

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2020



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Congress supports farmers agitation



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US court rejects Trump Pennsylvania lawsuit

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India look to hit back in second ODI



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WEATHER
Max: 22.4°C
Min: 18.1°C
RH: 91%
Rainfall: 1.3 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Light to moderate rains.
Max/Min temp. 27/17 °C

| COVID-19 COUNT | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| CASES | DEATHS |
| (+43,404) | (+530) |
| 93,92,689 | 1,36,720 |
| covid19india.org | |
| STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS | |
| (+753) | (+3) |
| TS: 2,68,418 | 1,451 |
| (+625) | (+5) |
| AP: 8,67,063 | 6,981 |

CASES AROUND THE WORLD
6,23,48,685
DEATHS
14,55,254
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
218
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE
Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.46 noon
Star: Kritika till 6.02 am (Monday)
Varjyam: 4.40 pm to 6.27 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.07 pm to 4.52 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 13, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.24 am
Zohar: 12.14 pm
Asar: 4.04 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.57 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.29 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
MOONSET 5.23 PM
MOONRISE 5.01 AM



COUNTER POINT
Don't take them seriously. The polls in Punjab and Haryana are far away!

SHORT TAKE

Cold conditions prevail in N. India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir till December 4. Kashmir experienced sub-zero night temperatures as the mercury settled several degrees below the freezing point, with Srinagar recording the minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund (Anantnag) and Kupwara experienced a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius and minus 1.0 degrees Celsius respectively. Temperatures in Himachal Pradesh, Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong was recorded as the coldest place in the state at minus 9.5 degrees Celsius.

EPFO extends life record deadline

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for submission of life certificates by pensioners till February 28, a move which would benefit over 35 lakh persons who could not submit their life certificates till November 30 deadline, would get pension every month till February. "In view of the ongoing pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population, the EPFO has extended the time limit up to February 28, 2021."

Vote for TRS to keep Hyd peaceful in future: KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Urging the people to support the TRS, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday said, "This is the time to save, to build and take pride in presenting Hyderabad to the world as we have been doing."

Addressing a massive public meeting at LB Stadium, on which the TRS has laid great hope, Chandrashekar Rao said, "It is a great historical place. Some divisive forces are trying to enter Hyderabad this time to create havoc here."

Asking the people if they would vote for such forces, he said, "Are we going to lose our peace? What about the future of our children? Please think, we may not be there but our children will be here. I appeal to all, particularly the intellectual community, to please rise, educate, come stand in the queue and vote for the TRS, which is progressive party."

He said: "This is to save Hyderabad, our history



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao addresses the Telangana Rashtra Samiti public meeting at LB stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

and its peace. I ask all professionals, particularly from the IT sector, engineers, lawyers, doctors,

and everyone whether we want the same peaceful Hyderabad to continue? Do we want law and order

to be maintained? What people are talking outside, you are watching." "They're shamelessly talking about their divisive proposal which is a very dangerous one. This is not at all desirable in a city that has been cosmopolitan for centuries."

Assuring that the TRS is committed to implementing all the promises made in its manifesto, he said supplying 24-hour drinking water to each household is his dream. He assured distribution of ₹10,000 to the flood-affected families who had not received aid, from December 7.

Chandrashekar Rao said that the trend in the GHMC elections had been changing by the hour and people were looking at the TRS. "I am confident that TRS will win the GHMC with four to five seats more than last elections. We will start a new journey for development of Hyderabad after December 4 from LB stadium," he added.

■ Page 4: KCR promises ₹10,000 cr annually to Hyd

2 MORE CYCLONES LIKELY TO HIT ANDHRA PRADESH

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

People, mainly farmers, who have already faced the worst of Nivar cyclone, are now a worried lot as Meteorological Office has warned that another two cyclones – Burevi and Takti – may hit the state.

While Burevi is expected to hit the AP coast on December 2, Takti will swoop in on December 7.

Farmers are extremely distressed that for the first time, a series of cyclones are hitting them. They point out that harvesting for Kharif season starts towards November end. But majority of the farmers were forced to hurriedly harvest due to cyclone. Many say they could save only half their crops due to sudden start of rains due to cyclone.

According to agricultural department, Nivar has caused huge devastation by damaging standing crops on 2,14,420 hectares in 11 districts of the state.

Paddy farmers are the worst hit.

VILLAGES NEAR PENNA RIVER MAROONED

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 28

Several low-lying villages along the Penna river in Nellore district were inundated after officials released of more than 2.8 lakh cusecs of water from the Somasila reservoir. The reservoir had received 2.63 lakh cusecs of water on Saturday.

Elsewhere, breaches to the bunds of water bodies led to inundation of villages in Kovur, Buchireddypalem and Sangam mandals apart from low-lying areas in Nellore City.

Hundreds of villages are still under the grip of darkness as stagnant water, deposited by rains accompanying Cyclone Nivar, affected the restoration of power.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flanked by BJP state president Bansi Sanjay and BJP general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao during the party's GHMC poll campaign at Allwyn Colony in Kukatpally on Saturday. — R. PAVAN

Yogi: Only BJP can rename Hyderabad Bhagyanagar

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that only the BJP had the guts to rename Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar. He said the

BJP government in UP renamed Faizabad as Ayodhya. Adityanath was speaking at road shows in Jee-dimela and Kukatpally. He recalled that Hyderabad had merged with the country under the leadership of

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. When the Nizam tried to merge Hyderabad with Pakistan, the people revolted and Patel merged Hyderabad State with India.

■ Page 4: Nizam's family had to be taught a lesson: Yogi

MEDICAL | ADMISSIONS

Higher Education dept must issue GO on counselling guidelines

NTR-UHS awaits orders on MBBS, BDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

NTR University of Health Sciences (NTR-UHS) is yet to go ahead with admissions for first year MBBS, BDS and other courses. To do so, it is awaiting orders from the state government specifying guidelines to conduct counselling for admissions into the first year.

A six-member, high-level committee, with university registrar Dr. K. Sankar as its convener, has submitted already a report with a set of guidelines on conduct of counselling to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Basis this, DHE is supposed to

issue a GO incorporating the guidelines for counselling.

The guidelines include conduct of separate counselling for admission into first year MBBS and BDS courses. It had been a combined exercise thus far. Counselling for admission for first year Ayush courses will also be done separately.

The NTR-UHS registrar said, "Unless another GO specifying guidelines on conduct of counselling is issued, we cannot go ahead with admissions." DHE has already issued G. O. 159 on implementation of reservations for SC, ST and BC students in all higher educational institu-

● **THE GUIDELINES** include conduct of separate counselling for admission into first year MBBS and BDS courses.

tions of the state. A key task of students is to exercise their one-time option of indicating their priority in choosing the medical college in which they would like to seek admission. There are 29 government and private medical and dental colleges in the state. Students will have to indicate their order of preference with regard to each of these colleges.

Students have to willy-nilly take admission in the

college for which they have been selected. Only this will enable them to take part in sliding to seek admission in another college during the next round of counselling. In case a student fails to take admission in the first college suggested, he or she will not be allowed to take part in sliding.

University authorities are very specific about guidelines for the sliding method in first year MBBS, BDS and other admissions. The Supreme Court had earlier served notice for adoption of a proper sliding method after a public interest litigation (PIL) had been filed alleging misinterpretation of sliding

rules during admission for PG courses in 2019.

AP High Court too had recently issued directions to come up with a set of guidelines for conduct of counselling for admission into UG courses. Accordingly, the Department of Higher Education has to issue a G.O. setting the guidelines. Presently, NTR university authorities are getting ready to announce the state merit list based on NEET UG – 2020 in a few days.

Initially, only a provisional merit list will be announced calling for objections, if any, from students within two days. The final state merit list will be released only after that.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Dr. Krishna Ella, CMD and Suchitra Ella, JMD, of Bharat Biotech on Saturday.

PM reviews Covid vaccine progress at Bharat Biotech

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, AHMEDABAD, PUNE, NOV. 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Coronavirus vaccine facilities at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune to review the development and manufacturing process on Monday. The visit was purely functional, and shorn of any ceremony.

Modi first visited the Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, then the Bharat Biotech plant in the city and wound up his tour with a visit to the Serum Institute of India facility in Pune.

Scientists, researchers and facilitators at Bharat Biotech said they were

humbled by the visit of the Prime Minister.

The PM personally reviewed the vaccine development and manufacturing process.

He was briefed by the company about the human trials for which 26,000 volunteers in hospitals across the country have been enrolled.

The vaccine is being produced in the certified level 3 biosafety production unit.

Modi later posted on his Twitter handle that Bharat Biotech officials had briefed him about their vaccine.

He congratulated the scientists for their progress in the trials so far.

At all the three plants, the Prime Minister, who

was wearing a PPE kit during the review, was extensively briefed about the vaccine work by company officials and scientists.

Modi landed at the Hakimpet Air Force station at around 1 pm and proceeded to Bharat Biotech's facility away by road.

He reviewed the progress of Covaxin, a vaccine candidate being developed by the company. He also interacted with Bharat Biotech chairman and managing director Krishna Ella, scientists and senior management.

■ Page 4: Modi greets people near Biotech

Sale of AP Mantralayam temple land put on hold

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 28

The proposed sale of 208.15 acres of temple lands belonging to Mantralayam Raghavendra Seamy Mutt in Ajja, Rajoli and Gattu in Jogulamba Gadwal district of Telangana has been put on hold. The tender process for sale of these lands was to start from December 7.

When contacted, Mutt assistant administrative officer L. Madhava Setty said, "The decision to put off the tender process has been taken after farmers cultivating lands belonging to the Mutt requested that they be allowed to harvest the crops. He also cited the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic as another reason.

Madhava Setty maintained that the Mutt had got permission from the

state government to sell the lands in 2017 as per Endowment Act 30 / 1987 and other norms.

He denied that there has been any pressure from ruling YSR Congress party leaders on this issue. Mantralayam Mutt is a public trust property. It is stated that the Matadhipathi of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt found it difficult to personally manage the vast extents of properties endowed to the Mutt by individuals and institutions for upkeep of various religious and other activities carried out by the religious institution.

Thus, the Mantralayam Matadhipathi gave power of attorney to certain people to manage the properties.

Mutt employees' association president V. Narayana has alleged that

calling for tenders is a big scam. He urged people and devotees of Sri Raghavendra to protect properties of the Swamy. Narayana charged that Mutt officials are playing a game about selling Mutt lands on the pretext that they are yielding very less income from their lease.

The Mutt has more than 5,000 acres of land in different locations of the country. Several court cases are pending with regard to some of these lands in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states.

Meanwhile, addressing media in Kurnool on Saturday, Telugu Desam Party Mantralayam in-charge P. Tikka Reddy, along with party Kurnool unit president Somisetty Venkateswarlu, found fault with Mutt authorities in calling for the tender.

5 CRPF COBRA COMMANDOS HURT IN ATTACK

Raipur, Nov. 28: Five personnel of CRPF's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were injured in an IED blast triggered by Maoists on Saturday in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, officials said.

They said the IED blast took place in the Chintafuga forest area of the district and the injured personnel are being evacuated by a helicopter. The injured troops belong to the 206th battalion of the Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA). A joint team of CoBRA and police was out for a special operation when the blast took place, they said. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

2 KIDS OF A FAMILY DIE, 8 HURT IN MISHAP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Two children of a family were killed in a road accident and eight others were injured when the car they were travelling in crashed into a parked lorry at Nandigama early on Saturday morning.

The victims were identified as Adil Khan, 13, and Mahabub Khan, 7. They were traveling with their family, residents of Chandrayangutta, towards Shadnagar when the mishap occurred.

"The incident occurred at Mekaguda bypass road. The car driver who sustained injuries was shifted to a hospital. The rest of the family members will be identified after they receive medical attention," said the police.

The police rushed to the spot after learning the accident and rescued those stuck inside the car. A case has been registered by the police and an investigation was launched.

PIL FILED AGAINST MLC NOMINATIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

A petition was filed before the Telangana High Court seeking to quash the GO and notification regarding the recent nomination of three MLCs by the Governor.

The petitioner, advocate T. Dhanagopal Rao, said that the process to nominate the MLCs — Gorati Venkanna, Baswaraju Sariah and Boggarapu Dayanand — had not been followed with regard to the provisions laid down in Article 171(3) of the Constitution read with Clause 5.

The petitioner said that the Governor has the discretion to nominate MLCs who have special knowledge and practical experience in specialised subjects like literature, science, art, social service or co-operative movement as per clause 5 of Article 171.

Here, the Governor nominated the MLCs based on the recommendations of the Cabinet, which is contrary to the prescribed provisions.

The petitioner sought that he be nominated MLC in place of those three, and urged the High Court to tell the government to consider his name.



Dr Surekha Omprakash Beeshwa

GUNFOUNDRY DOCTOR ENTERS FRAY

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

It was during the Coronavirus lockdown that Dr Surekha Omprakash Beeshwa, a resident of Gunfoundry, decided that it was time she did something about the civic conditions in her municipal ward.

An Ayurvedic practitioner, Dr Surekha, said Gunfoundry, Ward No 78, is confronted with problems like lack of sanitation, many other basic amenities despite the locality being in the heart of the city.

"I was born and brought up in this division. Though situated in the centre of the city, the division is without basic civic amenities. It needs better sanitation, a revival of the library which was highly patronised in the past, proper maintenance of the community hall and some fitness centres and parks," she said.

People, she said, are vexed with the pathetic civic infrastructure in the area, and "when we ladies were debating during these lockdowns and the floods, I decided that I should do something, I need to get into politics and serve."

The division has a high percentage of families that are well educated and is home to several reputed educational institutions, many commercial establishments and hospitals.

● PEOPLE, she said, are vexed with the pathetic civic infrastructure in the area, and "when we ladies were debating during these lockdowns and the floods.

Jobless make money from poll campaigns

Parties paid them up to ₹5K for participating in rallies

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Election rallies by all major political parties have come to the rescue of domestic helps and daily wage workers, who were braving economic hardships since the lockdown.

Many of them pointed out that the rallies have ensured that they can meet ends for at least a month.

Political parties have paid amounts ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 to those participating in the rallies and campaigns since the commencement of electioneering.

Sujatha, from Baghlingampally, said she was sacked as a

domestic help by her employer in April. This pushed her into a financial crisis. Her husband and two children were also jobless.

She could get a job only in August. "I agreed to work for a 50 per cent wage cut and the employers are promising full payment only after January, and that too if their financial position improves," Sujatha told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Election rallies have come as a blessing. "The parties in the beginning offered ₹500 each to me and my children and ₹1,000 to my husband. Now, they are offering me ₹1,500 and my husband ₹2,500," she said.

Her family has earned

₹30,000 in a week, while continuing to work elsewhere. Additionally, there is the prospect of election-day money. Free transport is on offer or fuel if they have their own vehicles.

Venkateshwarlu, a daily-wage worker in Barkatpura, said he has been participating in multiple rallies on the same day. Each party was offering him ₹1,000 per rally and he could earn ₹3,000 every day, and food came free.

"If a political leader addresses a public meeting, we get ₹2,000, party T-shirts, face masks and caps, which have been extremely useful for us during the crisis. I have collected about 10 face masks and T-shirts for

each person in our family."

He said parties have offered money for votes, which is a bonus. The money he has earned in the last 10 days would see him through for three months.

Venkateshwarlu said that people like him were saved by election rallies in these difficult times. A few participants said there were special payments to cheer for the leader from atop buildings or sunshades, or by standing on barricades. The location would be selected by the local political leaders and payments, ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000, based on the risk, would be made on the spot.



Union minister G. Kishan Reddy campaigns at Gandhinagar on Saturday.

— By arrangement

Kishan Reddy questions CM's silence on city floods

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said that the time had come to question the TRS government's failures. He criticised Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao for failing to build double bedroom houses for the poor, though he had the time to construct a luxurious house for himself.

Kishan Reddy was speaking at an election meeting in Gandhinagar division in the Musheerabad Assembly constituency. The minister said that on coming to know of the tragedy following the rains and flooding in October, he had rushed from New Delhi whereas the Chief Minister had not bothered to come out of his farmhouse to

● THE UNION minister pointed out that during the recent rains in Hyderabad, over 10 lakh people were affected and many had died.

visit the affected families.

"I am wondering how TRS leaders can ask for votes. I wish to remind that KCR had promised to clean Tank Bund and provide drinking water from Hussainsagar. I wish to exhort people to ask TRS candidates who visit them for votes, to first drink Tank Bund water," Kishan said.

He alleged that when MIM leaders give orders, TRS big guns obliged like puppets. He wondered why the CM did not react when MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi spoke of the demolition of PV Ghat

and NTR Ghat.

He assured that BJP will implement all the schemes specified in the party manifesto. The TRS has spent ₹5 crore on each division to bribe voters, he claimed.

Speaking at a road show in Mahankali division took exception to the Chief Minister's claims at his LB Stadium public meeting. He wanted the CM to take action against people who are trying to instigate communities and sowing the seeds of communal disharmony. He said this was the handiwork of TRS and the AIMIM.

He termed the CM's meeting at LB Stadium as a damp squib. His face revealed the fears that were haunting him, Kishan said. On December 1, people must come out and vote for a change, he said.

Sikhs to celebrate Prakash Utsav on November 29 & 30

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Sikhs will celebrate the 546th Prakash Utsav, birth-day celebrations, of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev, on November 29 and 30. To mark the occasion, the Prabhndak Committee of Gurudwara Saheb, Secunderabad (GSS), will organise two deewans (congregations) on November 30, from 9.30 am 2.30 pm and from 9.30 pm to 2 am.

GSS Prabhndak Committee president S. Baldev Singh and secretary S. Avtar Singh said the event will be marked by the recitation of Gurbani keertans by reputed ragi jathas (religious preachers) who are being specially invited from various parts of the country.

Bhai Amarjit Singh of Patiala, Punjab, Giani Jagdev Singh, the GSS head



Guru Nanak Dev

priest, and Bhai Harpreet Singh Hazuri Ragi Jatha and others will recite shabad keertans and kathas and throw light on the teachings of Sikh Gurus.

On November 29, two deewans will be held at the Secunderabad Gurudwara premises, from 5 am to 10.30 am and 7 pm to 9 pm. After the culmination of the congregation Guru Ka Langar (free community kitchen) will be served to the devotees.

35 workers from Odisha rescued from brick kilns in Kamareddy district

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
KAMAREDDY, NOV. 28

As many as 35 brick kiln workers from Odisha were rescued and shifted to their native places from Kamareddy district on Saturday. Among the victims, officials found the elderly, women and children.

The rescue took place after a relative of the victims complained to the District Legal Services Authority (DSLA) in Nizamabad about the misery of the Odisha workers in Machareddy mandal. Treating it as Suo moto case, Kamareddy district additional judge B. Sattiah directed officials to identify the workers.

Officials identified the 35 Odisha workers from brick kilns in Ugravaai and Bhavanipet villages in Machareddy mandal. It is alleged, brick kiln owners—

Anjan Reddy and Prabhakar Reddy harassed the workers, and did not provide them with proper food and accommodation. The duo would beat and scold the workers.

Unable to bear the harassment, the victims brought the issue to the notice of their relatives in Odisha who in turn complained about it in the Kamareddy district court.

In the presence of the district additional judge B. Sattiah, the police and labour department officials arranged a special vehicle and shifted the workers back to their native places.

Assistant labour commissioner Prabhudas, Kamareddy labour officer Salam, Kamareddy rural CI Chandrasekhar Reddy, Devunipally SI Jyothi, court liaison officer Kanthaiah and others were present.



Rescued Brick kiln workers being shifted to their native places in Odisha from Bhavanipet village in Machareddy mandal of Kamareddy district on Saturday.

— DC

LESSONS | LEARNT

Academy wins praise from all quarters of society, is role model

Karimnagar CPTC is new forest learning centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 28

The Karimnagar Police Commissionerate by implementing the Yadradri model of the Miyawaki method of planting at the City Police Training Centre (CPTC) is now a study centre for officials of the forest department.

As part of their field visit, forest officials from Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Warangal, Jangaon, Karimnagar, Sircilla, Peddapalli and Jagtial districts, visited the CPTC in Karimnagar on Saturday, to study how the mini forest was grown on a small piece of land.

During the implementation of the Haritha Haram programme in the state, the police officials of the Karimnagar police commissionerate planted as many as 12,500 saplings of 33 varieties under project-1 in one acre of land.

Under project-2, 14,800 saplings were planted in 1.14 acre of land in the CPTC present in the heart of Karimnagar city in 2017.

Appreciating the initiative, Chief Conservator of Forests M.J. Akbar, appreciating the effort said that the CPTC has become a model for the state and is competing with the



Commissioner of Police V.B. Kamalasan Reddy along with the forest officials of united Warangal and Karimnagar district take a walk through the Miyawaki forest in the City Police Training Centre during their field visit in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

— DC

Forest College Research Centre at Jogulamba in Gajwel district.

He said, "Even though the land is not suitable for grow-

ing plants, with dedication, the Karimnagar police turned the entire area into fertile land by developing the area into a mini forest using

the Miyawaki method."

DFO of Warangal urban and Jangaon districts, Dr Ramalingam, expressing surprise over the steady growth

● DFO OF Warangal urban and Jangaon districts, Dr Ramalingam, expressing surprise over the steady growth of the mini-forests, said that the low-lying area present along with the shore of the Lower Manair Dam in the CPTC was not suitable for growing plants. But, the Karimnagar police had made it possible using organic techniques and drip irrigation.

Commissioner of Police, V.B. Kamalasan Reddy explained to the forest officials how they raised the saplings and transformed the area into a mini forest.

He said, "Developing a small piece of land into a mini-forests in the CPTC is a small contribution from the police department side. We never expected this huge response from all sections of people."

OTHER STORIES
Dr Kavitha Reddy is IMA state V-P

Nizamabad: Nizamabad-based gynaecologist Dr S. Kavitha Reddy is elected as the Telangana state vice-president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA). In the election conducted at the IMA office in Koti, Hyderabad, she won against her nearest rival Dr Sriatha Reddy. Of the 385 votes, 350 votes polled, Dr Kavitha Reddy got 179 votes, and Dr Sriatha Reddy 165 votes. Earlier, Dr Kavitha Reddy served as IMA Nizamabad unit president.

ADIVASI LEADERS GIVE CALL FOR BANDH ON DEC. 9

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, NOV. 28

Leaders of various Adivasi organisations including Thudum Debba, Adivasi Sena, Rai centres, Adivasi Employees Associations came together on Saturday in Keslapur in Indraveli mandal. They took a unanimous decision to stage a protest, to press their demands, which include removal of Lambadas from the STs list, restoration of GO:3 and issuing pattas to the forest lands cultivated by the Adivasis for decades.

The leaders gave a call for a bandh in the agency areas on December 9.

They asked Adivasis to lay siege to the inter-state roads and National High ways as a mark of protest against the state and the Central government's apathy towards their long-pending demands.

The Adivasi leaders said that their agitation would be held democratically, within the purview of the Indian Constitution.

The leaders said that the state and Central governments have failed to address their demands even after repeated appeals.

The Adivasis had conducted massive public meetings on December 9 in Hyderabad and Delhi in 2018 and 2019 about their demands. Mesram Durgu, erstwhile Adilabad district Sarimedi of Rai centres, senior Adivasi leader Sidam Bheem Rao and others were present.



Members of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Karmik Sangh stage a dharna in front of the zonal manager's office in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

RTC union holds dharna, wants issues resolved

White paper sought on financial status of the corporation

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 28

The members of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Karmik Sangh, affiliated to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) association staged a dharna in front of zonal manager's office in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

TSRTC Karmik Sangh president, K. Venkatachary demanded the government to resolve all the issues of the RTC workers and to release a white paper on the financial situation of the TSRTC.

Venkatachary said, "The RTC is among the major corporations

■ **THEIR DEMAND** is that vacant posts be filled immediately through Karunya recruitment process. Suspend out-sourcing system, promote eligible employees, and sanction pending settlement amounts with the interest of the retired RTC staff from 2017.

under the control of the state government. It is the responsibility of the government to take necessary steps to protect the RTC, by suspending all kinds of taxes until the corporation begins earning profits."

He said that even though the state and the Central governments issued orders to pay full salaries for the lockdown period, the management sanctioned salaries after unfair cuts. He alleged that the RTC manage-

ment is intentionally not sanctioning, the pending bills for the past several months.

Working president of the union, R. Venkat Reddy alleged the by converting the bus services into stage carriages RTC is facing huge losses. Apart from that, many private bus service providers are transporting passengers with illegal permits which have resulted in the RTC incurring losses. He said, "The government and

the TSRTC management must keep a strict vigil on private bus services. Proper guidelines must be issued, and they must pay RPS 13 bonds immediately to the RTC workers."

RTC employees have no proper drinking facilities at the bus depots, and for the past five years, the RTC employees have not received new uniforms. The demand is that the RTC management, fill up the vacant posts immediately through Karunya recruitment process. Suspend the out-sourcing system, promote eligible employees, and sanction the pending settlement amounts with the interest of the retired RTC employees from 2017.

CITU condemns attack on farmers protesting in Delhi

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 28

CITU district secretary Botla Chakrapani on Saturday called on the people to openly condemn the BJP government's use of tear gas and baton charges against farmers peacefully going to Delhi, demanding the immediate repeal of the new agrarian laws brought by the central government.

Rasta roko was organized under the auspices of CITU in Bhupalpally district center.

Chakrapani said that it was wrong for the police to crack down on farmers who were going to hold a dharna in Delhi seeking withdrawal of the three agricultural laws as part of the national general strike.

Workers and farmers went on a two-day strike against the Central government's authoritarian policies, the amendment of labor laws and the three agricultural laws. He demanded that the Modi government repeal the black laws that cause trouble to the peasantry.

"The government claims that there is nothing in the laws that could harm farmers. Why is the government not taking the farmers or the farmers' unions into confidence while making the

■ **CHAKRAPANI SAID** that it was wrong for the police to crack down on farmers who were going to hold a dharna in Delhi seeking withdrawal of the three agricultural laws as part of the national general strike. He demanded withdrawal of the black laws.

laws if there was no real damage," he asked. He said there were several measures such as corporatising agriculture with the three laws and lifting the law that regulates the prices of essential commodities.

He said it was wrong to attack the farmers from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and other states who were going to Delhi to protest democratically, against measures that would hurt farmers' livelihoods.

He said farmers and workers are not happy with the Modi government. People from all walks of life are worried that the Modi government is causing trouble.

He urged the BJP government to immediately respond to the problems of farmers and workers and repeal the labor laws or they would intensify their agitation.



CITU activists protesting at Bhupalpally on Saturday.

OFFICIALS ASKED TO FIGHT AGAINST FEMALE FOETICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 28

The Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, district-level task force meeting, was held on Saturday at the Warangal Urban district collector's office with government officials of various departments.

District welfare officer Macharla Sharada speaking on the work done for the programme said the programme aims to increase the sex ratio of girls and female births. She said, "Anganwadi teachers, Asha workers and the medical department, in collaboration with the village sarpanchs, should conduct awareness seminars at the village-level to counsel family members of the girl children in advance so that child marriages do not take place."

District Medical and Health Officer Dr K. Lalita Devi said that as a result of the advancement of technology, there is an opportunity to know if the foetus is male or female. "Some use this opportunity to find out the sex of the foetus even if it is a financial burden. Due to ignorance and superstitions, if a foetus is known to be a girl, it is killed in the womb," she said.

Adding, "Staff from the PHCs, and the urban health centres, were asked to be alert on families trying to know the sex of the foetus and to communicate the same to the district authorities."

CHANGE OF NAME
I. MACHERLA SHIVKUMAR, M.Sc., M.Ed., Hostel Welfare Officer Grade-I, shall henceforth be known as **MYASARLA SHIVKUMAR**, for the purpose of correction of wrong entries occurred in School records due to parental mistakes.
MACHERLA SHIVKUMAR
Adilabad, 12/10/2020
The Telangana Gazette No. 179 Dt. 28/10/2020

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COUPLE DIES BY SUICIDE IN ARMOOR

Nizamabad: A couple died by suicide at Perkit in Armoor mandal.

The victims are identified as Bashiri Avanthi, 18, of Uplur in Kammarpally mandal, presently staying at Housing board colony in Armoor and Bandi Rohith 17, of Kuknoor village in Velpur mandal. They were in love and

since they belonged to the same community, decided to get married.

Their families initially agreed, but later objected. Unable to bear this, the couple took the extreme step.

The bodies were found on Saturday. Armoor police rushed to the spot and shifted bodies for postmortem.



Congress leaders garland the statue of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule on the occasion of his death anniversary at Kothirampur bypass road in Karimnagar district on Saturday.

Cong slams TRS for forgetting Phule on death anniversary

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 28

The death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Govindrao Phule, was celebrated on Saturday.

Congress leaders garlanded a portrait of Mahatma Jyotirao Govindrao Phule at the DCC office and later cleaned his statue present at the Kothirampur bypass road in Karimnagar.

District president of the BC cell unit of the Congress, Puli Anjaneyulu alleged, on several occasions, the TRS leaders and the BC welfare minister Gangula Kamalakara boasted that Jyotirao Phule is an ideal for the BC community. But on his death anniversary, neither did they clean his statue nor celebrate the event by honouring him. He said, "This is discrimination shown by the TRS government

against the people of the BC community."

The Congress had established the statue recognising his efforts toward uplifting the downtrodden. Congress is the only party that gives prominent positions to people from the BC community, he said.

To give women an equal chance in society, Phule had motivated his wife Savitribai Phule to get educated. Even the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr B.R. Ambedkar had announced that he derived inspiration from Jyotirao Phule.

"The least one can do is to remember such a great personality on his death anniversary," he added. DCC working president Komatireddy Padmakar Reddy, G. Srinivas Reddy, Bobbili Victor, M. Satyanarayana Reddy, K. Pochariah, Syed Khadri, R. Bapuraju, Hezra were present.

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GHMC polls..



The TRS ruled in the past 5 years reminded us of the fascist Nizam rule. It's time to change and vote for development. Let us vote out the TRS-MIM coalition and support BJP. #BJP4GHMC

G. KISHAN REDDY
Union minister of state for home



While the farmers are protesting in the national capital, top guns of bjp are rallying in Hyderabad for elections. Farmers are the essential pillars of the nation. #jaijawaanajikisaan #farmerslivesmatter

A. REVANTH REDDY
TS Congress working president



Jo BJP TDP Congress ne nahi kiya wo maine apne Hindu bhaiyo ke liye kiya hai (what the BJP TDP Congress could not do I did for my Hindu brethren) (on development of Lal Darwaza Mahankali temple)

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Let us respect the appeal of our beloved #AchievementOfTelangana #KCR garu who is committed to the welfare of Hyderabad in all aspects, to come out to cast our #VoteForTRSParty, which is steadfast for the progress of the city

J. SANTOSH KUMAR
TRS MP



To all the Hyderabad people, here's our honble CM KCR garu, who delivered an excellent speech on how Hyderabad should be #BrandHyderabad ! Let's take his vision further to next generations by voting TRS on 1st Dec. @KTRTRS #voteformcar #voteformdevelopment

TALASANI SRINIVAS YADAV
Minister

CAMPAIGNING TO END TODAY IN HYD

Hyderabad: State Election Commission secretary M. Ashok Kumar said that campaigning for the GHMC elections would end at 6 pm on November 23. No individual should convene, hold, attend, enter or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election after 6 pm on Sunday, he said in a press release.

Also barred are using cinema or TV to show an election issue or organising musical concerts, theatrical performances or any other entertainment or amusement shows for the purpose.

Any violation is punishable by imprisonment under the 1955 GHMC Act, he said.

— INN

Leaders' apathy makes many skip GHMC polls

Disappointed citizens use long weekend to go on a holiday

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Upset with political parties for not fulfilling their demands and losing interest in the municipal elections, many voters have decided to convert the voting day holiday on Tuesday, December 1, into long weekend and escape from the city.

The offices of IT companies, medical and pharmaceutical firms and other organisations have received leave applications for Monday. Only the sales personnel who have to meet month-end targets will be at work.

Schools have declared a holiday to commemorate Guru Nanak's birth anniversary and Tuesday is a holiday on account of the elections.

Families have tied up these two holidays with the weekend to journey outside the city. Long road trips, adventure resorts and outings have been planned; the weather has been pleasant and the water bodies are brimming with water.



Officials carry ballot boxes to be used for the GHMC elections to the distribution centre at City College, in Hyderabad, on Saturday.

— P. SURENDRA

On Saturday, many students told their teachers they could not join the online classes due to network issues as they were travelling. When the teachers contacted the parents, they found that the families had left on a holiday.

B.V. Raju, a techie, said,

"There is no party that is talking about dealing with the city's issues. Every part of the city has its own problems. In Madhapur and Hitec City areas, the water woes begin in January. Is anyone talking about resolving this problem? Why should we vote for

any party?" People in the Old City and Secunderabad, too, say that that their complaints regarding roads, drainage, sewers, infrastructure and encroached lakes are not attended to.

M.A. Jaffery, a businessman from the Old City, asked, "We do not find any political party working for the development of the Old City. Why should we vote in these elections." Many of those who are leaving the city for the weekend or have decided to stay at home are being asked to queue up and use the Nota option. They are not interested, stating that it is of no use. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, few senior citizens are expected to be seen at the polling booths.

Given their conditions, it is only the middle-aged and young who will opt for voting on Tuesday. Analysts state that these are constant warning signals from people that they are not happy with the political leaders. Will absenteeism help in better governance, is the question.

Parties failed to address issues, feel youth

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

Real work and not bogus promises, action on civic issues, unemployment, women's safety and student issues are some of the concerns of the youth for the upcoming GHMC elections, that they say have instead gone unaddressed by the political parties in their campaign.

Ramya, a student said, "The political discourse

has been disturbing for the most part. There's always some argument or debate going on over unnecessary issues, rather than a proper discussion where problems of society are addressed. During the campaign, candidates and politicians have also violated physical distancing and other Covid-19 norms to score political brownie points."

Several young female voters that *Deccan*

Chronicle spoke to also pointed out that women safety issues were nowhere on the priority list for any political parties.

"The State Women's Commission is non-functional. The government has been failing the women ever since it came to power. All corporators in their respective wards need to be made accountable, but the issue for them is non-existent," said a woman

who wishes to remain anonymous.

Another voter from Allwyn Colony, Kukatpally, Gaurav Jain, said, "Currently all political parties are trying to bag votes in the name of religion and caste. Not a single leader has addressed issues of development, roads, infrastructure, employment opportunities, healthcare, education facilities. This time I would like to see them delivering results rather

MODI GREETES PEOPLE NEAR BIOTECH FIRM

FROM PAGE 1

"At the Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad, was briefed about their indigenous Covid-19 vaccine. Congratulated the scientists for their progress in the trials so far. Their team is closely working with ICMR to facilitate speedy progress," Modi posted on Twitter.

While leaving the facility, Modi got down from his vehicle at the main gate and waved to media persons and the cheering crowd standing nearby.

The Prime Minister's last visit of the day was to the Serum Institute of India at Manjari, 17 km from the airport.

At the institute he reviewed the progress of the Covishield vaccine being made there.

The Prime Minister interacted with scientists at the Serum Institute and had a walkabout of the facility, taking stock of vaccine development work being carried out there. The Prime Minister was received by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of Poonawalla Group, and his son and SII Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla.



TPCC leader A. Revanth Reddy at a campaign meeting on Saturday.

— By arrangement

TRS leaders grabbing park land: Revanth

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

TPCC working president A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday questioned the TRS government about providing water connections for ₹1 within Greater Hyderabad limits, which was promised by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

The Congress leader was speaking at campaign meetings at Uppal and Kukatpally Assembly constituencies. He accused the TRS government of failing to fulfil even one promise in the 2016 GHMC election manifesto. He said that minister K.T. Rama Rao should answer about the water connection. He alleged that the ruling party leaders were grabbing park land apart from constructing illegal structures on the bed of the Musi.

He alleged that the TRS corporators had been of little help to the people during the Covid-19 pandemic, and hadn't addressed their problems.

Regarding the CM's public meeting, Revanth Reddy said that the people had got to see him after a long time, and they would next see him

● **REVANTH** accused the TRS government of failing to fulfil even one promise in the 2016 GHMC election manifesto. He said that minister K.T. Rama Rao should answer about the water connection. He alleged that the TRS leaders were grabbing park land.

after three years. In the meantime, he would be in his farmhouse, the Congress leader said.

Revanth Reddy said he was not invited for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Bharat Biotech facility, though he was the local MP.

He listed out the projects implemented by the previous Congress government such as the Shamshabad airport, the supply of Krishna and Godavari water, Outer Ring Road, Metro Rail, the P.V. Narasimha Rao expressway and Aarogyasri. He said that the state had gone into debt due to the failure of the Chief Minister.

He appealed to the he people to vote for the Congress and give a chance to development.

KCR PROMISES ₹10,000 CRORE ANNUALLY TO HYD

From Page 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao promised to develop Hyderabad as a world class city by allocating ₹10,000 crore each year.

In his opening remarks, he said that the TRS had displayed political maturity, embracing all those who came to Hyderabad. There had been no regional or communal trouble, he noted.

He wanted people to think about how a leader responds to various situations, how a party or a government functions. "They should also consider the developmental plans, agenda and other issues before they take any decision."

Rao said, "There were debates, discussions, fears and rumours about how the state will shape up after it comes into existence. We achieved statehood after 14 years of struggle, and have now come up with several novel initiatives and programmes for the welfare of the people."

He said the government began uninterrupted supply of power within seven months of coming to power. "There is no need for inverters, stabilisers, converters or generators. It was our first major achievement." He said the state today topped per capita power consumption. The Chief Minister also listed other schemes like Mission Bhagiratha, Shaadi Mubarak, Kalyan Lakshmi, KCR Kits, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima and the irrigation projects.

Liquor sale barred from 6 pm till end of polling

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

The Greater Hyderabad area will go dry from 6 pm on Sunday until 6 pm on December 1, the day of polling for the GHMC Council elections. The government on Saturday, announced that all liquor shops, bars, and pubs will be closed in the GHMC limits during this period. No liquor shall be served in bars or restaurants in star hotels and clubs during this period, the government said.

Also prohibited during this period will be any kind of an assembly of people in public places, setting up of temporary shelters such as shamanas, use of public address systems or any kind of activity, whether direct or indirect, which propagates any election

Congress men offer rebate on chicken

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 28

The first 1,000 Congress supporters in Subhashnagar division will get a special 25 per cent discount on 1 kg of chicken, party workers in the area said.

Congress candidate for the civic body election Thannam Shrivani Sridhar Reddy and his supporters have

come up with this idea to attract voters.

"Vote for Congress, Give GHMC a chance and Fight Corona with Chicken," is their slogan.

So far, 20 persons have availed of the offer. Activists said the low off-take was because it was the Karthik month during which many people do not cook meat at home.

related matter:

The State Election Commission, meanwhile, made it clear that no form of political campaign will be allowed from 6 pm on Sunday including convening a public meeting or procession in

connection with the election. It said that any "display to the public any election matter by means of cinematography, television, or other similar apparatus" is also prohibited after 6 pm on Sunday.

Nizam's family had to be taught a lesson, says Yogi

From Page 1

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the family members of Nizam, who obstructed developmental activities, had to be taught befitting lessons.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government at the Centre had abolished Article 370. Several Hyderabadis had come forward to participate in the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya with generous contributions. He

applauded Modi for getting the chance for Bhoomi Puja to construct the Ram mandir.

He slammed the CM for not constructing houses for the poor, whereas he, as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, had constructed 35 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Avash Yojana scheme. He wanted to know why the state government had not deposited money in the bank accounts of families who had suffered because of the floods while

Modi ensured deposit of ₹6,000 annually into the accounts of farmers.

Yogi accused Rao of trying to loot money as was done by the Nizam's family.

He said TRS and MIM had colluded for personal gains. He lamented that MIM MLAs in Bihar had declined to utter the word Hindustan at their oath-taking ceremony. He appealed to the people of Hyderabad to vote for BJP and be assured of a more vibrant Hyderabad in the days ahead.

Modi greets people near biotech firm in Hyd

FROM PAGE 1

"At the Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad, was briefed about their indigenous Covid-19 vaccine. Congratulated the scientists for their progress in the trials so far. Their team is closely working

with ICMR to facilitate speedy progress," Modi posted on Twitter.

While leaving the facility, Modi got down from his vehicle at the main gate and waved to media persons and the cheering crowd standing nearby.

The Prime Minister's

● **The Prime Minister's** last visit of the day was to the Serum Institute of India at Manjari, 17 km from the airport.

At the institute he reviewed the progress of the Covishield vaccine being made there.

The Prime Minister interacted with scientists at the Serum Institute and had a walkabout of the

facility, taking stock of vaccine development work being carried out there.

The Prime Minister was received by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of Poonawalla Group, and his son and SII Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla.

At the institute he reviewed the progress of the Covishield vaccine being made there.

The Prime Minister interacted with scientists at the Serum Institute and had a walkabout of the

last visit of the day was to the Serum Institute of

2 HYD CONSTABLES PLACED UNDER SUSPENSION OVER BRIBERY

Hyderabad: Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat placed two constables — R. Chandra Shekar and K. Lingaswamy of Choutuppal — under suspension on Saturday for allegedly demanding bribes from citizens. The orders were

passed by the official based on the report submitted by DCP, Bhongir, K. Narayan Reddy. The Rachakonda police chief appealed to citizens that in case any police personnel resorts to corrupt practices they can complain on the WhatsApp number

SHORT TAKES

NAGA, ASSAM
ENGAGE IN UGLY
BORDER SPATMANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, NOV. 28

After Mizoram row, the inter-state border conflict has erupted between Assam and Nagaland with local organisations of Assam imposing an indefinite economic blockade thereby halting all economic activities between Assam and Nagaland at Mariani in Jorhat district.

Tension had started at the inter-state border since November 10 following the construction of a temporary structure allegedly by Mokokchung district administration within the Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest under Mariani range of Jorhat Forest Division of Assam. The problem aggravated with the Mokokchung district administration posting armed Nagaland policemen at the site.

In response the Assam Police on November 11 also deployed its personnel in temporary camps near the place where Nagaland policemen were camping in order to prevent any further encroachment by Nagaland.

The local students organisation — the All Tai Ahom Students Union (ATASU), which opposed the move to what they called encroachment of Assam's land by the neighbouring state of Nagaland, has launched a movement since November 10 which was suspended for three days on assurance of the administration to resolve the issue.

K'TAKA CM'S
AIDE ATTEMPTS
'SUICIDE'

Bengaluru, Nov. 28: Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa's political secretary and relative N. R. Santosh who was hospitalised following alleged suicide attempt, is 'stable and cheerful', and may be discharged in a day or two, doctors treating him said on Saturday.

According to sources, Santosh is said to have attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills on Friday night.

On finding him unconscious at his Dollars Colony residence here, family members have rushed him to Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Santhosh (31) was brought at about 8.30 pm with an alleged history of consumption of sleeping tablets at around 7 pm, the Hospital President Dr Naresh Shetty said in a statement.

Noting that on admission he was drowsy, the doctor said appropriate treatment was administered immediately and all investigations were carried out.

"He has been taking sleeping tablets occasionally for his sleep disturbance as per past history. On Saturday morning, the patient is stable. He had his breakfast and is cheerful. The plan is to shift the patient to the ward post noon on Saturday. He may be discharged in a day or two based on his health status and recovery," the statement added.

OPPN FIRM ON
DEMAND FOR EXIT
OF MIN SAHOOAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 28

The Odisha government, under pressure from the Opposition and facing large-scale public outrage over the soft-peddling the investigation into the murder of five-year-old girl, on Saturday agreed to institute a probe by a court-monitored five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), on Saturday.

The SIT will be headed by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Arun Bothra, who had cracked the 2018 Patnagarh parcel bomb case in which a newly-wed couple and their grandmother were killed.

State parliamentary affairs minister Bikram Kesari Arukha made the announcement in the Assembly. The announcement came a day after the Opposition parties attacked the Naveen Patnaik government over the ambiguity in the announcement by the latter regarding a SIT probe made on the floor of the House through video-conferencing on Friday.

The CM had said, "If required, the state government will order SIT probe into Pari murder case."

Arukha's announcement failed to pacify the Opposition which continued its attack on the government, forcing Speaker S.N. Patro to adjourn the proceedings till 3 pm.

UP 'love jihad' law gets Gov. nod

Jail term up to 10 years and fine of ₹50K for those violating its clauses

Lucknow, Nov. 28: The Uttar Pradesh ordinance aimed at curbing forcible or fraudulent religious conversions including those for the sake of marriage has got the assent of state Governor Anandiben Patel with the new law providing for a jail term of up to 10 years for any violations.

The law, which has been published in the UP gazette, comes into force at once, an official spokesperson said on Saturday. The ordinance was promulgated by the Governor on Friday with immediate effect.

Under the law which deals with different categories of offences, a marriage will be declared "null and void" if the conversion of a woman is solely for that purpose,

and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

The Yogi Adityanath government on Tuesday approved the draft of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which also curbs religious conversions only for the sake of marriage, dubbed by BJP leaders as 'love jihad'.

"The way in which religious conversions are done using deceit, lies, force and dishonesty is heart wrenching, and it was necessary to have a law in this regard," Cabinet minister and UP government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh had said.

Conversion for the alleged purpose of marriage is, however, only one aspect of the ordinance.

The new law also has a provision under which if someone returns to their original religion, it shall not be deemed a conversion.

The onus to prove that the conversion has not been done forcibly will lie

on the person accused of the act and the convert, it said.

In cases of violations of the law, the ordinance stipulates that the court shall grant appropriate compensation payable by the accused to the victim of conversion which may extend to a maximum of ₹5 lakh in addition to the fine.

The ordinance mainly envisages that no person shall convert, either directly or indirectly from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage nor shall any person abet, convince or conspire such conversion.

Minister Sidharth Nath Singh on Tuesday told

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

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

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

"In the case of mass conversions, the punishment is from three years to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000 on the organisations which indulge in it," he added.

— PTI



Bharatiya Kisan Union members attempt to cross a barricade at Ghazipur border to enter Delhi, during their Delhi Chalo protest against the Centres new farm laws, in New Delhi, on Saturday.

— PTI

Centre ready for farm talks: Shah
Cong hits out at Modi govt
over 'Delhi Chalo' march

New Delhi/Chandigarh, Nov. 28: Thousands of farmers dug in their heels at Delhi's border points, their numbers swelling through the day as many more joined them, and hundreds gathered at the city's Burari grounds on Saturday, disparate but united in their determination to hold protests against the new farm laws.

With many roads and entry points blocked, Union Home Minister Amit Shah appealed to the farmers to shift to the Burari ground and said the Centre is ready to hold discussions with them as soon as they move to the designated place.

He said a delegation of the farmers has been invited for discussion on December 3, adding now that some of their unions have demanded that talks be held immediately, the central government is ready to do so as soon as the protestors shift to the ground in Burari.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh termed Shah's offer to hold discussions at the earliest as the best in the interest of the farming community and the nation at large. He urged the farmers to accept the appeal and shift to the designated place for their protest.

After a restive Friday that saw police using teargas shells, water cannons and multi-layer barriers to block the protesters and some farmers pelting stones and breaking barricades in their determination to push through as

part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march, it was a quieter Saturday.

But the tension persisted with restless crowds milling around the city's edges and beyond and settling down from another night out in the cold.

Though there was no clear roadmap, the farmers, belonging to multiple groups, including 30 from Punjab, appeared clear in their resolve, some saying

Farmers from Punjab and Haryana continued their protests against the new farm laws, with many of them blocking traffic on the national highway after the police stopped them from their 'Chalo Delhi' march.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala accused Modi of getting pictures clicked in corporate offices while farmers are protesting on Delhi roads. "Wish the PM talks to farmers on the road instead of flying in the aircraft," he said in a tweet, after Modi visited a company in Ahmedabad which is engaged in the Covid-19 vaccine research.

Another spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi

claimed whoever protests against the Modi government is "deemed a terrorist".

"Poor farmers from Punjab pointing out genuine grievances have been labelled khalistani. Why doesn't Modi come out and address the Annadatta however, only demands of them during elections," he tweeted.

Party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadera also tweeted similar pictures of farmers being prevented by the police from marching towards Delhi, where they wish to hold a protest against the new farm laws. She said it is right if the government frames laws against farmers, but it is wrong when farmers wish to make their voice heard in Delhi.

— PTI

India, Nepal put
'sour' ties back
on friendly trackSRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

With India declaring it is "Nepal's foremost friend and development partner", bilateral ties are once again firmly back on track following the successful two-day visit of foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Kathmandu this week. Sources said recently that both sides "noted the special relations between India and Nepal, and the importance of respecting each other's sensitivities", adding that the two sides "shared their perspectives on boundary matters and discussed ways to take it forward under the appropriate bilateral mechanisms".

The visit comes even as China — much to India's concern and dismay — has extended its influence in the Himalayan nation enormously in the past few years especially after the Nepalese Communists assumed office.

It may be recalled that ties between India and its Himalayan neighbour had soured in the summer months this year after Nepal went ahead and unveiled a new map that showed portions of territory in India's Uttarakhand state — Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipu Lekh — as part of Nepal.

New Delhi had objected to that move. But much water has flowed under the proverbial bridge in the past few months. The ice had initially been broken in August after Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli had called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi then to wish him on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day, with both leaders "expressing mutual solidarity" and agreeing to strengthen cooperation.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Shringla said in

Kathmandu during his just-concluded visit that culminated on Friday that "aside from our common civilisational inheritance, India's relationship with Nepal rests on four pillars — development cooperation; stronger connectivity; expanded infrastructure and economic projects; easier and enhanced access to educational opportunities in India for the young people of Nepal". He had also declared that "underlying all of these is a steadfast principle: we will work to Nepal's priorities".

The Foreign Secretary also "assured the people of Nepal that, once a vaccine is rolled out, meeting Nepal's requirements would be a priority for us". He had added, "Given our genetic profiles, what works for India is likely to work for Nepal as well. Together we will recover from the pandemic and together we will protect our people."

During his two-day visit, Mr. Shringla had called on Nepalese PM Oli, which included a one-on-one meeting, and had also called on the Nepalese President and the Foreign Minister, apart from holding talks with the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Nepalese PM Oli had also conveyed Nepal's desire to build on the momentum in the bilateral relationship and enhance the level of bilateral engagement.

During the visit, discussions had taken place on "specific measures that could be taken to finalise key projects at the earliest, including the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, as well as launch new economic initiatives". Discussions had also taken place on "specific meetings that could be scheduled to maintain high level engagement, and address issues of mutual interest".

Indo-Sino face-off:
Macros deployed
near Pangong lakeDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

India has deployed Marine Commandos (Macros) from the Indian Navy in the Pangong lake area, which is one of the flash points with China in Eastern Ladakh.

Macros will also get new boats to carry out operations in the lake apart from the existing infrastructure there. Indian Air Force's Garud and Indian Army's Para Special Forces have already been operating in Ladakh.

Indian Air Force's Garud Special Forces are deployed at the strategically crucial heights along with their shoulder-fired air defence systems Igla to take on any aircraft violating Indian Air space.

India has deployed Marcos in Ladakh at a time when there is a virtual deadlock between India and China to disengage from the seven months military standoff in Eastern Ladakh. There has been no progress on the disengagement proposals that were discussed during eight rounds of Corps Commanders meeting. There has also been no discussion on the next

date of Corps Commanders meeting.

India's position has been that it was China that had first moved its troops at the LAC and China will have to be the first to withdraw from these positions. India has told China that it will talk about all flash-points and not just about the south bank of Pangong Tso where Indian Army occupied strategic heights in August in a surprise move.

Indian Army has completed establishment of winter habitat facilities for all troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh.

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

India has deployed around 50,000 troops in the area to tackle any threat that may emerge from Chinese army.

The special Forces manned by Tibetan migrants "Special Frontier Force" had also taken part in the pre-emptive occupation of strategic heights in the Southern banks of Pangong Tso in August.

GOOD NEWS

Over 35L could not submit their documents due to pandemic

EPFO extends deadline for pensioners

New Delhi, Nov. 28: Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for submission of life certificates by pensioners till February 28, a move which would benefit over 35 lakh persons who could not submit the document by November due to Coronavirus pandemic.

The pensioners who could not submit their life certificates till November 30 deadline, would get pension every month till February. "In view of the

ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population to Coronavirus, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has extended the time limit up to 28th February 2021 for submission of Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra-JPP) in respect of the Pensioners drawing pension under EPS 1995 (Scheme-1995) and whose Life certificate is due in

● **THE PENSIONERS** who could not submit their life certificates till November 30 deadline, would get pension every month till February.

● **PRESENTLY, A PENSIONER** can submit JPP anytime during the year up to 30th November, which is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue. All such pensioners can submit life certificates till February 28, 2021.

any month till February 28, 2021," a labour ministry statement said.

Presently, a pensioner can submit JPP anytime during the year up to 30th November, which is valid

stopped in respect of 35 lakh pensioners who could not submit JPP during November 2020, the ministry added.

Multiple modes for submission of JPPs including 3.65 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs), branches of pension disbursing banks, 1.36 lakh post offices, postal network of 1.90 lakh postmen and Grameen Dak Sevaks under the Department of Post can be availed by pensioners.

— PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

29 NOVEMBER 2020



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Off the beaten track

Different, and same: Pandemic musings

Big calamities induce great change. The Fukushima disaster 2011 in Japan left behind 16,000 dead and the haunting image of the Emperor Akihito, kneeling before aged victims— a never before, mutely humane gesture expressing remorse and reassurance.

April 2020, India. A possible 10 million emigrant workers abandon locked down cities. Some walk to distant villages with their family in tow and their meagre possessions on their heads — a replay of the post-Partition mass exchange of the dispossessed in 1947 — except this is just one-way.

Media reports kindle public sympathy. Yogi Adityanath mobilises hundreds of buses to ferry “his” people home to Uttar Pradesh. Their cousins from Bihar are left to brave the searing summer heat and exhaustion — some die on the way.

November 2020, New Delhi, Mumbai — lockdowns are long over but most people now carry documents to prove residence, drown themselves in vitamins and track the apps for movement restrictions. The worst is over. The Covid monster is dying. But the fear is palpable of being dragged under by its distended death spasms.

The ongoing pandemic’s most telling debris — other than heightened neurosis and germaphobia — are the ubiquitous masks. Masks everywhere in a macabre caricature of a Venetian Carnival — except here masks are the vehicle to scurry home not strut the streets and party.

Product design lags horribly. The masks either keep pollution out or the deadly spiked pathogens. You must choose between the two — a senseless game of Russian roulette. Pollution choked lungs gasp for air through impermeable medical grade masks. But there are eyes watching everywhere now.

Furtively, you avert your face, tug downwards and gulp in the air quickly, lest someone fingers you for violating the Covid regulations. Some are complicit out of propriety; others to escape the Rs 2,000 fine.

Sitting next to a stranger on a bus, in an aircraft or even in a waiting room is so off-putting that it makes you shun all human contact and become a mole. Voluntary social distancing is not going away anytime soon.

For the well-off, excluding others from physical proximity, unless they are suitably bathed and clad, was always the norm. South Asians smarten up before they go to beg for relief for a Bahubali (big man). It is not just hotels and the military, which enforce daily dress and hygiene inspections. Privileged homes also follow this rule, requiring house help to change into “clean uniforms” before going about their work.

It all goes back to the Raj, when *memsahibs* would drill the women of the “coolie lines” — people not like them — on the basics of hygiene, partly, to forestall the spread of classless contagion to the “main house”.

Hawking or spitting is second nature to South Asians. An early morning ritual which requires the most labored exertions to eject yesterday’s detritus from around our gullets, in a fluid heave by contracting the stomach and gagging ferociously. Sensible Europeans brush their teeth post dinner. Asians must do it early in the morning, before eating anything, or lose their meal.

Touching and feeling anything and everything is second nature. It could be a door frame, the back of a chair or even the person ahead of oneself in a queue. Does “connecting” physically create a human chain of reassurance circling the Globe?

With masks obscuring the face, all-American, blindingly white teeth and a now-it’s-on, now-it’s-off toothy smiles are yesterday’s asset — dentists, beware of your declining profits. Today it is the eyes which are once again the windows to a person’s soul.

And don’t forget how voice and audio have eaten into video’s share as the principal tool for business and social communication, to access knowledge, music, shows or catch-up on current affairs because pod casts allow you to “multitask” — the holy grail of the 2020s, also known by the less flattering epithet of “shared attention” — as by a mother of quintuplets.

Personal vehicles, insanely popular in South Asia because of poor public transport, soar in appeal. They extend the bubble of “safe social isolation” to the street. The purveyors of the virtues of “shared mobility” need to come up with very rigorous sanitisation options before people go back to Uber and Ola. One option is drive through UV sanitizers — giant versions of the smaller ones for home use, to disinfect mobiles and parcels, now available at between ₹2,000 to ₹10,000 apiece.

Accessing doctors is, at once convenient and yet dreadfully stressful. Letting a doctor look down your gullet online whilst lying in your bed is sheer luxury, as is ordering medicines like pizza. The bad old days of heaving yourself to a hospital or a clinic for a doctor’s appointment or to get a medical test done, are now mere memories, except for the truly ill, who now need generous insurance policies and “connections” for non-Covid medical help.

Dying at home was once a preferred eventuality for the aged. Today they are denied even this final dignity. Doctors hesitate to certify the cause of death. Even the dead must pass by a hospital to be stamped as “non-Covid” before being cremated or buried. Some say, the movers and shakers, who know how to live and die comfortably, get certificates prepared in advance, just to avoid the detour. Kafka rules now more than ever.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

Subhani



At best, farm laws pass reform buck to big biz



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

As I saw thousands of farmers being tear-gassed and drenched by water cannons, and the mass of lathi wielding policemen and barbed wire barricades put up to prevent farmers coming to Delhi to protest against the recent farm bills, I was reminded of Tulsidas’ remarkably insightful lines in the *Ramcharitmanas*: *Nahin kou asa janama jaga mahin, prabhuta pai jahi mada nahin*: Never was a creature born in this world, whom power did not intoxicate. How else can one explain the arrogant manner in which the BJP government has handled the entire project of farm reforms? It is a classic case of hubris derailing even a well-intentioned attempt of change.

Firstly, it was the manner in which the three agricultural bills were passed in Parliament last September. This is a government with an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha, and a manageable preponderance in the Rajya Sabha. It is in a position on a simple numerical basis to get its legislative agenda through. Why then were these bills passed in a tearing hurry, without a structured discussion, through a voice vote, and without sending the bills for wider consultations and thorough consideration to the select committee?

Let us accept, too, that there is a need to replace the stranglehold of middlemen in agricultural trade and do away with the APMC Act. However, if the farmers are protesting the move it is not

because they have shrunken craniums that prevent them from realising what is good for them. The question is not that agricultural commerce needs to be opened up, but what is going to replace it. The government says that removing unproductive middlemen and allowing farmers to sell to whomsoever they want is good for farmers. It will open the way for corporate India to buy from farmers, enhance business investment in the agricultural sector, facilitate healthy price competition and thereby increase farmer remuneration.

The fact of the matter is that, while this sounds great in theory, marginal and small farmers with less than five hectares of land account for 86 per cent of total farmers in India. No attempt has been made, as part of preparatory steps leading up to this reform legislation, to aggregate them or to encourage cooperatives. They have been given the freedom to sell outside the APMC, but given their indigent and scattered status, are without the power to negotiate the best deal for themselves.

It is true that there are only some 7,000 APMC mandis across the country, and farmers can theoretically sell to anyone they wish to. In fact, some states like Bihar, Kerala and Manipur have scrapped the APMC Act. But has the condition of the small and marginal farmers really improved in these states? The truth is that the old system — which does need reform — guaranteed to most farmers through the MSP, a mini-

mum floor price for their hard earned produce. The much maligned middlemen or adhatis provide a support system to farmers for transporting their produce and selling it; they also are a part of a familiar socio-economic ecosystem available to farmers in times of need, such as a temporary loan for marriage ceremonies or child education. Now the assurance of the old system is being removed, and there is no explicit guarantee in the law for MSP.

Reforms, although necessary, need to be prepared for and properly transitioned. Suppose, the government made a peremptory announcement that henceforth everybody will travel in New Delhi only by public transport. The step can be justified as a ‘reform’ because it will save fuel, encourage savings, and reduce pollution. But the ordinary person will ask the basic question: is the existing public transport infrastructure good enough to meet this increased demand? If the answer is no, then people will protest.

The guarantee of MSP has led farmers, especially in Punjab and Haryana, but also elsewhere, to grow crops, such as paddy, even when government godowns are unable to efficiently store the grains, and rats consume a great deal of it. But why are farmers growing paddy in Punjab and

other states? It is successive governments that have for vote bank politics guaranteed them free water and free electricity. Now that they have utilised this largesse to cultivate paddy, the government suddenly has a change of heart and says it will not buy, and wants corporate India to step in. A businessman, who is given certain inputs for production free, and encouraged to make a particular product which the government guarantees it will buy at remunerative prices, will change his production line to respond to such a situation. Suppose, after he has done so, the government says that its decision was wasteful, and it will not guarantee purchase, would not the businessman feel he has been cheated?

The agricultural sector is crying out for greater investment. The government feels that these farm bills will facilitate this but by the corporate sector. However, has the government come out with the requisite tax incentives and fiscal policies that will encourage such investment? Besides, there is a point beyond which governments — both at the centre and in the states — cannot abdicate their own responsibility. Systemic investments in modernising the food supply chain should have been made in much greater measure by governments. The buck is now being passed on to the private sector, on the uncertain premise that they will do what successive governments did not.

We need agricultural reform. But it must be done through consultation with the stakeholders and systematically prepared for. Teagassing farmers and intimidating them is not the answer.

The writer, an author and a former diplomat, is in politics

The government feels that these farm bills will facilitate investment by the corporate sector. However, has the government come out with the requisite tax incentives and fiscal policies that will encourage such investment?

LETTERS

PAK KILLING JAWANS

It is painful to read about the death of our Army personnel daily (2 more jawans killed in Pak fire, DC, Nov. 28). How long will this continue? We respond every time only after we are attacked. This is wrong. We should attack first. We should destroy their arms and soldiers. As our soldiers are brave and well-equipped, we can defeat Pakistan. Hope this chronic problem is resolved once and for all.

Vilas Penurkar
Hyderabad

SIMULTANEOUS POLL

The BJP seems to planning to return to power by creating some sort of wave and polarising votes on the basis of religion. This will be possible only if elections are conducted on a single day across the country (*PM bats for simultaneous elections, single voter's list, DC, Nov. 27*). Government should explore digital elections if it wants to save, money, time check malpractices. I feel ‘one nation, one election’ policy is only to strengthen the BJP.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

CIVIC BODY POLLS

The GHMC election campaign is getting shriller and vituperative by the day. Voters should not be carried away by their rhetoric, but vote sensibly for the party which can work to provide a clean environment and adequate basic facilities; eliminate corruption in the delivery of public services, including adequate health services.

Abdul Hakeem
Hyderabad

I pray that the Almighty drives sense into our politicians to stop shouting at each other. They must stop blaming each other for problems India faces. They must realise that politics is to provide good governance and manage resources for progress and well-being of all. Today’s politicians have reduced governance to hurling freebies, divide public on caste and religion to garner votes to remain in power.

V.B. Chadha
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Licensing policy may not be relaxed

NEW DELHI, Nov. 28

The Ministry of Industrial Development is understood to have informed the Planning Commission that there would be no further liberalisation of licensing policy and it would go ahead, with the consent of the Cabinet with projects that would ensure over-all growth of the economy.

In the course of exchange of views it has had with the Planning Commission, the Ministry is believed to be of the view that if private sector did not come forward to help achieve the Fourth Plan targets in the industrial sector, the public sector would step in. Already, the Ministry has pointed out, some of the shortages that have developed in consumer goods, such as man-made fibres, were being overcome through the public sector. The Ministry feels strongly that the private sector should not be allowed to make money out of raw materials produced by the public sector.

Anita Katyal

Political Gup-Shup



Despite defeat, Rahul vac was on track; Patel’s unenviable role

Over the past few days, there have been numerous accounts of how Ahmed Patel managed affairs in Congress president Sonia Gandhi’s office as her political secretary. Among the various responsibilities entrusted to the late leader was to keep his boss out of the line of fire. It was left to him to tactfully handle delicate situations. A phone call from Patel generally meant he was ringing to convey some bad news. This happened with senior Haryana leader Birender Singh (now with the BJP) when he was getting ready to leave for the Rashtrapati Bhavan to be sworn in as a minister in the Manmohan Singh government in 2013. Minutes before Mr Singh stepped out, he got a call from Patel. When Mr Singh heard who the caller was, he realised he would not be joining the Union Cabinet. “I knew immediately I was out... because Ahmed Patel would not be calling to congratulate me,” says Mr Singh whenever he recounts this story. This was not the first or the last time that Mr Patel was called upon to perform

such an unpleasant task. But he handled it tactfully, breaking the news in his inimitable gentle style. His general refrain was, “Sorry yaar, tumhara kaam nahin hua. Dekho, agli baar shayad kuch ho payega.”

Thanks to the enthusiastic response RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav got at his election rallies, Rahul Gandhi was convinced that their alliance was all set to form the next government in Bihar. In fact, he was so confident that he took a break in the midst of the election campaign and went off for a short holiday to Shimla at his sister, Priyanka’s house. The Nehru-Gandhi scion had even planned to go on a desert safari to Jaisalmer before the declaration of the Bihar poll results. However, these plans came unstuck because Rahul Gandhi was denied permission by the security agencies as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was due to visit the forward areas and spend his Diwali with the jawans. This was just as well as the Bihar poll results proved to be a real letdown

for the Rahul-Tejashwi duo. However, this did not stop Rahul Gandhi from proceeding on vacation to Goa later with Sonia Gandhi.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has put the proverbial cat among the pigeons with his recent announcement that he is in no hurry to expand his Cabinet. This has obviously come as a rude shock for former ministers Tulsi Silawat and Govind Rajput who had to resign their posts in October as they had failed to get elected as MLAs in the stipulated six months following their induction into the Cabinet. Both Silawat and Rajput are Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalists who had crossed over to the BJP from the Congress along with 20 other MLAs which led to the downfall of the Kamal Nath government. The two were hoping to get back their ministries after they were re-elected in the recent Madhya Pradesh bypolls. They are naturally depending on Mr Scindia to push their case but their mentor is him-

self waiting for the ministerial berth promised to him by the BJP as reward for bringing down the Congress government.

Ahmed Patel’s untimely demise is undoubtedly a blow for the Congress but it is a personal setback for former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot who had led a rebellion against the Ashok Gehlot government earlier this year but backed off subsequently. The Congress leadership had then set up a three-member committee, comprising Patel, K.C. Venugopal and Ajay Maken to hear out Mr Pilot’s grievances and find an alternate role for him. This was in July but the panel has yet to submit its report. With Patel’s departure, it is highly unlikely that Mr Venugopal and Mr Maken will be in a rush to send in their recommendations. As it is, Mr Venugopal and Mr Maken were depending on the more senior and experienced Patel to find an amicable solution to the Gehlot-Pilot rivalry. This is certainly not good news for Mr Pilot who has

been waiting to be rehabilitated for the past five months.

Soon after BJP Rajya Sabha MP and Amit Shah confidant Bhupendra Yadav was given charge of the poll campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, he immediately got down to business. He has set up shop in Hyderabad and has been approaching local Congress leaders for induction into the BJP. Realising that the Congress is on a weak wicket, Yadav and his team has been sending out feelers to the rival party’s leaders, even going to the extent of calling on them at their homes. This is the same pattern adopted by the BJP in West Bengal as the saffron party is determined to expand its footprint in the East and South. Unlike Trinamul chief Mamata Banerjee who is putting up a tough fight in West Bengal, there is no one in the Congress to counter the BJP’s expansionism.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN, U.S. RESTORE MONASTERY

Peshawar, Nov. 28: Pakistan and the US have jointly completed restoration work at the Takht-i-Bahi Buddhist monastery in northwest Pakistan under the \$230,000 cultural preservation project.

US Consul General Gregory Macris virtually participated in the closing ceremony of the project at the monastery in Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

"The US mission in Pakistan is committed to working with local partners to support conservation and preservation of sites of great cultural significance across Pakistan," said Macris.

The Humanitarian and Facilitation Organisation (HAFO) received a US grant to execute the two-phase project at Takht-i-Bahi.

OLI SUBMITS SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Kathmandu, Nov. 28: Nepal's protracted political crisis deepened on Saturday after embattled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli rejected Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda's" accusations that he was running the government without consulting the party, and instead blamed his rival for non-cooperation in handling the party's affairs.

In the much-awaited Central Secretariat meeting of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) on Saturday, Prime Minister Oli submitted a separate 38-page political document in response to the allegations made by Prachanda's executive chairman "Prachanda".

Oli was responding to the allegations made against him by "Prachanda" in his 19-page political paper presented at the Secretariat meeting on November 18. In his report, Prachanda had accused Oli of running the government without consulting the party, failing to abide by the party's due procedures and engaging in corruption.

Oli dismissed the allegations levelled against him by "Prachanda" while submitting the separate report, according to a senior Standing Committee member of the party.

FUTURE OF WALES GANDHI'S STATUE IN QUESTION

London, Nov. 28: There is a question mark over the future of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Wales after an official Welsh government review into Britain's colonial and slave trading history drew up a list of memorials that require a rethink.

"The Slave Trade and the British Empire: An Audit of Commemoration in Wales" report released this week also shortlists the commemoration of Britain's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Robert Clive, referred to as Clive of India for his role in establishing Britain's colonial hold in India, as "persons of interest" to move to a second stage of the review process.

Wales has a bronze sculpture of Gandhi at Cardiff Bay, unveiled in 2017 to mark the 148th birth anniversary of the leader of the Indian national movement.

In the audit, he has been classified under Category E of persons of interest who "require examination as having been highlighted by campaigners".

INDIAN MAN ON TOURIST VISA MISSING IN UAE

Dubai, Nov. 28: An Indian man, who reached the UAE on a tourist visa to seek a job, has been missing since November 9, a media report has said.

Amrithalingam Samayamuthu, 46, a father of four from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, had come over to take up a job in the UAE, the *Gulf News* reported on Friday. Samayamuthu's nephew Durai Maniraja, who is a fisherman in Ras Al Khaimah, said his uncle came with three people from Tamil Nadu on November 8.

"They stayed in an accommodation in Hor Al Anz. His roommates said the next morning he went to the workplace. After he came back, they went for work at night," Durai said. He said Samayamuthu was upset as he would be alone in the room and also wanted to go.

"But the others told him not to. There was no news about him later is what they told us," Durai said. Samayamuthu had not called home as he did not have a UAE SIM card. His brother-in-law Kannan Nagoorankani, said he approached the Al Muraqqabat Police Station to file a complaint.



This picture taken with a fisheye lens on Friday shows coworking rooms of the capsule hotel Anshin Oyado Shinjuku, Tokyo, which has been renovated into a coworking space without the upper and lower partitions of the capsule. Facing unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the capsule hotel renovated an entire floor to be used as a coworking space, offering office necessities such as high speed internet required for telework and web conferencing, including computer hardware and other computing devices.

Germany hits mn cases as Russia links up with India on vaccine

Berlin, Nov. 28: Germany, once a beacon of hope in Europe's Coronavirus nightmare, logged more than one million cases on Friday, while Russia asked India to help mass produce its controversial Sputnik vaccine.

Although the virus spread is slowing thanks to weeks of tough restrictions, Europe remains at the heart of the pandemic, recording more cases than the United States in the past week.

The pandemic is spreading fastest in Asia and Latin America, and is up by a worrying 113 percent over the week in Mexico.

Until recently, Germany's relative success in containing the virus had offered some sense of hope, with authorities putting in place some precautions that still allowed life to carry on almost as normal. However, its measured approach has failed during the second wave, endangering the health of Europe's biggest economy and weighing on the mood as the northern hemisphere heads into the winter holidays.

Germany's Robert Koch Institute recorded more than 22,000 new daily cases on Friday, pushing the overall total beyond the one-million mark.

The number of Covid-19 patients in intensive care has soared from around 360 in early October to more than 3,500 last week.

Most countries hope to ease their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

— *AFP*

Europe toll crosses 4L, shops reopen in parts of continent

Paris, Nov. 28: Coronavirus deaths topped 400,000 Saturday in Europe, the world's second worst-hit region, as parts of the continent began to reopen shops for the holiday season. But across the Atlantic fearful US shoppers turned to online outlets for a massive Black Friday sale, while densely populated Los Angeles county announced a ban on gatherings of people under a new "safer-at-home order".

Persistent high case

numbers loom over governments' hopes to ease their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

Europe on Saturday crossed a grim barrier, registering 400,649 deaths. Stores began lifting their shutters in France on Saturday, while Poland's shopping centres will also reopen. "I'd rather avoid the internet, I'm going to buy things in the shops. They need it," said Anne Dubois, one of the first customers applauded through the doors by staff at

Paris' vast Galeries Lafayette department store.

"Whether or not there's people here, at least we've got our daily life getting back to normal," said 36-year-old Aurelie, a manager in the L'Oreal section at Galeries Lafayette.

Belgium will allow shops to reopen from December 1, but keep the current semi-lockdown in place possibly until mid-January. The move mirrors similar easing in Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

— *AFP*

Scientists to detect single virus particles

Tokyo, Nov. 28: Scientists have developed a new method for identifying single virus particles based on changes in electrical current when they pass through ultrasmall pores, an advance which they claim may lead to new rapid Covid-19 tests.

The study, published in *ACS Sensors*, demonstrated a new system for identifying single virus particles using an algorithm trained to detect changes in the current passing across silicon nanopores. According to the scientists,

the work may lead to fast and accurate screening tests for diseases like Covid-19 and influenza.

In the new method, the scientists said a layer of the compound silicon nitride just 50 nanometres (nm) thick has tiny nanopores added.

The motion of the ions can be monitored by the current they generate, and when a viral particle enters a nanopore, it blocks some of the ions from passing through, leading to a transient dip in current.

— *PTI*

CONGRESSMAN TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS

Miami, Nov. 28: South Florida Congressman-elect Carlos Gimenez has tested positive for Coronavirus, his campaign announced Friday.

The former Miami-Dade County mayor and his wife, Lourdes, tested positive Thursday for Covid-19 after having mild symptoms, according to a statement. They said they're self-isolating at home, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

— *AP*

India, Lanka, Maldives to bolster maritime security cooperation

Colombo, Nov. 28: Top security officials of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives on Saturday agreed to further strengthen cooperation and ensure peace for common benefit as they took stock of the current maritime security environment in the region during the high-level trilateral dialogue which was held here after a gap of six years. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval took part in the dialogue along with Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Major Gen (Retd.) Kamal Gunaratne

and Maldivian Defence Minister Mariya Didi. Sri Lanka hosted the fourth National Security Adviser-level trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation with India and the Maldives.

It took place after six years — the last one was held in New Delhi in 2014. According to a joint statement issued by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence, the three countries — recognising the significance of the forum for promoting meaningful cooperation in the Indian Ocean

Region on common issues pertaining to maritime security — took stock of the current maritime security environment in the region.

They discussed mutual cooperation in the areas of Maritime Domain Awareness, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Joint Exercises, Capacity Building, Maritime Security and Threats, Marine Pollution, and Maritime Underwater Heritage, it said. They agreed to further strengthen cooperation in dealing with these chal-

lenges, to ensure peace and security in the region for common benefit, the joint statement said.

The three countries also exchanged views on common security threats and agreed to broad base cooperation by expanding the scope to improve intelligence sharing and include issues like terrorism, radicalisation, extremism, drugs, arms and human trafficking, money laundering, cyber security and effect of climate change on maritime environment, it said.

— *PTI*

DETERIORATING | CONDITION PM invites singer to contribute to protected areas expansion initiative

Imran lauds Cher efforts to relocate elephant

Islamabad, Nov. 28: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday appreciated efforts of US celebrity singer Cher to relocate Kaavan, dubbed as the world's loneliest elephant, from a Pakistani zoo to Cambodia for better conditions, Cher, who called on the Prime Minister in Islamabad, has been campaigning for retiring Kaavan, the country's only Asian elephant, to an elephant sanctuary. The story of Kaavan, who is 35 years old, attracted world attention after reports went viral about the deteri-

orating condition of the zoo in Islamabad where the elephant was kept.

Khan "thanked Cher for her campaign and role in this regard," according to his office. He said that "it was indeed a happy moment for all of us that after giving joy and happiness to the people of Islamabad and Pakistan for about 35 years, Kaavan will now be able to retire with other elephants in a specialised sanctuary in Cambodia."

The Prime Minister also invited the singer to participate and contribute tow-

ards the government's initiative for the expansion of protected areas, to which she agreed.

Cher also tweeted about her meeting with Khan. "Just Came From Meeting To Thank Prime Minister Imran Khan For Making It Possible For Me To Take Kaavan To Cambodia," she said. The Pakistan government on Monday issued a permit to transfer the elephant and sources said Kaavan will be flown to Cambodia on November 29.

The elephant was already handed over to experts who

● **PRESIDENT ARIF** Alvi attended a function at the Marghar Zoo in Islamabad to mark the handing over of the elephant to experts to finalise its shifting to Cambodia.

were dealing with its transfer. President Arif Alvi along with his wife Samina attended a function on November 24 at the Marghar Zoo in Islamabad to mark the handing over of the elephant to

Court rejects Don Pennsylvania suit

Observes voters, not lawyers choose Prez

Washington, Nov. 28: In a fresh setback to US President Donald Trump's efforts to reverse the November 3 presidential election result in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, a court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by his team, observing that "voters, not lawyers choose the president." The judgement came four days after Pennsylvania certified Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden as the winner in the state which has 20 electoral college votes.

Trump, a Republican, has refused to accept defeat in the November 3 presidential election, and told reporters on Thursday that it would be "hard" to concede to Biden, a Democrat. The President has said that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College declares Biden as the winner, but made clear he is not prepared to "concede" the election. He has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismissed by courts. The three-judge panel of the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday upheld a previous ruling that dismissed the Trump campaign's request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the election results and slammed the lawsuit. "Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. Charges of unfairness are serious, but calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here," Judge Stephanos Bibas said in his order.

"The campaign cannot win this lawsuit," said Bibas, who was appointed by Trump. He authored the order along with two other judges on the bench, Chief Circuit Judge Brooks Smith and Judge Michael Chagares, who were appointed by former Republican president George W. Bush. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election to Biden and has

Biden to represent best in us: Harris

Washington, Nov. 28: Joe Biden will be a president who represents the best of America, his deputy and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said, asserting that he is a leader the world will respect. Lavishing praise on the 78-year-old US President-elect, Harris on Friday said that Biden will be a president for all Americans.

"Know that" Biden "will be a president who represents the best in us. A leader the world will respect and our children can look up to," Harris said in a tweet.

Harris, 56, the daughter of an Indian immigrant from Chennai, has created history by becoming the first Black American woman to be elected as the

country's Vice President. While Indian-origin politicians have been elected as heads of the state in various parts of the world in the last several decades, from Mauritius to Fiji, Harris as the vice president of the United States would be the most powerful politician ever.

Biden, in a series of tweets, called for unity in the country. "This is our moment — ours together — to write a newer, bolder, more compassionate chapter in the life of our nation," Biden said in a tweet. "Each of us has a responsibility in our own lives to do what we can to slow the virus. Every decision we make matters. Every decision we make can save a life."

— *PTI*

QUANTANAMO: SOME MAY BE RELEASED

Washington, Nov. 28: The oldest prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay detention centre went to his latest review board hearing with a degree of hope, something that has been scarce during his 16 years locked up without charges at the US base in Cuba.

Saifullah Paracha, a 73-year-old Pakistani with diabetes and a heart condition, had two things going for him that he didn't have at previous hearings: A favourable legal development and the election of Joe Biden. President Donald Trump had effectively ended the Obama administration's practice of reviewing the cases of men held at Guantanamo and releasing them if imprisonment was no longer deemed necessary. — *AP*

US curbs on Russian, Chinese firms for Iran missile support

KILLING OF SCIENTIST: KHAMENEI CALLS FOR 'DEFINITIVE PUNISHMENT'

Washington, Nov. 28: The US has imposed sanctions on four companies from China and Russia for supporting Iran's missile programme that remains a "significant proliferation concern," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said.

"The US has sanctioned four entities in China and Russia for their support of Iran's missile programme. We will continue to use all our sanctions tools to prevent Iran from advancing its missile capabilities," Pompeo said.

The companies are Chengdu Best New Materials Co Ltd and Zibo Elim Trade Co, Ltd. in China and Nilco Group, which is also known as Nil Fam Khazar Company and Santer's Holding and Joint Stock Company Elecon in Russia for transferring sensitive technology and items to Iran's missile programme. President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the landmark Iran nuclear deal in 2018.

— *PTI*

Tehran, Nov. 28: Iran's supreme leader on Saturday called for the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist linked to Tehran's disbanded military nuclear programme, a slaying the Islamic Republic has blamed on Israel.

Israel, long suspected of killing scientists a decade ago amid tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme, has yet to comment on the killing Friday of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush.

The slaying threatens to renew tensions between the US and Iran in the waning days of President Donald Trump's term, just as President-elect Joe Biden has suggested his administration could return to Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers

from which Trump earlier withdrew.

The Pentagon announced early Saturday that it sent the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier back into the Mideast.

In a statement, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhrizadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist."

Khamenei said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it."

He did not elaborate. Speaking to a meeting of his government's Coronavirus task force earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing. Rouhani said that Fakhrizadeh's death would not stop its nuclear programme, something Khamenei said as well.

— *AP*

VIDEO OF COPS BEATING POC A SHAME: MACRON

Paris, Nov. 28: French President Emmanuel Macron has said video images showing police officers beating up a Black man "shame us," and condemned violence both by and against the police. Macron asked the government to quickly come up with proposals "to reaffirm the link of confidence that should naturally exist between the French and those who protect them" and to better fight discrimination.

— *AP*

SHORT TAKES

Hamilton takes Bahrain GP pole

Manama: Newly-crowned seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position for Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix with an impeccable record-breaking lap on Saturday as Mercedes dominated the floodlit qualifying session. He clocked an all-time track record lap in one minute and 27.264 seconds to outpace team-mate Valtteri Bottas by 0.289 seconds, the pair delivering Mercedes' 11th front row lock-out of the season. It was Hamilton's record-increasing 98th career pole position and the fluency and speed of his driving endorsed his status as the outstanding man to beat at Sakhr's Bahrain International Circuit. — *AFP*

Jehan pips Mick for F2 podium

Bahrain: Rising Indian racer Jehan Daruvala earned his maiden Formula 2 podium after pipping championship leader Mick Schumacher in a gripping battle for the third place at the Bahrain Grand Prix support race, here. Starting eighth on the grid, Jehan gained two places and stayed sixth for a few laps. However, in Lap 5, he lost two places and was forced off the circuit. The resulting loss of speed cost him more positions. He stayed in tenth place for a few laps before pitting to change tyres. Jehan emerged from the pits down in the 18th place but quickly climbed up the order. He gained more positions as others pitted and was running sixth by lap 19 of the 32 lap race. — *PTI*

TIME TO PONDER

With no Plan 'B' in place, India need their 'A' game to save ODI series

Sydney, Nov. 28: India's battered bowling unit will have little time to regroup and limited resources at its disposal in a desperate bid to perform a redemption act and save the ODI series against a Australia in the second game here on Sunday. It wasn't just about the margin of defeat — by 66 runs — but the manner in which the home team exposed India's vacant cup-



board of all-rounders that will give Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri numerous points to ponder. So with no back-up all-rounders or a plan B in place, India will have to execute their plan A perfectly.

With Australia's top order firing, Bumrah and company will have no option but to pick up the pieces and give a better account of themselves on a strip that promises to be a belter. — *PTI*



India captain Virat Kohli (right) talks with teammates before the start of their one-day international match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

— *AFP*

Smith finds his rhythm back

Sydney, Nov. 28: Australian batsman Steve Smith found his "rhythm" with a cracking hundred against India in the first ODI but admitted that there wasn't much pressure unlike other times.

Smith struck 105 off 66 balls in Australia's lopsided 66-run win in the first ODI.

"I just found a nice rhythm again," Smith said while crediting his skipper Aaron Finch for setting up a nice platform with a 156-run opening stand with David Warner.

"It was just see-ball, hit-ball and obviously the foundation had been set so I could be quite aggressive," Smith said.

Having found his "hands" as he had said prior to the match, Smith was happy that he could decide which bowlers to attack even though the entire Indian bowling line-up was at the receiving end of his onslaught.

"I picked my bowlers and where I wanted to hit them, and just played some good shots to the areas of my strengths."

By his own admission, the pressure was less unlike some other times when quick wickets have fallen around him.

"There wasn't a whole lot of pressure. Probably, at other times, when I have batted my best, it's been when the team has been under a bit of pressure and I have had to play almost



Steve Smith

an anchor role to help us get a total," he said.

Smith said that trying to switch from his natural style of building the innings to a more T20 friendly mode of power-hitting did affect his game.

"I haven't felt quite right for a while and maybe that's T20 cricket, trying to be a bit more powerful and probably not playing as much to my strengths as I'd like," Smith said.

What Smith did before this series was to get back to normal grip.

"So I've been getting myself back to my normal grip and finding it," he added.

The former skipper is hopeful that he can continue with his rich vein of form during the entire summer. — *PTI*



Former India off-spinner Archana Das of Hyderabad poses with her childhood coach K. Saibaba of the Sports Coaching Foundation in Masab Tank at her marriage to K. Abhishek Reddy, a software professional, at a hotel in Begumpet, Hyderabad, on Friday. Archana is now based in Mumbai where she works for the Western Railway.

Hyderabad draw with Bengaluru

Margao, Nov. 28: Hyderabad FC settled for their second successive draw, a stalemate, in the Indian Super League, splitting points with Bengaluru FC at the Fatorda Stadium, here on Saturday.

Getting four points from two outings is best start in the league for Hyderabad.

However, it was a frustrating evening for Bengaluru FC, who are yet to taste a win this season.

The two sides showed attacking intent from the word go and BFC had their first attempt as early as the fifth minute. Ashique Kuruniyan tried his luck from a distance

but his effort took a deflection before being collected by Hyderabad custodian Subrata Paul.

Hyderabad's adamant defending frustrated Bengaluru, who struggled to take the ball up to their attacking trio of Sunil Chhetri, Kristian Opseth and Udanta Singh. Trying to find an alternative, Bengaluru engaged in long-range shots, which proved futile.

Despite making a half-time change, replacing Kristian Opseth with Dimas Delgado, Bengaluru had nothing different to offer as their opponents continued to dominate the play.

— *PTI*

BELIHU, GEMECHU EYE DOUBLE DELIGHT

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Two-time winners Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu are not only ready to defend their titles, but are also determined to break the course record this year at the Delhi Half Marathon here on Sunday.

Ethiopia's Belihu will be bidding for his third successive crown but the course he will cover is radically different to the one he conquered in 2018 and 2019.

Belihu's compatriot Gemechu rewrote the women's course record when winning in both 2018 and 2019 and it currently stands at 66:00. She is raring to go even faster this year.

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