

CAPITAL ISSUE ORDER ISSUED TO CHANGE LEVYING OF PROPERTY TAX

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The state government has issued an order to change the system of levying of property tax based on the existing system of Annual Rental Value to Capital Value.

The department of municipal administration and urban development issued GO Ms No. 198 here on Tuesday to issue the 'Rules for Levy and Assessment of Property Tax' in supersession of the earlier rules issued in GO MS No. 438 dated 29-10-1990 and GO Ms No. 439 dated 29-10-1990 applicable to all urban local bodies.

APUCF OPPOSES TAXES HIKE PROPOSAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The AP Urban Citizen Forum (APUCF) demanded that the AP government cancel the proposed hike of property, water, drainage and other taxes which would put huge extra financial burden on people who were already disturbed due to the Corona crisis.

APUCF convener Ch. Babu Rao said that the state government approved the ordinance proposed to increase taxes on people.

He said that the government decided to collect ₹10,000 crore through property tax against the normal of ₹1,270 crore hence decided to increase property tax hugely to collect ₹10,000 crore.

Babu Rao said that there was no possibility to collect user charges for garbage collection but the government changed norms and all set to start user charges collection and further decided to collect user charges for underground drainage connections.

He said that the neighbouring Telangana state government reduced property and water taxes but sadly the Andhra Pradesh government was targeting to put more financial burdens on people through tax increases.

He demanded cancellation of the tax hike proposal with immediate effect and warned about starting protests if the government stood adamant about the tax increases.

HC HEARS PETITIONS ON CAPITAL CITY AMARAVATI

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The AP High Court held a hearing on a batch of petitions on capital city Amaravati lands here on Tuesday.

Representing the affected farmers from Amaravati region, Supreme Court senior advocate Nidhesh Gupta informed the court that the state government was bound to honour the agreements it had with the farmers who offered their lands under Land Pooling Scheme for developing capital city Amaravati. He stated that the agreements between the state government and the farmers were held based on the CRDA Act and added that as per the provisions of the Act, the farmers were assured to allot plots.

The senior advocate referring to the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, he said that 'A' capital for the new state of Andhra Pradesh meant only a single capital.

PETITION FILED IN HC SEEKING CBI PROBE ON MASS SUICIDES

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

A petition was filed in AP High Court seeking CBI probe here on Tuesday, on death of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam along with three of his family members by committing suicide in pact, unable to bear police harassment at Nandyal in Kurnool district recently.

Indian Union Muslim League Andhra Pradesh general-secretary Kajavali filed a PIL in the AP High Court asking it to hand over the mass suicide case of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam to the CBI for taking up proper inquiry. He said in his petition that as the police personnel were accused in the case, it would not help to find out the facts in the case if the police were involved to take up the inquiry.

Petitioner's counsel Sravan Kumar sought the High Court to hand over the case to the CBI for taking up a through probe in the case.



President Ram Nath Kovind is welcomed by Governor B.B. Harichandan and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Renigunta Airport on Tuesday.

Prez offers prayers at Tirumala, Tiruchanoor

Vedic pundits rendered Vedasirvachanam on the President

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

President Ram Nath Kovind offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi Devi at Tirumala and Tiruchanoor temples during his one-day pilgrimage to Tirupati on Tuesday.

Earlier, the first citizen of the country along with his entourage had reached the Renigunta airport in a special Indian Air Force flight. AP Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and a host of elected representatives and officials received the President at the Renigunta airport.

After a brief interaction, the President along with

● The first citizen of the country along with his entourage had reached the Renigunta airport near Tirupati in a special Indian Air Force flight.

● The President and his family members have offered prayers at Sri Bhuv-Varaha Swamy temple, following the customary practice of having darshan of presiding deity here.

his family members reached the Tiruchanoor temple, where he offered prayers to Goddess Padmavathi Devi and then reached Sri Padmavathi guesthouse at Tirumala by road.

After a brief stay here, the President and his family members have offered prayers at Sri Bhuv-Varaha Swamy temple, following the customary practice of having darshan of presiding

members offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara for a brief while and the temple priests explained the historical significance of the hill shrine. Later, Vedic pundits rendered Vedasirvachanam on the President and TTD chairman and executive officer offered the temple's prasadam and a picture of Lord Venkateswara.

The TTD chairman also presented a sketch of the first citizen of India and his wife drawn by an artist from Vizianagaram, to the President.

The President was later given a send-off at the Renigunta airport by the elected representatives, officials of the state government and the TTD on Tuesday evening.

Naidu calls upon all sections to wage battle against YSRC govt

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu called upon all sections of people who are allegedly being victimised by the YSRC government to rally together and wage a relentless battle against the ruling party's atrocities and oppression. He alleged that Meuzzin Hanif attempted suicide due to the harassment by the YSRC leaders which Naidu says is showing the continuation of atrocities against the minorities.

Addressing a meeting with the party mandal committee leaders from across the state, Naidu claimed that the ruling party leaders were afraid of being routed in the polls if they were to be held immediately as they fear that the victimised sections of the society would become united and defeat their candidates. He alleged that this Chief Minister would not discourage atrocities but he would encourage miscreants and their atrocities.

Mr. Naidu asked what wrong Abdul Salaam family did that they were terrified to the extent of committing joint suicide. He lamented that just for questioning soil digging in Muslims' graveyard, Meuzzin Hanif was

GOVT FAILED TO ENHANCE PENSIONS: TD

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

Telugu Desam's Nellore district general-secretary Ch. Venkateswara Reddy alleged that the ruling YSRC, which assured to enhance pensions at the rate of ₹250 annually to the disabled, widowed and senior citizens, has failed to keep up its promise.

Speaking to reporters at Kovur on Tuesday, he said the TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu enhanced the pensions 10 times, while the ruling YSRC had till date enhanced

● Naidu claimed that the houses constructed during the previous TD regime were a right of the poor beneficiaries and the YSRC had no right to snatch away these houses from these poor families.

harassed and forced to attempt suicide. He asked if it was a crime to oppose illegal soil digging?

Naidu claimed that the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime was scared of facing a backlash from the BC, SC, ST and Muslim

only 10 per cent. He alleged that the YSRC had assured ₹3,000 of pension to eligible beneficiaries if they come to power but they have failed to keep up their promise.

He noted that women from the SC/ST/BC communities, who crossed 45 years of age are still waiting for Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who assured pensions to them, but did not realise it. He said that the state government, as per its promise, had to enhance the pension by ₹250 from July, but there has been no such increment till now.

minorities which was they were creating hurdles for the local body elections.

He stressed the need for a united effort by all the affected sections to give a tough fight against the oppressive regime. He stated that the responsibility to save AP would now rest upon the shoulders of each and every citizen of the state.

Naidu claimed that the houses constructed during the previous TD regime were a right of the poor beneficiaries and the YSRC had no right to snatch away these houses from these poor families.

FAILED | PROJECT

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIIC) to take back the 840.76 acres government land allotted to M/s Kintea Power Limited located in Thammirapatnam and Momidi villages of Chilla-kur mandal in Nellore district as the state government issued permission to cancel land allotment and resume the land.

The department of industries and commerce (infra) issued GO MS No. 84 dated 24-11-2020 stating that orders were issued for alienation for 1,847.98

Company failed to implement power project at Krishnapatnam within the time-frame

APIIC gets nod to recover 840.76 acres from Kintea

● After noticing violation of certain terms and conditions of Agreement for Sale, the government ordered the APIIC to conduct an inquiry and accordingly, the government observed that the Agreement of Sale executed between the APIIC and M/s KPPL was not having provisions for transfer of allotment of land before or during implementation of the project.

ment of sale is two years and any extension of time is subject to levying of penalty at the rate of 10 per cent on the land cost at the prevailing rate and no extension of time for more than two hours to be entertained.

However, the company failed to implement the project within the time-

Interior Rayalaseema districts predicted to receive 20 cm rain

From Page 1

Parts of Kurnool, Kadapa and Anantapur districts are expected to receive 10 to 20 cms of rain.

Kurnool district administration is on high alert as the Nivar cyclone is expected to wreak havoc. Control rooms have been set up at Nandyal, Adoni and Kurnool. Farmers in Nandyal division were tetering with fear as their standing crops are in danger of being washed out.

Distressed people may contact four control rooms, including command control room at Kurnool Collectorate - 08518 277305 and each one at three revenue divisions like Kurnool RDO office - 83339 89011, Nandyal sub-collector office - 08514 221550 and 83339 89013 and Adoni RDO office 83339 89012 have been established. Officials said that at least 10 to 20 centimetres of rainfall is expected

● KURNOOL DISTRICT administration is on high alert as the Nivar cyclone is expected to wreak havoc. Control rooms have been set up at Nandyal, Adoni and Kurnool.

in the district.

Moreover, in view of T u n g a b h a d r a Pushkaralu, officials have been asked to closely monitor the situation, said Kurnool district collector G Veera Pandian. The district administration is focused on reducing agriculture losses. Vulnerable low-lying areas are under focus and officials have been asked to be available round-the-clock.

He directed officials to caution the people to be alert as there were chances of the cyclone water entering villages. The people can contract

flood control rooms at their nearest RDO offices, he said.

He also ordered the officials to alert the people of river bank villagers especially Tungabhadra River where presently the 12-day Pushkar fete is being organised.

Meanwhile, two trains under East Coast Railways have been partially cancelled and some diverted due to cyclone Nivar.

A release said Bhubaneswar-Puducherry special express leaving Bhubaneswar on Tuesday was cancelled between Chennai Egmore-Puducherry. The return train leaving Puducherry on Wednesday was cancelled between Puducherry-Chennai Egmore.

Puducherry-Howrah special express leaving Puducherry on Wednesday was cancelled between Puducherry-Villupuram.



K. Atchannaidu

TD ASKS SEC TO PREVENT ATTACKS ON TD LEADERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Telugu Desam AP president K. Atchannaidu on Tuesday made a strong plea to the State Election Commission (SEC) to take stringent measures to prevent the ongoing attacks by the ruling YSRC leaders on the Opposition parties' candidates in the local body elections.

He wrote a letter to SEC Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, alleging that the YSRC candidates and their followers were resorting to intimidation tactics and attacks on the TD nominees in Santhamagalur mandal in Prakasam district. He further alleged that the ruling party was targeting all those who contested the local polls on behalf of the TD.

Stating that the common public were being terrified with murder politics, Atchannaidu demanded that the CBI inquiry be launched into the YSRC attacks on the TD activists. He deplored that the ruling party was indulging in undemocratic and unlawful activities all across the state.

Atchannaidu sought postponement of elections wherever violence and irregularities were reported. He demanded that security be provided to the Opposition candidates with the Central forces. He sought the SEC to begin online nominations in order to give a level-playing field to all the candidates in a democratic manner.

Atchannaidu stressed the need for conducting the elections amid security provided by the Central forces since the YSRC was resorting to widespread violence and attacks.

BJP'S WINNING STREAK IN AP WILL BEGIN WITH WIN IN TIRUPATI: SOMU

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

BJP AP unit president Somu Veerajra said that BJP's winning streak in Andhra Pradesh will begin with a remarkable victory in the Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the BJP state chief said that both the Telugu Desam and the YSRC are trying to credit themselves for the overall development of Tirupati, but the city denizens know that it was the BJP, which fast-tracked the

development of temple city on all fronts by pumping in crores of rupees funds from the Centre under the smart city projects.

"The BJP-led Central government has sanctioned nearly ₹1,400 crore for the Tirupati smart city project, under which many development works are being carried out in the temple city today. The Centre has established world-class educational institutions here. To name a few, the IIT, IISER, Indian culinary institute etc", he added.



IN BRIEF

FARMERS HARDLY
GET 2 KILOS OF
PADDY PER ACREDC CORRESPONDENT
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, NOV. 24

Farmers under the Yeleru Reservoir ayacut are in great distress as they could not get even 2 kg yield per acre as against the usual 12 bags per acre this Kharif season. The Yeleru floods and rains destroyed the paddy crops in the ayacut. The farmers had to sow paddy thrice. "Poor flood management, lack of modernisation of the Yeleru Reservoir and poor flood control measures were responsible for their plight," said the former Water Distributary Committee Chairman Rao Chinna Rao in the Irrigation Advisory Board Meeting held in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday. He alleged that the floodwaters were let out at once without any notice to the farmers. He said that the irrigation officials frequently said that the Yeleru Ayacut is 55,000 acres, but it was not correct. He said that Yeleru reservoir was designed to supply water to 1 lakh acres, covering Pithapuram and U. Kothapalli mandals. Later, the then governments told that these mandals would be given water from Pithapuram Branch Canal. But, Mr Chinna Rao said that when water levels were low, the farmers of these mandals couldn't get the water either from Yeleru or PBC and their crops dried. However, when it started to flood, the agriculture fields of these mandals were inundated with excess water.

MEDALINE AREA
COMES TO THE
POLITICAL SCENEDC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 24

Medaline, a village near Kakinada has come to the political scene as Rajya Sabha member Pilli Subhash Chandrabose raised the issue in District Revenue Meeting on Monday and cautioned the government that it would pose a great inundation threat to Kakinada, Indrapalem, Chidiga and other villages nearby the salt creek.

According to sources, the people used to reside in the Medaline area once upon a time. However, over the years, they migrated to other places, but they are still cultivating the lands. During the regime of late vhiief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Maytas, an associated company of Satyam, reached an agreement with the farmers of Medaline under a land pooling system to construct mega housing projects.

According to the agreement, the company would provide more than 1,300 sq yards of the site per acre to the farmers, after developing the project.

The farmers would be given ₹25,000 per year as compensation. However, after the Satyam crisis, the Maytas project was shelved. Then, the former MLA Boddur Bhaskara Ramarao took up the project containing 1,100 acres and handed it over to a company. The company is constructing a bridge across the salt-creek between Indrapalem and Medaline road to provide the transportation facility.

MAN SETS RECORD
BY REMOVING
68 BOTTLE CAPSDC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

An Indian martial arts expert from Nellore has set a new Guinness World Record by removing the most number of coldrink bottle caps with his head in just one minute.

The martial arts expert Prabhakar Reddy of Legend martial arts in the Magunta layout, has removed 68 bottle caps in a minute and made it to the book of records, while he was assisted by E. Sujith Kumar and B. Rakesh. He broke the earlier world record set in this category by Pakistan's Muhammad Rashid Naseem.

The Guinness world record tweeted the video of the act on its official handle by writing, "Don't try this at home." In the video, Prabhakar Reddy was seen using his forehead to remove the cap from the bottles.

As per the official website of Guinness world record, Prabhakar broke the record on November 18, 2020, on the occasion of Guinness world records day. Along with Prabhakar, many have participated in the celebrations in a bid to break existing records.

Filthy city



GVMC sanitation staff clean the plastic waste from the closed drainage through manholes in the One Town Main Road in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. People and shopkeepers on the main road were shocked to find a huge amount of plastic bottles from the closed drainage which passes before them.

— K. MURALIKRISHNA

No water release after Mar. 31

Polavaram project cofferdam works, laying of pipeline to begin

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 24

Though there is plenty of water in River Godavari, irrigation officials will not be able to supply irrigated water to the agriculture fields after March 31 as Polavaram project officials have made it clear that they will expedite the Polavaram project cofferdam works and laying of pipeline works from April 1.

Project superintendent engineer M. Nagireddy said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has given next year's December as the deadline to complete the project and commencement of project works in April. He also said that the 300-metre length of pipes would be laid near the project, which would stop water flows.

Meanwhile, 9,000 cusecs of water can be supplied to the farmers till March 31. The Irrigation Advisory Board meeting was held at

Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday and was presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Dharmana Krishna Das, also the district in-charge minister.

Ministers, MLAs, Farmers' Union leaders and others from East and West Godavari districts discussed thoroughly about the availability of water and releasing it to fields in Rabi season.

Irrigation superintendent engineer N. Siva Ramakrishna said that water can be supplied till March 31 and water may not be flown downstream from Polavaram project.

Rajya Sabha member Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose appealed to the irrigation and Polavaram project officials to supply the water up to April 15 as paddy crops will need water on those days. He also said that in 2008, there was severe water shortage in Godavari and then a plan of action for water management was prepared by the then

● **Rajya Sabha member Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose appealed to the irrigation and Polavaram project officials to supply the water up to April 15 as paddy crops will need water on those days.**

chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for supplying water to the entire crop with efficient management.

He advised Polavaram project officials to use sophisticated technology and extend their date up to April 15. However, Nagireddy said that after holding thorough discussions on all possibilities and available technology, March 31 has been fixed as the last date for releasing water to the second crop at Polavaram project site and their works should be completed by June, as the rainy season may stall progress of the project.

Mr Bose said that if the

Polavaram project officials give another 15 days, it will be enough to save the second crop.

Housing minister Ch. Sriranganatha Raju said that there is plenty of water but due to the Polavaram project and coffer dam works, the officials say that they can't supply water from April.

He said, "If we leave officials for this season, the project would be completed and then the water problem would be sorted out."

Agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu said that every year tail-end lands are facing a huge water crisis and irrigation officials should chalk out an action plan to save the tail-end farmers.

Kakinada MP Vanga Gita said that officials should pay attention to the supply of drinking water and to livestock. Otherwise, the people and animals would face difficulties due to scarcity

ty of water.

Meanwhile, the Telugu Desam MLA of Palakollu, Nimmala Ramanaidu said that the farmers lost heavily in last year's Rabi and water should be supplied up to April 15. He said that during the Telugu Desam regime, advanced and sophisticated technology had been used for the project works, which fetched them the Guinness Book honours. He suggested the project officials use ultra-modern technology and save crops.

East Godavari district collector D. Muralidhar Reddy and his West Godavari counterpart Revu Muthyala Raju said that agriculture and irrigation officials should encourage farmers to opt for direct sowing method to save time and money. He also suggested the farmers should sow short period varieties. Muthyala Raju said that an action plan has been made ready to complete the crop by March 31.

NCC DD PATS
GIRLS FOR THEIR
ACTIVITIESDC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 24

The Deputy Director-General of NCC Air Commodore T.S.S. Krishnan appreciated the NCC girls who are taking a leading role in NCC activities who also have been joining armed forces in large numbers. Mr Krishnan inspected Kakinada based NCC Group Headquarters here on Tuesday. He said that Associate NCC Officers (ANO) play an important and pivotal role in bridging NCC units and colleges.

AP records 1,085 Covid cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

AP registered 1,085 new Covid-19 cases raising the tally to 8,63,843 and eight deaths taking the toll to 6,956 in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin here on Tuesday reporting that out of 65,101 samples tested, 1,085 persons were found infected with Covid-19.

Out of a total number of 97,27,321 samples tested so far in the state, 8,43,863 patients were recovered while 13,024 patients are still active with the virus.

Among the daily cases

of Covid-19, Krishna topped the state with 224 followed by 142 in Chittoor, 138 in West Godavari, 126 in Guntur, 116 in East Godavari, 86 in Visakhapatnam, 57 in Kadapa, 50 in Nellore, 42 in Prakasam, 37 in Vizianagaram, 31 in Kurnool, 26 in Srikakulam and 10 in Anantapur.

East Godavari registered the highest number of total active cases with 4,175 followed by 1,705 in Krishna, 1,552 in Guntur, 1,164 in Visakhapatnam, 1,055 in West Godavari, 885 in Nellore, 693 in Chittoor, 497 in Prakasam, 367 in Srikakulam, 326 in Anantapur, 255 in

Kadapa, 177 in Vizianagaram and 173 in Kurnool.

With regard to the daily cases of Covid-19 deaths, Krishna reported two followed by one each in Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Nellore and Visakhapatnam. Among cumulative cases of deaths, Chittoor recorded the highest with 823 followed by 646 in Guntur, 634 in East Godavari, 626 in Krishna, 587 in Anantapur, 577 in Prakasam, 535 in Visakhapatnam, 519 in West Godavari, 495 in Nellore, 485 in Kurnool, 449 in Kadapa, 346 in Srikakulam and 234 in Vizianagaram.

TASTY | MEAT

Quail farming is very lucrative, says farmer

Quail farming catching up

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
KURNOOL, NOV. 24

Quail farming is catching up in Rayalaseema districts and neighbouring Mahabubnagar. Quail meat is supposedly more delicious than poultry and quail eggs are rich in protein.

Prior to the lockdown, quail meat used to be served in Kurnool and Kadapa restaurants and dhabas. Since normal times are back, patrons of quail meat are demanding the dish, said Siraj, owner of a dhaba on NH 44.

Sai Baba, a resident of Nagarkurnool said quail



Quail

farming is very lucrative as the bird gets ready for consumption in just seven weeks. When compared to poultry chicken, the maintenance of quail farms is easy and remunerative. He said each quail lays 280 to 300 eggs

in a year and the bird is highly fecund and fertile.

Manish Babu, a resident of Sirivella, said he was rearing quails as a hobby. The bones of the bird are a delicacy in themselves, he said.

However it is alleged that hotels and dhabas have struck a deal with suppliers, who procure wild quail from forests rather than from farms. But forest officials are denying such allegations.

Atmakur DFO Kuran said that hunting of any bird is punishable and the culprits could be prosecuted under the Wildlife Act.

Kadapa DFO Ravinder Dama said any eatery serving quail meat found violating rules would be dealt with as per law. He said there were instances of wild pigs being poached in his jurisdiction but not quails. Stern action would be taken against the culprits, Ravinder warned.

Quails, which inhabit densely in Rollopadu sanctuary, have become a hindrance to the endangered Great Indian Bustard. While quails, harriers and black deer thrive in Rollopadu, the Bustard has almost vanished, said a forest official.

MLAs angry over
poor lift schemesDC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 24

The MLAs of East and West Godavari Districts expressed anger over the poor functioning of the Lift Irrigation Schemes in the Godavari Districts. They complained that the purpose of the schemes has not been achieved, in the Irrigation Advisory Board meeting, presided by the District Incharge Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Dharmana Krishna Das on Tuesday. In the meeting, Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja said that Pushkara, Venkatanagaram, Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Schemes are not useful to the farmers. He said that all pipes in Chagalnadu are not functioning and Venkatanagaram schemes have not been completed so far.

He said that nearly 70,000 acres of ayacut should be given water through two Venkatanagaram schemes, but hardly 5,000 acres are not being given. He said that ₹70 crore was spent out of the ₹80 crore of the project of Venkatanagaram LIS, but the officials are not able to provide details of the

expenditure. He said that at least 3 TMCs of water should be supplied to LIS ayacut farmers during Rabi. The Rajamahendravaram Rural MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary said that the farmers lost the crop during the Kharif due to inundation and chaglanadu, Thorrigadda and other LIS should have functioned. He asked the officials why 80 per cent of lift irrigation schemes are not functioning in the state well. The MLAs, Abbaiah Chowdary, Rapaka Vara Prasad and others also demanded the government should repair the LISs in their constituency limits.

The Chief Engineer of Irrigation Department Mr Sridhar said that due to lack of maintenance, the LIS are not functioning and that steps would be taken for its effective functioning by drawing an action plan. However, he said that in the matter of Pushkara LIS, there would take some time to make it functioning due to technical reasons and after Polavaram project is completed, Pushkara will function well. He said that 3 to 5 TMCs of water would be given to the farmers under Lift Irrigation Schemes

National park in
Anantapur distDC CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR, NOV. 24

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) sought proposals for setting up National Park in existing 1,000 acres of forest land in between Penukonda-Somandepalli on NH 44 in the district.

The local organisations represented the Centre to consider National Park in Anantapur district in view of all requirements available for establishing a new park.

The Penukonda Paryatana Porata Samithi president Prathap Reddy sent a representation to the MoEFCC seeking a mega-park to be established in Anantapur district. The committee observed that there were more than 2,000 acres of forest lands including hillock areas available in between Penukonda and Somandepalli mandals located on National Highway 44.

The Union minister Prakash Jawadekar reacted positively towards representation and Rameswar Guptha, secretary of Environment of forests and climate change and directed the state forest department to prepare detailed proposals towards establishing a National Park in Anantapur district.

It may be noted that deep reserved forests exist in the district along with diverse flora and fauna. At least 120 leopards, 10,000 bears and 30,000 blackbucks and many other species exist in the reserved forests and hillock areas.

More than five leopards died in different incidents

BHARATIYA VIJNANA MANDALI TO
CONDUCT ONLINE COMPETITIONDC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 24

On the occasion of 162nd Birth Anniversary of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, Bharatiya Vijnana Mandali Andhra Pradesh Chapter is conducting a video elocution competition

in Telugu and English, for school students of VII to X standards. The Mandali Pramukh Mr Karthikeya Sharma said that cash prizes would be distributed to the first, second and third place students and all participants will get an e-participation.

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<small>For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/69/20-21/ET/665.</small>	
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<small>Chief General Manager (Contracts)</small>	

SHORT TAKES

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

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

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

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

“Congress party is an ideology and ideology has no structure. Ideology is the ‘neev’ (foundation)”, he tweeted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VETERAN
ACTOR BADOLA
NO MORE

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

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

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

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

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

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

The raids have been criticised by the Sena leaders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Final journey



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

— PTI

UP okays ordinance against
conversion for marriage

As per the new law, violators can be sent to jail for 10 years, face fine

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

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

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

“The way in which religious conversions are done using deceit, lies, force and dishonesty is heart wrenching, and it was necessary to have a

HC upholds right to choose
partner, faults earlier verdict

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

Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal made

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

While allowing the writ petition by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka Kharwar alias Alia of Kushinagar, the judges cited Article 21 of the Constitution on per-

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

law in this regard, Cabinet minister and UP govern-

ment spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh said.

He said punishment under the new law is a jail

SC DISMISSES
FORMER BSF
JAWAN’S PLEAPARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition by a sacked BSF jawan, Tej Bahadur Yadav who had sought the setting aside of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 2019 election from Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency on the grounds that the rejection of his nomination papers was illegal.

Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde heading a bench also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian, in a judgment dismissed the plea by Tej Bahadur saying it sees no merit in it and do not consider it necessary to issue notice to the Prime Minister Modi.

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

The troubles of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan’s former principal secretary M. Sivasankar are from over with Customs recording his arrest in connection with the gold smuggling case.

The Customs officials visited Sivasankar in Kakkanaad jail in Ernakulam district where he is currently under judicial custody in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate earlier. He was arrested by the ED in connection with the money trail associated with the gold smuggling case in which he is the fifth accused.

The Customs recorded his arrest a day after the

special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases allowed Customs to take Sivasankar into custody.

The Customs while seeking his custody had claimed that they had received direct incriminating material against the bureaucrat regarding his involvement in gold smuggling through diplomatic baggage.

The Customs has cited the statement given by key accused Swapna Suresh in which she alleged that Sivasankar was involved in the gold smuggling conspiracy. His detailed questioning was essential to probe the different channels involved in gold smuggling.

It may be recalled that the Customs had earlier arrested 15 persons in

connection with the case including Swapna Suresh, Sarith P.S. and Sandeep Nair in connection with the seizure of 30 kg of gold which was smuggled through diplomatic baggage meant for a senior official of UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram. The seizure made by the customs at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport on July 5 exposed a huge racket involving several people.

The Customs told the court that it has sufficient information regarding the suspended officer’s involvement in the case. The gold smuggling case is being currently investigated separately by premier central agencies including National Investigation Agency, the ED and the Customs.

MP TO KEEP
VIGIL ON FILM
SHOOTINGSRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 24

Amid row over a kissing scene in Mira Nair-directed web series *A Suitable Boy* reportedly shot in a famous Hindu shrine in Madhya Pradesh, the state government on Tuesday decided to keep a vigil on shootings of films in temples of MP.

State home minister Narottam Mishra announced that an officer of the MP government would henceforth be deputed to monitor the shooting of films in the temples. The officer concerned would record the shootings and submit the recordings to the state government for scrutiny, he added.

The decision comes in the wake of the row erupted over a kissing scene in the web series *A Suitable Boy* on Netflix, leading the police in Rewa district to lodge an FIR against two officials of Netflix under Section 295A (hurting religious sentiments) of Indian Penal Code.

term from one and five years, and a fine of ₹15,000.

But if the woman involved is a minor or belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe, the jail term would range from three to 10 years, he said. The fine would increase to ₹25,000. In the case of mass conversions, the punishment is from three years to 10 years and a fine of ₹50,000 on the organisations which indulge in it,” the minister told reporters.

Singh said if anyone wants to change religion after marriage, then he or she can do so.

But the district magistrate has to be informed two months in advance in a prescribed form, and the person can convert once permission is granted.

He claimed that this will resolve law and order problems. — PTI

COUPLE ATTEMPTS
SELF-IMMOLATION
TO PROTEST
POLICE INACTIONAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 24

A couple hailing from Nayagarh district on Tuesday attempted self-immolation in front of the Assembly protesting what they said was ‘police inaction’ to arrest the culprits involved in kidnapping and killing of their five-year-old daughter.

Before the couple set themselves on fire by lighting the matchstick, the alert police personnel deployed there rescued them unhurt.

The couple said the police was not acting sincerely to apprehend the culprits as the key accused — Babuli Nayak — is the strong supporter of state agriculture minister Arun Kumar Sahoo and active member of the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal.

The couple’s daughter Pari was abducted on July 14 by some unidentified miscreants while playing in the backyard of their house.

Seven days later on July 23, chopped off body parts of the girl packed in a gunny bag were recovered from the same place by her parents.

Though the parents had lodged a missing report in the local Nayagarh Sadar Police Station on the very day Pari was abducted, the police allegedly did not take any steps to rescue her.

RIGHTS | VIOLATION

The transsexual hopes to move the MCI, open a clinic to resume practice soon

Police rescue transsexual doctor begging in TN

Madurai, Nov. 24: A young transsexual doctor found in the company of transgenders, begging on the streets of this temple town, was rescued by the police who is now helping her open a clinic, to serve the people.

The transsexual, who did not want her name to be revealed, hopes to move the Medical Council of India for making appropriate changes in the records, and open the clinic to resume medical practice soon.

This young doctor who graduated from the Madurai Government Medical College in 2018, was ostracised by her family for undergoing sex transformation to become a woman. Her profession almost came to an end when she was sacked from a hospital, where she was working for a year, after the sex change surgery.

“At first I didn’t believe that she was a doctor. She broke down and insisted that she possessed a medical degree but it was on

her earlier name,” said Thilagar Thidal police inspector G. Kavitha, who rounded up a group of transgenders for reportedly begging and troubling traders here, recently.

The police, after verifying the documents, got in touch with the doctors from Madurai Medical College, and corroborated the fact that the transsexual doctor, was a male in college. Only recently she landed in the midst of transgenders to beg as she had no means to sustain

herself, after being sacked from a hospital here.

The surprised inspector then took up the case of the transsexual doctor with her superiors, to extend all possible help.

For her part Kavitha provided her a stethoscope and a doctors coat. “I don’t see any problem in changing her records with the MCI. Her rights can’t be denied. But first she has to notify the name change in the gazette which will serve as a government order,” said Kalki

Subramaniam, a celebrated Indian transgender activist, artist, poet, actor and inspirational speaker.

Kalki, founder of Sahodari Foundation, an organisation which works for Indian transgenders, said, “it is nothing but human rights violation to deny her job based on her gender.” The hospital cannot sack a person based on gender and may have to reinstate if the said doctor gets a court ruling in her favour, Kalki remarked. Recalling the 2014

Supreme Court order, Kalki said the apex court verdict recognising the transgender community as a third gender along with male and female, is clearly in favour of the doctor too.

The apex court had also affirmed that the fundamental rights granted under the Constitution of India will be equally applicable to them, and gave them the right to self-identification of their gender as male, female or third gender. — PTI

IN BRIEF TAIWAN TO BUILD DOMESTIC SUBMARINES

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

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

B'DESH MAN HELD FOR HINDU ATTACK PLOT

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

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

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

DAVID DINKINS, 1ST AFRO-U.S. NY MAYOR, DEAD

New York, Nov. 24: David Dinkins, who broke barriers as New York City's first African-American mayor, but was doomed to a single term by a soaring murder rate, stubborn unemployment and his mishandling of a race riot in Brooklyn, has died. He was 93.

Dinkins died Monday, the New York City Police Department confirmed. The department said officers were called to the former mayor's home this evening. Initial indications were that he died of natural causes. Dinkins, a calm and courtly figure with a penchant for tennis and formal wear, was a dramatic shift from both his predecessor, Ed Koch, and his successor, Rudolph Giuliani — two combative and often abrasive politicians in a city with a world-class reputation for impatience and rudeness.

In his inaugural address, he spoke lovingly of New York as a "gorgeous mosaic of race and religious faith, of national origin and sexual orientation, of individuals whose families arrived generations ago." But the city he inherited had an ugly side, too. AIDS, guns and crack cocaine killed thousands of people each year. Unemployment soared. Homelessness was rampant.

DARWIN NOTES STOLEN FROM VARSITY LIBRARY

London, Nov. 24: Cambridge University launched an appeal Tuesday to find two valuable notebooks written by Charles Darwin after they were reported as stolen from the university's library. The notebooks, estimated to be worth millions of pounds, include the 19th-century scientist's famous "Tree of Life" sketch.

They haven't been seen since 2000, and for years staff at the library believed that the manuscripts had probably been misplaced in the vast archives. But after doing a thorough search, library staff now conclude it's likely that the notebooks were stolen. Police are now investigating and Interpol has also been notified.

"My predecessors genuinely believed that what had happened was that these had been mis-shelved or misfiled," said Jessica Gardner, university librarian and director of library services. Staff recently searched through 189 boxes making up the Darwin Archive, but failed to locate the notebooks.

Trump agrees to Biden transition

Will pave way for a smooth handover of power; Prez doesn't concede poll defeat

Michigan certifies Biden poll victory

Washington, Nov. 24: US President Donald Trump has finally given a go-ahead to begin the transition process for president-elect Joe Biden after the state of Michigan certified the Democratic leader's victory in the November 3 presidential election, paving the way for a smooth handover of power after weeks of delay.

President Trump, a Republican, however, did not formally concede the election to Biden, saying he would "continue to fight and will prevail." He has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismissed by courts.

On Monday, the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) Emily Murphy informed Biden in a letter that the Trump administration is ready to begin the formal transition process. The letter from Murphy, a Trump appointee, is the first step the administration has taken to acknowledge President Trump's defeat, more than two weeks after Biden was declared the winner.

Taking to Twitter after Murphy wrote to Biden, Trump said that he has asked to begin the transition process in the best interest of the country.

"...fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same.

"What does GSA being allowed to preliminarily work with the Dems have to do with continuing to pursue our various cases on what will go down as the most corrupt election in American political history? We are moving full speed ahead. Will never concede to fake ballots & "Dominion," Trump said in a series of tweets.

In her letter, Murphy said she took the decision "independently" and based on the law. "Please know that I came to my decision independently, based on the law and available facts. I was never directly or indirectly pressured by any Executive Branch official — including those who work at the White House or GSA — with regard to the substance or timing of my decision. To be clear, I did not receive any direction to delay my determination," Murphy said in her letter as reported by multiple news outlets. — PTI

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

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

Biden won by 2.8 percentage points — a larger margin than in other states where Trump is contesting the results like Georgia, Arizona, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Some Trump allies had expressed hope that state lawmakers could intervene in

selecting Republican electors in states that do not certify. That long shot bid is no longer possible in Michigan. "The people of Michigan have spoken. President-elect Biden won the State of Michigan by more than 154,000 votes, and he will be our next president on January 20th," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, said in a statement, saying it's "time to put this election behind us."

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

Time and again, Trump's challenges and baseless allegations of widespread conspiracy and fraud have been met with rejection as states move forward with confirming their results. — AP



Janet Yellen

INDIA KEY PARTNER IN ENGAGING CHINA: BLINKEN

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

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

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

YALLEN MAY BE SELECTED AS TREASURY SECY

Washington, Nov. 24: US President-elect Joe Biden is planning to nominate former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as his Treasury Secretary to lead his economic response to the raging Coronavirus pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the world's biggest economy and led millions of Americans to lose their jobs.

A formal announcement on 74-year-old Yellen would be made soon, according to *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. The Treasury Secretary is fifth in the presidential line of succession. — PTI

Bernstein: 21 GOP senators contemptuous of Trump

New York, Nov. 24: Former Watergate sleuth Carl Bernstein took to Twitter to list the names of 21 Republican senators who he says have "repeatedly expressed contempt" for Donald Trump and his fitness to be president.

Bernstein's post was condemned Monday by some of those involved. It was an eyebrow-raising modern twist on journalism from the former *Washington Post* reporter who, with partner Bob

Woodward in the 1970s, penned scoops that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. Bernstein said he wasn't violating any confidentiality pledges in listing the senators.

He said he learned of the politicians' supposed private feelings through conversations with some of their colleagues, staff members, lobbyists and White House aides.

"With few exceptions, their craven public silen-

ce has helped enable Trump's most grievous conduct — including undermining and discrediting the US electoral system," he tweeted late Sunday. Bernstein, a *CNN* political analyst, declined a request to talk about his posts.

Many Washington reporters have talked about lawmakers who have privately expressed reservations about Trump but rarely attached names to their stories. — AP



Palestinians, mask-clad due to the Covid-19, wait to cross onto the Egyptian side at the Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, on Tuesday. It was announced that Egypt would reopen the border crossing from November 24 to 26.

— AFP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oz airline boss for vaccine passport

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. PRISONS TO PRIORITISE STAFF TO RECEIVE VIRUS

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

PAK INTEL BODY TO COORDINATE SPY AGENCIES

Islamabad, Nov. 24: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved the setting up of the National Intelligence Coordination Committee, a mechanism to coordinate over two dozen intelligence organisations in the country, to be headed by the ISI chief, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Although there have been discussions about the establishment of the coordination forum, its terms of reference and modus operandi would be decided once it formally takes shape. *Dawn* newspaper quoted a senior security source as saying. — PTI

Netanyahu says he'll pay a visit to Bahrain soon

Jerusalem, Nov. 24: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he spoke with the crown prince of Bahrain and would visit the Gulf state soon, a month after the two countries established formal diplomatic relations.

Bahrain's foreign minister visited Israel last week in a mark of the warming ties between the two countries following the signing of US-brokered accords in September. In October, the two countries established formal ties, and signed a series of agreements to promote bilateral cooperation. Netanyahu said in a

● **BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN minister visited Israel last week in a mark of the warming ties between the two countries following the signing of US-brokered accords in September.**

statement released on social media that he spoke with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad about "the fact that we can bring the fruits of peace to our peoples and to our countries in a very short time."

The prime minister said the crown prince "invited

me to come in the near future for an official visit to Bahrain, and I will do this on your behalf," referring to Israeli citizens.

In the past several months, Israel has signed treaties to normalise ties with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan, the first Arab states to do so in decades. But the deals orchestrated by the Trump administration have outraged the Palestinians, who have long counted on a united Arab stance that recognition of Israel should come only after they achieve an independent state. — AP

GENEROUS | DONATION

\$1 mn given by three Indian-American couples to support the graduate programme

Washington, Nov. 24: A US university in California has established a chair in Jain studies following a generous donation of \$1 million from three Indian-American couples. The Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies University of California, Santa Barbara will support the graduate programme, and develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses on Jainism.

Prominent among them include exploration of Ahimsa (non-violence),

Aprigraha (non-attachment/non-possessiveness) and Anekantavaad (plurality of views and beliefs) — the principles of Jainism — and their import and implication for modern society, the university said. Students will be engaged to explore the practical significance of such principles for enduring peace, social harmony and ecological sustainability, it said.

The donation for this has come from Dr. Meera and Dr. Jasant Modi via the

● **THE DONATION for this has come from Dr. Meera and Dr. Jasant Modi via the Vardhamana Charitable Foundation; Rita and Dr. Narendra Parson via the Narendra and Rita Parson Family Trust; and Raksha and Harshad Shah via Shah Family Foundation, according to a statement.**

Vardhamana Charitable Foundation; Rita and Dr. Narendra Parson via the Narendra and Rita Parson Family Trust; and Raksha and Harshad Shah via Shah Family Foundation, according to a statement. "The most effective way

of helping mankind, climate change and all forms of life is by spreading the principles of non-violence, giving and showing respect for all opinions. Support and creation of an endowed chair in Jain studies is the most effective way

to achieve this goal," the donors said in a joint statement. "UC Santa Barbara is a prestigious place and more important, it has an effective model to achieve our goals. This new position will make Ahimsa, Aparigraha and Anekantvad principles better known in the mainstream — and this will benefit us all," they said.

The new gift builds on prior philanthropy from the Modis and the Parsons, in partnership with the Jain Center of Southern

California and the Jain Temple of Los Angeles, to establish UC Santa Barbara's Bhagvan Vimalnath Lectureship in Jain Studies and South Asian religions. University Chancellor Henry Yang said that the establishment of the Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies will help to advance Jain and South Asian studies, an exciting and increasingly important field, at UC Santa Barbara.

The new position will also enable academic inve-

stigation of the many ways in which Jainism has been integral to South Asian and transnational religious histories. The chair holder will support and train innovative scholars in the fields of Jain studies and South Asian religions, including language instruction in Sanskrit and Prakrit, while simultaneously making UCSB the programmatic center for an emerging network of scholars in the field, the statement added. — PTI

DECCAN
Chronicle

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Corporate takeover of banks a dangerous idea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A builder of modern Assam

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

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

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

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

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Subhani



If 'Trumpism' outlives Trump, America loses



Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

threat perceptions, if any.

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

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

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

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

LETTERS

STAFF MUST UNITE

It is true that the state employees are not happy with the YSRC government over the delay in releasing 50 per cent of salaries for two months, the issues of PRC and DA, not revoking the old pension scheme (*State govt staff up the ante over delay in PRC, DA, DC, Nov. 24*). But, as long as there is no unity among the government employees, things can not be improved.

Panchakarla Govardhana Rao
Kankipadu

WISDOM DAWNS

Finally, the draconian Police Act was put on hold by the Kerala government, and it saved the day of the government (*Kerala's dropping law to punish dissent welcome, DC, Nov. 24*). The predilection and proclivity for new laws while neglecting the existing ones need to be discouraged and dissuaded. Par for the course is not putting the cart before the horse.

Dr C. Ghanshyam
Visakhapatnam

WHY THE ABUSE?

Of late, we are seeing YSRC leaders abusing persons holding constitutional bodies and the situation has reached its nadir. (*War of words in DRC meeting of East Godavari, DC, Nov. 24*). We have had Chief Ministers like Damodaram Sanjeevaiah whose words oozed honey. We can't find a single leader of that class in the Telugu political arena now. I wonder what is the necessity for the leaders to stoop so low and abuse each other, unless it is for their self interest rather than the public? It's time to rein in the leaders by the top brass in the party.

Udatha Rama Chandra Rao
Yelawaram

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Centre's stand on Telangana unchanged

NEW DELHI, Nov. 24.

Telangana Regional Committee Chairman J. Chokka Rao and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee President Narasa Reddy today called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

While Mr. Chokka Rao urged Mrs. Gandhi for additional financial allocation to Telangana, Mr. Reddy is understood to have explained that the result of the Siddipet Assembly by-election in which Telangana Pradesh Samithi candidate was returned, should not be exaggerated.

Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu



Who's afraid of Nitin Gadkari?

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

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

the government and tackle corruption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	44,523.02	1.01
Nifty 50	13,055.15	1.00
S&P 500*	3,619.28	1.17
Dollar (₹)	73.99	0.16
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.88	0.14
Euro (₹)	87.93	0.08
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,569	1.049
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	47.66	1.60
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.880	0.021
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.865	0.006

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Google pays ₹33,700 cr for Jio Platform stake

Alphabet Inc's Google has paid Rs 33,737 crore for a 7.73 per cent stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's digital subsidiary, Jio Platforms Ltd. The transaction also marks the US technology giant's biggest investment in an Indian firm. With this, Jio Platforms has raised a total of Rs 1.52 lakh crore by selling nearly 33 per cent stake to 13 financial and strategic investors in just 11 weeks, RIL said.

Aibea to join trade unions in strike tomorrow



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

Indian sellers join Amazon's US holiday sales

More than 70,000 Indian exporters on Amazon's Global Selling programme will showcase their Made in India products on the annual Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales. The exporters are launching thousands of new products on Amazon's global websites for the holiday season between Nov. 26 and Nov. 30. Indian products in categories like health & hygiene and home essentials saw heightened demand abroad.

Goa govt issues ₹156-cr demand notice to JSW

The Goa government has issued a demand notice to JSW Steel Ltd, handling coal at Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), to pay Rs 156.34 crore in the form of Goa Rural Improvement and Welfare Cess, within a fortnight, for transportation of coal. In a demand notice issued on Nov. 9, copy of which was released on Monday, the Assistant Director of Transport has asked JSW Steel to pay Rs 156.34 crore to the state.



Heavy FPI buying pushes indices up Nifty crosses 13000-mark

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 24

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

The index has gained 73.81 per cent from the March low of 7511.10 in the post-Covid rally over optimism around economic revival and robust second quarter corporate earnings.

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

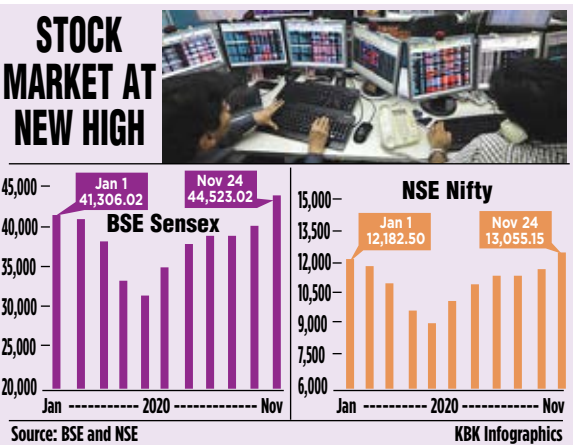
The BSE Sensex also gained 1.01 per cent, or 445.87 points, and closed above the 44,500 mark, at a new all-time high of 44523.02.

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

The Nifty Bank Index comprising banks and other financial heavyweights gained 2.46 per cent while the Nifty Auto Index gained 1.71 per cent.

The top Nifty gainers included Adani Port (4.46 per cent), Axis Bank (3.93 per cent), HDFC Bank (3.54 per cent), Eicher Motors (3.52 per cent), Hindalco (3.44 per cent) and Mahindra & Mahindra (3.05 per cent).

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RBI nixes Muthoot plan to acquire IDBI Mutual Fund

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

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

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

RE corners 95% energy project financing in 2019

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 24



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motor premiums reclaim top share

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, NOV. 24

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

Motor premiums historically had the highest share

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India's latest unicorn startup is Cars24

SARAH MCBRIDE & SARITHA RAI NOV. 24

India's mass transit systems were shut off when the country locked down. As a result, Indians rushed to find alternative transportation, and that often meant used cars.

A major beneficiary was Cars24 Services Pvt Ltd, an online marketplace for used cars based in Gurgaon. The company's valuation jumped to more than \$1 billion after a new round of funding. DST Global, the investment firm led by Russia-born billionaire Yuri Milner,

invested \$200 million in the deal.

The investment doubles the total funds raised by Cars24 since the business was established five years ago. The chief executive officer and co-founder, Vikram Chopra, was an investment analyst early in his career at Sequoia Capital, one of the world's most prominent venture capital firms and now a Cars24 investor. Chopra started Cars24 after having a hard time selling his car before a temporary move to the US, he said. Daunted by the situation, he ended up giving his car to a friend instead, he said.

Cars24, which takes a cut of each transaction, is on track to generate estimated gross annual revenue of \$600 million, Chopra said. "Our awareness among consumers has shot up dramatically," he said.

India's pre-owned vehicle market is fragmented. Online retailers like Cars24, Droom and OLX, along with the automakers themselves, offer a more consistent buying experience, simplified paperwork and access to lenders. India lacks a system to establish fair values for used cars like Kelley Blue Book. For Cars24, the new

investor brings a global expertise. DST Global is based in Hong Kong and has backed a varied list of companies over the years, including Facebook Inc and WhatsApp in the US and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd in China. In India, DST invested in the online shopping firm Flipkart.

What made Cars24 stand out was its ability to handle so many steps, including remote inspections of vehicles, said Rahul Mehta, a Dubai-based managing partner at DST. "You have to be deep into operations," he said. "These guys have done well." —Bloomberg

Oil-rich Kuwait faces reckoning as debt crisis looms

Dubai, Nov. 24: When Kuwait emerged from a months-long coronavirus lockdown, hundreds of Kuwaitis flocked to reopened stores, the lines clogging malls, snaking through hallways and spilling onto sidewalks. But unlike much of the world, where long lines

formed for donated food, Kuwaitis were waiting to buy Cartier jewellery.

The jewellery-store rush by Kuwait's long-coddled citizens is a symptom of a looming disaster.

Kuwait, one of the world's wealthiest countries, is facing a debt crisis. The pandemic has sent the

price of oil crashing to all-time lows and pushed the petro-state toward a reckoning with its longtime largesse, just as a parliamentary election approaches in December.

Covid, low oil prices and the liquidity crisis have all come together in a perfect storm, said Bader al-Saif, a

professor of history at Kuwait University.

Like other Gulf sheikhdoms, Kuwait provides cushy jobs to roughly 90 per cent of citizens on the public payroll, along with generous benefits and subsidies, from cheap electricity and oil to free health care and education. —AP

Time to reform office culture of financial world

SREE VIDYA BHAKTAVATSALAM NOV. 24

Everywhere, the stewards of capitalism are in flux, grappling with the implications of a radically different future that's set to play out from home offices, living rooms, and kitchen tables around the world.

This is a big moment for an industry that has long lionised alpha-male "tough guys" who wear their stamina as a badge of honor and view the need for work-life flexibility as an admission of weakness. From New York to London to Hong Kong, the hard-charging culture of finance has been tied to the towering edifices that cram in thousands of over-achievers, the cutthroat chaos of the trading floors, and the relentless schmoozing that accompa-

nies the entry into the upper echelons.

The new workplace reality, with hundreds of thousands of bankers working from home for the foreseeable future, has spurred considerable angst among the financial elite. One by one, powerful men have lamented the damage to their companies' cultures-cultures they've sought to perpetuate. Sergio Ermotti, who stepped down as CEO of Zurich-based UBS Group AG on Nov. 1, said it's "especially difficult for banks to create and sustain cohesiveness and a culture when employees stay at home."

In September, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Jamie Dimon pushed for a return to normal, warning of slipping productivity and alienation among workers. BlackRock Inc.'s Laurence Fink worried about the

serendipitous "water cooler moments" being lost as Zoom calls supplant impromptu encounters. Senior leaders at Goldman Sachs Group Inc, Barclays Plc, and others have pointed to the vital role that face-to-face interactions play in preserving the fabric of their companies' cultures.

Lost in this nostalgia is a hard truth: The finance industry has created some of the most toxic workplaces for women, racial minorities, or anyone else who doesn't fit in comfortably with Wall Street's fraternity. As a journalist who has spent years covering finance and investing from Boston, New York, Hong Kong, and London, I'm often asked what I learned from my time in these financial centres. One takeaway seems especially relevant in the

Column

The world of finance can be incredibly isolating and hostile to someone who isn't White, straight, and male

strange times in which we find ourselves today: The world of finance can be incredibly isolating and hostile to someone who isn't White, straight, and male.

Sure, sexual harassment is no longer as flagrant as

it was in the 1990s, a sordid period that put women at the mercy of their drunken bosses and colleagues. For every incident that gets this kind of spotlight, dozens are never chronicled.

The global reckoning fuelled by the #MeToo movement in 2017 and the racial justice protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd in 2020 have led many banks and other financial companies to enact tough policies to combat and address sexism and racism in the workplace.

At the same time, the financial industry is adapting to the tectonic shift toward remote working. Standard Chartered Plc has unveiled a permanent move to flexible working for its 85,000 employees. Switzerland's UBS expects a third of its

employees to work from home permanently, and Japan's Mizuho Financial Group Inc is mulling a shorter workweek.

Already there are signs that some of the worst aspects of banking culture are moving to this virtual world. Excluding women and members of minority groups from important meetings and decisions is even easier when operating remotely.

Financial companies will have to navigate a tricky path between respecting employees' privacy and protecting vulnerable staff. But instead of bemoaning the loss of the corporate cultures caused by remote working, leaders should use the opportunity to examine these cultures more closely and then take concrete steps to reform them.

—Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Dada underwent 22 Covid-19 tests

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

Fans set for EPL games next week

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

Honda end year with double points

Portugal: Fighting rides from Stefan Bradl and Alex Marquez delivered a double-top ten to wrap up a strong final weekend in here. The unprecedented 2020 MotoGP came to a close in Portugal with a trio of tremendous races across the classes. Conditions were again near perfect as the sun loomed over the Portimao circuit. Using morning warm up to confirm the final aspects of his setting, Alex was again strong and consistent throughout the 20-minute session. The MotoGP rookie ended in seventh but with excellent pace. Focus was high for Bradl as the last race day of the year began, the German having put in a very impressive performance on Saturday. A fast fall at Turn 9 saw Bradl walk away unharmed, changing his leathers and returning to the track for the final minutes of warm-up. The crash had no ill effect as Bradl shot forward in the race and immediately began to battle in the top five, giving no quarter. The battle would rage until the end of the race, Bradl earning seventh and achieving his best race finish of the year.

Live on TV

CRICKET

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

FOOTBALL

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

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

WWE

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

DOUBLE TROUBLE?

Rohit, Ishant may miss entire Australia Test series

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

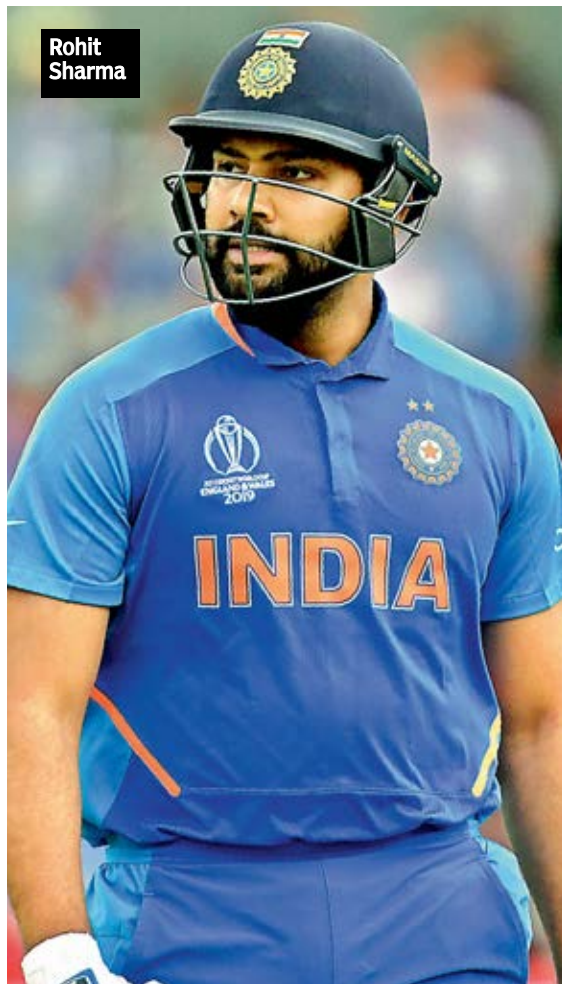
"So, now if only Cricket Australia can convince the government and allow them to train during quarantine," he added.

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

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



Ishant Sharma



Rohit Sharma

Shastri backs 'Fav 5' to rule Oz

New Delhi, Nov. 24: Coach Ravi Shastri believes India's pace attack can conquer Australia "in their own den" in the upcoming Test series between the world's top two sides.

India's quick bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah, will face a powerful home batting line-up including David Warner and Steve Smith when the four-Test series begins on December 17.

But Shastri said his team's pace unit was the best in the world, despite being likely to be without

the injured Ishant Sharma who is receiving treatment India for a muscle tear.

"His absence does make a difference to the fast-bowling department, but then we have the capacity among the young bowlers to deliver," Shastri told *Sportstar*.

Shastri dubbed Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Navdeep Saini the "fabulous five", adding, "Yadav has the experience. Saini is young and fast.

Bumrah one of the best

You put up runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia in their own den.

— RAVI SHASTRI
India coach on his team's pace attack

in business.

Shami is raring to go. Siraj is an exciting prospect. "You put up runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia

in their own den."

Australia last week overtook India at the top of the inaugural world Test championship when the scoring system was amended due to the coronavirus pandemic, but Virat Kohli's men enjoyed a historic first Test series win Down Under on their last tour in 2018-19.

Shastri is confident his team can stay focused on and off the pitch during the tour, which requires travel bubbles and isolation because of the pandemic. — AFP

Thapa shines in Chennaiyin win

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

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

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

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

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

MFC LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST GOA

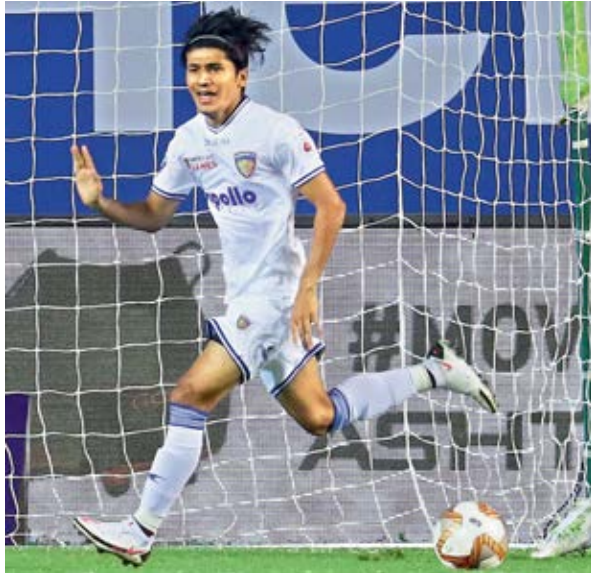
Margao, Nov. 24: Stunned by NorthEast United in their opening match, Mumbai City FC would look to bounce back when they take on FC Goa in an Indian Super League match, which is expected to produce free-flowing football here on Wednesday.

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

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

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

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



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

Kohli, Ashwin nominated for Player of Decade award

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

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

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

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



Ravichandran Ashwin



Virat Kohli

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

Kohli and Rohit also

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

CLARKE SAYS INDIA COULD BE SMOKED 4-0

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

Kohli will lead the team in the white-ball series, comprising three ODIs and as many T20s, and the opening Test at Adelaide before heading back home.

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

"If India don't have success in the One-dayers and the T20s, they are in deep trouble in the Test matches and they'll get smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he added. — PTI

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Athletic Bilbao hammer Betis

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

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

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

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

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

Manuel Pellegrini's Betis also are in mid-table, though they have played one game more than Athletic.

Real Sociedad lead the

THE RESULTS

LA LIGA

Athletic Bilbao (Victor Ruiz 9-og, Capa 33, Muniain 59, Berenguer 68) 4
Real Betis 0

PREMIER LEAGUE

Burnley (Wood 8) 1
Crystal Palace 0

Wolves (Neto 75) 1
Southampton (Walcott 58) 1

league with 23 points, three more than second-placed Atletico Madrid, who have two games in hand.

Meanwhile in England, Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Chris Wood sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace, while Southampton missed a

chance to go third in their 1-1 draw at Wolves.

Burnley had failed to win any of their first seven games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

