (3.54 per cent), Eicher Motors (3.52 per cent), Hindalco (3.44 per cent) and Mahindra & Mahindra (3.05 per cent).

The broader market also gained but lagged behind the large-caps with the



BSE Mid-cap Index rising 0.58 per cent and the BSE Small-cap Index rising 0.89 per cent.

Heavy buying by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), to the tune of Rs 4,563.18 crore, led to gain across all the sectoral indices on Tuesday.

"Indian indices opened on record-high levels on Tuesday, tracking gains in Asian peers, on the back of the progress made on the Covid-19 vaccine and the prospects for a speedy global economic revival," said Hemang Jani, head-equity strategy, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"FPIs have made the highest monthly buying in November 2020 in the last 2 decades. Till date they have pumped in approximately Rs 50,989 crore. In November itself and have invested approximately Rs 1.31 lakh crore in India year-to-date. This has helped the indices touch the 13K levels," Jani said.

"The inflow increased considerably especially after the end of the election in the United States and weakness in the dollar index. Another major reason behind such a large inflow was the expected stimulus worth trillions of dollars from central banks to revive economies that are hit hard by the Covid-19 lockdown," Jani said.

Strong second quarter corporate earnings with significant growth seen in IT, pharma, metals, select private banks and NBFCs, and cement have helped the market move higher.

"Rural demand continued to outperform urban in 2QFY21, enabling sequential recovery for most companies in the consumer sector. Commentaries of NBFCs suggest improving macros across most business segments and the end of the moratorium have led to increased optimism for collection efficiency as well as growth," Jani said.

## RBI nixes Muthoot plan to acquire IDBI Mutual Fund

**New Delhi, Nov. 24:** The RBI has turned down the proposal of Muthoot Finance to acquire IDBI Bank's mutual fund business for Rs 215 crore, saying sponsoring a mutual fund is not in consonance with the activity of an operating NBFC.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, IDBI Bank said a share purchase agreement for sale of IDBI Mutual Fund to Muthoot Finance was signed on November 22, 2019. The agreement was for acquisition by Muthoot Finance of 100 per cent equity shares of IDBI Asset Management held by IDBI Bank, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, and 100 per cent shares of IDBI MF Trustee Company held by IDBI Bank.

"Their (Muthoot's) request for a no objection certificate was not acceded to by Reserve Bank of India," IDBI said.

— PTI

# RE corners 95% energy project financing in 2019

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 24

Financing for coal-based energy projects dropped 82 per cent last year to shrink the segment's share in the total energy project financing to 5 per cent. Renewable energy projects now account for 95 per cent of the lending.

Two coal-fired energy projects received a total finance of Rs 1,100 crore in 2019, which was 82 per cent less than Rs 6,081 crore received by five projects in 2018. The project financing in the coal sector has been coming down for the past two years. In 2017, coal projects had received a total of Rs 60,767 crore and by 2018 the lending dropped by 90 per cent, as per the report by Centre for Financial Accountability.

Coal-based projects had a higher share of 72.6 per cent in the energy project financing till 2017. That year, renewable energy accounted for just 27.4 per



cent share with a total financing of Rs 22,913 crore. By 2018, renewable energy (RE) financing grew by 6.6 per cent to Rs 24,443 crore. But as the coal project loans fell drastically, the RE share rose to 80 per cent.

Total project financing for the energy sector further came down to Rs 24,071 crore in 2019. Despite, a 6 per cent dip in funds to Rs 22,971 crore, 14 renewable energy projects grabbed a higher share of 95 per cent. Of the total funds, wind energy projects received Rs 6,917 crore and solar projects got Rs 16,054 crore.

The troubled state of discoms affected the lending towards renewable energy projects as well.

Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh continued to be the most attractive states for renewable energy, accounting for 79 per cent of the total lending. Commercial banks provided the majority of loans to renewable energy, while their exposure to coal-based projects fell drastically.

Private commercial banks continued their dominance, but state-owned financial institutions too increased their lending.

Refinancing continued to account for the majority of coal power lending in 2019, while most renewable energy lending was for new projects.

# Motor premiums reclaim top share

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 24

After remaining subdued for six months, motor premiums have once again reclaimed the top slot among general insurance categories in October. Increased festive demand for automobiles has helped the revival of motor insurance premiums.

Motor premiums historically had the highest share

among non-life insurance premiums. At the end of last fiscal, motor premiums had 36.6 per cent share of total general insurance premiums and health had 27.3 per cent share.

However, the lock-down period saw a significant drop in the automotive sales and motor cover renewals, which led to a 49 per cent drop in the motor premiums in April. At a monthly premium of Rs

2,621 crore in April, share of motor premiums fell to 18.5 per cent.

But the pandemic saw health insurance premiums growing. In April health premiums grew 6.2 per cent over the same month last year and grabbed a share of 37.9 per cent. Health premiums have been growing all through FY21 first half.

By October, the year-to-date motor premium went

up more than health at Rs 35,281 crore and its share moved up to 31.1 per cent. Health premium till October stood at Rs 32,879 crore with a share of 29.2 per cent, as per the data from General Insurance Council.

Motor premiums increased 3 per cent in October against the same month last year on the back of rising new vehicle sales.



## SHORT TAKES

## Dada underwent 22 Covid-19 tests

**Mumbai:** BCCI president and former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday revealed that he underwent as many as 22 Covid-19 tests in the past four and a half months while trying to navigate his professional commitments amid the raging pandemic. Ganguly was kept busy by the conduct of the Indian Premier League in the UAE from mid-September to early November. "I must tell you I have got tested 22 times in the last four and half months and not been positive even once, I have had cases around me, so that probably forced me to get tested myself," Ganguly said at a virtual conference where he was brand ambassador of Livinguard AG. "...I stay with elderly parents and I have travelled to Dubai and in the initial part, I was very worried, not just for me, but the community, you don't want to spread it to somebody else because people are looking up to you," he added. Ganguly said he is immensely proud of his BCCI team for pulling off a successful IPL, which he hopes, would be back in India for its next edition. The event was shifted to UAE this year because of the pandemic.

## Fans set for EPL games next week

**London:** Supporters are set to return to English Premier League games next week for the first time since March. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is allowing a return of spectators to sports stadiums as part of an easing of coronavirus restrictions when the national lockdown ends on December 2. A maximum of 4,000 fans will initially be allowed into venues in the areas with the lowest Covid-19 infection rates and up to 2,000 in the areas placed in the next tier of restrictions. The highest-risk areas still won't be allowed fans. Plans for the return of spectators in October were put on hold due to a spike in coronavirus cases. "We are able to get the turnstiles turning sooner than expected," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said on Monday, "taking a cautious approach and starting with the lowest risk areas first. I'm confident that sports will take every step to ensure their fans are safe, and fans will play their part and look out for each other until we can safely get everyone back in." — AP

## Honda end year with double points

**Portugal:** Fighting rides from Stefan Bradl and Alex Marquez delivered a double-top ten to wrap up a strong final weekend in here. The unprecedented 2020 MotoGP came to a close in Portugal with a trio of tremendous races across the classes. Conditions were again near perfect as the sun loomed over the Portimao circuit. Using morning warm up to confirm the final aspects of his setting, Alex was again strong and consistent throughout the 20-minute session. The MotoGP rookie ended in seventh but with excellent pace.

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**Women's Big Bash League:** Semifinal-1 from 1.40 pm on Sony Six

## FOOTBALL

**Indian Super League:** Goa vs Mumbai City from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**Champions League:** Olympiacos vs Manchester City from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Monchengladbach vs Shakhtar Donetsk from 11.25 pm on Sony Six; Liverpool vs Atalanta from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1; Inter Milan vs Real Madrid from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Bayern Munich vs Salzburg from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3; Atletico Madrid vs Lokomotiv Moscow from 1.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Six

## WWE

**NXT:** Bouts from 6.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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## DOUBLE TROUBLE?

## Rohit, Ishant may miss entire Australia Test series

**New Delhi, Nov. 24:** India's star opener Rohit Sharma and pacer Ishant Sharma will miss the first two Tests against Australia and are also doubtful for the remaining two after it was conveyed to the BCCI that the duo will require close to a month to be match fit.

The two, who are undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, are already out of contention for the limited-overs leg of the series, which begins with the ODIs on Friday.

They were kept in the Test squad for the series starting on December 17 but tough quarantine rules have made their availability uncertain.

"The NCA has given a report that both Rohit and Ishant will take at least another 3 to 4 weeks to get match fit," a Board source said on Tuesday.

Rohit, while talking to PTI last week, had stated that his hamstring injury is fine now and he is only working on strength and conditioning to be battle-ready at the NCA.

Ishant, on the other hand, is recovering from a side strain.

"Even if they travel now they will have 'hard quarantine' since they will travel by commercial flight. Hard quarantine means not being able to train during the 14 days like the whole team," the source said.

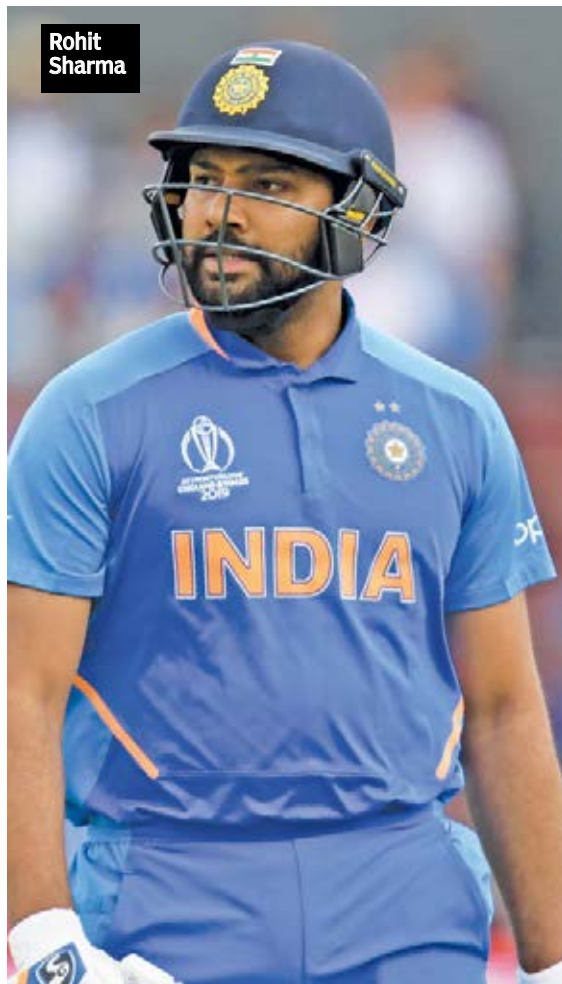
"So, now if only Cricket Australia can convince the government and allow them to train during quarantine," he added.

The Indian team, which landed here after the IPL earlier this month on a chartered flight, was allowed to train in quarantine as Australia battled a fresh wave of Covid cases.

National coach Ravi Shastri had on Sunday stated that the two cricketers' chances of playing the Test series hinge on whether they are able to board a flight to Australia within this week. — PTI



Ishant Sharma



Rohit Sharma

## Rohit's absence a big void: Smith

**Sydney, Nov. 24:** Star Australia batsman Steve Smith reckons Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's absence will leave a "big hole" in the Indian team but the visitors have a lot of talented players who can put their hands up in pressure situations.

Rohit, who is nursing a hamstring injury, is out of white ball series and is still doubtful starter for Test matches while skipper Kohli will be on paternity leave after the first Day/Night Test in Adelaide. "Look, Rohit is obviously a tremendous

white-ball player, he has proven that for a number of years now at the top of the order, so obviously it leaves a bit of hole," Smith said.

"But I guess the beauty with the Indian team is there are so many batters coming through, that are of high quality."

Smith spoke about Mayank Agarwal and KL Rahul, who were on fire during the IPL. "You can look at someone like Mayank Agarwal in the IPL, just smashed, KL Rahul in the top order as well. There are plenty of

options there for them so, look you leave a hole no doubt, but quality players there to back him up," Smith explained.

He feels that it's the same for Kohli in Test matches. "The same (like Rohit) I think with Virat and the Test squad. You know there are a number of players who can come in and do a good job."

"Virat is of obviously of high quality, and we know how good he has been in all forms for a long period of times, so it is certainly going to leave a hole but I still do believe

that they have got some quality batters waiting in the wings to fill that void."

During last India Test series in Australia, Smith was banned for ball tampering and missed out on challenging one of his favourite opposition. Will it make him hungrier? "I don't know if it makes me hungrier. I am always pretty hungry to go out and perform and do well. I guess it was tough watching from the sidelines and particularly with the team not doing as well," he said. — PTI

## Thapa shines in Chennaiyin win

**Vasco, Nov. 24:** Anirudh Thapa's early strike coupled with a penalty from Esmael Goncalves (26') gave Chennaiyin FC a 2-1 win over Jamshedpur FC in the Hero Indian Super League here on Tuesday.

Thapa got the game off to an electrifying start, scoring in the very first minute. Rafael Crivellaro won the ball and found Goncalves on the right flank. His low cross was powered into the net by the midfielder, the exuberance of his celebration matching that of his finish. He became the first Indian goal scorer after four games this season.

Last season's golden boot winner Nerijus Valskis (37') pulled one back but a string of misses ensured that Jamshedpur boss Owen Coyle started the season with a defeat to the team he managed last season.

The next few minutes made it evident what sort of a game this was going to be. Jamshedpur's English defender Peter Hartley wasted a golden opportunity to draw his team level in the 7th minute and headed a free-kick wide off. Three minutes later, Goncalves found himself one on one with opposing custodian TP Rehenesh but failed to find the target.

Lallianzuala Chhangte missed a chance to score in the 20th minute. His first touch, as he received Crivellaro's excellent pass, took the ball away and the subsequent effort was

## MFC LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST GOA

**Margao, Nov. 24:** Stunned by NorthEast United in their opening match, Mumbai City FC would look to bounce back when they take on FC Goa in an Indian Super League match, which is expected to produce free-flowing football here on Wednesday.

For Mumbai City head coach Sergio Lobera, it will be the first time he will be up against his former club.

The match is expected to see a lot of passes. Lobera has long been known for getting his players to spray the ball all around the pitch. During his stint as FC Goa coach, he averaged 535 passes per match.

Despite losing 0-1 to NorthEast United, 10-men Mumbai had more than 60 per cent possession and completed 451 passes to their opponents' 217. No team has passed more in the league so far. — PTI

pushed behind by Rehenesh. But he made amends five minutes later, drawing a push from Isaac Vannalsawma inside the box and winning a penalty. Goncalves did not make a mistake from the spot. — Agencies



Chennaiyin FC's Anirudh Thapa celebrates after scoring the fastest goal (52 seconds) of the season against Jamshedpur FC in an ISL-7 match at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco da Gama on Tuesday. — ISL

## Kohli, Ashwin nominated for Player of Decade award

**Dubai, Nov. 24:** The talismanic Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin were on Tuesday nominated for the coveted ICC Men's Player of the Decade Award with the Indian captain featuring in all five men's categories for his incredible run in the last 10 years.

Kohli and veteran off-spinner Ashwin are the two Indians among seven players nominated for the most prestigious award.

Besides the Indian duo, Joe Root (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Steve Smith (Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa), and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) are the other contenders in this category.

In the Men's ODI Player of the Decade cat-



Ravichandran Ashwin



Virat Kohli

egory, former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and run-machine Rohit Sharma also found a place alongside Kohli, Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Mitchell Starc (Australia), de Villiers and Sangakkara.

Kohli and Rohit also

featured in the Men's T20I Player of the Decade category, which also included Rashid Khan (Afghanistan), Imran Tahir (South Africa), Aaron Finch (Australia), Malinga and Chris Gayle (West Indies). — PTI

## Clarke warns India could be smoked

**Sydney, Nov. 24:** Former Australia captain Michael Clarke has warned that India could be "smoked 4-0" in the Test series if skipper Virat Kohli does not set the tone in the white-ball games before his departure.

Kohli has been granted paternity leave by the BCCI to be with his wife for the birth of their first child. He will lead the team in the white-ball series, comprising three ODIs and as many T20s, and the opening Test at Adelaide before heading back home.

"These One-dayers and these Twenty20s is where Virat Kohli can really stand up and lead from the front," Clarke said on 'Sky Sports Radio' on Tuesday.

"If India don't have success in the One-dayers and the T20s, they are in deep trouble in the Test matches

and they'll get smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he added.

Clarke feels that despite featuring in only one Test, the talismanic Indian skipper could still play a huge role in the outcome of the red-ball series by dominating in the limited overs game.

"I think the tone he sets with this team will play a big role when he leaves, after the first Test match."

The much talked about contest between the two best sides in the world would begin on November 27 with the ODI series-opener in Sydney.

The former World Cup-winning skipper said Jasprit Bumrah will also have a huge role in the much anticipated series, adding that the star pacer needs to bowl aggressively to put the pressure on the home side. — PTI

## Athletic Bilbao hammer Betis

**Madrid, Nov. 24:** Athletic Bilbao comfortably defeated Real Betis 4-0 to move further away from the relegation zone in the Spanish league.

Athletic got on the board with an own goal by Victor Ruiz in the ninth minute, and Ander Capa added to the lead before halftime.

Iker Muniain scored in the 59th and Alex Berenguer sealed the scoring in the 68th.

Betis goalkeeper Claudio Bravo had to make a few good saves to keep the hosts from an even bigger win at San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao.

The result moved Athletic to eighth place. They were just two points above the relegation zone entering the match.

Manuel Pellegrini's Betis also are in mid-table, though they have played

## THE RESULTS

## LA LIGA

**Athletic Bilbao** (Victor Ruiz 9-og, Capa 33, Muniain 59, Berenguer 68)  
**Real Betis**

4

0

## PREMIER LEAGUE

**Burnley** (Wood 8)  
**Crystal Palace**

1

0

**Wolves** (Neto 75)  
**Southampton** (Walcott 58)

1

1

one game more than Athletic.

Real Sociedad lead the league with 23 points, three more than second-placed Atlético Madrid, who have two games in hand. — AP

## Touch Wood! Burnley score first win

**London, Nov. 24:** Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Chris Wood sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace, while Southampton missed a chance to go third in their 1-1 draw at Wolves on Monday.

Burnley had failed to win any of their first seven games in the joint worst start to a season in the club's history.

Sean Dyche's side were the only Premier League team yet to score a home goal this term until New Zealand striker Wood put them ahead in the first half against Palace.

That was enough to clinch a much-needed three points for Burnley, who climbed out of the relegation zone at the expense of Fulham.

"We created two or three golden chances, we take one and it gets a bit nervy because we hadn't found that first win. To get that one done will do us the



Burnley's Chris Wood (right) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Crystal Palace. — AP

world of good," Dyche said.

"We have got a group that can challenge. We have had a tough start but that has been coming."

Palace were missing Ivory Coast forward

Wilfried Zaha after he tested positive for coronavirus and Roy Hodgson's side lacked a cutting edge without him as they slumped to a second defeat in three games.

Burnley had managed

just three league goals this season and hadn't scored since October 3 when Ashley Westwood netted in a loss at Newcastle.

But Wood ended that four-game goalless run in the eighth minute when he

fired home from Jay Rodriguez's flick after a poor headed clearance from Cheikhou Kouyate.

## REVITALISED WALCOTT

At Molineux, Southampton were on course for a fourth successive win when Theo Walcott put them ahead in the second half.

But Pedro Neto came off the bench to equalise as fifth-placed Southampton had to settle for extending their unbeaten run to seven matches.

"I am happy. For everyone it was a tough game, tactically so demanding. They played 4-3-3, we didn't expect that but we found the answers," Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl said.

Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo added: "I think it was a foul for their goal. After that it was about reacting to that incident. The boys did that. We finished the game well, creating chances." — AFP