DECCAN onicle

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CHENNAI | THURSDAY 19 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Karthigai 4 Tithi: Panchami Star: Puradam Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm Yamagandam:

6 am to 7.30 am

Sasikala pays ₹10 cr fine, release from jail likely soon

Chennai: A fine of over ₹10 crore imposed on late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa's aide V. K. Sasikala in a disproportionate assets case was Wednesday deposited in a Bengaluru court and her release is expected soon, her lawyer said. The fine amount of ₹10,00,10,000 was remitted to the 34th city civil court, Bengaluru, by way of demand drafts, Sasikala's coun-sel N. Raja Senthoor Pandian





We know why we lost... but don't know why we won in some seats!



STATE | 3 CM Palaniswami launches medical counselling



WORLD | 5 Trump fires top **Homeland official**

SPORT | 8 New dad Richardson pulls out of Oz side



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Army readies winter habitat facilities for troops in Ladakh

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PAWAN BALI | DC

The Indian Army has completed establishing winter habitat facilities for all troops deployed in eastern Ladakh as the military standoff with China is in its seventh month, senior officials said on Wednesday. This comes as temperatures in the forward bases in Ladakh have already reached below zero degrees Celsius. India has deployed around 50,000 troops in the

The winter deployment in Ladakh is especially difficult due to the tough terrain, low temperatures and bone chilling winds, which make survival extremely

Army sets up upgraded living facilities for troops in eastern Ladakh.

difficult. "The Indian Army has completed establishment of habitat facilities for all troops deployed in the sector," the officials said. They added that apart from the "smart" camps with integrated facilities which have been built over the years, additional stateof- the-art habitat with integrated arrangements

for electricity, water, heating facilities, health and hygiene have been recently created in order to accom-

modate the troops.

The troops in the front line are accommodated in heated tents as per the tactical considerations of their deployment. It has also received the first batch of winter clothing for its soldiers from the US.

The altitudes in Ladakh range from the high to super high altitude and the area experiences up to 40 feet of snowfall, after November. This, coupled with the windchill factor, is when temperatures dip down to minus 30-40

COVID-19 VACCINE

Pfizer concludes trial, to apply for clearance

New York, Nov. 18: Global drugmakers Pfizer and BioNTech said on Wednesday that their Covid-19 vaccine was found 95 per cent effective in the final analysis of the Phase 3 trial, including in people aged over 65 years, paving the way for the companies to apply for emergency authorisation from US regulators within days.

Pfizer and its German partner said they have concluded phase 3 study of their mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccine candidate BNT162b2, meeting all primary efficacy end points. Based on current projec-

tions, the companies expect to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in

2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

The major announcement comes just two days after leading biotechnology company Moderna said on Monday its virus vaccine had an efficacy rate of 94.5 per cent.

Earlier this month, Pfizer and Biontech had said their Covid-19 vaccine candidate was found to be more than 90 per cent effective in preventing the pandemic in participants. The companies said the first primary objective analysis is based on 170 cases of Covid-19, of which 162 cases of coronthe placebo group while 8 cases in the BNT162b2 group. —*PTI*

PM Modi calls up **Biden, reiterates** strength of ties

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

The Indian government made its first formal con-American dispensation late on Tuesday night when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to US president-elect Joseph R. Biden and congratulated him on his election, describing it as a testament to the strength and resilience of democratic traditions in the US. In his tweet message, PM Modi said he has reiterated India's commitment to its strategic partnership with the US. **P4**

Khushboo's car meets with accident

Chennai, Nov. 18: Actorpolitician Khushboo escaped with a minor injury in the shoulder when a container truck rammed into her car near Melmaruvathur while she was on her way to attend BJP's vel ya-tra event at Cuddalore Wednesday. On her twitter handle, Khushboo said, "Met with an accident near Melmaruvathur..a tanker rammed into us. With your blessings and God's grace I am safe."— DC ■ More on P2

Depositors' money safe, to complete

merger on time: LVB administrator

Mumbai, Nov. 18: Lakshmi based lender under a 30-day Vilas Bank has enough liq-uidity to pay back its 20-lakh depositors and will complete the proposed merger with the Singaporean lender DBS before the deadline, the RBIappointed administrator said on Wednesday.

The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday superseded the Lakshmi Vilas Bank board and placed the Chennai moratorium ending December 16, after its net worth turned negative and a quarter of its advances became dud loans and it failed to get capital despite many attempts. The regulator also appointed the former nonexecutive chairman of Canara Bank TN Manoharan as

New Delhi, Nov 18: Union minister of culture and tourism Prahlad Patel on Wednesday handed over 13th century bronze idols of Lord Ram, Lakshman and goddess Sita to the Tamil Nadu government at the Archeological Society of

India (ASI) headquarters the administrator.—*PTI* here, restituting the artefacts stolen over 20 years

ago. On September 15, London Metropolitan Police had handed over the statues to the High Commission of India after they were recovered. Mr Patel had attended the event via video link as the

TN gets back 13 c. Ram, Lakshman, Sita idols

In August last year, the High Commission of India, London, was informed by India Pride Project that

DEEPSEA UNDER THE POLE GHISLAIN BARDOUT

chief guest.

four antique idols of Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman, were stolen from a temple built in Vijayanagara peri-od in Tamil Nadu and smuggled out of India, may be to the United Kingdom.

"Since 1976, we have recovered 53 artefacts from different countries, out of which 40 have been brought back since 2014

Despite the artefacts being ours, we have to undergo long legal procedures to get them.

The state governments to which the artefacts are returned have to take responsibility that these incidents do not recur. The safety and security of these artefacts are essential,'

■Turn to P3



PERPETUAL PLANET

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OYSTER PERPETUAL EXPLORER II



OTHER STORY **SFI protests removal**

of book from syllabus

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUNELVELI, NOV. 18

The activists of Students Federation of India (SFI) laid siege to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University(MSU) here protesting against the university's decision to remove Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy's book *Walking* with the Comrades from the MA English syllabus.

Around 200 members of the CPI(M)-affiliated students wing blocked the entrance of the university demanding restora-tion of Ms Roy's book in the syllabus. The students, who refused to withdraw their agitation, however agreed to dis-perse after MSU vice-chancellor K Pitchumani talked to them. Receiving a petition from the students, the vice-chancellor promised them to take up the issue at the next meeting of the board of studies this week.



Joint Commissioner of Police (East) R. Sudhakar distributes sewing machines, computers, laptops and other essential items to transgenders in the city on Wednesday.

We will prevent DMK

win in polls: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT KARUR, NOV. 18

The BJP's main agenda is to prevent the DMK from winning next year's assembly elections and forming the next government, according to party's state secretary Šrinivasan.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, he said the DMK always advocated separatism.

He said although the Tamil Nadu government attempted to prevent BJP's "Vel Yatra", the programme evoked good response among the people and will culminate at Tiruchendur

on December 7. He said Union Home Minister Amit Shah's Tamil Nadu visit on November 21 will attain political significance. He said the BJP will welcome if super-star Rajinikanth and DMK leader M K Alagiri float new politicai parties.

Welcoming newborns

HC: Custodial deaths against humanity

"Custodial deaths are not only inhuman but also against humanity at large. progressive and proud nation in this globe adopting the ideology of democracy is expected to be sensitive in eradication of custodial death completely, as the custodial deaths are barbaric", observed the Madras high court while directing the Director General of Police to issue consolidated instructions/circulars regarding the rights of common man approaching the police stations and police officials and the service to be provided by the officials by treating the citizen fairly and decently.

J u s t i c e S.M.Subramaniam gave the directive while dismissing a bail petition filed by S.Sridhar, a suspended inspector of police, who was arrested in connection with the custodial death of P.Jeyaraj and his son J.Bennix at Sathankulam

in Tuticorin district.
The judge said, "There cannot be any second opinion, as the custodial death are to be wiped out completely and, if any complaints are received, investigation are to be conducted in a speedy manner and stringent actions are to be initiated by prosecuting authorities". both at departmental level there are procedures to be

IIIT SET FOR VIRTUAL

DC CORRESPONDENT

CONVOCATION

TIRUCHY, NOV. 18

'Rights of complainants to be displayed'
The judge directed the DGP to ensure that CCTV

cameras were installed in all police stations and CCTV cameras already installed were in working conditions all the time. The entire premises of the police stations were to be covered under CCTV cameras. "The DGP is directed to ensure that the rights of the complainants approaching the police stations and the police officers are boldly and legibly displayed in front of the police stations across the state of Tamil Nadu, both in English and Tamil languages", the judge added.

followed in the cases of custodial deaths, the mandate is not honoured by the authorities responsible and accountable.
Prevention of custodial death is also of paramount importance. Curing being an aspect, prevention is more important. Thus, periodical observations, monitoring are imminent and necessary to initiate corrective measure and to implement various reformations in the police departments and amongst to the public servants, who are all the law enforcing authorities, the judge added.

The judge said the state of Tamil Nadu was reporting many number of custodial deaths in comparison with many other states across the country. It was a serious issue to be considered by the DGP and urgent measures were required. Granting bail or declining bail in such sensitized cases would not provide any solution for the problem. The measures to be taken, corrections to be made, reformations and other wider implications were all of paramount importance to ensure so as to protect the rights of common man, the judge added.

The judge also directed

the DGP to ensure the proper maintenance of CCTV cameras in all the police stations across the state of Tamil Nadu and repairs, if any noticed, must be rectified by the Station House Officer, within a period of three days. "The DGP is directed to ensure that CCTV storages must be sent to the higher officials within a stipulated period and the said storages are to be preserved for the period to be stipulated by the DGP in the consolidated instructions. The DGP is directed to state in the circular/consolidated Instructions that violations of the Instructions/guidelines by any officials must be

viewed seriously and appropriate disciplinary under the discipline and appeal rules", the judge added. actions will be initiated

Couple held for chit fund fraud

The second (virtual)

convocation of the Indian Institute of Information Technology-Tiruchirapalli (IIIT-T) will be organised on November 21 in which 17 graduates of computer science engineering and 19 of electronics communication engineering will be conferred degrees. IIIT-T director Prof. N.V.S.N. Sarma told residence media here on Wednesday that state Anakaputhur's Chief Secretary and chairman, board of gov-ernors K. Shanmugam wiii preside

பச்சினம் குழந்தை பராமரிப்பு வாரம்

உகை நீரிழிவுநோய் தினம் - 2020

Health minister Dr C. Vijayabaskar participates in World Newborn Week and Diabetic Day awareness programme at Stanley

_{பாக்டர்} C. விஐயபாஸ்ச

people to invest money in chit fund schemes. About 100 people deposited money with them. However, the couple avoided the repayment of money. When the victims amount, the duo threatened them.
On Wednesday morn-

ing, Anna Nagar on Tuesday. Police acted on the case after the victims blocked the house of the couple. According started an illegal chit them.

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

fund fraud. They lured The Shankar Nagar police on Wednesday arrested a couple who cheated several people of at least one crore by running an illegal chit fund in Anakaputhur. Antonyraj (48) and his wife Gnana Celine (45) were arrested from their

the depositors blocked the Shankar Nagar and Pammal police stations to take action against the fraud couple. The police nabbed the accused from their house. Police are investigating

Khushboo escapes unhurt in mishap

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

Actor and politician Khushboo met with a road accident on Wednesday morning, when a container lorry hit a car she was travelling in, in Madurantakam. Police said the BJP leader did not sustain any injuries.

According to police, Khushboo was heading from Chennai to Cuddalore to take part in the BJP's Vetrivel Yatra. When her vehicle reached Ayyanar Koil in Ayyanar Madurantakam

Chennai-Trichy National Highway, a lorry hit her car from the side. The vehicle was partially damaged on the left side and in the middle, but the actor, who was sitting in the front seat, did not sustain any injury.

Madurantakam The police rushed to the spot and detained the driver, identified as Abdul

Khushboo shared the news of her accident on her Twitter account with



BJP functionary and actor Khushboo sits shocked in her car after the mishap.

pictures that showed a heavily damaged white SUV, she wrote," Met with accident Melmaruvathur. A tanker rammed into us.

Khusboo further clarified that the container truck rammed into their vehicle.

"My car was on the move

in the right lane and its container came from nowhere and rammed into me. Police are investigating and questioning the driver to rule out any foul play." She added that she was safe and that she would continue her journey to participate in the

push carts. The conditions and modalities of

contract will be within the

discretion of the Chennai Corporation, who may relax or modify the same

in this regard. At the request of the AAG, the matter is now posted to December 3, 2020, by which time, the concerned reports from other agen

reports from other agen-

cies will also be made available, on the basis of which, the AAG shall sub-

mit a complete work plan

for the development of the

Loop road fish market,

footpath on Sea side and

be placed with the afore-

said reports before the

over Therefore, the matter may

bridge.

A senior police officer said that the lorry was heading Puducherry "Both vehi-cles were heading in the same direction and the lorry scraped against Khushboo's vehicle. We have detained the driver. Further investigations are

8-YEAR-OLD

BOY MEETS

Finalise contract for 900 push carts on Marina: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

Staying the operation of the order of a single judge, which directed the authorities not to finalize the tender process relating to 900 push carts to be placed at Marina beach, Chennai, the Madras high court has permitted the Greater Chennai Corporation to go ahead with the tender process for the 900 push carts for which tenders have been received and finalize the

A division bench comprising Justices Vineet Kothari and M.S.Ramesh passed the further interim orders on a PIL filed by Fishermen Care. The matter relates to cleaning Marina beach, shifting of fishermen, Marina beach street vending carts and removal of encroach-

contract before December

"After hearing the counsel for the parties, we single judge on November 10, 2020, shall remain

stayed and the said petition shall remain tagged with this batch of PIL petitions. After hearing additional advocate gener-S.R.Rajagopal and perusing the latest status report dated November 16, 2020, we permit the Greater Chennai Corporation to go ahead with the tender process for the 900 push carts for which tenders have been received and finalize the contract before the next date", the bench added. "We permit the existing

bidders and the said petidirect that the operation of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the Limited also to partici-court on December 3, of the order passed by the December 2 and December 3 are passed by the December 2 and December 3 are passed by the December 2 and December 3 are passed by the December 2 and December 3 are passed by the December 3 are passed by

WATERY GRAVE DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18 pate in the said tender process further and have In a tragic incident, an negotiations with the commissioner/committee eight-year-old drowned in a pond in of the Greater Chennai Karumarapakkam village in Chengalpet dis-Corporation concerned in this regard who should finalize their decision with regard to the grant of The deceased was identender/contract for the supply of the said 900

tified as J. Lathishwaran, son of Jayaprakash, a resident of Malaimettu street in Karumarapakkam village near Tirukazhukundram, and a painter by profession. He was living with his wife, Renuka and two sons, Tamil Selvan (11) and Lathishwaran (8). The brother-duo went to Karumarapakkam government school, the police said.

According to police, on Wednesday morning, Lathishwaran went to a pond near his house along with some of his friends to take a bath. While he was playing in the waters, he started to drown. Though the people nearby tried to save him, he drowned in the pond and died of suffocation. His body was later pulled off.

Based on the alert by Tirukazhukundram police rushed to the spot They have sent the body to the Chengalpet gov-ernment hospital for autopsy. Case of unnatural death is registered and further investigations are on.

NOMINATIONS Murder suspect hacked to death **CALLED FOR 'ALERT BEING** After a prelimi-DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18 **AWARDS'**

A 25-year-old murder

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

To recognize the brave soldiers who helped fight the battle against Covid-19 by putting others' lives before them, Alert, a voluntary non-profit organisation, has included a special category of nomina-tion in its fourth edition of the "Alert Being Awards"

Alert empowers a common man to act in case of emergency to save lives, and its award is a unique recognition that honours humanity by awarding Good Samaritans, who have made a difference to individuals or the society at large, by impacting with prevention of trauma and saving

This year, the new award category has been added to honor these unsung heroes and support them in their valiant efforts as a moment of glory to Corona warriors.

The last date to submit the nominations for both the categories is December 15, 2020, according to a press release from Alert adding that the awardees would be honoured at a ceremony scheduled in Chennai on January 29, 2021.

foot

suspect was hacked to death by a gang near Singaperumal Kovil in the suburbs Tuesday night. The murdered person has been identified

as M. Babu alias Gundu Babu by the police. The J J Nagar resident had a murder case pending against him, police said. He was recently out on and had been working as a tea master in an eatery close to Singaperumal Koil, railway station. The incident hap-

pened on Tuesday night when Babu was walking home from the eatery. Police said a gang in a car followed him. He was intercepted by them and the gang armed with deadly weapons attacked him. Babu started running. However, he was chased and hacked to death.

Passersby who witnessed the crime alerted the Maraimalai Nagar police. District Superintendent Police, Kannan, along

nary investigation, police said Babu and Bharani, frequently fought over a land issue for the last four years. On Deepavali night, the duo attacked each other, when **Bharani threat**ened to kill Babu.

with the police rushed to the spot and conducted spot inquiries. After a preliminary investigation, police Babu Bharani, frequently fought over a land issue for the last four years. On Deepavali night, the duo attacked other, when Bharani threatened to kill Babu. Police suspect Bharani to be the reason behind the murder. The Maraimalai Nagar police registered a case. They have launched a search for Bharani and his gang.

ing that almost 50 per cent

adolescents considered

ACTIVE CASE COUNT FALLS BELOW 15K

Chennai, Nov.18: The active Covid-19 cases in Tamil Nadu dipped below the 15,000 mark on Wednesday for the first time in over five months as the state reported 1,714 new infections, taking the tally to 7,63,282, while the toll stood at 11,531 with 18 more fatal-

With 2,311 recoveries, a total of 7,37,281 patients admitted to various hospitals in the state have so far got cured of the infection, a health department bulletin

As many as 67,014 RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Reaction) samples were tested and cumulatively, 1,12,66,091 specimens have been examined in 212 Covid labs in various regions. Chennai reported 479 fresh infections and neighbouring Chengelpet and Tiruvallur 129 and 112 respectively remainder was spread

The state capital accounted for 2,10,135 out of the 7.63 lakh plus cases reported so far in Tamil Nadu. All the 18 deceased had co-morbidities and the dead include a man and woman aged 90 and 43 respectively. The death toll of 11,531 includes 3,788 from Chennai.

across the state.

Chennai students loathe walking or cycling to schools and back: Study parents. It is, therefore, unsurpris-

T. SUDHEESH I DC CHENNAI, NOV. 18

A unique study carried out by some ChEennai-based researchers in association with International Physical Activity and the Environment Network (IPEN), an international organisation working in the field of physical activity to develop future strategies to improve active school travel (AST) in India, has revealed that AST is not a serious option among school-going adolescents due to parental pressure and long distance to schools.

Medical College on Wednesday. Health secretary J. Radhakrishnan also seen.

According to the study named BE ACTIV, only 23.5 per cent of students walk to the school while 28.1 per

cent return from school by foot 5-6 days a week. When it comes to cycling, only 20.1 per cent use cycles to reach schools while 20.4 per cent prefer it to return home.

At least 52 per cent of adolescents, irrespective of gender, opted for at least one trip of an active mode of travel a week to or from

In all, 82 per cent of parents, especially of girls, perceive AST as a danger

The study conducted among 324 adolescents aged 12-17 across Chennai, revealed that 73.5 per cent don't walk to school or 69.1 per cent don't walk from school. Similarly, most adolescents reported no cycling to (78.4 per cent) or from (78.1 per cent) school.

The study also revealed that 75 per cent of adolescents believe AST is a risk. In all, 82 per cent of parents, especially of girls, perceive AST as a danger due to various reasons including heavy

Dr R.M. Anjana, head of the research team, said that the study findings revealed parental restrictions and distance to school were the strongest barriers for

There are no catchment area policies in the country restricting the choice of school. Hence school selection is mainly decided by

their school to be too far to walk or cycle to. Opting to attend schools located closer to home or creating catchment areas for schools may result in an increase in

OTHER STORY **Tamil Nadu Congress**

to hold 'plough'rally

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

A farmers' 'plough' rally, demanding the withdrawal of the three anti-farmer legislation enacted recently by the BJP government recently, would be organized at Karumathampatti in Coimbatore on November 22 by the TNCC, which has vowed to

continue protesting till the

bills are withdrawn.
TNCC president K. S. Alagiri in a statement on Wednesday said the BJP government that came to power with a promise to double the income of farmers and procure farm produce at the minimum support price recommended by the M S Swaminathan committee, did nothing to farmers other than passing the Bills that were detrimental to the interest of

farmers.
So, the TNCC, which had already held conferences and protests to fight for the farmers' cause and carried out a signature campaign against the anti-farmer's Bills, would hold a farmers' revival conference at Karumathampatti ahead of the 'plough' rally.

Following that, 'plough' rallies would be organized by the various District Congress Committees in one of the Assembly constituencies in their area on November 28 to protect farmers' interest. TNCC leaders would take part in all the rallies, the release

BJP chief attempts

Vel Yatra, held

Cuddalore: Tamil Nadu BJP unit president L. Murugan was on Wednesday detained by police when he again attempted to take out the 'Vetrivel' yatra from here and was let off later. When Murugan, along with his party office-bearers tried to go on a rally after addressing a public meeting, police took them to a nearby hall, where they were detained. All of them were released later in the

Actor Khushbu Sundar, who had recently joined the party, took part in the meeting. — PTI

7.5% quota to usher in over 400 med seats for govt school students: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV 18

Counselling for admissions to medical and dental colleges, based on Neet scores, began on with Edappadi Wednesday Palaniswami personally handing over the admission letters to 18 students selected under the newly introduced 7.5 per cent reservation for students of government schools.

Describing the day as a gold-en lettered day in the history of the state, Palaniswami said he was extremely happy that he could bring in the 7.5 per cent reservation for government school students, who were the first to be provided admission on the first day of direct counselling at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai,

As a student of a government school he derived more personal satisfaction from introducing the reservation, under which 313 students would get admission for MBBS and 92 students in BDS courses this

year, he said.
The Chief Minister said that only 6 students from government schools could get admission last year in medical courses and said he was happy that the number had now gone up to a total of 405. He said of the total 8,41,251 plus-2 students in the state, 3,44,485 of them studied in the 3,054 government

He also explained how the number of medical seats had gone up after he took over as Chief Minister and the efforts he had made to take health services to the rural areas. He said his government had taken steps to build more medical collages and that once they were opened the number of seats would go up.







while, asserted that the

anticipated release of Sasikala would not alter

the stand of AIADMK to

keep her and her kin at

bay, both from the party

and the government. There shall be no change

in the party stand as regards Sasikala, he told

reporters at Coimbatore.

10 crore was remitted to

The fine amount of Rs

(Above and left) Scenes from the counselling centre at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor stadium in the city on

The Chief Minister presented stethoscopes and aprons to 18 students and handed over seat allotment orders.

Health minister Dr C.
Vijaya Baskar said he had met the students and parents, "who thanked the CM with tear-filled eyes for providing allotment orders under the (7.5 per cent) quota."

scheduled release date of January 27, 2021," he Chief Minister K. Palaniswami asserted that the anticipated release of Sasikala would not alter the stand of AIADMK to Citing remission norms keep her and her kin at bay, both from the for good conduct available for prisoners, he

counsel N. Raja Senthoor

Pandian said.

party and the government. the 34th City Civil Court, expected to send a com-Bengaluru, by way of demand drafts, Sasikala's authorities about the authorities about the payment of fine and "I expect her to be free The court is now soon, earlier than the



Min denies Stalin's 'irregularity' charge

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 18

DMK president M. K. Stalin alleged that names of candidates from other states like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were found in the rank list of Tamil Nadu medical counselling. In a statement, Stalin accused the government of indulging in irregularities.

n irregularities. Replying to that charge, minister C health minister C Vijayabaskar said that admissions to medical courses were being conducted in a transparent manner with the names and marks displayed on LED screens. He told the media that there was a selection committee that verified various certificates including the nativity certificate of candidates, who were also mandated to give a self-decla-

admissions, the health minister clarified. He said the first batch of 267 government school students had been called for admission on the first day of counselling and the Chief Minister handed over the letter to 18 of them. Corpn school students the students selected under the quota for gov-ernment schools, eight of

He said though candi-

dates could apply for admission in two states, nativity certificate could

be obtained in only one

state. There was no scope

for any irregularity in the

them were from corporation schools in Chennai. C or p or a t i o n Commissioner G. Prakash released the names of the students and said that they could make it only because of the reservaťion brought in by the government.

going simple imprison-ment of four years in the assets case in the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail.

All the three of them were imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore in addition to Rs 10,000. Pandian said the process to pay the fine for the two others was also being taken up.

Rainwater enters a house at Shankar Nagar in Avadi.

Photo docu done in 1958 helps TN get idols back

FROM P1

Chennai, Nov 18: A fine of over Rs 10 crore imposed on late Chief

Minister J Jayalalithaa's

aide V. K. Sasikala in a

disproportionate assets case was on Wednesday deposited in a Bengaluru court and her release is

expected soon, her

lawyer said. Chief Minister K.

mean-

Palaniswami,

He said luckily the photo documentation of these three metal sculptures was done in June 1958 at the matter was taken up Sri Rajagopal Vishnu with the Art and Antique

district of Tamil Nadu, so they could be identified Once the idols were veri-

fied with relevant records, Longon ngalam in Nagapattinam Metropolitan Police as were also caught, a state- IFP photo archive. A to them.

Tamil Nadu police, the minister said. The Tamil Nadu police sent a comprehensive report confirming that the theft took Nadu police also provided place on November 23-24, the expert opinion about 1978, and later criminals

well as the idol wing of ment from the ministry

expressed confidence that Sasikala would be

released "sooner than later" and legal processes

Sasikala's two relatives,

like her, are also under-

expressed

Based on the photo, these statues were examined. The idol wing of Tamil e match of the idol with

detailed report was sent to the Indian High Commission in London. The Art and Antique Unit of the London Metropolitan Police probed the matter and based on information

Census for school dropouts, spl kids in Tiruvarur dist

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUVARUR, NOV. 18

The Tiruvarur district administration will undertake a census on school dropouts and differently-abled children in the 6-14 age group across Tiruvarur district, said district col-

lector V. Shantha. She said in a release here on Wednesday that the proposed census is going to be undertaken under the right of children to free and compulsory education (RTE) Act 2009. The census will be carried out from November 21 to December 10 by school headmasters, teachers, block resource centre

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC TIRUCHY, NOV. 18 Tamil Government Nutritious

Meal Employees Union has demanded a timebound scale at par with the junior assistants of the state government. Union state president V.

NOON-MEAL

STAFF UNION

SEEKS PAY

Arumugam and general secretary A. Ayothi told the media after their state executive meet here on Wednesday that a resolution to this effect was adopted at the meeting.

They said the meeting also wanted that the retired employees of the nutritious meal scheme should be given 50 percent of their basic pay as bonus along with dearness allowance and the family pension at par with the state government employees

They appealed to the government to establish a separate department for Puratchi Thalaivar MGR nutritious meal scheme, promotion opportunities for male organisers on par with women organisers and promotion for male organisers based on their seniority as junior assistant of the state govern-

ment. They wanted the government to withdraw its GO which enables the government to appoint only women as organisers of the nutritious meal scheme and wanted that such opportunities should also be given to rural male youths, they

added.

CAREER CHRONICLE

OSBI

State Bank of India Central Recruitment & Promotion Department, Corporate Centre, Mumbai

RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens for appointment as Probationary Officer in State Bank of India.

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Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, etc.), requisite fee and other details, along with a link for online submission of application and online payment of application fee, are available on Bank's website https://bank.sbi/careers OR https://www.sbi.co.in/careers under Advertisement no. CRPD/PO/2020-21/12. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement and ensure their eligibility and other details before applying and

Date for Online Registration & Payment of Fee: from 14.11.2020 to 04.12.2020

For any queries, please write to us through the link "CONTACT US" which is available on the Bank's websites mentioned above.

Place: Mumba Date: 14.11.2020

CHIRANJEEVI EYE & BLOOD BANK DIVISION OF CHIRANJEEVI CHARITABLE TRUST Charitable Trust & Service Organization

1. Medical Officers - 2 nos (Minin

2. Staff Nurses - 2 nos (Minimum Qualification GNM) 3. PRO Cum Executive Officer

4. Blood Bank Technician - 2 nos (Minimum Qualification DMLT)

With minimum 2 years relevant experience, Interested Applicants may please mail your resume to admin@ccfonline.in 9100221234 (or) 8919185757

The U.S. Consul General's Residence in Hyderabad is seeking an individual for the position of : Chef at Consul General's Residence

Details of the job elements, qualifications required and the application process are available at the following website. https://in.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/jobs/hyderaba

Interested applicants should submit the Application Employment, in the prescribed format as mentioned in the vacancy announcement. Last date to apply December 01, 2020.

Dams brimming in Nellai, Tenkasi districts M. ARUL OLI | DC Monsoon woes TIRUNELVELI, NOV. 18 Copious rain in the catchment areas of dams in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi dis-

tricts resulted in heavy inflow to all major dams much to the jubilation of farmers. Thamirabarani, which caters to the drinking water and

Tenkasi,

Thoothukudi Virudhunagar districts, rose by 15.70 ft on Wednesday to reach 117 ft against its maximum capacity of 143 ft. Registering 117mm of rain in its catchment area by 8 am, the Papanasam dam had a heavy inflow of 6813.45 cusecs as on Wednesday morning. If the rain continues the dam is expected to reach its maximum storage level within a week, said a PWD official, who added that the water level at the 156ft high Servalaru dam touched 136 ft. The Manimutharu dam in the district too had a good

needs

irrigation

Tirunelveli,

Wednesday. The discharge of water from these dams for irrigation too has increased. The water discharged from the dams, coupled with the flood waters, enhanced the flow in

inflow of 2992 cusecs on



Over 1,100 cusecs of surplus water released from Srivaikundam dam in Thoothukudi district drains into the sea.

crossed its danger mark at Tirunelveli forcing the district administration to evacuate the people residing in low lying areas to the temporary

shelter camps for safety. The last dam across Thamirabarani Srivaikundam is overflowing. Around 1,100 cusecs of surplus water from the Srivaikundam dam have been

released into the sea. Thoothukudi district functionary T T K Karthik Raja demanded the diversion of surplus water into the Sadayaneri channel to serve the water-starved irrigational

tanks in the Sathankulam and Udangudi unions in the district.

The Pisanam season paddy cultivation in around 80,000 acres in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts commenced due to the abundant availability of water. At Sivagiri in Tenkasi dis-

trict three houses were damaged due to continuous rain on Tuesday night. The Sivagiri tahsildar inspected the damaged houses and rec-ommended to Tenkasi district collector G.S. Sameeran for adequate compensation to the families residing in those

haunt Nilgiris **B. RAVICHANDRAN I** bang on Tuesday evening with heavy

COONOOR, NOV.18

The north-east mon-soon has arrived to tor-Nilgiris as Tuesday overnight rains triggered uprooting of trees and electric poles in quite a few places in the Coonoor, Kotagiri, Ooty sector that not only paralyzed traffic but also plunged the hills into darkness due to snapping of power lines. The Nilgiris district administration is on a high alert to respond to any emergencies that may arise due to heavy rains.

NE monsoon, which generally turns heavy in the hills here especially in Coonoor-Kotagiri-Kundah-Ooty taluks whenever a cyclone or depression forms over the Bay of Bengal, arrived with a The heavy rains, with

gusty winds, that pounded Coonoor, Kotagiri and Ooty limits on Tuesday night saw stormwater running down the slopes and stagnating the lowlying areas for some The downpour uprooted trees in a few places along the Coonoor-Kotagiri road, Coonoor-Ooty road and places Ooty-Kotagiri road on Wednesday early hours paralyzing traffic on these busy roads. However, the disaster management teams responded quickly and restored traffic in these roads. Hills plunged into darkness after power supply was snapped. There was

respite Wednesday afternoon as the intensity of the

'LADAKH IN CHINA' ERROR: TWITTER APOLOGISES

New Delhi, Nov. 18: Social media giant Twitter has apolo-gised in writing to a key par-liamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and has promised to correct the error by the month-end, the committee's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday.

Twitter's deposition has come in form of an affidavit signed by Damien Karien, Chief Privacy Officer of Twitter Inc, for wrong geo-tag-ging of India's map, Lekhi said.

Last month, the joint committee of parliament on data protection bill had come down heavily on Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, say ing it amounted to treason and had sought an explanation by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit. Appearing before the panel, chaired by Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India had "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that ques-tioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India. "Twitter has now given us a

written apology on an affidavit for Ladakh being shown in China," Lekhi said. "They have apologised for hurting Indian sentiments and have sworn to correct the error by November 30, 2020," she added.

POLICE ISSUE 3RD SUMMONS TO KANGANA, SISTER

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 18

The Bandra police station in Mumbai issued third summons to actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli asking them to appear before them on November 23-24, for questioning in connection with the spreading enmity case filed against them over their objectionable tweets. The their objectionable tweets. The police had first sent summons to the duo asking them to appear on October 26. The duo had sought time to appear stating they were busy with a family wedding till November 15.

The officials stated that this could be the last summons sent out to the duo and if they dodge again, further action would be taken against them. The second time they were asked to appear on November 9-10 ,however, they did not appear even then, officials said. The series of tweets b the two sisters led to enmity between communities, police

The duo needs to be questioned based on the complaint we had received, which is the basis of the FIR. They are yet to respond to the third summons we have sent them," said a police officer.

The case pertains to the complaint of fitness trainer Munawar Ali Sayyad in the Bandra court, seeking probe into the tweets and other statements given by the

PATRICIA MUKHIM QUITS EDITORS GUILD, SLAMS ITS PRESIDENT

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, NOV. 18

In what has raised serious question over the role of the Editors Guild of India, senior journalist and editor from northeast Patricia Mukhim has resigned from the organisation expressing her dismay over the silence of the Editors Guild of India on the ruling of the Meghalaya High Court against her over a Facebook

Accusing that the journalists' body defends only star editors and anchors, the editor of *The Shillong Times* Mukhim has submitted her resignation to the Guild president Seema Mustafa on Monday.
In her resignation letter,

Mukhim, who is a Padma Shri Awardee, said while the organisation remained silent on the High Court's order against her, it showed "alacrity" in extending support to Arnab Goswami following his arrest earlier this month.

It is significant that the Meghalaya High Court recently refused to quash the criminal proceedings against Mukhim for her four-monthold Facebook post condemning the attack on five non-tribal youths by a gang of masked men, allegedly tribals.

'Cow dung' festival



People take part in 'Gorehabba' festival at Gumatapura village on the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states. Laughing and cheering as they scoop up handfuls of cow dung to roll into balls, men and boys from a small village mark the 'Gorehabba' festival every year by flinging cow dung at each other.

— AFP

Adhir hints Sibal can leave Cong if he feels out of place

Suggests dissenting leaders may set up new party or join another party

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Congress' recent electoral debacle in Bihar has further brought out the discord within the party with leaders now publicly hitting out of the short of the control of t hitting out at each other and some even asking others to quit, "set up a new party or join any other

West Bengal unit chief of the Congress and Lok Sabha MP Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary on Wednesday, reacting to Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal's comments after the results of and Bihar Assembly elections, said, "If some leaders think "If some leaders think Congress party, then they that Congress is not the should try to prove their right party for them then

EX-KERALA MIN

EBRAHIM KUNJU

ARRESTED IN

GRAFT CASE

Corruption

Kochi.

wealth.

DC CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

The Vigilance and Anti

(VACB) on Wednesday

arrested former PWD

minister of Kerala and

Indian Union Muslim

League legislator V.K.

Ebrahim Kunju in connection with corruption

in the construction of

Palarivattom flyover in

The arrest of the for-

mer minister was record-

ed in a private hospital in

Kochi where he is currently under treatment.

He was arraigned in the

case after vigilance found

his alleged role in releas-

ing an advance amount of

Rs 8.25 crore to RDS

Projects Ltd, the contrac-

tor of the flyover con-

struction work in violation of rules. The MLA

has also been charged

with criminal conspiracy

and amassment of illegal

The flyover was con-

structed in Kochi at a cost

of Rs 42 crore and commissioned in 2016. By

2019 it developed major

cracks in the pier pipes

and concrete girders leading to the flyover's clo-

sure for traffic. Experts

had detected major faults

and recommended recon-

struction of pier caps,

girders and deck.

Bureau

• WEST BENGAL unit chief of and Lok Sabha MP Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary said if some leaders think that Congress is not the right party for them then they may set up a new party or can join any other party which they think is progressive and according to their interest

• FORMER UNION finance minister P. Chidambaram also raised doubts over the party's organisational capacity in an interview to a local daily.

they may set up a new party or can join any other party which they think is progressive and according to their interest. But they should not indulge in such embarrassing activities since it can erode the cred-

ibility of the Congress." "If such leaders are serious about revamping the mettle on the ground. Did

RABINDRA NATH

CHOUDHURY I DC

Madhya Pradesh Chief

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday

announced that a Cabinet

committee would be con-

stituted to recommend

measures for the conserva-

tion and promotion of cat-

tle resources in the state. The committee will be

christened 'Gau Cabinet'.

This is the first of its kind

Chouhan took to social

media to announce his

decision to set up the com-

In his twitter post, the

xchief minister declared

that the first meeting of the committee would be

A statement issued said a

held on November 22.

initiative in the country.

BHOPAL, NOV. 18

the party during the recent Bihar elections?" On Wednesday, former union finance minister P. Chidambaram also raised over organisational party's

they volunteer to work for

capacity. In an interview to a daily he said, "I feel the Congress contested more seats than its organisastrength. The

MP CM Chouhan forms cattle

cabinet for protection of cows

Minister has been set up.

Other members of the

committee are home min-

ister Narottam Mishra,

Kamal Patel, forest minis-

ter Vijay Shah, panchayat raj minister Mahendra

Sisodia and animal hus-

bandry minister Prem

The first meeting of the committee will be held in

Agar Malwa in Madhya

Pradesh where Asia's

biggest cow sanctuary has been established in 2017,

departments will execute

the decisions of the gau-

cabinet in a coordinated

manner, Mr Chouhan said

An action plan will be implemented for increas-

November

agriculture

Singh Patel.

on

six-member committee ing the use of cow dung headed by the Chief cakes (kanda'). The mak-

minister

22.Six

Congress was given 25 seats where the BJP or its allies had been winning for 20 years. The Congress should have refused to contest from these seats. The party should have fielded only 45 candi-

"I am more worried about the bypoll results in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Pradesh Karnataka. These results show that the party either has no organisational presence on the ground or has been weakened considerably," he said.

Interestingly, dambaram was not among the 23 leaders who wrote to the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, in August this year demanding

ing and marketing of Gau-

Kasht (cow-wood) is being

encouraged at present,

similarly efforts will be made to market other

products made from cow

Infrastructure has been

laid in the 1,100 acre-sanc-

tuary to provide shelter to

10.000 cattle. However, cur-

rently the sanctuary has

Incidentally, the previous

Congress government in

the state headed by Kamal

Nath had initiated steps to

However, the move to

hand over the sanctuary to

a private entrepreneur could not materialise due

to the fall of the Congress

government led by Kamal Nath in March this year.

privatise the sanctuary.

housed 4,000 cattle.

milk, he said.

changes in the functioning of the party.

Earlier this week Sibal, who was signatory to the August letter, spoke about the inability of the party to change.

He said that it has been six long years now and the time for introspection is over, it's now time for action.

He further added that people do not see the Congress as an alternative and yet no action is being taken to correct this.

The disastrous election results have once again opened the Pandora's box on the functioning of the Congress and has aggravated the demand for a democratic change within

ORDER ON BSF JAWAN'S POLL PLEA RESERVED

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its order on an election peti-tion by a dismissed BSF jawan Tej Bahadur challenging election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency on the grounds that the rejection of his nomination papers by the returning officer was flawed.

Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading the bench also comprising Justice A.S.Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian said, "this is too important a matter to be adjourned so many times. The respondent is the Prime Minister of

Bihar Oppn slams Nitish over graft charges on mantri

NAYEAR AZAD | DC

A day after allocating portfolios, the Nitish Kumar-led NDA govern-ment in Bihar has landed in a fresh controversy over the induction of controversial JD(U) MLA Mewalal Chaudhary as

education minister.
Mewalal Chaudhary, a former vice-chancellor of an agriculture university and a first-time minister in Nitish Kumar's Cabinet, faces serious corruption charges and was even suspended once by the JD(U) over the issue

On Wednesday while questioning Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Minister Nitish Kumar's
"zero-tolerance" policy
on corruption, Opposition leader Tejashwi
Yadav demanded the sacking of Mewalal Chaudhary. "Has he (Mewalal Chaudhary) been awarded the ministerial berth for his involvement in corruption and given him the freedom to loot? He faces serious corruption charges under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code", RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said in a

The JD(U) had suspended him in 2017 after an FIR was registered against him over alleged irregularities in appointments during his tenure as the vice-chancellor of the Bihar Agriculture University at Sabour in Bhagalpur district. RJD leaders in Patna

said the case was lodged against him on the basis

of reports that highlighted irregularities in the appointment of assistant professors and junior scientists. As per Chaudhary's poll affi-davit, the case is still pending against him in the court of the additional district and sessions judge (I) in Bhagalpur and the matter is being investigated by the state vigilance department.

For the sake of saving his chair, Nitish Kumar keeps preaching about his zero tolerance on issues like crime, corruption and communalism. But the reality is there for everyone to see, he has appointed a fugitive accused as an education min-ister in his Cabinet. There is no minister from the minorities in his Cabinet this year. This government is protecting the corrupt and criminals", Tejashwi Yadav said. Amid the controversy,

Bihar election watch and the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) has come out with a report highlighting the criminal cases against several ministers who took the oath Monday along with the chief min-ister. The report says eight out of 14 ministers have declared criminal cases against them in their poll affidavits, including serious criminal offences. The report says that among those who have declared criminal cases against them two are from the BJP and two from the JD(U), and one each from Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insan Party.

Modi, Biden talk to strengthen ties

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

The Indian government made its first formal contact with the new American dispensation late on Tuesday night the President-elect of the United States Joseph R. Biden and congratulated nim on his election, describing it as a testament to the strength and resilience of democratic traditions in the US.

In his tweet message, PM Modi said he has reiterated India's commitment to its strategic partnership with the US. The Prime Minister also conveyed congratulations to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, saying her success was a matter pride Indian-American community.

"Spoke to US Presidentelect Joe Biden on the phone to congratulate him. We reiterated our firm commitment to the Indo-US strategic partnership and discussed our shared priorities and concerns — the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region," said PM Modi in a tweet.

"I also conveyed warm congratulations for Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Her success is a matter of great pride and

inspiration for members of the vibrant Indian-American community, who are a tremendous source of strength for Indo-US relations," he added.

The ministry of exterwhen Prime Minister nal affairs (MEA) in a Narendra Modi spoke to statement said the Prime Minister warmly recalled his earlier interactions with Biden, including auring to the US in 2014 and in 2016 when Biden had chaired the Joint Session of the US Congress that was addressed by PM Modi during his 2016

> "The leaders agreed to work closely to further advance the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, built on shared values and common interests. The leaders also discussed their priorities, including containing the Covid-19 pandemic, promoting access to affordable vaccines, tackling climate change, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region," the MEA statement said.

Biden's transition team issued a statement saying President-elect thanked Prime Minister Modi for his congratulations and expressed his desire to strengthen and expand US-India Strategic partnership alongside the first Vice President of South Asian

COVID-19 | FIGHT

Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana and Rajasthan are reporting surge in cases

Delhi 'no' to lockdown, to tighten curbs on markets

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS

NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

The Delhi government on Wednesday imposed restrictions on number of Wednesday people attending a wedding or large gathering events, scaling it down from 200 to 50 in view of rising cases of novel coro-navirus in the National

Delhi government is now all set to impose restrictions in heavily crowded markets though Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia clarified saying there is no plan to impose a lockdown but to have some restrictions in mar-

ket areas for some days to prevent the spread of Covid-19, if such a need

"Lockdown was not a solution to the pandemic. It could be tackled through proper medical arrangements which the government was doing effectively. We have no intention of a lockdown. Let me clarify. we have made a general proposal to the Centre with regard to certain regulations like shutdown for some days in the markets where Covid-19 -appropriate behaviour and social distancing violations pose threat of rapid infection,' Mr Sisodia said.

While majority of Indian

states are on road to recovery from novel coronavirus, Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana and Rajasthan are now reporting surge in cases.

Total number of Covid-19 cases in India, as per union health ministry, were over 89.12 lakh on Wednesday with 38, 617 new cases while total deaths were 1.31 lakh with new fatalities. However, COVID19India.org,

total cases were over 89.20 lakh and total fatalities over 1.31 lakh by Wednesday evening. On the other hand, the recovery rate is improving and has reached 93.52 per cent.

6,419 cases in Kerala: Kerala recorded 6,419 Covid-19 positive cases on Wednesday and 7,066 recoveries while 69,394 people are undergoing treatment for the virus, which has so far claimed 1,943 lives.

In the last 24 hours, 67,369 samples were tested and the test positivity rate was 9. 53 per cent, health minister K.K. Shailaja said in a press release.

So far, 56,21,634 samples have been sent for testing. The total virus case load has touched 5,37,791 while as many as 4,68,460have been cured of the disease. 948 cases in TS: Telangana recorded 948

fresh coronavirus cases, pushing the total caseload to 2.59 lakh, while the toll rose to 1,415 with five more fatalities.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) accounted for 154 of the 948 fresh cases, followed by Medchal Malkajgiri 83, Rangareddy 76 and other districts, a state government bulletin said on Wednesday, providing data as of 8 PM on November 17.

AP adds 1,236 case: The total confirmed positives of coronavirus increased to 8,57,395 as Andhra Pradesh added 1,236 fresh cases in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday. Also,

1,696 patients got cured and nine more succumbed in a day, the latest health department bulletin said.

The number of active cases reduced to 16,516 after a total of 8,33,980 recoveries and 6,899 deaths, it said. West Godavari district continued to report new cases in excess of 200 while four other hotbeds Krishna, East Godavari, Guntur and Chittoor reported less than 200 cases each in 24 hours. Eight other districts added less than 100 new cases each to their tally. Chittoor, Krishna West Godavari districts also reported two fresh deaths each.

IN BRIEF INDIAN JAILED IN **PAK HANDED OVER TO BSF**

Lahore, Nov. 18: An Indian national, who had illegally crossed over to Pakistan in 2016 and underwent four years of imprisonment here, was on Wednesday handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Wagah Border. According to officials, Panwasi Lal, son of Kundan Lal, arrived at the Lahore railway station in August 2016 by Samjhauta Express without travel documents and was arrested. Initially, he told the police that his name was Mohammad Aslam and he was a Pakistani.

A sum of Rs 500 was recovered from him. During interrogation, it was revealed that his real name was Panwasi Lal and he was not mentally stable, officials said. The matter was taken up with the Indian authorities as to how he reached the Lahore railway station without travel documents. He was later imprisoned in the Central Jail Lahore on charges of illegal border crossing.

'74 BIRMINGHAM **BOMBINGS: COPS ARREST MAN**

London, Nov. 18: UK police arrested a man on Wednesday in Northern Ireland in connection with the 1974 bombings of two pubs that killed 21 people and injured more than 200 in Birmingham, England.

Officers from the West Midlands counter-terrorism unit, working with colleagues from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, arrested a 65-year-old man at his home in Belfast, West Midlands Police

The man was arrested under the UK's Terrorism Act, and his home was being searched, authorities said.

The arrest came days before the 46th anniversary of the two November 21, 1974 blasts that ripped apart the Mulberry Bush and Tavern in the Town pubs in Birmingham. the city of

The blasts were one of the worst attacks committed by the Irish Republican Army during its armed campaign to get Britain out of Northern Ireland.

1995 DIANA INTERVIEW TO BE PROBED

London, Nov. 18: The BBC's directors has approved the appointment of a retired senior judge to lead an independent investigation into tne circumstances around a controversial 1995 TV interview with Princess Diana.

Wednesday's announcement came after Diana's brother, Spencer, Charles renewed claims this month that BBC journalist Martin Bashir used forged statements and false claims to convince the late royal to agree to the interview.

The broadcaster's director general, Tim Davie, said the BBC "is determined to get to the truth about these events. Charles Spencer alleged that Bashir, 57, made false and defamatory claims about senior royals in order to gain his trust and access to his sister 25 years ago. The claims included that Diana's phone was bugged and that her bodyguard was plotting against her. Charles Spencer has demanded an inquiry and an apology.

NOBEL CEREMONY WON'T BE HELD IN PERSON IN OSLO

Copenhagen, Nov. 18: The winner of the 2020 Nobel Peace — the World Food Program — and the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Wednesday they have jointly agreed to postpone the in-person award ceremony in Oslo next month because of the

Coronavirus pandemic.

"With the current restrictions in Oslo, it would not be possible to carry out the ceremony or other parts of the laureate's traditional program in a good and worthy manner," the Nobel Committee said in a statement.

WFP head David Beasley was expected to travel to the Norwegian capital "to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the organization" that won the prestigious award for efforts to combat hunger.

But he will now accept the award during a virtual ceremo-

ny on Dec. 10. The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony usually is held at Oslo City Hall. However, organizers said the event would be a scaled-down affair held at the city's university because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cop hurt, Florida slaying suspect Trump fires top killed in Maryland encounter

suspect in a Florida slaying was killed in an encounter with Maryland law enforcement that left a police officer shot and wounded, authorities said.

Montgomery County Police were attempting to arrest a suspect wanted in connection with a killing in Jacksonville, Florida, when the shooting incident happened.

It occurred in Prince George's County on Tuesday afternoon, the agency stated in a message posted to Twitter.

Montgomery County and

are Maryland suburbs of the nation's capital. One officer was shot by the suspect, officials said. That officer's condition was not immediately according to police.

The suspect was killed, the department said. Authorities did not give additional information on how the suspect died.

The wounded officer and suspect were not immediately identified. The agency said it would provide updates as more information is confirmed.

killed 3 resigns

Wauwatosa, Nov. 18: A suburban Milwaukee police officer who has fatally shot three people in the line of duty since 2015, including a Black teenager outside a mall in February, is resigning from the department.

The Wauwatosa Common Council approved a separation agreement with Joseph Mensah on Tuesday night, effective Nov. 30, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office has

by Mensah, who also is Black, were justified selfdefense. Protests followed the most recent shooting

Alvin Cole, 17, was shot five times by Mensah after he fled from police following a disturbance inside the mall. Mensah said Cole pointed a gun at him, so he shot him. Protesters marched for months, calling for Mensah to be fired. They protested outside the mall and Wauwatosa City Hall. Mensah was suspended by the Wauwatosa

Pfizer, BioNTech say Phase 3 virus vaccine candidate is 95% effective

and BioNTech said on Wednesday that their Covid-19 vaccine was found 95 per cent effective in the final analysis of the Phase 3 trial, including in people aged over 65 years, paving the way for the companies to apply for emergency authorisation from US regulators within days. American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner Bio-NTech said they have concluded phase 3 study of their mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccine candidate BNT162b2, meeting all primary efficacy end points. Based on current projections, the companies expect to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021.

The major announcement comes just two days after leading biotechnology company Moderna said on Monday its virus vaccine had an efficacy rate of 94.5 per cent. Earlier this month, Pfizer and Biontech had said their Covid-19 vaccine candidate was

New York, Nov. 18: found to be more than 90 Global drugmakers Pfizer per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 in participants. Analysis of the data indicates a vaccine efficacy rate of 95 per cent in participants without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (first primary objective) and also in participants with and without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (second primary objective), in each case measured from seven days after the second dose.

The companies said the first primary objective analysis is based on 170 cases of Covid-19, of which 162 cases of Coronavirus were observed in the placebo group while 8 cases in the BNT162b2 group. Vaccine efficacy was consistent across age, gender, race and ethnicity demographics. The observed efficacy in adults over 65 years of age was over 94 per cent, they said. There were 10 severe cases of Covid-19 observed in the trial, with nine of the cases occurring in the placebo group and one in the BNT162b2 vaccinated group.
"The study results mark

FB, Twitter CEOs oppose

US govt dictating content

said

that would allow the

government to dictate

content moderation. Section 230 of the

Communications

Decency Act of 1996

generally provides immunity for website

publishers from third-party content and says

no provider or user of

an interactive comput-

er service shall be

opposed an

they

changes

incumbent President Don-ald Trump's campaign promise to bring the wars

in Afghanistan and Iraq to

a successful and responsi-

ble conclusion and to bring

service members home. The move was immediately

opposed by the Democratic

Party of the President-elect

Joe Biden, whose lawmak-

ers described it as a threat

to national security. -PTI

Washington, Nov. 18: the Communications

The CEOs of Facebook Decency Act of 1996,

and Twitter have vehe- the two social media

make necessary treated as the publish-changes in the contro-versial Section 230 of information provided

US to withdraw troops from Afghan

mently opposed any heads

allow the US govern-

ment to dictate content

moderation, saying

these platforms are a

new industry and should have a different

regulatory model. While Facebook CEO

Mark Zuckerberg and

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, along with the

lawmakers, have agreed on the need to

Washington, Nov. 18: The US has announced to reduce the number of

American troops in Afgh-

anistan and Iraq to 2,500

each by January 15 next

year, which drew sharp reaction from influential

lawmakers across the aisle.

The decision announced by

that would

cnanges

an important step in this historic eight-month jour-ney to bring forward a vaccine capable of helping to end this devastating pandemic. We continue to move at the speed of science to compile all the data collected thus far and share with regulators around the world," said Dr Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO.
"With hundreds of thou-

sands of people around the globe infected every day, we urgently need to get a safe and effective vaccine to the world, Bourla said. The announcements about the vaccines and their potential availability for use among

the general population in the coming weeks and months has offered hope to millions around the world in a year that has seen the Covid-19 pandemic devastate lives and economies and still showing no signs of abating.
— PTI

by another informa-

tion content provider. "Section 230 was developed to allow

tnese tecnnologies to

flourish. Early on, if

you_could sue Twitter

or Facebook for content on a Facebook

posting or a tweet, and

they were liable for

what somebody else

said or what they felt

or did, then the compa-

ny would have pro-

bably never been in

Lindsey Graham said

Congressional hear-

existence,'

during

TOILET PAPER LIMITS, EMPTY **SHELVES BACK**

New York, Nov. 18: Looking for toilet paper? Good luck. A surge of new Coronavirus cases in the US is sending people back to stores to stockpile again, leaving shelves bare and forcing retailers to put limits on purchases.

Walmart said Tuesday it's having trouble keeping up with demand for cleaning supplies in some

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

E -Tender are invited by the undersigne Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC of Roof Mounted Packages Units (RMPUs) of various make fitted in SGA(Coaches & LHB Type AC Coaches in Primary Maintenance Trains of Katiha Depot. & New Jalpaiguri Depot. ol Katihar Division for a period of 02 (Two Years, Tender Value: ₹ 3,11,48,946/-€arnest Money: ₹3.05,800/-. Cost of Tender form : ₹10,000/-. Date & time of Closing of e-tender at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2020. Date & time of Opening of e-tender at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2020 The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 09-12-2020 in

vebsile www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Mechanical MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

Tender Notice Number: MECHCKP 20-21-18, Date: 16.11.2020. For & on behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical) for the under mentioned work. Manua offers are not allowed against the tende and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work Watering of coaches of enroule nominated trains at Rourkela station and Loading/unloading of linen packets in trains & transportation of lines between Rourkela station and W/I Rourkela for a period of 1045 days Tender Value: ₹ 1,04,14.972/-, E.M.D. 2.02.100/-. Cost of Tender Form ₹ 5,000/- Place of Opening of Tender: Office of the Sr. DME/CKP, S. E. Railway. Date and Time of Closing of Tender: 16.12.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. Date and Time of Opening of Tender: 16 12 2020 15:15 Hrs http://www.ireps.gov.in

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED

Short Term Tender Notice- 4th Call:

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadulimited, sealed tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" for the following world

from Class-I State level Civil/Electrical Contractors registered in PWD/Highways / An other Department of Government of Tamil Nadu / National Highways, Governmen of Tamil Nadu or any other Government of Tamil Nadu Undertakins in signilar nature. of Tamil Nadu or any other Government of Tamil Nadu Undertakings in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on 08.12.2020 and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD			
ion of link roads and providing High Mast in SEZ area at SIPCOT Industrial Growth /Park at Perundurai and Oragadam	Rs.289.60 lakhs	Rs.1,54,800/-*			
n the form of DD in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.(In the Name erer only)					

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR

Homeland official

President Donald Trump has fired a top Homeland Security official who contradicted his claims of voter fraud and asserted that the November 3 election was the most secure one in America's history. Trump, who has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of fraud, announced on Twitter on Tuesday that he has fired Christopher Krebs, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security. Trump, Republican, has refused to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, and has made unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were massive improprieties and fraud including dead people voting, poll watchers not allowed into polling locations, "glitches" in the voting machines which changed votes from Trump to Biden, late voting and many more," Trump said in a tweet, repeating unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.

"Therefore, effective immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and In frastructure Security Agency," he said. Krebs is the lat-

will be orderly Washington, Nov. 18: that there would be a smooth transition of power to the next administration. "We are going to have an

Power transfer

The transfer of power from Donald Trump to Joe Biden's administra-tion would be "orderly" and happen "right on time," according to a top Republican leader and Senator Mitch McConnell.

Last week, the mainstream media declared Biden as the winner of the Nov. 3 presidential election after the 77-yearold former vice president crossed the mandatory 270 electoral votes out of the 538-member Electoral College.

Trump, 74, however, has refused to concede the election, asserting that he has won.

Mitch McConnell has said

Senate majority leader

est official to be dismissed by the US president following his defeat, with

in the next administra-tion on January 20," McConnell said.

loyalty. There is speculation that before Trump leaves office in January, CIA director Gina Haspel Christopher Wray may

₹112935676.29 04.12.2020

orderly transfer from this

administration to the next

one," he told reporters at

the US Capitol when asked about the fact that the incumbent Repub-

lican President Trump

has refused to concede the

election to President-elect

Biden and has filed multi-

ple lawsuits challenging the results of the election.

is frankly irrelevant. All

on time, and we will swear

'What we all say about it

this will happen right

Defence Secretary Mark Esper also shown the door amid reports Trump doubalso be sacked. ted the Pentagon chief's **WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY** E-TENDER NOTICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING (BRIDGE LINE)

Dy.Chief Engineer (Bridge Line), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behal of President of Union of India invites following open E-Tender for Bridge Date of Description of work Tender No. Cost of Work Provision of limited height subway (LHS) in fieu of manned LC no.- 10.12, 62 and 88 in Nagda-Kota section of Kota division. ₹127360533.50 04.12.2020 Kota-08-2020 Provision of limited height subway (LHS) in lieu of manned LC no. 205, 206

Complete details are available in the E-Tender notice uploaded on the railway website www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Dy.CE/Br.Line/Kota, DRM Office, West Central Railway Kota's office, Offers are acceptable through E-procurement only, offline/Manual offer will not be accepted in any condition. XEN (Br.-Line) West Central Railway, Kota

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

and 213 in Kota-Mathura

section of Kota division.

During Ralf Journey, Dial 138 for general complaints & Dial 182 for security complaints

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / METERING C-3, SHAKTI VIHAR, PSPCL, PATIALA, PUNJAB 147001 Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax No. 0175-2200284, e-mail; semeteringpatiata@gmail.com Corporate Identification Number (CIN); U40109PB2010SGC033813 Registration Number: 33813, website: www.pspcl.in e-tendering page: https://eproc.puniab.gov.in NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender Specification No. Short Description Procurement of Portable Secondary Injection Type CT & PT Test Equipment for Testing of LT/HT/EHT Current Transformers & Potential Transformers Start date of downloading of 18.11.2020 at 11.00 Hrs

tender documents/ Bid Last date of downloading / Bid 16.12.2020 till 11.00 Hrs Bid opening date (Part-I & II) 21.12.2020 at 11.30 Hrs Intending officer and Contact No. SE/HMC, PSPCL, Patials 96461-18774

Detailed NIT and set of specification/ tender documents can only be downloaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender ID is 2020_POWER_56212_1 Note: Corrigendum, if any, after the publication of this lender enquiry shall only

be uploaded on site and will not be published in any newspaper

SATHYAMCINEMASA/cdts ESCAPEA/cdts DEVIKALAA/cdts WOODLANDSA/cdts ALBERTA/cdts SANGAMA/cdts

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIPCOT, Chennai-8.

Acting US Defence Secretary Christopher C Miller on Tuesday is in line with **MURTHY AND MAJUMDAR MAY BE IN CABINET**

Washington, Nov. 18: Two eminent India-Americans, including former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, are among the potential Cabinet picks in the next Biden-Harris Administration, according to media reports. Murthy, who currently is the top Indian-American advisor to President-elect Joe Biden on Covid-19, is a potential pick for the post of Secretary of Hea-Ith and Human Services and Stanford University Professor Arun Majumdar for the post of Secretary of Energy, The Washington Post and Politico said in their reports on Tuesday that mentions a list of potential picks for various Cabinet-level positions in the Biden admin-

istration.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE **TENDER NOTICE**

railable on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Notice No.23/2020-21/HDO, dated: 12.11.2020

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CORRIGENDUM-1

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PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER/

FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA

DIPR/ 4310 / TENDER/2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 10.12.2020 - 11.00 AM by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under Road Safety Component 2019-20 (Package 144 to 146) pertaining to Chengalpattu, Tiruvannamalai and Cheyyar Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from 23.11.2020 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(H),

M	ARULMIGU DHANDAYUTHAPANI :		
	<u>Tender Notice_no_607/2020/E</u> .	3, dated: 17.11.2020	
he	Executive Officer, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Tem	ple Palani invites sealed to	ender at the office from
he F	Registered Public Work Department Contractors for the follo	owing works.	
S.	Name of work	Value of Work in	Earnest Money
ł٥.		Lakhs Rs.	Deposit Rs.
	Construction of combined information	74.93	48,000/-
	centre at North Giriveethi		
}	Construction of R.C.C. Mandapam at foot Hill	32.36	27,000/-
	of the Idumban Hill Temple		

Date of availability of Tender Documents from 23.11.2020 to 08.12.2020 and Tender Schedule cost S.No.1 Rs.15.000/-+Rs.1800/-(GST), S.No.2-Rs.9,000/-+1080/-(GST) The Tender document can be downloaded free of cost from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tnhrce.org The contractor offer the Tenders belong to the Hindu Religious Persons Only.

. Further details and any changes can be had from the above websites only

Executive Officer





Chronicle

19 NOVEMBER 2020

'Love jihad' laws are frivolous, will divide

rticle 25 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right to practise religion: all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of Part III of the Constitution which deals with fundamental rights. Marriage is hardly a subject that comes in the way of a person practising the religion of his/her choice.

However, some of the state governments in India have of late been busy discovering marriage as one. It started with Uttar Pradesh where the chief minister, piggybacking on an order of a single bench of the Allahabad high court that ruled marriage for the purpose of conversion would not stand the scrutiny of the law, said the state government would be bringing in an anti-"love jihad" law. BJP governments in Haryana and Karnataka joined the bandwagon and said they, too, were contemplating introducing such

Now, the Madhya Pradesh government takes the cake. The state home minister has announced that a "love jihad bill" will soon be introduced in the state Assembly making it mandatory for the people concerned to notify the district collector a month in advance before formalising an interfaith marriage. According to the minister, marriages that take place forcibly, out of fraud or by tempting someone for religious conversion will be declared null and void. It will be a cognisable offence and non-bailable, attracting five years of rigorous imprisonment. Even those assisting such marriages will be considered a party to the crime.

Governments which lack in performance or in meeting the promises they had made to voters or in ensuring basic governance invent terminologies that offer them a covering fire while going to people. "Love jihad" is one such term. Every single authority in India, including Union ministers concerned, have said there is nothing in the law or statute which defines "love jihad"; it remains a derogatory term the right wing uses to denote the marriage of a Muslim man and a Hindu woman (and not vice-versa). In fact, the National Commission for Women has recently made it clear that no such thing exists though its chairperson holds a dif-

Those who advance such regressive ideas must bear in mind that no law that puts specific conditions on people based on their religion has a chance of survival as long as our Constitution lasts. And the Special Marriage Act, 1954, makes no distinction whether a marriage is interfaith or intra-religion. All that a couple has to do is to notify the official concerned a month before the marriage.

Governments and parties that seek to perpetuate themselves have the tough route of good governance to take. The alternative is to coin terminologies and fight an imaginary enemy. If they have the welfare of the people whom they claim to serve in mind, then they must invent ways of improving governance, not meddle with people's private lives. The Union government must advise the states not to go ahead with such divisive and communal tools to protect themselves from the wrath of people.

Gupkar: Let Cong decide

nion home minister Amit Shah has raised the profile of the upcoming Thion home minister Amit Shah has raised the profile of the upcoming District Development Council elections in Kashmir by attacking the J&K mainstream parties as the "Gupkar gang", and viciously and propagandistically describing them as being anti-national and pro-terrorist. He has also rhetorically asked the Congress leadership if it is a part of

The DDC polls for 280 seats in J&K, which kick off on November 28, will be the first proper electoral test of the popularity of the Centre's move to do away with the former state's autonomous status in August 2019. If the J&K parties, along with the Congress and the CPI(M) — the latter having limited influence in southern Kashmir — come together for the DDC polls, they are likely to be a formidable combine that could electorally embarrass

Fruits of this unity could set up a united front spirit for the subsequent Assembly election also. This too will worry the BJP. The Centre's promises of ushering a new era of development and ending terrorism with the annulment of Article 35-A and the reducing of Article 370 have proved hollow. Political reverse for the BJP in the DDC polls is apt to strengthen the public mood in favour of the Gupkar Declaration passed on August 4, 2019, by the National Conference, PDP, People's Conference, Congress and CPI(M).

This declaration enjoins participants to unite to seek restoration of J&K's

special status and to retain the state's identity, a perfectly legitimate demand in accordance with the spirit of federalism. The BJP is baiting the Congress and seeking to scare it with the so-called nationalist card. The Congress is being invited to take fright as it contests elections across the country, not just J&K. The idea is to detach the party from the Gupkar Alliance in the DDC polls.

Last year the Congress had participated in framing the Gupkar Declaration, but now seems defensive on account of stray utterances of PDP. and NC leaders (which were later tempered). The party should think for itself and not under BJP's pressure.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Fax: 08554-276904

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BJP's hopes for its own CM in Patna get dashed



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

n Bihar, the BJP is the new regent to a tired, jaded, ruler — Nitish Kumar whose authority after his Janata Dal (United)'s below-par performance in the recent Assembly election has dimmed to the level of inane formality. The saf-fron party is thus well placed now to advance its mentor RSS' disintegrative social agendas in Bihar, with the chief minister being the rub-ber stamp, so besotted is he with the mere idea of being CM even at the cost

of his self-esteem.

Whether the BJP is actually able to gain its ends in the foreseeable future will of course depend on many imponderables. But the current situation doesn't bode well for Bihar. The state's governance systems have long been a wreck. Its finances are in a pitiable state due to long-standing disregard the so-called "doublegovernment), and the state is a byword for deficient revenueearning capacity.

Besides, as a party the BJP—the regent—typically takes the wrong turn on serious matters of governance at the Centre and in the states where its writ runs. It has been content, in the main, to play up social faultlines to score at the ballot box and then to politically persecute opponents in disregard of the law, common decencies and democratic culture. It rules through sloganeering. When it puts its best foot forward, it comes up with "love jehad", the CAA, triple talaq, and so on. What can Bihar gain

from such a mindset? India's poorest state is truly in an unenviable position when a party like the BJP is to the fore and the CM is only too conscious that his best fate may lie in signing on the dotted line, quietly. For all the ear-shattering din of "vikas" — or devel-

opment — emanating from BJP's most important leaders, Bihar's economy and Bihar soci-ety appear poised to plunge, although there will be rallies declaring

Bihar is the only state in north India, besides Jammu and Kashmir (now a Union territory) and Punjab, where the BJP has not had its own chief minister, either winning the state out-right or having sufficient clout in a ruling alliance. In this quest it has been thwarted yet again. This must rankle the party's

In the recent election, the BJP evidently worked to a plan which it thought would give the party its first CM in Bihar. It seemed clear to everyone that it set up the LJP's Chirag Paswan, a NDA ally, to cut Mr Kumar's votes so that the JD(U) leader was denuded. That game has although Mr Kumar was humiliated but not entirely defeated. What did not succeed, though, was the calculation that the main Opposition party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, led by jailed top politico Lalu Prasad Yadav's greenhorn son Tejashwi, would be sent packing in the election. The opposite, in fact, happened. Tejashwi played what is quite possibly the most spectacular innings in recent memory for an untested captain, taking the battle to the BJP, JD(U) and LJP, in the process reaching new heights of

India's poorest state is truly in an unenviable position when a party like the BJP is to the fore and the CM is only too conscious that his best fate may lie in signing on the dotted line, quietly

For now, the BJP must remain satisfied playing regent. But in the absence of a mandate, this is still an enviable position to be in. After all, the NDA has won state power, technicality or not.

endeavour.

He refused to live in the past, he showed energy, and he marshalled his resources and his coalition partners with aplomb. In the end his party won more seats than any other party and bettered its polling percentage by as much as five per cent compared to the 2015 election, which the RJD had fought under his redoubtable but controversial father. The BJP came up next, having dropped five per cent of its vote share, although this time it fought in an alliance with Mr Kumar, rather than independently.

The difference between the ruling NDA's cam-paign and the opposing Mahagathbandhan campaign was stark. Within the NDA, the BJP played the communal metaphor to the hilt and made promises of "develop-ment" that didn't ring promises of true in light of the NDA's abysmal performance in the past five years. Mr Kumar pleaded plaintively with voters to give him one more chance.

Tejashwi Yadav, in sharp contrast, spoke to the most pressing need of the young voter -- for jobs and a better deal. Some 20 seats were lost to his party or combine by a couple of hundred votes or less. The Election Commission could have been seen to be scrupulous, but remained satisfied with form, although the gap in votes between the winning and the losing side was only 12,000 in the state overall.

So, who won? This is apt to remain a debate and a source of deep contention in the days ahead in case the NDA's opponents go on the warpath. boycotted the swearing-in ceremony of the CM and his Cabinet colleagues. That means Bihar's polity is on notice.

The BJP's core objec-

tive of having its own chief minister in Bihar remained unfulfilled in this election. Had the people of Bihar rejected Tejashwi Yadav in the manner that the BJP might have hoped, and the JD(U) had sunk a little lower in the tally, the saffron party might have hoped to win between 90 to 100 seats when the winning mark is 122. Since the BJP's middle name is "defection", the party might then have thought to make up the rest by breaking other parties through money

power and using the state police as it personal For now, however, it must remain satisfied playing regent. But in the absence of a mandate, this is still an enviable position to be in. After all, the NDA has won state power, technicality or not. The CM will have to sign on the dotted line as told and take the rap when things go wrong, unless even he turns. He may rest assured that the BJP will play both tough and smart with the full force the pliant media behind it.

Right away, the saffron party sent the tallest Bihar BJP leader, the Sushil Kumar Mr Kumar's deputy CM of 13 years, home. Although from the RSS cadre, he was thought to be too close to the CM. So, he may not have been the best hatchet man. Out he went and the BJP appointed two nonentities as deputy CMs. With such ruthlessness on view, the CM had better watch out. The BJP will tolerate no demurrals as the state gets to be governed through remote control from New Delhi, with the capital of the Mauryan empire taking a long holiday.

Whether the BJP is actually able to gain its ends in the foreseeable future will of course depend on many imponderables. But the current situation doesn't bode well for Bihar.

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT This is with reference to your editorial Nitish weakened, will his govt sur-

vive? (Nov. 18). It is wishful thinking to foresee backseat driving by BJP from Delhi or Nagpur. Nitish, 69, has not joined NDA government at Centre even when he had good numbers. BJP with 74 members cannot form a government by torpedoing JD(U) in the foreseeable future. Governments in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and MP are managing the show somehow by reining in their flocks. Both Nitish and Modi are aware that they have to swim together in Patna, else they may sink together. Being a man of all the seasons, fourth time lucky Nitish will sail safely and complete his mandate, a la

Naveen of Odisha **Parthasarathy Mandadi** Tirupati

RCEP PACT
THE SIGNING of Regional Economic by 15 Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact by 15 countries including China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea is significant on several counts. The decision of India to stay out of RCEP is nothing but retrograde. RCEP has now become one of the world's largest free trading blocs, representing over 2.2 billion people and accounts for 29 per cent of global GDP. Despite their differences with China, Australia Ianan have not let the way of becoming members of RCEP. On the face of it, India's apprehensions that RCEP will open the doors for cheaper Chinese goods to deluge Indian markets and ruin domestic industries have some merit, but as an emerging power, India needs to send the right signal.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

A GREAT ACTOR

THE PASSING away of veteran actor Soumitra Chatterjee leaves a huge void in Bengali cinema. Chatterjee was the face of Satyajit Ray's *Apu* and *Feluda*. He was also well known for his splendid recitation of poetry and prose, especially of Rabindranath Tagore. He was a multi-faceted personality in Bengali theatre, who brought his unique sensibilities as an artiste to the fields of writing, directing and acting, carving out an imprint that was truly his own. A politically involved person, Chatterjee was one among a legion of eminent personalities who wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to end mob-lynching across the country. Though Chatterjee survived a bout of cancer, Covid-19 related complications finally brought the curtains down on the illustrious chapter of the great thespian.

R. Sivakumar, Chennai

Dilip Cherian



MHA hard put to find officers ready to serve in Ladakh, J&K

ore than a year after the change in the status of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, there is an acute shortage of IAS, IPS and other all-India service officers in the Union Territories. The situation is dire enough for the ministry of home affairs to write to all cadrecontrolling authorities to prepare a list of IAS, IPS and other officers who can be immediately sent on deputation to J&K and Ladakh.

And the ministry is trying to cast its net far and wide. According to sources, a missive from the MHA has been sent to the Railway Board chairman, Comptroller General of Accounts, Comptroller Auditor General of India, secretaries of the ministries of defence, external affairs, corporate affairs and I&B, chairpersons of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and the departments of commerce, telecom and posts! As of now, sources say, two officers have shown willingness to serve in J&K on deputation. Both are Kashmiri-born officers, one an IAS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre and the other an IRS officer. Not very encouraging, it seems.

After all, J&K has a stipulated cadre strength of 137 IAS officers, out of whom only 58 are serving in the cadre, including nine who are on Central deputation. Similarly, the cadre strength of IPS officers is 147, but only 66 are currently serv-

CIC PUTS A LID ON INFORMATION

Among the first things the Central Information Commission (CIC) has done after the appointment of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as Chief Information Commissioner is to allow the Central Secretariat to withhold records of the resignation

Following the appointment of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as Chief Information **Commissioner, the CIC let** the Central Secretariat withhold records of the resignation of former home secretary Anil Goswami

of former home secretary Anil Goswami. Sinha, a former IFS officer and high commissioner to the was sworn in by President Ram Nath after Bimal Julka retired from the post in August.

The panel has reportedly based its judgment on a Delhi high court order according to which file notings and deliberations of the Group of Officers or the authority cannot be disclosed. The CIC's order came in response to an RTI application filed by IPS officer Anurag Thakur

who had sought to know from the Cabinet Secretariat the details of action taken on a complaint against Goswami, including communication exchanged between various authorities and file notings. Not getting a satisfactory response, Thakur appealed before the CIC. Goswami was forced to resign in February 2015 for allegedly trying to stall the arrest of a former Union minister in a case by the CBI.

MANIPUR INTRODUCES GOOD

GOVERNANCE AWARD Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh has introduced an award for good governance as an incentive for babus to do innovative and extraordinary work at the grass-roots level. The initiative will reward government officials whose performance is of "a very high order" and whose work has benefited a large number of citizens and stakeholders.

Sources say that the award will be

presented every year to an individual officer or a team including administrative secretaries, deputy commissioners, heads of departments and to any other official or department. A panel comprising of the chief minister, chief secretary Rajesh Kumar and other senior officials will select the winners who stand to win a cash prize of ₹1 lakh (individual category) and ₹2 lakh (group category). To become eligible, officials will have to successfully complete a challenging task or project that results in significant benefits to the public or in the reduction of time and costs, including implementation of Central or state government schemes.

The awards will be presented on Statehood Day, Republic Day or Independence Day every year.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com.











THURSDAY | 19 NOVEMBER 2020 | CHENNAI



INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	44,180.05	0.52
Nifty 50	12,938.25	0.50
S&P 500*	3,614.85	0.15
Dollar (₹)	74.19	0.35
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.61	0.14
Euro (₹)	88.20	0.16
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,253▼357	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.64	0.89
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.878	0.002
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.865	-0.007
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

Global container volumes rose in Q3: Top shipper

The world's biggest shipping company, Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, said global container volumes rose increased by around 1 per cent in the third quarter, a faster rebound than expected earlier in the year. But global demand for containers is expected to contract by 4-5 per cent this year due to Covid-19. CEO Soeren Skou said disciplined execution led to solid earnings and cash flow growth for the firm in Q3.

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■Depositors money, employees safe LVB shareholders to lose investment

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 18

Public shareholders of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will lose their money as the entire amount of the paidup share capital will be written off as per the scheme of amalgamation of LVB with DBS India proposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, depositors need not worry as their deposits will be transferred to DBS and would be fully secured. Around 4,000 employees of LVB also can heave a sigh of relief as they will be moved to DBS at the same remuneration as in LVB for the next three years. However, Damocles sword hangs over key management personnel of LVB as they could be retrenched by DBS, if it feels so.

The market is also waiting to see whether the RBI will take over troubled private lender Dhanlaxmi Bank, too, as it is being long mired in management issues, and impose a merger or a revival plan.

As per the draft scheme of amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India, the entire amount of the paidup share capital will be written off. "On and from the appointed date, the entire amount of the paidup share capital and reserves and surplus, including the balances in the share/securities premium account of the transferor bank, shall stand written off," said the RBI in the draft scheme of amalgamation for LVB

HOPE AND DESPAIR

Deposits will be transferred to DBS Bank India and would be fully secured

Around 4,000 employees will be moved to DBS India at the current remuneration for 3 years Key management personnel of LVB could be retrenched by DBS, if so required

Market is also waiting to see if similar action will follow in the case of Dhanlaxmi Bank

with DBS India announced by it on Tuesday.

Anand Dama, analyst at Emkay Research, said, "As per the extant scheme, paid-up capital/reserves of LVB shall stand extinguished similar to write-off of AT-1 bonds in the case of Yes Bank. Deposits will be transferred to DBS and thus stand fully secured. while employees will be moved to the transferee bank at the same remuneration as in LVB for the next three years. However, key management personnel could be retrenched by DBS, if required."

Speaking at a virtual press meet on Wednesday, the RBI-appointed administrator for LVB and former non-executive chairman of Canara Bank T.N. Manoharan said share-holders of LVB will not have a say in the amalgamation decision in their general body meeting under the Companies Act as the Banking Regulation Act—a special Act—will override the provisions of

a general law.

LVB depositors contin-

OUICK CROSSWORD

ued to panic since the announcement of the amalgamation scheme by the RBI on Tuesday evening, with the bank witnessing about Rs 10 crore of deposit withdrawals, according to Manoharan. He assured depositors that their money is safe and expressed confidence that the lender's merger with DBS Bank India will be completed within the December 16 deadline set

Manoharan said all the employees of LVB will be absorbed in DBS after the merger. DBS Bank may also rope in more experienced professionals to carry out a digitisation drive at the troubled bank.

by the regulator.

The RBI administrator said that the troubled bank has enough liquidity to pay

back depositors. Shares of LVB fell 19.94 per cent to Rs 12.40 on the BSE, hitting the lower circuit. Shares worth Rs 31.8 crore were traded on the NSE and Rs 3.65 crore, on the BSE.

(With inputs from Ravi Ranjan Prasad)

APPAREL EXPORTERS SEEK PRE-FTA DEAL WITH UK

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 18

Apparel exporters want the government to strike a pre-FTA preferential trade deal with the United Kingdom ahead of Brexit.

According to the indus-Indian apparel industry is in a disadvantageous position compared to some of its competitors which have FTA with the UK.

"It has been learnt that after the implementation of Brexit in January 2021, 47 least developed countries including Bangladesh will continue to enjoy preferential trade benefits. This will be a continuation of the disadvantage to Indian apparels in the imporappareis in the impartant and potential market of the UK," said Apparel Export Council Promotion chairman A Sakthivel.

"India has been losing out to its competitors in the UK and hence we request the government to initiate discussions for an early trade pact for apparels in the runup to FTA," he said.

The UK is India's third largest export destina-tion after the US and the UAE. Indian apparel exporters have been facing a tariff disadvantage of 9.6 per cent as against countries like Bangladesh due to the

Generalised Scheme of Preferences, which the UK plans to continue offering to the 47 LDCs even after

Apple to halve App Store fees to 15% from January

MARK GURMAN

Apple Inc is cutting by half the fees charged to most developers who sell software and services on the App Store, marking the biggest change to the store's revenue structure since the iPhone maker launched the service in

The company is lowering the App Store fee to 15 per cent from 30 per cent for developers who produce as much as \$1 million in annual revenue from their apps and those who are new to the store. The change will go into effect January 1 as part of an App Store Small Business Program, Apple said on Wednesday in a



statement.

The company said the new structure will apply to the "vast majority" of developers who charge for apps and in-app purchases on Apple's devices. The programme won't affect some major apps such as those from Netflix Inc and

Spotify Technology SA.
The Cupertino, California-based technology giant said it's making the change to help small

and to provide a way for them to invest in their businesses amid the economic struggles caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Apple has faced ongoing

scrutiny from govern-ment regulators and criti-cism from developers about the percentage of revenue it takes for App Store purchases. Alphabet Inc's Google also charges similar fees to developers on its Android

app store. Income from app developers has been key to Apple's growing services business, which reached almost \$54 billion in revenue in fiscal 2020. The App Store is the biggest revenue driver for Apple. —Bloomberg

Rising metal prices, freight charges hurt many sectors

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 18

Rising metal prices and higher freight charges on imports are posing a new challenge for manufacturers and exporters.

Base metal prices as well as steel prices have seen significant upside of late in the commodity market.

Copper prices have moved up 64 per cent from their March levels, zinc has gone up by 67 per cent, nickel by 50 per cent, aluminum by 30 per cent and lead by 24 per cent from their March levels, said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

'Stimulus announced in major economies, the restriction on production in China ahead of the winter due to environmental concerns and weakness in dollar are some of the key factors supporting base metals,'

he said While the raw material price is hurting the manufacturers, the recent jump in freight charges on imported goods due to limited availability of containers has worsened the situation. "The price of hot

rolled coil an essential raw material for the engineering industry, has increased from Rs 35,000 a tonne to Rs 42,000 a tonne in the past six months," says the Engineering Export Prom-otion Council of India.

"Zinc prices too have shot up from Rs 170 a kg to Rs 220 per kg and freight charges have almost doubled," said EEPC India chairman Mahesh Desai.

The Siam said, "The increasing steel prices, used extensively in manufacturing of vehicles, puts pressure on the cost of vehicles.'

COFFEE-BREAK

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



avoid disappointments by being realistic. Try to finish your tasks and expect financial problems with someone who fits the bill. aurus: You'll work and party well. Expect wedlock, a major contract or even a publicity cam-

Aries: Carelessness creates mistakes. Singles,



vate or purchase a home. Gemini: Some fail to benefit from the day. Maintain cool and act swift. Some of you make a glorious picture that uplifts spirits. Unable to tol-

ncer: You'll focus on family. You may be opti-

paign. Health gets bothersome. You may reno-



mistic about some work developments, though avoid taking disinteresting projects you may be unable to sustain your level of involvement. o: Romance doesn't cement. Your courage

erate indiscipline, you'd find it hard.



clears your professional hurdles. Relationships with family members may become rocky. Deal with emotions one-at-a-time.



Virgo: Gathering information from different sources is advantageous. New ventures using creativity becomes successful. Be discreet during disagreements with colleagues or loved ones. You may focus more on personal issues as hectic work proceeds smoothly.

You share your b'day with

Sushmita Sen is an Indian film actress. She is a model and won Miss Universe 1994. She is prominently known for her roles in Main Hoon Na, Aankhen etc.



commitment. Excellent time to make positive lifestyle changes. Your previous efforts could result in new opportunities.

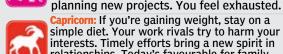
ibra: Some are determined to make a deeper



Scorpio: Handle financial transactions carefully.
Verify information to avoid complications. Find a balance that enhance work quality. Guard against losing your objectivity. <mark>ittarius:</mark> You'll find the knowledge you

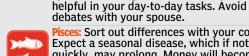
seek. Expect a brush with law. You're

drawn towards activities, spending time,



simple diet. Your work rivals try to harm your interests. Timely efforts bring a new spirit in relationships. Today's favourable for family Aquarius: Put things in order and motivate others. Health is normal. Relations with your

apricorn: If you're gaining weight, stay on a



Pisces: Sort out differences with your colleague. Expect a seasonal disease, which if not treated quickly, may prolong. Money will become tight and money reaching your hands will be held up. Children's study concerns you.

spouse/friends get more cordial, proving to be

THERE IS **SO LITTLE** Today's deal occurred during a duplicate. What do you think about the auction? **BETWEEN**

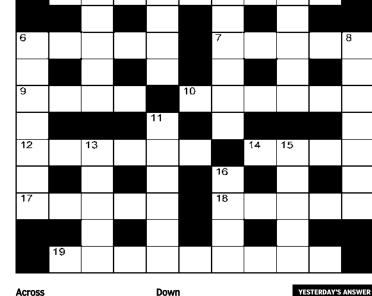
THE TWO

A.N. Onymous said, "Never let success get to your head; never let failure get to your heart." At the bridge table, if you have a bad result, concentrate on the next deal; do not worry about what has already hap-pened -- it cannot be changed.

two-no-trump

more spades and at least game-invitational values. What happened in five dia-monds doubled? What would

South's hand was a tad thin for his two-diamond response, but he liked his seventh card in the suit. East tried to silence the oppo-nents by jumping to four spades. Good, South passed. All right, so North has dou-



Across

- 1.Schedule of events (9) 6. Children (5)
- 7. Fire-raising (5) 9. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
- 10. Autrographed (6) 12. Jungle man (6)
- 14. Japanese mountain (4)
- 17. Steam bath (5) 18. Squeeze out (5) 19. Confirming the truth of (9)
- 2. Gum (5) 3. Delight (4)
- 4. Slowly (mus) (6)
- 5. Stone worker (5)
- 6. I'm upset (anag) (7) 8. Signalling assent (7) 11. African expedition (6)
- 13. Way (5) 15. Alliance (5)
 - 16. Askew (4)

Across: 1. Complied, 7. Crass, 8. Snipe, 9. Acetic, 10. Serf, 12. Ogre, 14. Fester, 17. Audit, 18. Genre, 19. Getworse.

Down: 1. Chafe, 2. Muslin, 3. Loss, 4. Elite, 5. Octagonal, 6. Performer, 11. Merger, 13. Ridge, 15. Tinge, 16. Stew.

Word Mine

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed.

Deater: North Volumedday But

jumble **NGLUC**

RAHDO CLIPES GIKSIN

South has run to five dia-

club jack to ensure two club ruffs on the board. Minus 750 was a zero to East-West, but

minus 600 would have been

At the 12 tables in play monds -- curses! Eventually, East decided that if this conthere were 10 different results. Most Easts played in spades, winning 10 tricks unless North obtained a club tract was making, it was going to be a near-zero; so he doubled, hoping for plus 200.
Five diamonds was unbeatable. Even after a trump lead,
South could have either
established hearts or led his ed-suit lead. East-West shrugged off

the next board by winning one more trick than the field.

this result and got a top on

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson















ARCHIE | Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman

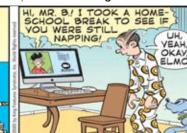






BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall







ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe





TARZAN Edgar Rice Burroughs



SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT MY SORE













SHORT TAKES

Youngster Leon

earns GM norm

Chennai: Young Indian International master Leon Luke Mendonca won a GM tournament in Hungary with a round to spare to close in on the coveted Grandmaster title. The 14-year-old player from Goa won the First Saturday GM November 2020 event in Budapest late on Monday to earn his second Grandmaster norm in the space of 21 days. He needs one more norm to earn the GM title. Mendonca (Elo 2516) finished with 7.5 points and won the title with a round to spare. He remained unbeaten in the event and scored wins over two Grandmasters. He posted six wins and three draws in the nine-round championship. In the opening round, he drew against higher rated GM Plat Vojtech of the Czech Republic. He had in late October won the **Rigochess International Chess**

Dalmiya grandson is football official

Festival Grandmaster tourna-

ment in Hungary where he gained his maiden GM norm.

Kolkata: Keeping up the family legacy, Aditya Dalmiya, grand-son of former BCCI and ICC president late Jagmohan Dalmiya, on Wednesday made a foray into sports administration. Aditya is the son of Dalmiya's daughter Baishali, who happens to be a Trinamool Congress MLA from Bally constituency. The 21-year-old, who is pursuing masters in sports management, was appointed as the chairman of Indian Football Association 'School Committee' representing Rajasthan Club. "He is a young man with the right mindset. We made the 'School Committee' with much care and made him the chairman. My nephew Anirban Dutta. who is in the same committee, will work under him," IFA chairman Subrata Dutta said. Recollecting his father Biswanath Dutta's role in Dalmiya's rise, he said: "My father had spotted Jagmohan Dalmiya in the early 1970s as the administrator of the foot-

Aditi and Diksha

ball unit of Rajasthan Club."

start well in Saudi

King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia: Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar began with a round of one-under 71 respectively as the Saudi Ladies Team International got underway at the Royal Greens Golf and Country Club on Wednesday. Thev were both Tied-14th as Finnish golfer Sanna Nuuttinen shot 66 to take the lead after the first round. Other Indians in the field were further down Tvesa Malik (74) was T-41 and Astha Madan (80) was T-103rd. The tournament has an innovative team format, though the individual pros will also be vying for substantial purse. It is being played over 54-holes with \$500,000 up for grabs -\$300,000 for the team and \$200,000 for the individual. The players and amateurs make up 37 teams. The teams were selected in an NFL-style draft system and they compete in a team of four pro-am format with the best two scores to count. - PTI

CWG all set for

women's cricket Dubai: Six highest-placed teams

in the ICC rankings as on April 1 next year along with hosts England will get direct qualification to the 2022 Commonwealth Games women's T20 competition. which will make its debut at the

quadrennial showpiece in Women's cricket will be a part

of the Commonwealth Games for the first time ever when the 2022 edition gets underway in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

Live on TV

ATP Finals: Round robin matches from 7.30 pm and 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

Regd. No. TNENG/2010/35692

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GERMANY'S PAIN English August for India in '21

Spaniards shame heavyweights with humiliating defeat

Torres grabbed a hat-trick as Spain condemned Germany to their worst defeat in 89 years on Tuesday, winning 6-0 in Seville to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and join France, who came from behind to

beat Sweden 4-2. Manchester City forward Torres was the star for Spain, who were as brilliant as Germany were bad. The result raises further questions about Germany coach Joachim Loew, who was already under pressure coming into this game.

"This has been a black day for us," admitted Loew after Germany's heaviest defeat since losing 6-0 to Austria in 1931.

They came into their final game in League A, Group 4 on top, a point clear of Spain, and so only needed a draw at an empty La Cartuja to qualify for the finals in October next

But Alvaro Morata headed Spain in front in the 17th minute before Torres crashed in the second on 33 minutes after Dani

Olmo's header hit the bar. His City teammate Rodri headed in another to make it 3-0 for Spain before the end of a first half in which they lost Sergio Canales and skip-per Sergio Ramos to injury.

Germany's defence was missing as Jose Gaya burst through and squared for Torres to get the fourth on 55 minutes, and Fabian Ruiz teed up the 20-year-old Torres to complete his hat-trick.

Germany now have several months to reflect on this loss before the start of 2022 World Cup qualifying in March and then the delayed Euro 2020 in June and July.

Spain, meanwhile, become the second side to qualify for the Nations League finals after France clinched their place by beating Portugal 4-2 at the weekend.

THE RESULTS

(Morata 17, Ferran Torres 33, 55, 71, Rodri 38, Germany

Croatia (Kovacic 29, 65) Portugal (Ruben Dias 52, 90, Joao Felix 60)

(Giroud 16, 59, Pavard 36, Coman 90+5) Sweden (Claesson 5, Quaison

Luxembourg Azerbaijan

Montenegro (Jovetic 14, Boljevic 25, 28, Mugosa 60) Cyprus

Malta (Guillaumier 54) Faroe Islands (Jonsson 70)



Spain players celebrate a goal against Germany during the UEFA Nations League football match at La Cartuja sta-

Brazil, Argentina 2 good

Montevideo (Uruguay), Nov. 18: Brazil continued their perfect start to the qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup with a 2-0 win over Uruguay while rivals Argentina stayed in touch with an easy win in Peru. First-half goals from

Arthur and Richarlison helped Brazil to a 2-0 win over Uruguay, who had Manchester United striker Edinson Cavani sent OII.

Argentina, with Lionel Messi pulling the strings, brushed aside a limited Peru 2-0 in Lima, with goals from Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez and Nicholas Gonzalez in a game in which they were never troubled.

Ecuador, playing on their home turf in highaltitude Quito, hammered Colombia 6-1. Paraguay and Bolivia fought out a 2-2 draw while Venezuela picked up their first points in a 2-1 victory over Chile in Caracas.

⁷ictory in Montevideo left Brazil on top of South America's qualifying standings on 12 points with four wins from four games. Argentina are second on 10 points after beating Peru, with surprise team Ecuador third Oceania. on nine points.



Brazil's Marquinhos (left) and Douglas Luiz vie for the ball with Darwin Nunez of Uruguay during their FIFA World Cup South American qualifier at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on Tuesday. Brazil won 2-0.

Uruguay are fifth on six points, behind Paraguay on goal difference after

four matches. The first four teams in South America's roundrobin competition qualify directly for the World Cup finals in Qatar, while the 5th placed nation faces a playoff against the counqualifying from

THE RESULTS

Uruguay (Arthur 33, Richarlison 45)

Argentina (Gonzalez 17, Martinez 28)

Venezuela (Mago 9, Rondon 81) (Vidal 15)

O Ecuador 2 (Arboleda 7, Mena Delgado 9, Estrada Martinez 32, Arreaga 39, Plata 78, Estupinan 90+1) Colombia (Rodriguez 45+1-pen)

Paraguay (Angel Romero 19-pen, Kaku **Bolivia**

the level of tennis, even if I lost today, for me is much higher," he

(Moreno 41, B. Cespedes 45)

Nadal, who last month equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slams by winning the French Open, has won 86 titles but just one of those has come on an indoor hard court.

The world number two has qualified for the ATP Finals for 16 years in a row, but his record at the eight-man elite event pales in comparison with Federer and Novak Djokovic after six injury withdrawals.

Potentially facing another disappointment in the Finals, Nadal said he couldn't explain his problems at the event. "I don't know. I think even if I never won here, I don't want to pretend to be arrogant at all, because I am not. But I really don't need to show even to myself or to no one that if I am playing my best tennis I think I can win in every surface and

against any player," he said. "I never won in the World Tour Finals. That's the real thing at the same time. So no problem about that. I know I have to play my best if I want to have chances," Nadal

London, Nov. 18: A five-match Test series against India will headline England's bumper home summer in 2021 as the country's cricket board on Wednesday unveiled a provisional fixture with plans to get crowds back into the stadiums.

The matches against India are scheduled for August-September.

Earlier this year, England hosted Pakistan and the West Indies in twin Test series behind closed doors due to the raging Covid-19 pandemic, before welcoming Australia for a series of limited overs matches.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) now seems eager to stage the return of fans into the playing arena from the next season onwards depending on the Covid-19

"Next year we've got another big international programme to look forward to, with the thrill of a five-Test series against India as the centrepiece, compelling white ball series for our men and women, and an Ashes Series for our Visually Impaired team," ECB chief executive officer, Tom Harrison, said in a release

issued by the board.

Much to the delight of

England's Test series against India is due to get underway on August 4 at Trent Bridge, with following matches taking place at Lord's, **Headingley and The** Oval, before finishing up in Manchester on September 14.

English cricket fans craving for live action, the CEO added, "It's an exciting prospect for England fans, and while Covid-19 means there's still a great deal of uncertainty, we really hope to be able to welcome fans back into the grounds safely next year to bring that unique atmosphere to stadia across the country.

The Test series against India is due to conclude the men's international summer, with matches at Trent Bridge, Lord's, Headingley, the Kia Oval and Old Trafford.

The series is due to get underway on August 4 at Trent Bridge, with following matches taking place at Lord's, Headingley and The Oval, before finishing up in Manchester on September 14. — PTI

NEW DAD RICHARDSON PULLS OUT OF OZ SIDE

Sydney, Nov. 18: Fast bowler Kane Richardson withdrew on Wednesday from Australia's limitedovers squad to face India to stay with his wife and newborn son in Adelaide, which is battling a coron-

avirus outbreak.
Richardson will be replaced by fellow quick Andrew Tye who was part of the squad on Australia's recent white-ball tour to England. "It was a difficult deci-

sion for Kane to make but one which has the complete support of the selectors and the entire playing squad," national selector Trevor Hohns

Richardson informed selectors of his decision on Tuesday, hours before South Australia announced a six-day "circuit-breaker" lockdown to contain a sudden coronavirus cluster in the state capital Adelaide.

"Kane wanted to remain in Adelaide with Nyki and their newborn son. We will always support our players and their families, even more so given the challenging environment we are in," said

Preparations for India's blockbuster cricket tour have been complicated by the outbreak in South Australia, with the first Test scheduled at the Adelaide Oval from December 17-21.

Before that there are three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals to be played in Sydney and Canberra beginning on November 27. -AFF

Akhtar pitches for Rohit as ODI lead

New Delhi, Nov. 18: Former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar feels Rohit Sharma leading the Indian Test team against Australia in Virat Kohli's absence is a no brainer and the-much awaited series

will be his "best chance" to stake claim for captaincy in one of the limited-overs formats. Calls have been growing for spilt captaincy in the

Indian team since Rohit led Mumbai Indians to a fifth title in the IPL. Rohit has also led India to an Asia Cup title in Kohli's absence. Though Ajinkya Rahane is the vice-captain on paper, Akhtar sees Rohit taking over leader-ship duties from Kohli following the first Test at the Adelaide Oval. The India skipper will be returning home after the series-opener to attend the birth of his first child.

"My take on it is pretty simple. From what I know Virat is very keen to take the team forward. It all

depends on how fatigued he is feeling. He has been playing non-stop since 2010, has got 70 centuries and a mountain of runs under his belt," Akhtar said.

"If he is feeling fatigued, then he should think about giving the leadership role to Rohit in one of the formats (preferably T20s). I could see the boredom on his face during the IPL, may be it was because of the bio-bubble situation, he seemed a bit stressed out. It all depends on how he feels. Rohit has been ready for captaincy for a while,

"Australia will be his best chance to prove himself as captain. He should grab it with both hands. He has the talent and ability to lead the team. The whole world would be looking at Rohit as captain and batsman. If he does well for himself and the team, then there should be a debate about split captaincy, Akhtar said.

PAK CHIEF IS SURE OF

Ehsan Mani believes the successful and event-free conduct of Pakistan Super League-5 has enhanced the image of the country and exuded confidence of host-ing more international teams next year.

Mani said he was happy to have fulfilled his commitment of hosting the entire PSL this year at home. "I reiterated this when the event was suspended prior to the play-off stage, and despite several challenges, uncertainties and doubts, I am delighted that the PCB has fulfiled another commitment and promise to the loyal and passionate Pakistan cricket fans and supporters," he said after the summit clash that was won

HOSTING MORE GAMES

Karachi, Nov. 18: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman

by Karachi Kings on Tuesday night.

Nadal dances to Thiem music at ATP

London, Nov. 18: Rafael Nadal insisted he can still win the ATP Finals for the first time despite a damaging 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/4) defeat against Austria's Dominic Thiem on Tuesday. Thiem overpowered Nadal

behind closed doors at London's O2 Arena to put a dent in the Spanish star's bid to finally lift the one major prize missing from his packed trophy cabinet. Thiem became the first player

to qualify for the semifinals a few hours later when reigning cham-pion Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6). Tsitsipas saved a match point in

the final set tie-break before the Greek sixth seed sealed his first win of the week. Nadal had beaten Rubley in straight sets in his first match. but the 34-year-old was unable to cope with Thiem in a high-quali-

ty clash. Now Nadal, who lost the 2010 and 2013 finals of the event, has to beat Tsitsipas in his last group match to keep alive his hopes of reaching the semifinals of the prestigious season-ending tour-



Dominic Thiem of Austria celebrates defeating Rafael Nadal of Spain in their men's singles round robin match on Day Three of the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London on Tuesday.

Despite his perilous position, Nadal took heart from the way he competed against the inspired Thiem. He believes that will stand him in good stead in a showdown with Tsitsipas that decides the second semifinalist from the group. "He played I

played well too. So my feeling is not negative. I lost, but I had plen-I had break up in the second set, Nadal said.

played. I think my chances are bigger to have a very good result think an amazing match, and I now than five days ago because

ty of chances in the first and then

"I'm happy with the way I