

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 22 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 18.4°C
RH: 36%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
 Haze, mist likely.
Max/Min temp. 33/19 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+42,735)	(+470)
90,92,344	1,33,220
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+925)	(+3)
TS: 2,62,653	1,426
(+1,160)	(+7)
AP: 8,61,092	6,927

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,82,60,146
DEATHS
13,83,349
COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
217
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvati; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Astami till 10.54 pm

Star: Dhanistha till 11.11 am
Variyam: 6.58 pm to 8.41 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.06 pm to 4.51 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Akhir 6, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.21 am

Zohar: 12.12 pm

Asar: 4.04 pm

Maghrib: 5.46 pm

Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.25 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM

MOONSET TODAY NA

MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.51 PM

COUNTER POINT



Leave 6 ft between seats and rows, have disinfectant tunnels at all entrances...

SHORT TAKE

Min temp below normal in N. India

New Delhi: Minimum temperatures in most parts of northern India remained below normal on Saturday with the meteorological department predicting a rise in night temperatures on Monday due to a western disturbance approaching the northwest part of the country. Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 8.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday, a day after it witnessed its coldest November morning in 14 years. The national capital recorded a maximum of 24.6 °C on Saturday, the lowest this season so far.

G-20 calls for united Covid fight

Dubai: Saudi Arabia's King Salman opened on Saturday the Group of 20 summit as the Coronavirus pandemic overshadows this year's gathering of heads of state, transforming it from an in-person two-day meeting of the world's most powerful leaders to a virtual gathering of speeches and declarations. The G-20's member-countries represent around 85 per cent of the world's economic output and three-quarters of international trade. "We have a duty to rise to the challenge together during this summit and give a strong message of hope and reassurance," King Salman said in his opening remarks.

NATION | 7

Comedian Bharti Singh arrested in drug case



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

WORLD | 8

Warangal doc finds likely cure for Covid issues



SPORTS | 8

Chelsea jump to English table top



Vol. 20 No. 176 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹6.00

Freeze frame



Tourists visit a water stream frozen due to drop in the temperature, at Nursery near Sissu in Lahaul-Spiti district on Saturday. The minimum temperature in Manali of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh was recorded at -10°C. Tribal district Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong recorded -3.89°C.

— PTI

India tells Pak to rein in JeM

MEA summons Pak charge d'affaires after Nagrota crackdown

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 21

The ministry of external affairs on Saturday summoned Pakistan's charge d'affaires to convey India's strong concern on the terror attack planned by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Jammu & Kashmir and demanded that Pakistan desist from its policy of supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from its territory. India also asked Pakistan to dismantle the terror infrastructure operated by terrorists in its territory.

A major terror attack was foiled by the Indian security forces in Nagrota on Thursday. Initial reports indicate the attackers were members

of the JeM, a terrorist organisation proscribed by the UN and many countries.

"The Government of India expressed its serious concerns at continued terror attacks by JeM against India. JeM has been part of several attacks in India in the past, including the Pulwama attack in February 2019. The huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive materials indicate detailed planning for a major attack to destabilise the peace and security in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, in particular, to derail the ongoing democratic exercise of conduct of local District Development Council elections," the MEA said in a statement.

SOLDIER KILLED AS PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE ALONG LINE OF CONTROL

Jammu, Nov. 21: A havaldar in the Indian Army was killed and three others, including two women, were injured on Saturday as Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The casualties came barely a week after multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the LoC in north Kashmir left 11 people, including five



Havaldar Patil Sangram Shivaji

security personnel, dead on November 13. Havaldar Patil Sangram Shivaji, who was manning a forward post, was critically injured in the Pakistani firing. — PTI

BJP to reach out to Bengalis in all states

YOJNA GUSAI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 21

With a ramped up organisational base and support base in West Bengal, the BJP has now asked its state units in other states to constitute a 'Bengali prakoshth (cell)' to reach out to Bengali intellectuals and influencers in various fields to drum up support for it in the upcoming electoral battle in Mamata Banerjee-led TMC ruled state.

While its 'Save Bengal' campaign has already made "massive inroads" among 'probabsi Bengalis,' who played a

AIADMK, BJP continue TN ties

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, NOV. 21

The AIADMK's alliance with the BJP will continue in the 2021 Assembly elections, Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and deputy chief minister O. Panneerselvam declared on Saturday in the presence of Union home minis-

ter Amit Shah at a function in Chennai organised to launch projects worth ₹67,758 crore.

Dedicating the Kannankottai-Thervoy Kandigai reservoir to the nation, besides laying the foundation for a slew of high-profile projects, including the Chennai metro rail phase 2, Mr Shah took a swipe at the

Congress-DMK alliance, saying that they had no right to speak about corruption.

Mr Shah, who addressed the crowd in Hindi, praised Tamil Nadu for its antiquity and culture and regretted that he could not speak in the ancient language. His speech was translated in Tamil by a BJP leader.

Bengali intellectuals through such 'prakoshths' in its state units while seeking their support in

West Bengal to take on state government, who the BJP often accuses of playing appeasement politics and political killings of its workers and supporters.

The party is also hoping that such 'prakoshth' would help the organisation in grooming 'future Bengali leaders,' both for the central team and for the state. The idea of 'Bengali prakoshth' was suggested by BJP's national joint general secretary (organisation), Shiv Prakash, who is one of the key strategists for West Bengal. The 294-member West Bengal assembly will go to polls in April-May.

Punjab rail block to be lifted for 15 days

Chandigarh, Nov. 21: In a move that may bring relief to the state facing an acute shortage of essential supplies, Punjab farmer bodies protesting against the Centre's farm laws on Saturday decided to lift their blockade of passenger trains for 15 days from Monday.

However, the farmer bodies said they will again block the rail tracks if the government failed to resolve their issues.

Meanwhile, Divisional Railway Manager (Ferozepur Division)

● **THE FARMER** bodies said they will again block the rail tracks if the government failed to resolve their issues.

Rajesh Aggarwal in a statement said as soon as farmers lift their blockade, the Railways will resume services. The services were suspended since September 24, when farmers launched "rail roko" agitation against the agricultural laws.

■ Full report on Page 7

GREEN | SHOOTS ■ PM confident India will be able to achieve its renewable energy targets ahead of 2022 deadline

India to slash carbon footprint by 35%: Modi

Gandhinagar, Nov. 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country was moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. When I told this to the world, it expressed surprise and wondered if India could achieve this," he said. "Our effort is to increase the share of natural gas in our energy needs by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years. The Prime Minister said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) here via video conference.

He also said that efforts were on to increase the use of natural gas by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years. The Prime Minister said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) here via video conference.

"Today, the country is moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. When I told this to the world, it expressed surprise and wondered if India could achieve this," he said. "Our effort is to increase the share of natural gas in our energy needs by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years," he added.

He also expressed confidence that the country will achieve its renewable ener-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 8th convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar via video conferencing in New Delhi along with Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani.

gy generation target "before time". "Today, per unit cost (of solar power) has come down to less than ₹2 from ₹12-13 earlier. Today, solar power has become the country's pri-

ority. We have made a commitment to generate 175 gigawatt renewable energy and I am confident that we will achieve this before 2022," he said. "Also, our renewable energy target of

450 gigawatt by 2030, a big aim, will be achieved before time...I am confident of that," he said.

The PM said that despite the hardships caused by the Coronavirus, the graduating students should remember that their strength and capacities are much bigger than the challenges, and asked them not to lose confidence. "What is more important than problems is your purpose, preference and your commitment. It is not that you are facing a challenge for the first time in your life,

or that this is the last challenge. It is not the case that a successful person does not have problems. But those who accept the challenges and defeat them are the ones who succeed," he said.

He asked the students to recall the period of the country's Independence movement and how people sacrificed their lives for it. He asked them to similarly become a soldier for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani said India needs disruptive

solutions in renewable, low carbon and carbon recycle technologies, as well as breakthroughs in renewable energy and innovations in energy storage and utilisation to achieve the twin goals of becoming an economic and a clean-and-green energy superpower. "By the middle of the century, the world will use twice as much energy as we use today. In the next two decades, India's own per capita energy needs will be more than twice as much as today," he said. — PTI



coloréssence®
Color your spirit

NIKHRA NIKHRA RANG
Britone Ke Sang

Britone
NATURAL BRIGHTENER
FACE
POWDER

**Mega
Launch**

AVAILABLE IN
75g MRP ₹100/-
35g MRP ₹60/-



DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

We are taking the Color Cosmetics Market by storm and here is your chance to be associated with India's leading name of color cosmetics and make colorful profits. Distribute Coloressence and we will distribute windfall profits.

If you are already in the business of Distribution,

Contact: **8143303211, 7013452249**

info@coloressence.com www.coloressence.com

OTHER STORIES
POLICE OFFICERS
UNDER ACB
SCANNER

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY,
NOV. 21

Few police officers in undivided Nizamabad district are facing severe graft charges.

The seriousness of the situation was exposed when three police circle inspectors were caught by the Anti Corruption Bureau officials recently.

This is adversely affecting the image of the police department.

Errant police officers are demanding bribes either in cash or in gift formats.

Banswada, Bodhan and Kamareddy police circle inspectors—Tata Babu, Pallo Rakesh Goud and I. Jagadish were caught by the ACB officials in October and November demanding and accepting bribes from the victims in police cases.

Police higher-ups are shocked over the series of corruption cases in the police department. Reportedly, few police officers want to improve their assets through the wrong methods.

For instance, Kamareddy CI I. Jagadish, who allegedly demanded ₹5 lakh as bribe from a lucky draw organiser to do an official favour to construct a 5-acre farmhouse near Jannepally.

Also, he had amassed disproportional wealth in recent times. Reportedly, internal issues in the police department also played a role in trapping the CI by ACB.

Police in Banswada, Kamareddy sub-divisions and Bodhan division are worried over the continuous raids by the ACB officials.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, a police sub-inspector requesting anonymity said that the ACB officials are forced to register more cases as they have targets to accomplish.

“The monopoly of a few police officers also led to problems in police stations. Few station house officers ignore their staff while dealing with criminal and other cases,” he said.



T. Vijaya Lakshmi along with the villagers stage a dharna in front of the collectorate in Karimnagar on Saturday demanding her suspension orders be lifted. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Dalit woman sarpanch suspended

My fault is trying to establish a Vykunta Dham, check encroachment: Lakshmi

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 21

Thalla Vijaya Lakshmi, sarpanch of Laxmidevally village in Gangadara mandal within Karimnagar district, has been suspended. Her fault, she says, lay in striving hard to establish a Vykunta Dham (place for last rites) in her village and trying to check encroachment of government land by influential people in the district.

According to details available, Vijaya Lakshmi, belonging to Dalit community, completed her masters in English literature and entered politics as villagers of Laxmidevally wished that she do good for their village too. She contested sarpanch elections as an independent candidate and won, defeating the ruling TRS nominee.

As there was no burial ground in her village, she applied to the government for sanctioning of government land, so that a Vykunta Dham in her

village could be constructed. The government considered her appeal and allotted 0.39 guntas of land in survey number 189 on January 31, 2020.

In accordance with rules, Vijaya Lakshmi called for a meeting and informed villagers about the place for last rites and inquired if anyone had any objections over constructing the burial at the said survey number.

By then, the sarpanch had joined the ruling party. 90 percent of the villagers, apart from the elected body of the village panchayat, expressed their willingness and passed a resolution for constructing the burial ground at the place. The resolution was then submitted to the district administration.

Vijaya Lakshmi thereafter laid the foundation stone for constructing the burial ground. Her trouble started thereafter when some influential persons of the village started creating hurdles in completion of the burial ground.

■ THE SARPANCH charged one day before her suspension order, the same was given to the MLA who, in turn, posted it on various social media platforms.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, she accused three members of the village, identified as Buruka Venkat Reddy, Basaveni Srinu and Basaveni Raju for creating hurdles.

The sarpanch disclosed that adjacent to the proposed burial ground, there is 2.08 guntas of government land in survey number 190 that has been encroached by certain influential people. Fearing that they will get exposed for encroaching the government land, she said, they were creating problems for her joining hands with the local MLA Sunke Ravi Shankar. They are objecting that there is no pathway leading to the burial ground as there are fields surrounding it.

As there was pressure on completing construction of the burial ground from district administration, the issue was taken to the notice of an elderly person of the village, Kotha Jaypal Reddy, who had purchased around 11 guntas of land from a farmer, to gift his land to village panchayat for laying the road to the burial ground.

“After this, the village panchayat purchased materials required for constructing the burial ground and deployed workers. That is when Venkat Reddy, Srinu and Raju, along with others, started creating trouble and did not allow workers to complete the burial ground.

They also abused me and family members as I belong to Dalit community,” she said.

The sarpanch said she lodged a complaint about the issue with district collector K. Shashanka in writing, who assured her of taking action against the three by taking back 2.08 guntas of govern-

ment land present on the survey number 190 from them. The collector even issued orders to the MRO.

But till date, no action has been taken against Venkat Reddy, Srinu and Raju, as they are backed by the local MLA, Vijaya Lakshmi stated. What is more, with pressure exerted by the local MLA, collector Shashanka had even issued suspension orders against her for not completing construction work of the burial ground.

The sarpanch charged one day before her suspension order, the same was given to the MLA who, in turn, posted it on various social media platforms.

She pointed out that there are several other villages in which construction works of other projects had not yet started. But action was taken only against her and not others, she underlined.

“I will not leave this matter here. I will go to court and fight until justice is done,” Vijaya Lakshmi added.

200kg ganja seized in Warangal, 4 held

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 21

The Task Force and the Kakatiya University (KU) police on Saturday arrested four of a five-member interstate gang involved in peddling ganja. They seized 200 kgs of the illegal substance worth ₹20 lakh, a lorry and a car from them.

Speaking to the media, Commissioner of Police P. Pramod Kumar said that the main accused Pawar Ganapathi of Somya Thanda in Sangareddy district engaged in cultivating ganja since 2005 and would export it to various places in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Ganapathi was arrested and jailed several times, but he continued trading ganja, the police said.

Ganapathi is involved in eight cases in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karna-

taka and Maharashtra.

In 2018, he befriended Dugyala Vinay Kumar of Thimmapur in Mulugu mandal and Md. Hakim, a lorry owner.

The gang purchased 200 kgs of ganja from Dharakonda and packed them in 100 packets each weighing 2 kgs. They brought the ganja in a car and transferred 50 packets into Hakim's lorry at Thimmapur.

On reliable information, the police intercepted the car and lorry on the outer ring road near Bheemaram. They arrested Ganapathi, Vinay Kumar, Ranjith and Ghouse Khan of Somya Thanda, and launched a search for Md. Hakim.

The commissioner commended the Task Force inspectors Nandiram Naik, Madhu and Ramakrishna for apprehending the gang.



Warangal commissioner of police P. Pramod Kumar shows the seized ganja packets on Saturday. — DC



Cotton being purchased at a CCI centre in Narsampet.

BJP govt not for farmers: MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 21

Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy slammed the Centre's treatment of Telangana farmers, with the decision to reduce MSP for cotton by ₹50.

The Central Government-owned Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) gave directions to the state government to reduce the rate from ₹5,825 to ₹5,775.

“It is a huge blow for the farmers,” he said. “The Centre's decision to reduce the price of cotton by another ₹50 is an unfortunate move at a time when the TRS-led government is demanding that the cotton Minimum Support Price (MSP) be increased to

₹7,500,” he said.

The legislator added that the Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is trying to buy thin variety grain and is willing to pay extra rate for the grain bought, but, the Central government-owned Food Corporation of India is opposing it. The BJP government is taking similar steps as part of its efforts to bend the necks of the farmers and rub the new laws brought by the Centre.

“The farmers are being pushed into the abyss because of the new farm laws. We will fight the anti-farmer BJP under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao. We will not tolerate damage to the interests of farmers and will protect them,” he assured.

BIGALA GANESH'S FATHER, KRISHNA MURTHY DIES AT 80

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 21

Nizamabad urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta's father Bigala Krishna Murthy, 80, died on Saturday at a corporate hospital in Hyderabad.

Krishna Murthy was admitted to hospital due to ill health, and succumbed while undergoing treatment.

Krishna Murthy was president of the district Vaisya Sangam and a philanthropist.

His elder son Ganesh Gupta is an MLA, and his younger son Mahesh Bigala is the TRS NRI cell coordinator.

Minister V. Prashanth Reddy, MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, A. Jeevan Reddy, Shakil participated in the last rites of Krishna Murthy at his native place in Makloor on Saturday.

MLC K. Kavitha and her husband D. Anil Kumar consoled the bereaved family members.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE
AUTOMOTIVE

FOUR WHEELERS

CHEVROLET BEAT diesel, 2014 model, 65000 kms, white colour, Lady Doctor driven, amplifier, woofer, brand new tyres, unused stepney, full insurances. P h : 9 8 4 9 4 4 7 0 0 3 . (HYCL/2021/C01708)

PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

HOT COMMERCIAL property is for sale at Abids, 460 sqyds C+G+2. East facing. Clear title. Ph:9703456738. (B/2021/C00573)

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

FLATS

3 BEDROOM 2400 sft duplex flat with 2 car parking and servant quarters for sale in sri niketan apartments .palace colony, basheer bagh . contact 8143144154, 9885536329. (W/2021/AT000681)

KONDAPUR BESIDE vijetha super market & cyber meadows after chirech public school ready to move in West facing- 4bhk 2500 sft, east facing- 2bhk 1350 sft, delux standalone apartment Rs: 9800/- per sft ph:7995889398 / 9 8 6 6 2 6 7 4 7 6 (HYMM/2021/C03486)

MANIKONDA,ALKAPURI TOWN- SHIP Highrise super luxury 2 & 3 BHK Flats with all amenities. Prelaunch offer Rs 3300 Loan amount Rs 4500/- sft 9886549820 (HYMM/2021/C03549)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

ROAD NO.12 Banjara Hills Near Audi Showroom Independent Duplex Building 4BHK with all Facilities one Carparking on 150syds and 3600 Sft built up area.2002 Construction, only Serious Buyers Contact: 9392020224 (HYMM/2021/C03935)

HUDA LAY-OUT 300 Sq.yards west facing 2000 Sft ground floor independent house for sale at Sai Ram Nagar Colony Hydeshakota. (Suncity) Bandlaguda Jagir municipal fully developed colony 100% vaasthu. Contact: 09346601919 (W/2021/AT000650)

GATED COMMUNITY

JubileeHills Whisper Valley 475 yards, Madhapur 250 yards 4500 sft, Kondapur 350 yards 4900sft, 480 yards 4600sft, Hitech City 350 yards 4500sft, Financial District surroundings areas, Aditya casa grande, Ektha Highland, Eden garden, River

edge, Villa greens, Legend chimnes and more villas in Gandipet, Teltapap, Kollur 8884872389, 9985888511. (W/2021/AT000616)

YAPRAL-REGISTRATION COLONY quiet and peaceful Huda-Colony Promum-Villa west-facing 4-Bhk ready to- Occupy Huge-Gardens Area. 2- CarParks Beautiful Architecture High-end Specification 303-Sqyds land with 3350-sft builtup scope forServant quater- 1.87 cr Bankloan Available call- 9848777841, 9346884403 (W/2021/AT000685)

LAND

GACHIBOWLI FINANCIAL district near vattinagulapalli 111GO-500yards, 1000 N/E, 2,000yards, 1Acres, 3Acres, 5Acres, 10Acres. Moinsbad 1Acres, 5Acres, 12Acres. Jonnada-shankarpalli main Road 3000yards, 5Acres,10, 15Acres & in R1-zone's mokila, Teltapap, nallagandla, osamannagar plots/lands available. 9985888511, 8884872389. (W/2021/AT000617)

2 ACRES hot property is for sale at Rajapur, Shadnagar and we have 200ft front facing. Best suitable for Venture and Farm house. Clear title. Ph:9703456738. (B/2021/C00574)

ONE ACRE land for sale R1 zone prime location back sides Jim's Medical college Thimmapur, Maheshwarum road smart & good investment contact:09346601919 (W/2021/AT000651)

PLOTS

BANJARAHILLS 350, 500 North 600 West JubileeHills 200 South 400North 500East 600East 717 East 1200East 1500West Filmnagar 1110yards Journalist Colony 300 NandagiriHills 600North Madhapur kavuribhili 500East Gachibowli Jayabheri HUDA 934 N/E JubileeHills and Banjarahills independent houses 10Cr to 50Cr, All commercial plots with tenant properties.9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2021/AT000615)

PLOT For Sale, N/F, 30Ft Road (R/F 75X72) LRS clear, Suitable for any small Unit like Kitchen for Hotel, UPVC Manufacturing, Carpenter, Laundry, Warehouse, Apartment, Stockyard, etc. @ Lakshmi Enclave, Macha Bollaram, near by Bollaram Rly Station, Sanjeev Reddy F/H Road. Contact: 9246159757. (S/2021/C01324)

AVAILABLE For Sale House Plot 270 Sq.Yds, Kompally, Hyderabad, Double Road, Gated community, Aparna Palmgrove, before Medchal. Brokers Exuse. Ph:9985138280. (S/2021/C01441)

SHAMSHABAD RGI Airport 1.5 km, close to IT Hubs & MNCs. 5 minutes to Novotel & ORR, HMDA Approved plots, Ready to construct with all facilities Ph: 9949406068 (HYMM/2021/C03959)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

MEDCHAL NH Facing HMDA approved Commercial Complex suitable for Offices, Banquets, Retail, Hospitals, Clinics/Diagnostic, etc; 3rd and 4th floor available. Each floor area: 3600 Sft. Contact: 9000050360, 9014308138 (W/2021/AT000583)

PARKLANE 1)MAINROAD Retail Showroom GroundFloor 1300sft, Rent 1.30Lacs/Month. Beside BigBrands IndianTerrain, ColorPlus, Biba, Lenskart, 2)Office Space 1550sft, 2ndFloor, Rent 28,000/month. Raj: 97000-00678 (W/2021/AT000684)

PG ROAD,1750SFT, Semi-furnished CommercialSpace in Venkatrao Colony lane.GroundFloor, AmpleParking, Secure Premises, Rs50,000/Month. Suitable for DistributionOffice, Office-cum-Godown, SoftwareOffice, BackOffice, Godown for HighValue Electronics etc.Raj:97000-00678 (W/2021/AT000682)

FLATS

1950 SFT 3- bedrooms pooja& store room modular kitchen & modern false ceiling design for hall,living, bedrooms. Bandlaguda Jagir municipal besides Glendale Academy International School. Contact: 09346601919 (W/2021/AT000652)

JUBILEE HILLS, Prashasan Nagar, New 3Bhk 1600Sft, 100% Vastu, Panoramic Designer Interior, 24x7 Water, Car Parking. 9866308389 (HYMM/2021/C03978)

SITUATION VACANT

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WALK-IN INTERVIEW. Corporate Group Conducts JOB MELA on 22nd & 23rd Nov 2020. (Qua: Graduation Pass/ Fail) A.U CAMPUS (Near Out Gate) Vizag. P h : 9 1 3 3 3 4 7 7 5 8 . (HYCL/2021/C01675)

TECHNICAL

WANTED CONSULTANT for all type of mechanical fabrication and erection for our factory at patancheru Hyderabad Contact- Zen Tanks And Vessels Pvt. Ltd Email- zvtpltd@gmail.com contact no- for clarification 0 4 0 2 7 9 0 4 0 3 3 / 3 4 (HYMM/2021/C03953)

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

CASTE NO BAR

BRIDE WANTED Good looking, preferably a doctor from good family background age-25-29yrs, Caste no bar, Hindu, willing to live in Hyderabad For a handsome boy age 31 MBA from a good family owning a hospital.

Ph:9246877852/ 9246245811/ 9 9 5 9 9 5 4 3 2 (HYCL/2021/C01720)

CHRISTIAN

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

COSMOPOLITAN

KAMMA, ELITE, Affluent, 41 Years, Divorced, No Children, Highly Educated, Reputed Group. Wanted Suitable Bride. Contact WhatsApp 9347668696 (Matrimony Consultant) (HYMM/2021/C03964)

BRIDES WANTED. Cosmopolitan, 46yrs, 6feet Graduate, Businessman sprated looking for a understandable partner qualified below 40years with a good soul For a long term relationship. sambar19742020@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C01577)

MUSLIM

SMP WELL educated and property holder seeks alliance for their son 32 Years height 5'6 working as project lead in MNC Hyderabad. Salary Sixteen Lakhs(16) per annum. Divorced in short period. Girl should be Unmarried graduate below 30 years with good family background. Darood Fatima family only contact WhatsApp 9390967015 (W/2021/AT000676)

SHEERIN MATRIMONIA invite alliance (Free registration) for well settled Own Business Filling station.builders property holder religious 1995 5'8" M.B.A required very fair tall good looking and good family background mediclass families all so please contact 9246201463, 7036660001 info@sheerinmatrimonial.com (W/2021/AT000691)

TELUGU

CASTE NO BAR(bc.oc) telugu dudekula age26, height 5'6 business 2r,property warangal resident seeking bride from age 18 to 27 from height 5'4 to 5'7 no question of dowry diversity also ok. direct: 6 2 8 1 9 4 2 3 7 1 (W/2021/AT000677)

GROOM WANTED

CASTE NO BAR

USA/HIB VISA/ B.Tech,SWE/ 34 Yrs., 5.8"ht fair, Caste no bar, slim, beautiful, unmarried, Andhra Girl, require equivalent Bridegroom. Cell No: 8008913979 (VZ/2021/C00004)

CHRISTIAN

FAIR SLIM, B.Tech, MBA, 5'3", 26 working ADP seeks protestant born-again believer, 27- 30, post post graduate with good job. Whatsapp biodata, photo 9490166468 (S/2021/C01367)

In condolence

We deeply mourn the sad demise of

Sri Bigala Krishna Murthy

President, Nizamabad

Aryavyshya Mahasabha and we convey our condolence to the bereaved Bigala family members.

P.Ravinro Kumar Gupto

Pro. M/s. Ambica Ads, Nizamabad. Cell: 9849789710

Panchareddy Suresh

Ex Corporator

SHORT TAKES

COPS SEIZE
DRUGS, ALCOHOL
WORTH ₹1 CRDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

The increased vigilance and checks by police and other agencies in the run-up to the GHMC Council elections on December 1 have not only netted more than ₹1 crore in cash but also drugs and liquor that are being transported illegally in the city.

According to the State Election Commission on Saturday, security agencies in the city have seized ₹1,35,87,450 in cash since November 18. In addition, one kg of ganja worth ₹10,000 was seized. Eighty grams of mephedrone, a narcotic, was seized, which was worth ₹10 lakh, the SEC said. It said that ₹44,700 worth of liquor was also seized.

A total of 15,914 banners, posters, boards, flexis, and flags promoting political parties and its leaders were removed in the GHMC limits since November 18, the SEC said.

REAL ESTATE
GROWING STRONG
NOW, SAYS TRED AHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

It is good news for the real estate sector as the Telangana Real Estate Developers Association (TRED A) has stated that, despite the Covid-19 that has adversely impacted the overall economy, the Hyderabad real estate sector has bounced back strongly and is all set to be on the growth path.

R. Chalapathi Rao, president, Telangana Real Estate Developers' Association, said the growth witnessed in the Hyderabad real estate sector was largely due to the policies and reforms that the state government had undertaken over the past few years. He congratulated the government on initiatives like the Dharani portal and the recently launched TS-bPASS, saying these will only advance the developments in the sector, simplifying and benefiting all the stakeholders in the ecosystem.

The two initiatives, Dharani portal and the TS-bPASS, will allow elimination of loopholes and possibilities of any tampering of records, thus facilitating easier construction processes, further boosting the real estate sector.

KESHAVA RAO
FLAYS BJP FOR
COMMENTS ON CMDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Dr K. Keshava Rao, TRS secretary-general and Rajya Sabha member, on Saturday said that party supremo and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao doesn't need a certificate from the BJP to show that he is a true Hindu.

While addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Dr Keshava Rao said that the BJP had no right to question the Chief Minister's belief in Hinduism. He pointed out that the CM had performed several yagnas and tagams. "Yours is political Hindutva. Ours is true Hindutva... Ours is spiritual Hindutva," Dr Keshava Rao said.

He said that the Chief Minister had ensured social justice by allocating 75 per cent of the GHMC seats to Backward Classes, 13 seats to candidates from the Scheduled Castes, three to the Scheduled Tribes and 17 seats to the minorities.

Though 50 per cent reservations were given to women, the Chief Minister had given 85 seats to them and once again proved himself as being women-biased.

"All sections of society have welcomed the way in which the TRS has allocated seats. The TRS provided representation to all the weaker sections like never before. The TRS has given eight seats to the people who have settled here from Andhra Pradesh. Settlers from Tamil Nadu and Maratha were also given tickets," Dr Keshava Rao said.

● **WHILE ADDRESSING** a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Dr Keshava Rao said that the BJP had no right to question the Chief Minister's belief in Hinduism. He pointed out that the CM had performed several yagnas and tagams. "Yours is political Hindutva. Ours is true Hindutva... Ours is spiritual Hindutva," Dr Keshava Rao said.

BJP poll promises funny: KTR

Party giving false hopes that GHMC will pay triple riding challans, says Rama Rao

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday launched the party campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election with a roadshow from Kukatpally.

Addressing the crowds amidst cheers, Rama Rao said that when the TRS government came to power six years back there were a lot of apprehensions and doubts. He recalled that there was uncertainty in some parts of Hyderabad as rumours were spread that the city would witness communal clashes as well as law and order issues if the TRS came to power.

"The TRS government proved them wrong. We focused on addressing people's needs and allayed their apprehensions through strict maintenance of law and order. In the past six years, not even a single incident of



TRS president K.T. Rama Rao launched the TRS campaign for the GHMC election with a roadshow from Kukatpally on Saturday.

violence has taken place in Hyderabad," he said.

Rama Rao criticised the BJP leaders who were making funny poll promises. He stated that the BJP lead-

ers were encouraging triple driving and giving false assurances that the GHMC will pay the challans.

Adding that the same lead-

ers were promising financial assistance of ₹25,000 to flood-affected families, he said, "These are the same leaders who condemned the distribution of ₹10,000 to flood-affected citizens."

Rama Rao said that the TRS government had ensured all-around development of the capital spending by spending ₹67,000 crore over the last six years. He pointed to development works, including Basti Dawakhana, laying of roads, flyovers, bringing in SHE Teams, among others.

He asked BJP leaders what face they would go to the public and ask for votes. "What work have they done for Hyderabad? The Centre has not spent a penny on Hyderabad in six years. Moreover, they are trying to disturb law and order," he said. Questioning BJP leaders, the minister said, "They went to the Bhagyalakshmi temple in the Old City. Are there no

other temples in Hyderabad? They want to create unnecessary disturbances between different sections and that is the reason they went to the Old City."

He said, "Today global companies like Apple, Google, Facebook, and Amazon are investing in Hyderabad because there is peace and harmony. If this is disturbed, no company will come forward and our youth will lose job opportunities."

Rama Rao said that the BJP wants to divide people in the name of religion and create disturbances. "This is not Ahmedabad. This is Hyderabad and the people here are very wise," he said. He sought their support in the upcoming GHMC elections. "We missed a century with one seat in previous elections. But this time we will accomplish it," he said. He appealed to people to elect TRS candidates from Kukatpally.

BJP corporate puppet, TRS
will retain GHMC: NiranjanaDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Agriculture minister S. Niranjana Reddy on Saturday alleged that the BJP government at the Centre had become a puppet in the hands of corporates.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he said on the one hand the Centre had waived ₹2.5 lakh crore loans of certain corporates but on the other was squeezing Central government employees by diverting their pension funds of ₹54,000 crore. He said the people were watching these things and would give a befitting reply to the BJP in

● **NIRANJANA REDDY** charged the BJP with doing injustice to Telangana state since 2014. He pointed out that the BJP government at the Centre had unilaterally merged seven mandals of Telangana state with Andhra Pradesh.

the GHMC elections. The TRS would retain the GHMC with more than 100 seats.

Niranjana Reddy charged the BJP with doing injustice to Telangana state since 2014. He pointed out that the BJP government at the Centre had unilaterally

merged seven mandals of Telangana state with Andhra Pradesh.

The BJP's demonetisation had ruined the lives of middle and lower class families, and the GST had forced small-time businessmen and vendors into financial crisis.

He said the BJP and Congress parties had no right to ask for votes in the city. He ridiculed the Jana Sena statement of not contesting the GHMC elections. He asked if the party had any support in Hyderabad. The Jana Sena does not have a single public representative anywhere in the state, he said.

MAN DUPES GIRLS, MAKES ₹6.61 CR

Hyderabad: The North Zone Task Force on Saturday apprehended one Mudavath Srinu Naik for impersonating an Army officer, and cheating several girls by making marriage proposals. Police said Naik had obtained an Aadhaar card on the name of Srinivas Chowhan, with a fake date of birth and posed as an

Army officer. He procured a fake Army ID card and educational certificates, and purchased Army uniforms, got photographs clicked and posted them on social media. With the help of a marriage bureau, he cheated nearly 17 people with false promises to marry, and collected nearly ₹6,61,02,000.

DALITS STAGE
PROTEST OVER
ASSAULT OF ENGGDC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAM BHEEM
ASIFABAD, NOV. 21

Leaders of various Dalit organisations staged a protest in Asifabad on Saturday.

Led by Keshava Madiga of the MRPS they demanded the arrest of TRS leader and Kagznagar municipal chairman Saddam Hussain for assaulting assistant engineer Satish two days ago.

Satish works in the Kagznagar Municipal Corporation, had opposed the corrupt practices of the chairman. The incident took place on November 18. Satish suffered minor injuries in the assault, expressed threat to his life from the chairman, and went on long leave.

It is alleged, the Kagznagar municipal chairman Saddam Hussain has been mounting pressure on AE Satish to release bills for 'fraudulent' works done by him and his associates in the municipality.

Satish did bow to the pressure that led the assault.

Satish said, "The municipal chairman abused me using filthy language and assaulted me with a plastic chair."

Kagznagar police booked Saddam Hussain under the SC and ST (prevention) of Atrocity Act and investigation is on. Dalit leaders alleged the police are hesitant to arrest the chairman as he is backed by local MLA Koneru Konappa.

● **SATISH WHO** works in the Kagznagar Municipal Corporation, had opposed the corrupt practices of the chairman.



Adilabad BJP MP Soyam Bapurao campaigns for party corporator in the GHMC elections at Asifnagar in Hyderabad on Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Erstwhile Adilabad districts
feel the heat of GHMC pollsPILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, NOV. 21

People of rural and urban areas of erstwhile Adilabad district are feeling the heat of elections being held for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) with "messages" they are receiving on social networking sites regarding different political parties.

GHMC elections are confined not only to Hyderabad but to other districts too, particularly Adilabad. It is a fact that many people staying in rural areas and towns of erstwhile Adilabad districts have their family members and friends, who are voters in Hyderabad. Such people are thus getting into the mood of elections, though they are far-away from the state capital.

This was not so the case in the past. It is only the fast spread of



Asifabad TRS MLA Atram Sakku campaigns in Sanathnagar area in Hyderabad on Saturday.

social media that is now connecting people with "issues" being discussed and debated in the GHMC elections.

Most BJP, Congress and TRS leaders, particularly MPs and MLAs, are proceeding to Hyderabad for campaign on their party's behalf. Particularly BJP leaders, after the party's candidate won the Dabbak bypoll. In that sense, GHMC polls will not only impact future politics in Hyderabad, but also politics in rural areas and towns of districts. There is heavy betting

among youth in villages and towns about the results of GHMC. There are seeing a neck and neck fight between BJP and TRS, like in Dabbak.

Kumaraswamy of Utnoor said, "The entire state is showing interest in what is going to happen in GHMC elections. He said he is seeing many people at hotels and shops discussing the GHMC elections. Latest political developments in Hyderabad are reaching towns and villages in Adilabad district within minutes.

Strict patrolling



Police check vehicles to see if they are carrying cash ahead of GHMC elections at Jamia Osmania in Hyderabad on Saturday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Polling agents make it easy for
MIM, BJP in 50 Old City seatsATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

It will mainly be a three-cornered contest in around 50 municipal wards of the Old City in Hyderabad. Political parties, other than AIMIM, BJP, and TRS, are expected to find the going a little tough in some wards in finding polling agents.

Individuals, who volunteer as polling agents, are typically those well clued with the neighbourhood. Or, they are deputised by parties as polling agents to act as eyes and ears of their respective parties, keeping a close watch at each polling booth and assisting the polling officer in keeping a check on impersonation among voters. They are the ones present at the start of the day and stay on until the ballot boxes are safely taken away to the strong rooms for counting of votes later. With much of the Old City being its pocket borough for decades, All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen is well placed with party workers ready to be deployed as its polling

● **PARTIES THAT** are expected to face problems in finding polling agents are the likes of Congress, Majlis Bachao Tahreek and independents, who do not have much wherewithal in the area. In some cases, when a person accepts to be a polling agent for a party, he or she may alienate others in the community and find himself or herself isolated for some time to come.

agents. So is the case with Bharatiya Janata Party, which has always coveted a win from Old City, not just in municipal polls but Assembly and Parliament elections as well.

Though its leaders have off and on won assembly elections from constituencies in Old City, such as Goshamahal in the last elections, or Karwan in the past, this time around, BJP, which has adopted a resurgent attitude after winning the Dabbak Assembly by-poll, is also well placed with respect to finding polling

agents. TRS, which in the past shared friendly ties with AIMIM, will be contesting from all the 150 GHMC wards this time around. Finding polling agents will not pose many problems for it. But in some wards, there are concerns over how effective its agents will be.

Parties that are expected to face problems in finding polling agents are the likes of Congress, Majlis Bachao Tahreek and independents, who do not have much wherewithal in the area. In some cases, when a person accepts to be a polling agent for a party, he or she may alienate others in the community and find himself or herself isolated for some time to come.

"It is only the AIMIM and the BJP, which will easily find polling agents in the Old City. For everyone else, including TRS, youth, who usually accept these responsibilities, are very wary of being seen as outcasts by others in their neighbourhoods," a leader of a political party said.

Forest dept denies tiger sighting video

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

The Telangana forest department on Saturday dismissed reports published in a section of the media and a video making the rounds on social media of a tiger following a group of people, allegedly in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district, as fake.

In a statement, the department said the video, that shows some people shouting at a tiger and forcing it to retreat, was shot in Anjanwadi forests of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra in October, and not in Asifabad

● **IT MAY** be recalled that people in several villages in Asifabad district, particularly in Dahegaon mandal, have been living in some fear of a tiger after a 22-year-old man, Sidam Vignesh, was killed by a tiger on November 11 when he, along with two youngsters ventured into the forest near Digidig village, where he used to live.

Following the incident, the forest department deployed several teams of tiger trackers, set up four trap cages and has stepped up monitoring the movements of any

Kawal Tiger Reserve said. It may be recalled that people in several villages in Asifabad district, particularly in Dahegaon mandal, have been living in some fear of a tiger after a 22-year-old man, Sidam Vignesh, was killed by a tiger on November 11 when he, along with two youngsters ventured into the forest near Digidig village, where he used to live.

Following the incident, the forest department deployed several teams of tiger trackers, set up four trap cages and has stepped up monitoring the movements of any

large cats in the area. "In Asifabad district alone, 32 teams have been deployed, camera traps have been installed and tiger movements are being constantly tracked and monitored," Vinod Kumar said.

He also urged people not to believe rumours or fake forwards on social media claiming tiger presence in forest or near villages unless otherwise confirmed by the forest department which was taking every possible measure to ensure no conflicts take place between wild animals and humans.

SHORT TAKES

NON-COVID-19 SERVICES RESUME AT GANDHI HOSP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Non-Covid-19 services were resumed at the Gandhi Hospital on Saturday, after an eight month break during which the facility was the designated a centre of excellence for Covid-19 treatment by the state government.

Junior doctors working at the hospital had been agitating for the past few months demanding that the hospital restart all healthcare services as they were missing out on learning and gaining the experience of treating patients with different ailments at the hospital, otherwise known for its super-specialty services.

Gandhi Hospital superintendent Dr M. Raja Rao said 88 non-Covid-19 out-patients were attended to on Friday. He said till 4.30 pm, 15 persons were admitted as in-patients. Of these, eight were in the general medicine department, two each in the orthopaedics and obstetrics and gynaecology departments, and one each in surgery, neurosurgery and gastro departments.

He said that 13 patients were admitted to the Covid-19 wards in the hospital, which have been segregated from the general services wards.

WAKF BOARD REVIEWS STATUS OF LAND DISPUTES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

The Wakf Board reviewed the status of land disputes involving major institutions and discussed with their standing counsels and law officers reconciliation of revenue records related to the Wakf land.

There are more than 1,200 cases over Wakf properties pending in different courts.

Wakf Board Chairman Mohammed Saleem said, "We are contesting the cases and whenever we feel it necessary, we are taking the services of senior and experienced lawyers."

He said that among the major cases involving the Wakf properties are those attached to Dargah Baba Sharfuddin, Dargah Saif Nawaz Jung, Ashoorkhana Ali Saad, Masjid Alamgir and Idgah at Guttala Begumpet and Dargah Maqdoom Biyabani (Alur). The value of these properties is in the hundreds of crores.

ANOTHER CONGRESS LEADER JOINS AIMIM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Khaja Bilal Ahmed, another senior leader of the Old City, deserted the Congress and joined the AIMIM, three days after a prominent leader of the party, Mohammed Ghose, had defected on Thursday.

Bilal, a former corporator, had resigned from the AIMIM in December 2017 and joined the Congress. On Saturday evening he called on AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi along with his followers at the latter's residence in Shastripuram. Owaisi welcomed him and hoped that they would work for strengthening the party.

Considered an intelligent leader, Ahmed's move is another setback for the Congress in the run-up to the civic elections. Another leader of the Congress, Mohammed Ali from Rein Bazaar, also joined the MIM on Friday.

NOMINATIONS OF 68 CANDIDATES GETS REJECTED

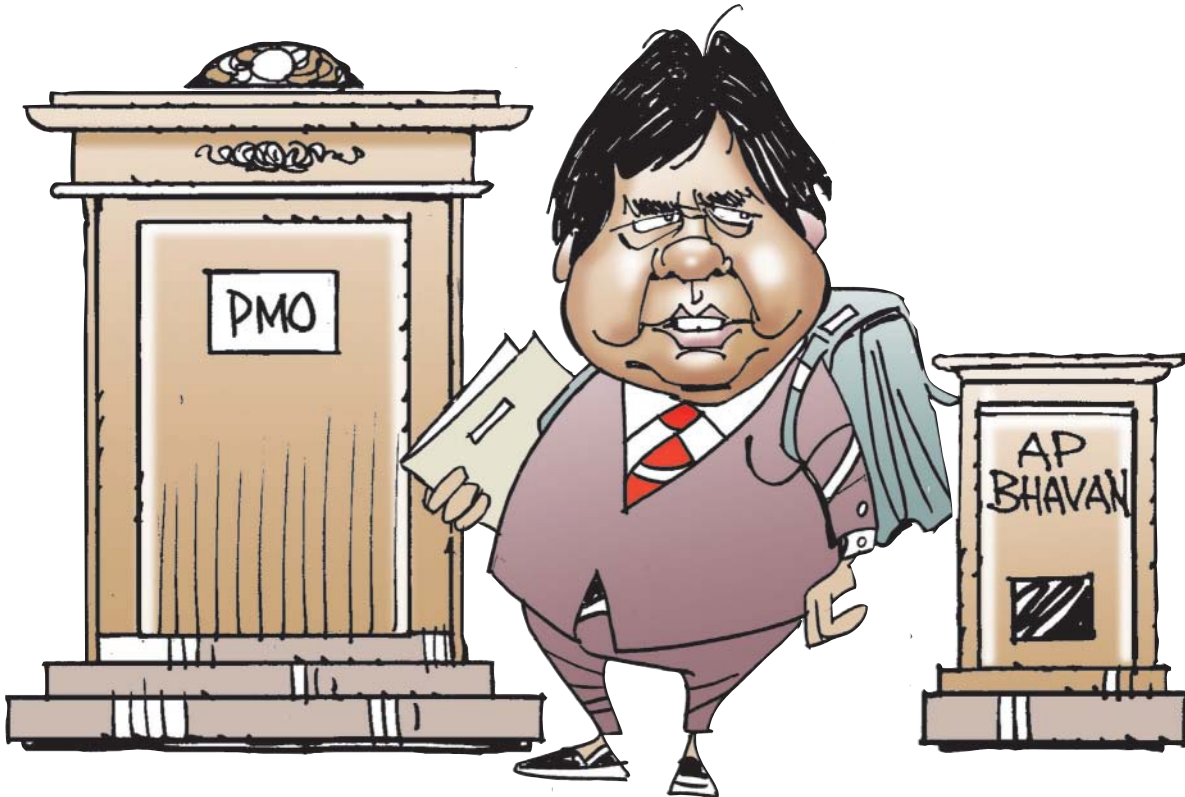
DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Nominations filed by 68 candidates for the December 1 elections to the GHMC Council were rejected on Saturday. This leaves 1,825 candidates in the fray for the 150-seat Council from the 1,893 who filed their nominations.

According to the GHMC, on Saturday, these candidates had filed 90 nominations. After Saturday's scrutiny of nominations, BJP had 539 candidates followed by 527 of the TRS, and 348 of the Congress, 202 from the TD, while the AIMIM had 72 candidates.

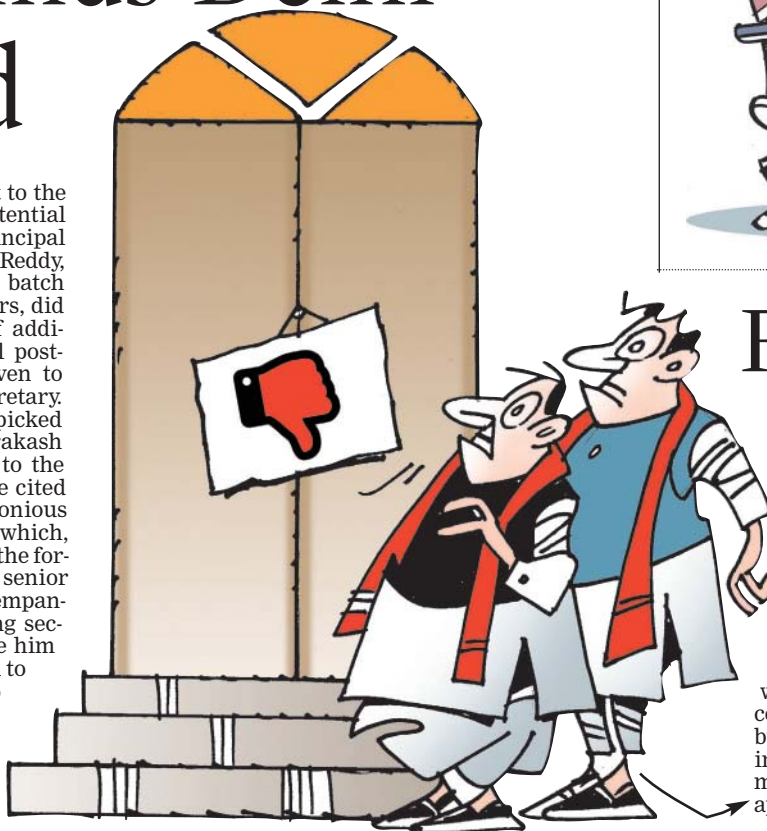
Other recognised and smaller political parties had 143 candidates while independents continued to be the largest chunk with 613 in the fray.

NETA'S NATTER



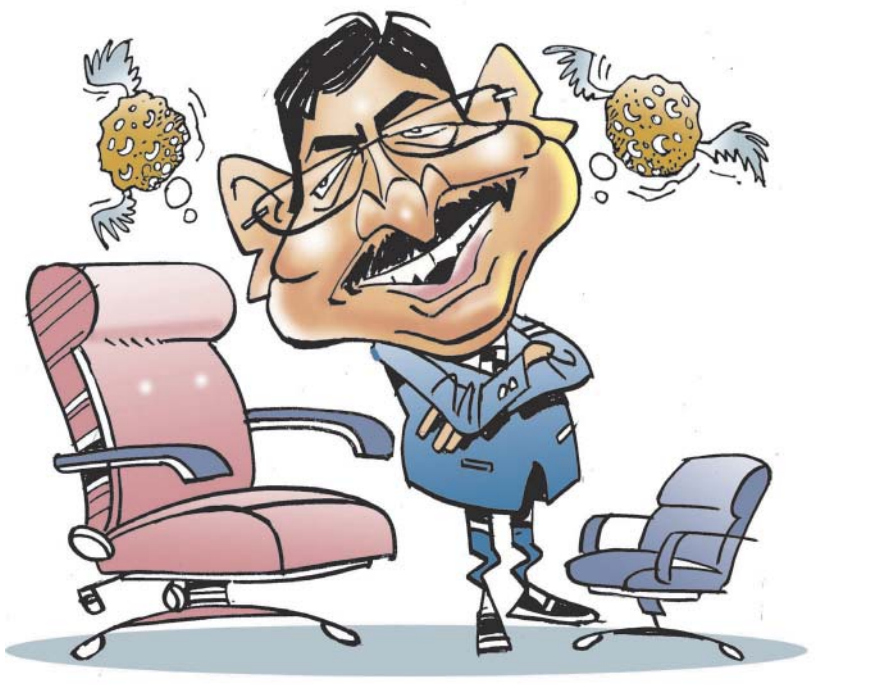
AP officer finds Delhi doors closed

Some of his admirers thought he would make it to the Prime Minister's Office, others saw in him a potential Cabinet Secretary. But Praveen Prakash, principal secretary to AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, found the doors were shut in New Delhi. The 1994 batch officer, to the utter shock of his friends and followers, did not find a place in the Centre's empanelment list of additional secretaries. This is crucial because Central postings for the rank of secretary and above are given to empanelled officers at the level of additional secretary. Only in rare cases are the secretaries at Centre picked directly from the states. There were reports that Prakash had urged the Chief Minister to allow him to go to the Centre once he is empanelled. Different reasons are cited for Prakash missing the bus, including the unceremonious exit of L.V. Subrahmanyam as Chief Secretary which, according to his critics, was triggered by a tiff with the former. Poor Prakash has to try his luck again like his senior Sanjay Jaju who had to apply for review and get empanelled at a later stage. Amidst rumours that a strong section in the ruling party is working overtime to ease him out of the CMO, the powerful babu too is trying hard to retain his position. It will be very difficult for him to work in other posts in the state in case of his exit from the CMO. That will leave him with the lone option of going back as Resident Commissioner, AP Bhavan, an independent post of the state government in New Delhi.



Second time unlucky for former babu

Former bureaucrat Dr P.V. Ramesh, who recently put in his papers as additional chief secretary to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has missed the political bus not once but twice. YSRC leaders say that when all was set for Jagan fielding him from the Tirupati Lok Sabha seat in 2019, Dr Ramesh, who was in a Central post that time, met with an accident and fractured his hand. The YSRC had to import B. Durga Prasad, a TD leader, and field him. Unfortunately, Prasad passed away due to Covid-19 and this necessitated a bypoll. This time too, Dr Ramesh has no chance of becoming the party candidate as his relations with the Chief Minister became so badly strained in the meantime that he had to quit the CMO. His misfortune has brought a stroke of luck to another medical professional, Dr Gurumurthy, a physiotherapist to be precise, who accompanied the Chief Minister during his padayatra and treated him and is all set to be the party's nominee for the bypoll.



Fade out, Jana Sena in GHMC polls

The Jana Sena Party's desperate attempt to tie-up with the BJP for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections appears to have put the BJP state unit chief Bandi Sanjay to some inconvenience. Sanjay, fresh from the Dubbak victory and in the midst of pulls and counter-pulls of the GHMC elections, had to refute a statement from the Jana Sena that the Pawan Kalyan-led party was having talks with the TS BJP leadership for seat-sharing in the local polls. Sanjay made it clear that the BJP had not made any effort to share seats with Jana Sena. Disappointed with the statement, Jana Sena leaders are learnt to have moved the BJP high command at Delhi — after all the two parties are allies in Andhra Pradesh — but to no avail. Even so, despite Sanjay having said that there was no seat-sharing with the Jana Sena, some BJP leaders caused an awkward situation by meeting with the Pawan Kalyan party. The Jana Sena which had suddenly appeared on the scene quite neatly melted away.

Cong man's rejection unfair: MP

Revanth says candidate was approved and then rejected; cops cane Cong protesters

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

The police on Saturday resorted to lathicharge on Congress workers and other leaders in Quthbullapur Assembly constituency.

The incident took place when Congress workers, led by Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy and former MLA K. Srisailem Goud, staged a protest at the office of Gajularamam returning officer against the rejection of nomination of Congress candidate of 125th division. The candidate, Srinivas Goud, is the brother of Srisailem Goud.

Former MLA Manmadha and Congress worker Padma sustained injuries, Padma fell from a van while police took the protesters into custody. She was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital. A few private vehicles and police vehicles were also damaged in the scuffle.

Revanth Reddy alleged that the returning officer (RO), who had declared the nomination valid earlier, rejected the papers succumbing to pressure from the ruling party. The RO did not even allow the lawyer of the candidate to enter the office.

He said that the Congress candidate was detained by the RO after declaring the nomination valid. After learning of the detention of the candidate, a large number of Congress workers reached the office and started a protest.

The Congress MP argued with the police for preventing the lawyer from enter-



State Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy speaks to the police at the Gajularamam returning office, where a Congress candidate's nomination papers were rejected.

ing the office. When the party workers and leaders tried to barge into the GHMC office, the police resorted to lathi-charge.

The police arrested Srinivas Goud and took him to a police station.

Revanth Reddy talking to media persons at the GHMC office alleged that the election authorities shamelessly worked as slaves of the ruling party. He pointed out that if the complaint was received before scrutiny then the RO had power to reject the papers, but detaining the candidate till the complaint reached the office and then rejecting the

papers was illegal.

The Congress MP said that it was an anonymous complaint and leaders of the ruling party had pressurised the election authority as Srinivas Goud's candidature could impact the chances of TRS candidates in the 125th divisions and also the adjoining divisions.

Revanth Reddy said that the passport of the candidate clearly shows that Srinivas Goud had two children without considering the official document, the RO had thrown out the Congress candidate based on an anonymous complaint.

TRS, BJP leaders join Congress

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee working president and Malkajgiri MP A. Revanth Reddy questioned the TRS high command why it had changed sitting corporators for the ensuing GHMC elections. He asked the TRS to explain whether it had turly developed Hyderabad.

On Saturday, Revanth Reddy visited Uppal division and welcomed TRS leaders into the Congress

fold. BJP leaders also joined the party in his presence.

Speaking at the event, the MP asked IT minister K.T. Rama Rao to show the development that had taken place in the city that had cost ₹67,000 crore in six years. He also demanded to know the extent of development in Uppal division.

He recalled his demand about reduction of house tax and current bills of the Covid lockdown period. But the government does not consider the problems of poor people.

Kishan, BJP team meet Swamy Goud

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy, BJP OBC Morcha president Dr K. Laxman and former MLA Chintala Ramchandra Reddy met TRS senior leader Swamy Goud, a former Legislative Council chairman, at Jubilee Hills on Saturday. Swamy Goud has not been attending any TRS activities of late.

Later, Swamy Goud told

the media that it was a friendly visit and there was no political context to the meeting. "If it was anything about politics I will definitely share it with all my media friends," he said.

Recently, at a meeting held to commemorate Sardar Papan Goud, Swamy Goud had praised Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy and had called him a person with a good heart who always thinks about the backward classes people.

Aadhaar, caste optional for Dharani: TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

The state government told the Telangana High Court that mentioning the owner's Aadhaar and caste details was optional when the details of non-agriculture property is being entered on the Dharani portal.

This was stated in an affidavit of Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, filed in response to the High Court asking the government under which law the details were being collected. The court had issued interim directions and stayed the entry of non-agricultural property details.

The Chief Secretary explained that the government was not insisting on property owners to give caste details. Only the community status such SC, ST, BC, OC were being collected as per the Constitutional scheme.

The government said Aadhaar details were being collected for the sake of extending subsidies and government

schemes. The government is providing subsidised water and power supply. Recently, 50 per cent of property, tax waiver was given to property owners, the affidavit said.

The government said the digitalisation of the non-agriculture property details would continue. Having a digital record would be very useful, and the properties could be protected from litigation.

The government said several litigations had piled up over agriculture and non-agriculture properties, and it was making an effort to streamline the transactions and safeguarding the ownership.

Responding to apprehensions over the safety and protection of data which was collected for the Dharani portal, the government said it will be saved in the State Data Centre.

It had taken safety measures against hacking and changing the details.

No third party could get the details of property owners.

TRS plans to give mayor post to MIM, says BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 21

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, continuing his tirade against Chief Minister

K. Chandrashekar Rao, asked what was wrong in the BJP supporting Hindus,

who account for 80 per cent of the population, when the Chief Minister was "instigating" Muslims, who form only 20 per cent.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here on Saturday, Sanjay claimed that the

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) would give the Mayor's post to the MIM, should they win the GHMC elections.

Sanjay said that like Rao and his Cabinet were jittery that the BJP would romp home in the elections that are due on

December 1.

Even TRS surveys showed a BJP win, he claimed. Sanjay said a vote for the TRS will straight-away go to the MIM.

On TRS leaders' criticism of his Bhagyalakshmi temple visit, Sanjay said he was ready to go to

any temple where Chandrashekar Rao was willing to come and swear about the fake letter and forged signature.

Sanjay challenged the Chief Minister to order an enquiry against him, if he has written a letter to State Election

Commission with regard to the flood relief funds.

He stated that there were more than 40,000 Rohingya in Hyderabad and the TRS had colluded with the MIM to add their names to the voters list to ensure their own political survival.

Along with a chargesheet on the failures of the TRS in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Sanjay said he would release the party manifesto on Sunday in the presence of Union minister Prakash Javadekar.

DECCAN Chronicle

22 NOVEMBER 2020



Ranjona Banerji

Off the beaten track

How I tweeted away my pandemic summer

I say this to sound like I have an all-round life, but I mean Twitter. Thanks to Mark Zuckerberg and his strange ideas of how threatening decapitation is not threatening decapitation, my interactions with Facebook have diminished. WhatsApp I have always abhorred because there are only so many “Good Morning” fake cups of coffee and bunches of flowers that you can receive without falling violently ill.

Aha, I hear you thinking, this means you are in favour of “fake news” and are actually a secret WhatsApp addict. You could imagine that but you could also imagine that I ruthlessly block anyone who bores me with endless rightwing rubbish.

It is true that I have another Zuckerberg product or acquisition on my phone and that is Instagram. This I like. I haven’t fully grasped its purpose other than the purpose of all social media which I understand is to sell me as “data”. But I do enjoy the photographs. Especially of endless images of boiled eggs and avocados in such creative and innovative juxtaposition. The human mind is fabulous.

Is that it? There’s the Nasa app for the latest on space exploration, the Chirp app for the latest on gravitational wave detections, the free weather apps which are quite my favourite to waste time on, the Google map app which forces me to find geographical locations mentioned in every book I read. The tennis apps, well their purpose is obvious. If I can’t remember anything else after looking at my phone to check, well, this is it.

I don’t have much to do with the “gig” economy either and not just I live in a remote area where no one really wants to gig by. I am wary of using my phone to pay, transact, bank. And I do like humans and physical shops and such. And I don’t want to chat with my phone service provider on WhatsApp no matter how many annoying messages they send me!

So after this long detour, we reach Twitter. Or do we? Once, angry with Twitter for its Zuckerbergian refusal to stop toxicity and for suspending anti-toxic handles, a few of switched us to Mastodon. This was really sweet for a while. There were only like-minded people on it and you had lovely chats. But boy did it get hellishly boring after a while. There was no information you see, because there were no news sites, no information sites, no sports sites. No nothing, really. Bye-bye it was to Mastodon. I still get plaintive emails telling me what I’m missing, like from an old flame who hasn’t realised it’s over.

Now we reach Twitter. It’s got everything right with it and everything wrong with it. I’m not going to get philosophical and stuff and tell you it’s a microcosm of life blah blah. But it is compelling and it is negotiable. And I spend most of my day on it. Yeah, it sounds pathetic, but do I care?

You want the obvious: you interact with a wide range of people from all over the world. There is no endless procession of smiling cups of coffee. Fake news may proliferate but is easily called out. News itself is widely available with “real time” updates. You can take part in conversations or you can just watch.

Trolls? Yes. There are trolls. They can be putrid, vile, scary. You have to deal with them. For journalists, trolls have long been part of our lives. Earlier, trolls would write postcards and letters. Then they sent emails and wrote comments below your articles and columns. They made more or less the same threats of death and rape. It was just a question of scale and accessibility. There’s no one-size-fits-all answer. I don’t interact; they wither away.

It’s a great escape too from the real world and that’s why it’s an addiction. An ever-widening circle of information, entertainment, interaction, annoyance, humour, joy and so on. People you might never have known existed otherwise. People you never would have met. And yes, I have met some Twitter friends in real life. And sometimes, especially since Covid, have interacted more with real friends on Twitter than in real life!

I get that it’s not for everyone. It can be too political, too in-your-face, too demanding of responses. It can force you to fall into weird rabbit holes. Words, phrases, ideologies you don’t understand. I feel my age on Twitter at all times and have to use online dictionaries to understand what people, young people, say and mean. There are worlds within worlds revealed. If I were a proper psycho-babbler, I would have more insights to offer into human nature and the infinite spirals we can traverse!

I get that some people prefer cat videos and holiday snaps. Either way, we are part of this grand social media exercise. If you’re up for a fight, you know where to find me!

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on media affairs, politics and social trends. She tweets at @ranjona.

Subhani



Get priorities straight in time of a pandemic



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dec 360

The number of Indians infected by Covid-19 has crossed 90 lakhs. Over 1.3 lakhs have died of the virus. The economic distress in the wake of the pandemic is palpable. Millions have seen their earnings drop.

Amid the deaths, disease, debt and despair, guess what some state governments in India are concerned about? They are worrying about who one marries, whether the person is of the same faith or a different one, and if there is any hint of conversions, forced or otherwise.

In the last few weeks, several BJP-ruled state governments have been ratcheting up tension by publicly announcing their plans to bring about legislation to outlaw what they describe as “love jihad”.

Last week, it was the turn of Madhya Pradesh, where night curfew has now been imposed in Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Vidisha, and Ratlam districts from November 21 as Covid-19 cases surge. In the middle of all this, Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra found time to declare that a “love jihad bill”, which intends imposing five years of rigorous imprisonment for “violators”, will soon be introduced in the state Assembly.

Madhya Pradesh is not the only state stoking sentiments around the “love jihad” conspiracy theory, which pivots around the belief that Muslim men in India are part of some organised campaign to convert Hindu women to Islam. Four other BJP-ruled states — including Uttar Pradesh and Haryana — are following

the same playbook.

At an election rally in Jaunpur last month, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath warned of dire consequences to those found guilty of “love jihad”.

Earlier this month, Haryana home minister Anil Vij announced that his state was planning to bring in a strict law to control “love jihad” cases and soon a committee would be constituted to draft the law. The tourism minister of Karnataka, also BJP-ruled, has tweeted that the southern state would bring in a “a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage”. Assam minister and BJP Northeast point-person Himanta Biswa Sarma has joined in the chorus against “love jihad”.

What is behind this rush for laws to outlaw “love jihad” in the time of a pandemic?

It is clearly a rallying cry to mobilise BJP supporters. But that is only part of the story. Think of all the issues and questions that gets pushed off the news cycle each time “love jihad” grabs headlines. Public health experts like Anant Bhan and Hemant Shewade point out that India is far from being on the top of the pandemic and governments at the Centre and in states must focus on addressing the needs of those with Covid-19 and those who have other diseases. There is literally no time to waste.

Why then this noise about “love jihad” when in February this year, G. Kishan Reddy, Union minister of state for home in the Narendra Modi government, said: “The term ‘love jihad’ is not

defined under the extant laws.” He also said: “No such case of ‘love jihad’ has been reported by any of the Central agencies.” Mr Reddy was replying to a question by Congress MP Benny Behanan in Parliament on “whether Central agencies have reported any case of ‘love jihad’ from Kerala during the past two years and if so, the details thereof?”

Mr Reddy also noted that Article 25 of the Constitution provides for the freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. “Various courts, including the Kerala high court, have upheld this view,” he said in a written reply.

It is astonishing that in 2020, an adult woman in India is not seen as capable of making decisions on her own about herself and there are so many who are willing to believe that there is a vast conspiracy leading to young Hindu women being seduced and coerced into marriage by Muslim men under false pretexes. Hadiya Jahan’s case comes instantly to mind. Her family claimed that she was a victim of “love jihad”, despite her saying that that she had converted willingly. The Supreme Court subsequently restored the marriage. A Supreme Court-ordered probe by the National Investigation Agency into 11 cases of inter-faith marriages in Kerala has not found any evidence of forced conversion in any of the cases.

All this high-decibel talk about an imagined ‘love jihad’ and the rush for laws to stop something that does not exist is worse than tilting at windmills — it is helping divert attention from far more pressing issues surrounding the pandemic

In India, there is no law barring couples from different faiths from getting married. Couples, including interfaith ones, can get married under a Special Marriage Act without changing their religion. The law, however, requires the registrar to post a notice about the intended marriage 30 days before the wedding and this has triggered many problematic situations, with families and right-wing groups trying to stir the pot if it the couple are from different faiths.

The All India Lawyers’ Association for Justice, a national lawyers’ collective, has condemned the announcements made by the BJP-ruled states to pass a law against “love jihad”.

In a statement, the association said that it “believes that every person has the right to marry or not, and to select their partners as per their will and desire... Governments, instead of pursuing a communal agenda that penalises those who exercise their constitutional freedoms, must take immediate steps to enact a law that would specifically cover the field of so-called ‘honour’ crimes.”

It is clear that charges of “love jihad” may not stick in court. It is also clear that the “love jihad” bogey is more a marker of the politics of intimidation than anything else. All this high-decibel talk about an imagined “love jihad” and the rush for laws to stop something that does not exist is worse than tilting at windmills — it is helping divert attention from far more pressing issues surrounding the pandemic.

We can neither afford deepening of fissures nor diversions.

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com.

LETTERS

POLICE ACTION

The founding fathers of our Constitution described Article 32 as its soul (SC *fails if it can’t protect fundamental rights of all, DC, Nov. 27*). It is the foremost duty of the SC to protect fundamental rights of citizens and uphold personal liberty and individual freedom and direct all lower courts/law enforcement agencies to follow the dictum. Under the present scenario, can a common man expect fair justice and live without fear of being exploited and live in dignity and peace?

B.K. Mohanty
Hyderabad

CENTRAL JOB TESTS

The Chief Minister’s demand to ensure Central job tests are given in regional languages is not correct (KCR: *Central job tests must be held in state languages, DC, Nov. 21*). Central job aspirants need to have basic knowledge of English, the medium of communication after getting the job. Irrespective of one’s acceptance of Hindi as the national language, job aspirants must know both the languages and the test assessments will be largely fair if a common language is used in question papers.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao
Hyderabad

SERIOUS ISSUES

It is good to hear that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is taking up issues of disinvestment of public sector banks, farmers and also taking along all religions together. It’s high time that we stop talking about religion with every issue.

P.J. David
Hyderabad

RECKLESS PROMISE

Is there any limit for stooping down to create chaos and confuse voters? The offer to waive traffic challans shows a political party’s desperate bid and its irresponsible behaviour towards public safety and discipline. We have so many rash drivers involved in fatal accidents with permanent injuries to victims. Many have lost bread winners in families and are now forced to live in misery.

Abdul Mateen
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Many European nations buying Indian wagons

NEW DELHI, NOV. 22 India has now become the largest supplier of railway wagons to some of the East European countries.

The State Trading Corporation has just concluded an agreement with Yugoslavia for the supply of 3,600 railway wagons costing about ₹38 crore. The first delivery of these wagons is to be effected by the end of 1971.

According to State Trading Corporation sources, these wagons are to be manufactured and delivered by the private sector wagon manufacturing industry in West Bengal.

The wagons to be supplied to Yugoslavia are to be utilised for carrying mineral ores in the country.

STC sources said Yugoslavia had now called for new tenders for supply of 10,000 railway wagons. India was also participating in this bid.

Kurt Jacobsen and Sayyed Hassan Khan

The real social distance in US: Can Joe, Kamala ensure change?

Be jubilant, but keep it short. Donald Trump clings to the White House but it’s a pretty good bet that he will depart, kicking and tweeting, on January 20. He nonetheless garnered 72 million votes, so his long-anticipated exit may not be permanent. The Democratic Party failed to cut into his support because they were loath to say one word that smacked of the visionary aspirations of FDR’s New Deal or LBJ’s Great Society, regarded as hideously leftist by their big donors.

Wall Street injected millions of dollars into Joe Biden’s campaign, and awaits Cabinet appointments and more, which will be duly granted given that some 40 former lobbyists populate his transition team. So we are a long way from Mr Biden posing credibly as a humble man of the people. It was truly bizarre listening to affluent Democrats dismiss Bernie Sanders as not a “real” party member when he and Elizabeth Warren were the only candidates who stuck to the values of traditional FDR Democrats.

After fending off the left-liberal

platforms of Mr Sanders and Ms Warren, complacent Democrat officials are determined to revert to the same state economic policies that bred Mr Trump’s resistible rise to power in the first place. Throughout his lacklustre campaign, Mr Biden avidly played the Covid-19 card of extreme lockdown, pleasing perhaps a third of the populace who can afford a Zoom lifestyle but far less so a hard-pressed majority who plead that the economy (jobs, wages, small business and housing stability) is their foremost worry.

Lockdown proponents like to claim that disobeying their rules means you will murder your granny. They don’t like to hear that lockdowns mean condemning multitudes to poverty, homelessness and early deaths (from untreated illnesses) in order to protect their privileged selves. The anti-Covid measures in the United States simply managed to shift the risks from the upper class to the poor, and is no small part of the reason for the boosted Trump vote. A loss of seats in the House of Representatives and

an inability to gain a Senate majority should alert the Democratic Party lords that something essential is missing in their economic programmes, but all they do is blame the left for their own shortcomings.

Mr Biden’s popularity was only modestly higher than Mr Trump’s. The bulk of Democrats voted for Joe Biden out of distaste for Mr Trump, not enthusiasm for he who has little to offer those outside his high-income social orbit. Mr Biden has a track record any conservative can cherish — servant of the credit card industry in his home state of Delaware, passing a 2005 law stripping people of bankruptcy relief; tormentor of Anita Hill during a 1991 Supreme Court nomination event, installing a judge who became a reliable rubber stamp for reactionary views; pushing a 1994 crime bill that sent the incarceration of minorities skyrocketing; and blithely offering several times, including as Barack Obama’s vice-president, to slash social security and Medicare to make foolish compromises with crafty Republicans.

Mr Biden’s good manners will be a relief, but only for a short spell.

Kamala Harris praised Mr Biden for his “audacity” in choosing her as running mate when nothing was more obvious than the careful political calculations involved in the choice. In mainstream American politics, “identities” of race, creed, ethnicity and gender are allowed to flourish instead of class interests, which are not supposed to exist. One hopes that Ms Harris’ shattering of race and gender barriers puts those symbolic goals behind us, because Barack Obama’s presidency gave black voters who weren’t already prosperous nothing but a vicarious thrill. Canny elites can always pick useful opportunists to do their bidding, on the assumption that all that people crave is to become part of the establishment. Too often, they’re right about that. Ms Harris is a dedicated careerist who played her cards right as a public prosecutor with a merciless approach to the poor, even threatening to jail parents of truant children.

The US isn’t centre-right, but the

people who run it are. An New York Times poll attests two-thirds of US citizens want a wealth tax, national healthcare, free college tuition and a Green New Deal, just for starters. A recent Fox News poll put those figures even higher.

Mr Biden and Ms Harris became Democratic candidates because they are “safe hands” who enable Wall Street, mega corporations, and too-big-to-fail banks to go on bilking average citizens. The top 10 per cent in the US now own 78 per cent of the wealth. At this rate, the top 10 per cent should own everything in another lifetime, but something has to give. The real social distancing that the US has practised since the 1970s is the ever-yawning gap between the wealthy and the rest. Mr Biden is by no means a remedy, unless the social justice movements arising during Trump’s era pressure him ever so reluctantly into the role.

By arrangement with Dawn. The writers are the authors of No Clean Hands and Parables of Permanent War.

SHORT TAKES

FUEL PRICE HIKED FOR SECOND DAY IN A ROW

New Delhi, Nov. 21: Petrol price on Saturday was hiked by 15 paise per litre and diesel by 20 paise, the second straight day of increase in rates after firming international oil rates broke nearly a two-month-long hiatus in price revision.

The price of petrol in Delhi was hiked to ₹81.38 per litre from ₹81.23, according to a notification from oil marketing companies.

Diesel rates went up from ₹70.68 to ₹70.88 per litre.

On Friday, petrol price was raised by 17 paise per litre and diesel by 22 paise.

This is the first revision in petrol prices since September 22. Diesel rates had not changed since October 2.

Public sector oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd - revise rates of petrol and diesel daily based on benchmark international oil price and foreign exchange rate.

They have, however, resorted to calibrating the rates since the pandemic broke out with a view to avoiding volatility in retail prices.

The 58-day hiatus in petrol price revision and the 48-day status quo on diesel rates were preceded by no change in rates between June 30 and August 15 and a 85-day status quo between March 17 and June 6.

In Mumbai, the petrol price on Friday was raised to Rs 88.09 per litre from Rs 87.92, while diesel rates went up from Rs 77.11 to Rs 77.34.

Rates vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT.

COVID CLAIMS OVER 500 LIVES IN 24 HRS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 21

With 46,232 fresh detections, India's overall tally of coronavirus crossed 90.5 lakh on Saturday morning. The death toll so far has been nearly 1.33 lakh out of which 564 fatalities occurred in the last 24 hours.

Delhi, Kerala, Haryana, West Bengal continue to remain areas of concern even as cases have started surging again in Maharashtra over the last two days.

Union Ministry of Health officials said an average of more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily have ensured that the cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory. The cumulative national Positivity Rate stands at 6.93%. The daily positivity rate on Friday was 4.34%.

"Higher volumes of testing eventually lead to low Positivity rate... The daily Positivity Rate is now 4.34% which points out that a comparatively huge volume was tested to detect these cases from the population. With a continuous surge in daily cases in European and the American countries, India is taking all precautionary steps to bring the trajectory of the disease under control. In view of the increase in cases of some of the north Indian States, the Centre has advised all states and UTs to ramp up testing," officials said.

As many as 12 States/UTs have lower tests per million than national average, and have been advised by the central government to substantially ramp up the levels of testing.

BJP FOR LAW AGAINST 'LOVE JIHAD' IN MAHA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 21

On the lines of Yogi Aadiyatan government, which is planning to bring a law against unlawful conversions in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP has demanded a similar act in Maharashtra. The BJP will propose to bring such an act against 'Love Jihad' in Maharashtra, said senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya.

"We support the move of the UP government, which has decided to bring a law against love jihad. There should be a similar law in Maharashtra. The BJP will table a proposal in Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha in this regard," he said.

The BJP leader accused Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray of supporting Congress minister Aslam Shaikh who has ruled out bringing such a law in Maharashtra. Mr Shaikh had said, "The governments which want to hide their inadequacies are bringing in such laws."

NCB arrests Bharati after seizing cannabis from her

Bharati, hubby confirm that they had bought the banned substance

SAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 21

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), on Saturday, arrested comedian Bharati Singh following search and seizure of cannabis, in connection with the ongoing probe into drugs consumption by stars of entertainment industry.

The NCB officials had taken Singh and her husband Harsh Limbachiya for questioning at the agency's office. The officials later confirmed that the seized item was cannabis.

A team of the NCB raided the residence of the comedian at Lokhandwala Complex in Andheri following a specific information of presence of banned substance.

The officials found 86.5 gram cannabis from the residence of the couple. The investigators were probing her after her name cropped up during the course of investigation.

● THE OFFICIALS recently questioned actor Arjun Rampal in connection with the probe and after the NCB arrested his girlfriend Gabriel's brother over his alleged links with the international drug cartels.

"One of the arrested drug peddlers had named her during his interrogation. We are conducting more searches based on the information received from the arrested peddlers," said an official.

The officials said that the accused were questioned about the consumption when they confirmed about having bought the banned substance and also consuming it.

They are being questioned further in connection with the same.

The officials are verifying details of her husband Limbachiya and they would take further



Bharti Singh arrives at the NCB office for questioning after a raid at her residence by the agency in a drug related case in Mumbai on Saturday.

- PTI

decision based on the findings of the probe, officials said.

The officials recently questioned actor Arjun Rampal in connection with the probe and after the NCB arrested his girlfriend Gabriel's brother over his alleged

links with the international drug cartels.

The officials are now probing the links of the peddling of drugs to the entertainment industry, including Bollywood.

The NCB earlier questioned actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha

Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakkul Preet Singh, after the agency found chat exchanges between some of them and manager Karishma Prakash. The larger drug probe started following the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput on June 14.

Bodoland Front ties end, BJP to induct BPF MP

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 21

In what has almost confirmed the break up in alliance between the BJP and Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF), the BJP national parliamentary board has formally approved the joining of BPF MP in the Rajya Sabha, Biswajit Daimary, in the saffron party ahead of the Assam assembly election due in April.

The meeting was held at the official residence of BJP national president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi and was attended by union home minister Amit Shah, chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Assam BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass and cabinet minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Pointing out that parliamentary board has given approval for the induction of the BPF Rajya Sabha MP Mr Sarma said, "In the parliamentary board meeting, our national president JP Nadda gave the approval for Mr Daimary's joining in BJP. This approval was necessary because Mr Daimary is a sitting MP in the Rajya Sabha." Mr Daimary had resigned from the post of working president of BPF recently. Meanwhile, Mr Daimary while announcing his decision to join the BJP told reporters that he has resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat on which he was elected on the symbol of BPF. "I have sent my resignation to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha," said Mr Daimary whose resignation from the BPF has been seen as a major setback for the party.

Earlier, reiterating that the alliance with BPF is over, Mr Sarma clarified that the issue of breaking the alliance with the BPF was not discussed at the parliamentary board meeting. "Why will the BPF issue be discussed in the parliamentary board of BJP? When BJP is going to form the next government in BTC after this election (in December), where is the question of the alliance between the two parties in the 2021 assembly elections? BJP will contest all 12 assembly seats in Bodoland Territorial Region (spread over four districts) on its own. But our alliance with AGP will remain," Mr Sarma asserted.

A day before the parliamentary board meeting, Mr Sarma had announced that their five-year old partnership with BPF will not be renewed on expiry of the term of the present alliance in January, which means that the two allies will not fight the 2021 election as friends but as rivals.

Assam BJP president Ranjeet Dass who was also present in the parliamentary board meeting of BJP in New Delhi said that the party's national leadership was apprised of the situation in the Bodo heartland in the context of the coming council election.

"We have told the party parliamentary board that BPF has lost the trust of people in Bodoland Territorial Region and BJP will win the ensuing council elections on its own." In January, 2016, BJP had forged a pre-poll alliance with the BPF and the AGP riding on which the saffron party formed its first government in the state.

Custodial death issue rocks Odisha Assembly

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 21

Turmoil reigned supreme in Odisha Legislative Assembly on Saturday as the Opposition Congress and BJP strongly condemned custodial deaths of two youths - K. Ramesh of Puri and Tarique Salim of Kuarnamunda police station in Sundergarh district - and sought judicial probe into them.

The transfer of Puri superintendent of police Akhileshwar Singh and suspension of the Kuarnamunda police inspector Suprabha Pradhan and two other sub-inspectors for their alleged role in custodial deaths on Friday night failed to pacify the Opposition lawmakers.

Two youths who were picked up by the police on different criminal charges on Thursday died under mysterious circumstances. Their families

alleged unbearable physical assault by the cops during the custody led to their deaths.

The Opposition lawmakers, while participating in a special debate on law and order situation in the House, repeatedly rushed to the well of the House to press for their demand. Unable to conduct the legislative businesses, the Speaker Dr S.N. Patro adjourned the thrice.

The Speaker also convened an all-party meeting to resolve the impasse. However, no consensus was reached at the all-party meeting as Opposition members remained firm on the demands for lodging criminal cases against the superintendents of Police of Puri and Sundergarh districts and judicial probes into the two custodial deaths in the two districts.

With no solution in sight to end the deadlock, Speaker adjourned the

House till Sunday (Sunday has been included in Odisha Assembly calendar as a working day). "We have very firm on demands to book the Puri SP on murder charge and disciplinary action against Sundergarh SP. Besides, judicial probes must be ordered into the two custodial deaths that happened in the last 48 hours," said the Leader of Opposition.

BJP lawmakers - Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra and Jayant Kumar Sarangi - also came down on the ruling BJD heavily on the custodial deaths.

"It seems that the government under pressure from some non-Odia bureaucrats has unleashed a reign of terror using the police force. Women, children and common people are not safe here," said Mr Mohapatra and Mr Sarangi.

25 tigers die in MP in 11 months, highest in India

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 21

Madhya Pradesh which has the highest number of 526 big cats as per the latest census has earned the dubious distinction of recording deaths of maximum tigers - 25 - in the country in the last 11 months.

According to tiger mortality updates provided by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, MP has witnessed death of 25 tigers, the highest among the states in the country, since January 2020 and majority of tiger mortalities were reported outside the reserve forests in the state.

Incidentally, it was the 6th year in a row that the state has topped the chart of tiger mortality among the states. Forest officers have attributed the high

mortality of tigers in MP to congestions in reserves.

"The state is witnessing an increase in tiger population due to favourable habitats. But, at the same time the growth of tiger population has left less than 10 sq km for each tiger in these reserves", a senior forest officer of the MP government told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"We need to learn from the conservation model of Karnataka where the tiger mortality is much lower", he added.

Karnataka has the second largest population of tigers (524) in the country.

Principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF) of MP government Alok Kumar, however, said the tiger population in the state was increasing.

"Most tigers died of natural causes, while some deaths were a result of human-animal conflicts", he told the media here.

According to him, the Bandavgarh tiger reserve has encountered a severe problem of congestion and witnessed deaths of 9 tigers in the last 11 months.

While 4 tigers in the reserve died in territorial fights, one was killed in poachers and the reasons for the death of 4 others were yet to be ascertained, a senior forest officer said.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

The PCCF has recently written letters to all chief conservators of forest, field directors of tiger reserves, directors of national parks and divisional forest officers seeking urgent measures to strengthen conservation, protection and safety of wildlife.

Par panel: Pvt hosps charged exorbitant fees for Covid-19

New Delhi, Nov. 21: Amid rising Covid-19 cases, inadequate beds in government hospitals and absence of specific guidelines for Covid treatment resulted in private hospitals charging exorbitant fees, a parliamentary panel on Saturday said, asserting that a sustainable pricing model could have averted many deaths.

Chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on health Ram Gopal Yadav submitted the report on 'Outbreak of Pandemic Covid-19 and its Management', to Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu.

This is the first report by any parliamentary committee on the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Underlining that healthcare spending in the country with a population of 1.3 billion is "abysmally low", the panel said fragility of Indian health ecosystem posed a big hurdle in generating an effective response against the pandemic.

"The committee, therefore, strongly recommends the government to increase its investments in the public healthcare system and make consistent efforts to achieve the National Health Policy targets of expenditure up to 2.5 per cent of GDP within two years as the set time frame of year 2025 is far away and the public health cannot be jeopardised till that time schedule," the report stated.

The National Health Policy 2017 has set a target of government expenditure on healthcare up to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025 from just 1.15 per cent in 2017.

Stating that the public had to undergo trauma and distress

due to absence of a dedicated healthcare system, the committee observed that the number of government hospital beds in the country were not adequate to handle the increasing number of Covid and non-Covid patients.

"... Cost of health service delivery increased due to absence of specific guidelines for Covid treatment in private hospitals as a result of which patients were charged exorbitant fees," the committee noted in the report.

Stressing on the need for better partnership between the government and private hospitals in wake of the pandemic and shortage of state-run healthcare facilities, the report said, "The Committee is of the view that arriving at a sustainable pricing model to treat Covid patients could have averted many deaths."

The committee believes healthcare should never be limited to only those who can afford to pay but should move towards the noble vision of universal health coverage. For this happen, the government needs to be considerate and support the private health care sector, the report said.

The committee was all praise for healthcare workers and doctors for being on frontline in handling of the deadly virus and said they should have defined working hours, predictably functioning reliever rosters and scheduled off-duty days.

The doctors, who have laid down their lives in fight against the pandemic, must be acknowledged as martyrs and their families be adequately compensated, it suggested in the report.

- PTI

AGRA DOC KILLED INSIDE HOME, KIDS INJURED; 1 HELD

Agra, Nov. 21: A 38-year-old dentist was allegedly strangled to death here on Friday while the perpetrator was arrested within five hours of committing the crime, police said on Saturday.

The victim, Nisha Singhal's eight-year-old daughter and four-year-old son too were injured after being attacked with a knife by the accused identified as Shubham Pathak, they said.

Pathak, who had robbed Singhal's house, was caught following an encounter at Kalindi Vihar area. He was shot in the leg, a police officer said, adding that the stolen cash and jewellery was seized from him.

According to police, Pathak gained entry into Singhal's house in Kaveri Kunj Colony in Kamanagar on the pretext of recharging a TV set top box.

He was identified after the police analysed footage retrieved from a CCTV camera installed in front of the house.

- PTI

ACCIDENTAL FIRING KILLS 1 IN SP MLC'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

Lucknow, Nov. 21: A 35-year-old man died of gunshot injuries suffered in an accidental firing amid the playful scuffle among friends for a pistol during a birthday celebration at the official residence of Samajwadi Party MLC Amit Yadav, police said on Saturday.

Following the death of Barabanki native Rakesh Rawat, four men have been arrested for their alleged roles in the accidental killing, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Somen Barma.

The incident occurred on Friday night at MLC's official residence in Lucknow's Hazratganj police station area where the five people had gathered to celebrate the birthday of one Vinay Yadav.

The four arrested men have been identified as Vinay Yadav, Gyanendra Kumar, Aaftab and Pankaj Yadav.

The four were arrested on the complaint of deceased's father Mani Ram, who told police that he suspected foul play in his son's death and named the four behind the killing.

- PTI

Amit Shah walks on Chennai road to greet supporters

Chennai, Nov. 21: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sprang a surprise here when he virtually broke protocol to get out of his vehicle and walk on the busy GST Road outside the airport to greet supporters, minutes after he landed here for a two-day visit of the city.

Shah, who thanked the metropolis for its love, said it was "great" to be in Tamil Nadu.

Shah is slated to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 67,000 crore, including phase II of Chennai Metro Rail.

Soon after his arrival from Delhi, Shah was received by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami, his deputy O. Panneerselvam, senior cabinet members and BJP State President L. Murugan among others, before proceeding to the city hotel where he will be put up.

However, after exiting the airport, Shah's car suddenly stopped and the BJP veteran got out, before walking a short distance, waving at scores of BJP and AIADMK workers

who had gathered to receive him with their respective party flags.

Accompanied by BJP National General Secretary and party in-charge of poll-bound Tamil Nadu, C.T. Ravi, and Murugan, with his security detail in tow, the Home Minister warmly waved at the overjoyed supporters who had thronged the airport since the morning.

A heavy security cover has been provided in the city following Shah's visit, during which he will meet state BJP functionaries and possibly discuss Tamil Nadu elections, due next April-May, before leaving on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, Shah took to Twitter to thank the city for its love and support.

"It is always great to be in Tamil Nadu. Thank you Chennai for this love and support," he said in a tweet accompanying a video clip of his walk on GST Road.

Shah had earlier been here in August 2019 to release a book on Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office then.

- PTI

IN BRIEF RESIGN WITH ME, GUATEMALA VP URGES PREZ

Guatemala City, Nov. 21: Guatemala's vice president told President Alejandro Giammattei that both men should resign their positions "for the good of the country" following the approval of a budget cutting educational and health spending that caused a public outcry. "We both resign," Vice President Guillermo Castillo said he told Giammattei Friday. He had suggested vetoing the approved budget, firing government officials and attempt more outreach to various sectors around the country. Giammattei had not responded publicly and Castillo did not share the president's reaction to his proposal. Castillo said he would not resign alone. Discontent had been building over the new 2021 budget on social media and then generated clashes with police Friday in front of the congress.

JAN MORRIS, AUTHOR, PASSES AWAY AT 94

New York, Nov. 21: Jan Morris, the celebrated journalist, historian, world traveller and fiction writer who in middle age became a pioneer of the transgender movement, has died at 94.

Morris died in Wales on Friday morning, according to her literary representative, United Agents. Her agent Sophie Scard confirmed her death. Morris had been in failing health. Additional details were not immediately available. The British author lived as James Morris until the early 1970s, when she underwent surgery at a clinic in Casablanca and renamed herself Jan Morris.

Her best-selling memoir "Conundrum," which came out in 1974, continued the path of such earlier works as Christine Jorgensen's "A Personal Autobiography" in presenting her decision as natural and liberating. "I no longer feel isolated and unreal," she wrote.

Daily US virus deaths highest since May

Country now averaging over 1,300 Covid deaths per day, daily infections at a record high of 188,000

Washington, Nov. 21: The surging Coronavirus is taking an increasingly dire toll across the US just as a vaccine appears at hand, with the country now averaging over 1,300 Covid-19 deaths per day — the highest since the calamitous spring in and around New York City.

The overall death toll has reached about 253,000, by far the highest in the world. Total confirmed infections have eclipsed more than 11.7 million, after the biggest one-day gain on record Thursday — almost 188,000. And the number of people in the hospital with Covid-19 hit another all-time high at more than 80,000.

With health experts deeply afraid Thanksgiving travel and holiday gatherings next week will fuel the spread of the virus, many states and cities are imposing near-lockdowns or other restrictions. California ordered a 10 pm to 5 am curfew starting Saturday, covering 94% of the state's 40 million residents.

The Texas border county of El Paso, where more than 300 people have died from Covid-19 since October, is advertising jobs for morgue workers capable of lifting bodies weighing 175 pounds or more. Officials are offering more

DON ELDEST SON DONALD TRUMP JR. TESTS +VE

Washington, Nov. 21: Donald Trump Jr, the eldest son of US President Donald Trump, has tested positive for Covid-19, his spokesperson said, latest in the First Family to have been infected by the deadly virus. Trump Jr tested positive at the start of the week and has been "quarantining out at his cabin since the result," the spokesman said on Friday. "He has been asymptomatic so far and is following all guidelines," the spokesman added.

than \$27 an hour for work described as not only physically arduous but "emotionally taxing as well." The county had already begun paying jail inmates \$2 an hour to help move corpses and has ordered at least 10 refrigerated trucks as morgues run out of room. Covid-19 deaths in the US are at their highest level since late May, when the Northeast was emerging from the first wave of the crisis. They peaked at about 2,200 a day in late

Russia Covid-19 toll hits new high

Moscow, Nov. 21: Russia on Saturday registered record numbers for daily infections and deaths from the Coronavirus, two days after having passed two million cases.

Health officials reported 24,822 new infections and 476 deaths, bringing the national total to 2,064,748 million cases and 35,778 fatalities since the beginning of the year.

While those figures suggest a lower death rate

than elsewhere in the world, they need to be treated with caution. The official Russian death toll only includes those in which Covid has been established as the primary cause of death after an autopsy.

Data published by Russia's federal statistics service earlier this month indicated excess deaths of more than 117,000 year-on-year between March and September, suggesting that virus fatalities could

be much higher. Most of the new cases announced Saturday were recorded in Moscow (7,168) and in the country's second city, Saint Petersburg (2,476), with other regions recording figures in the tens or hundreds.

"We are getting a lot of calls at the moment," Dmitri, a Saint Petersburg ambulance driver, told AFP. "The number of sick people is growing." The medical team he worked

with collecting samples to identify cases visited around 20 addresses every day, he said.

"People are scared, and they are calling for a doctor as soon as they get a little cough," said Lyudmila, one of the two nurses on the team.

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin described the surge in infections and deaths as "alarming".

— AFP

PORTUGAL EXTENDS VIRUS EMERGENCY

Lisbon, Nov 21: Portugal on Friday extended until December 8 the state of emergency it imposed to bring down the Coronavirus infection rate as the second wave of the disease spreads.

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa announced he had signed the decree extending the emergency measures which had been due to lapse on Monday, warning that a further extension remains a possibility.

"The state of emergency will last as long as is necessary to fight against the pandemic," he said in a televised address.

While the second wave of the virus should reach its peak in late November or early December, a third wave will "probably" follow early next year, the president added. More than 80 percent of Portugal's population has been under partial lockdown.

The announcement came after the socialist government held an emergency cabinet meeting to decide on the virus restrictions.

— AFP

Warangal doc finds possible cure for Covid-19 issues

Washington, Nov. 21: An Indian-American scientist has discovered a potential strategy to prevent life-threatening inflammation, lung damage and organ failure in patients diagnosed with Covid-19.

Published online in the journal Cell, the research coming from the lab of Dr Thirumala-Devi Kanneganti, an Indian-born researcher working at St. Jude Children's Research Hospi-

tal in Tennessee, identified the drugs after finding that the hyperinflammatory immune response associated with virus leads to tissue damage and multi-organ failure in mice by triggering inflammatory cell death pathways.

The researchers detailed how the inflammatory cell death signaling pathway worked, which led to potential therapies to disrupt the process. "Understan-

ding the pathways and mechanism driving this inflammation is critical to develop effective treatment strategies," said Kanneganti, vice chair of the St Jude Department of Immunology. Kanneganti was born and raised in Telangana. She received her undergraduate degree at Kakatiya University in Warangal, where she majored in Chemistry, Zoology, and Botany.

— PTI

Eight killed as mortar shells strike Kabul

Kabul, Nov. 21: About 23 mortar shells slammed into different parts of the Afghan capital on Saturday, killing at least eight people and wounding 31 others, an official said. The shells were fired from two cars, Interior Ministry spokesperson Tariq Arian said.

No one took immediate

responsibility for the early morning attack that also targeted the posh Wazir Akbar Khan area of Kabul, which houses diplomatic missions. The Taliban issued a quick statement denying any responsibility for the attack. The Islamic State group affiliate also operates in the area and has

claimed responsibility for recent assaults in Kabul including two devastating attacks on educational institutions that killed more than 50 people, many of them students.

As well as insurgent groups, there are several heavily armed warlords with militias living in Kabul with long-standing

animosities against each other. The mortar barrage comes as representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban continued to hold talks in Qatar, though progress has been slow. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to press for a reduction in violence in his meetings

with both Taliban and government negotiating teams later Saturday during a daylong stop in Doha.

The Taliban have mostly ignored such previous requests. Hours before the attack rattled Kabul, a bomb attached to a car killed one security personnel and wounded three in the capital.

— AP

TIBETAN LEADER IN WH: 1ST IN 60 YRS

Washington, Nov. 21: The head of the Tibetan government in exile has visited the White House for the first time in six decades and met the newly appointed senior US official on Tibetan issues, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) said on Saturday, a development that could enrage Beijing, which has accused the US of trying to interfere in China's internal affairs. Dr

Lobsang Sangay entered the White House on Friday — a historic feat. This is the first time in the last 6 decades the head of the CTA has been invited into the White House, the CTA said in a statement. "It is a great honour to be the first political head of the CTA to formally enter the White House," Sangay said in a tweet.

— PTI

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

A special hundred for Chandorkar

New Delhi: Former first class cricketer Raghunath Chandorkar on Saturday turned hundred years old, becoming only the third Indian cricketer to complete a century of birthdays.

Chandorkar played seven first class games, representing Maharashtra (1943-1944 to 1946-1947) and Bombay (1950-1951).

The wicket-keeper batsman has scored 155 runs in seven games. He also effected three catches and two stumpings.

Prof. DB Deodhar (1892-1993) and Vasant Raiji (1920-2020) are the only other Indian cricketers to celebrate 100 birthdays. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

Big Bash League: Melbourne Stars vs Sydney Sixers from 8.15 am on Sony Six, HD

TENNIS

ATP Finals: Final from 11.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: FC Goa vs Bengaluru FC from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

English Premier League: Fulham vs Everton from 5.30 pm; Sheffield United vs West Ham from 7.30 pm; Leeds United vs Arsenal from 10 pm; Liverpool vs Leicester City from 12.45 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Italian league: Fiorentina vs Benevento at 5 pm on Sony Ten 2; Roma vs Parma from 7.30 pm on Sony Six; Inter Milan vs Torino from 7.30 pm; Udinese vs Genoa from 10.30 pm; Napoli vs AC Milan from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2

UFC

Fight Night: Figueiredo vs Perez and other bouts from 8.30 am on Sony Ten 1, HD

WWE

Survivor Series: Kick-off show followed by bouts from 4.30 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by **K.Sudhakar** on behalf of **Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited** at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhuthkur Road, Muggumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State **Regd. No. H/SD-2/2K** RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121181123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: **Kaushik Mitter**

Chelsea's new castle

Blues take top spot for first time in over two years

Newcastle (United Kingdom), Nov. 22: Frank Lampard warned Chelsea to stay humble after they climbed to the top of the Premier League for the first time in more than two years with a convincing 2-0 win at Newcastle on Saturday.

Lampard's side moved above Leicester on goal difference thanks to Federico Fernandez's first half own goal and Tammy Abraham's strike after the interval.

Chelsea are unbeaten in nine games in all competitions and haven't lost in their last six league matches.

Chelsea's third successive league victory was the perfect way to start a hectic period leading up to Christmas.

Chelsea's weary stars shrugged off their fatigue to make a strong start as Timo Werner raced onto a through ball for a low strike that Karl Darlow pushed away for a corner.

Darlow was at full stretch again when Abraham met Hakim Ziyech's cross with a powerful header that the Newcastle keeper tipped over.

The Blues' pressure was rewarded in the 10th minute when a short corner caught Newcastle flat-footed.

Mason Mount whipped in a low cross and Fernandez turned it into his own net under pressure from Chilwell at the far post. The fifth Premier League own goal of the hapless Fernandez's career didn't sate Chelsea's appetite.

With Lampard's men monopolising possession, Werner should have doubled their lead from Mount's pass, but the German forward scuffed his shot wide from 10 yards.

Chelsea put the result beyond doubt in the 65th minute when Werner accelerated away from the Newcastle defence and slipped a pass to Abraham, who guided his shot past Darlow and in off the post.

— AFP



Tammy Abraham (left) of Chelsea scores his side's second goal against Newcastle during their English Premier League football match at the St. James' Park in Newcastle, England, on Saturday. Chelsea won 2-0.

— AP

Northeast topple Mumbai

Vasco, Nov. 21: Kwesi Appiah scored from the spot as NorthEast United FC began their Indian Super League campaign with a 1-0 win over Mumbai City FC here on Saturday.

A red card and a penalty turned a game, that Mumbai were otherwise dominating, on its head and handed NorthEast United FC a winning start at the Tilak Maidan.

Appiah (49') scored the only goal from a penalty after the Islanders were reduced to 10-men following Ahmed Jahouh's red card just before the

breath.

Predictably, it was Mumbai who dominated the first half. The Islanders were neat and proactive for long spells, though they were unable to find a cutting edge.

They did hold the lion's share of the possession that occasionally resulted in hopeful efforts. In the 12th minute, Adam le Fondre's cross from the right wing found striker Bartholomew Ogbeche. The resulting effort though was intercepted by NorthEast defender Ashutosh Mehta.

In the next few minutes, an Ogbeche header went over the bar while Jahouh took two attempts from distance. A clear-cut

chance though was still eluding Lobera's men.

Then, the match took an unexpected turn as Jahouh, who was dictating things from midfield, was sent off with a straight red, a couple of minutes before half time. His offence was a studs-up challenge on NorthEast's Khassa Camara.

Gerard Nus' men capitalised on their numerical advantage soon after the restart. The Highlanders were awarded a penalty in the 49th minute and then NorthEast took control over the game with Khumanthem Meetei and Appiah making regular inroads.

— PTI

MONACO MUM LEADER PSG

Paris, Nov. 21: Kylian Mbappe's two goals against his former club were not enough as French league leader Paris Saint-Germain wasted a 2-0 lead and lost at Monaco 3-2.

Mbappe's first-half brace took him to 99 goals for PSG since joining from Monaco three years ago in a deal worth a staggering 180 million euros.

But lively German forward Kevin Volland netted twice after the break, and was fouled by center half Abdou Diallo for a penalty converted by Cesc Fabregas in the 83rd minute.

— AP

Siraj stays in Oz post Dad's demise

Kolkata, Nov. 21: BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday said that pacer Mohammed Siraj, who has lost his father, was given the option of flying back home to be with his grieving family but he decided to stay back in Australia for "national duty".

Ghouse, who was suffering from a lung ailment, died on Friday. He was 53. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had a discussion with Siraj and he was offered the option of flying back and be with his family in this hour of grief," Shah was quoted as saying in a BCCI media release.

"The fast bowler has decided to stay with the Indian contingent and continue performing his national duties. The BCCI shares his grief and will be supportive of Siraj in this extremely challenging phase," Shah added.

Board president Sourav Ganguly took to Twitter to laud the Hyderabad pacer for his resilience and mental fortitude in this hour of tragedy.

"May Mohammed siraj have a lot of strength to overcome this loss. Lots of

● **Board president Sourav Ganguly took to twitter to laud the Hyderabad pacer for his resilience and mental fortitude in this hour of tragedy.**

good wishes for his success in this trip... tremendous character," Ganguly tweeted.

Ghouse, who was an auto rickshaw driver, was the biggest influence in Siraj's life, as he encouraged him to take up cricket as a career and took care of all his needs despite limited means.

Siraj first came into limelight with 41 wickets for Hyderabad in Ranji Trophy, followed by a record Rs 2.6 crore IPL deal from Sunrisers Hyderabad as an uncapped player.

He has only been picked the four-match Test series in Australia. If Siraj had chosen to fly back to India, he would have had to do another 14-day quarantine here in Australian under the local government rules on his arrival.

— PTI

Thiem edges past Djokovic in semis

London, Nov. 21: Dominic Thiem recovered from squandering four match points in a dramatic second-set tie-break to beat Novak Djokovic in three pulsating sets in the last four at the ATP Finals on Saturday.

The Austrian third seed's 7-5, 6-7 (10/12), 7-6 (7/5) win ended Djokovic's hopes of equalling Roger Federer's record of six titles at the elite eight-man event.

The US Open champion will face either Rafael Nadal or Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final as he chases the second-biggest title of his career.

The 2019 runner-up, who forced the only break in the first set, faced an uphill battle psychologically after

his missed chances in the second-set tie-break.

But he was quickly back in the groove and held his nerve to rally from 4-0 down in the final-set tie-break, winning six successive points to earn two match points and taking the second of those.

"It was for sure a mental battle. I got so tight in the second-set tie-break, first of all because to play these legends is always going to be something special," said Thiem.

Thiem took time to settle at the start of the match, hitting a number of unforced errors, but found his rhythm and his single-handed backhand became an important weapon as the match wore on.

— AFP