

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 6 DECEMBER 2020

**WEATHER**  
Max: 30.4°C  
Min: 14.5°C  
RH: 32%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Partly cloudy.  
Mist or haze likely.  
Max/Min temp. 30/14 °C

**BRIEF**  
**Petrol prices at 2-year high**

New Delhi: Petrol price on Saturday breached the ₹83 per litre-mark in Delhi for the first time in more than two years after a rally in international oil prices forced a 13th increase in rates in the last fortnight. Petrol price on Saturday was raised by 27 paise per litre and diesel by 25 paise, according to a price notification of OMCs. In 16 days, the petrol price has risen by ₹2.07 per litre and diesel by ₹2.86.

**46 youth, kids faint in Eluru**

Eluru: More than 46 youth and children mysteriously fainted all of a sudden. They were vomiting and had reeling eyes and headache on Saturday. The reason for their fainting could not be ascertained immediately and the victims were admitted to the Government Hospital at Eluru for treatment.

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**Junior doctor ends life by suicide**  
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**Gujarat HC judge dies during Covid treatment**



**NATION | 5**  
**PM to lay foundation for new Parl on Dec. 10**



**SPORTS | 8**  
**Pujara subjected to racism in England**



**CORONA COUNT**  
CASES (+29,931) 96,36,741  
DEATHS (+372) 1,40,072  
covid19india.org

STATE GOVT BULLETINS	TELANGANA	ANDHRA PRADESH
(+596)	2,72,719	(+630)
(+3)	1,470	(+4)
		7,024

**WORLD CONFIRMED CASES**  
6,65,98,672  
**DEATHS**  
15,30,642  
**COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES**  
218

## Haryana minister Vij +ve 2 weeks after Covaxin shot

### Will know efficacy 14 days after 2nd dose: Biotech

DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Haryana health minister Anil Vij, who had received one shot of the two-dose trial of Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin a fortnight ago after he offered to be a volunteer, has tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Mr Vij, 67, had offered to be the first volunteer in the phase three trials for Covaxin, an indigenous potential vaccine being developed by Bharat Biotech against Covid-19. He was administered the dose on November 20 at the Civil Hospital in Ambala Cantonment,

about 50 km from Chandigarh.

"I have been tested Covid positive. I am admitted in Civil Hospital Ambala Cantt. All those who have come in close contact to me are advised to get themselves tested for corona (sic)," Mr Vij, who is also the state's home minister, tweeted on Saturday.

Bharat Biotech took to Twitter on Saturday to allay any concerns over the efficacy of the vaccine, saying clinical trials are based on a two-dose schedule, given 28 days apart. The vaccine efficacy will be determined 14 days after the second dose, it said.

Bharat Biotech also said it is a double blinded trial in phase 3 where 50 per cent will receive the vaccine and 50 per cent will receive a placebo.

Though it is not yet known whether Mr Vij received the vaccine or placebo, the company has the data and any issue will be reported to the ethics committee of CDSCO-DCGI data safety monitoring board. The Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said that in the phase 3 trials, 26,000 subjects in 25 sites are involved to determine the efficacy of Covaxin vaccine.

■ Page 2: 45 days needed to develop anti bodies

## KCR on TS tour to boost cadre

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Stunned by the performance of the BJP in the GHMC elections and the Dubbak bypoll before that, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will go on an extensive tour of the state to boost the confidence of his party cadres.

Rao is likely to kick-start

## CM TO DECIDE ON RYTHU BANDHU COMPENSATION

■ REPORT ON PAGE 4

his state tour with the inauguration of TRS party office building (Telangana Bhavan) in Siddipet on December 10. The party

offices in almost all the districts are nearing completion.

Party sources revealed that the Chief Minister is also likely to inaugurate all offices personally in order to interact with party cadres and ascertain their views about the functioning of the TRS.

■ Page 2: Leaders, cadre gap rising, KCR told

## Say 'yes' or 'no', farmers tell Centre on farm laws

### Talks end in deadlock, next meeting scheduled on Dec. 9

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 5

The government on Saturday proposed to hold another meeting on December 9 with representatives of protesting farmers as their fifth round of talks ended in a deadlock with the farmers' group going on a "maun vrat" (vow of silence) during the meeting, seeking a clear "yes or no" answer to their demand of repealing the three new farm laws. And, for the second time, farmers' leaders declined the Centre's offer of lunch and sat down on the floor to eat their packed food.

At the beginning of the meeting at Vigyan Bhawan, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar told the group of farmer unions that the government is committed to cordial talks and welcomed all positive feedback on the new farm laws, sources said.

Later, minister of state for commerce Som Parkash, an MP from Punjab, addressed the leaders in Punjabi and said the government understands the sentiments of Punjab.

But after over four into



Representatives of various farmer unions show their water bottles, which they had carried along to the venue, during their meeting with the government over the Centre's new farm laws, at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

the meeting, in which farmers stuck to their demand of doing away with the farm laws altogether and sought assurance that minimum support price (MSP) for their produce will not be done away with, and the government not agreeing, irate farmers' representatives underlined their rising discontent over lack of progress by opting for a brief silent protest and refusing to engage with

the Centre. They held up placards that said "Yes Or No?" The implicit question was, "Will the Centre scrap the farm laws?"

During Saturday's meeting, the farmers also threatened to walk out over "meaningless" talks, but were persuaded to return to their seats.

Sources said the government then sought some time from the unions to present a concrete proposal after further consulta-

tions within the government and proposed another meeting on December 9 next week. That will be the sixth round of talks between the government and representatives of farmers, thousands of whom are protesting at various borders of Delhi against what they claim are the laws meant to end the mandi system and minimum support price procurement system to benefit corporates.

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ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
**Tithi:** Kartikabhadula Shashti  
till 7.40 pm  
**Star:** Ashlesha till 2.41 pm  
**Variyam:** 2.34 am to 4.09 am  
(Monday)  
**Durmuhurtam:** 4.09 pm to 4.53 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HUIJI CALENDAR**  
**Rabbi-ul Aakhri 20, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 5.28 am  
**Zohar:** 12.17 pm  
**Asar:** 4.05 pm  
**Maghrib:** 5.47 pm  
**Isha:** 7.00 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.33 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.41 PM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 11.03 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 11.22 AM**

COUNTER POINT



Not long ago we used to live in the land of pure milk and honey!

IN BRIEF

Manuu DDE extends date

**Hyderabad:** Manuu, directorate of distance education (DDE), has extended the last admissions date for all its distance mode programmes, with the exception of BED, to 22 December. The University Grants Commission noted that the last admissions date for the 2020-21 academic session should be extended, Manuu said. — */NN*

45 DAYS NEEDED TO DEVELOP ANTI BODIES

From Page 1

Stressing that experts would know better about how the vaccine works, Mr Vij told PTI over phone: “I was told that antibodies start to develop after the second dose, which is administered after 28 days of getting the first shot. And full antibodies are developed 14 days after the second dose is given. So, the complete cycle takes 42 days. In between there is no protection.”

Asked about his condition, Mr Vij said he has sore throat, fever and body ache.

Dr Kiran M, senior government doctor said, “Only the independent investigator of the company will know whether the vaccine dose was given or not. After the dose is given it takes 45 days to develop antibodies. Hence, data from the company must be checked and evaluated.”

EAT | OUT Fillip to hospitality

Food industry woos patrons

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

On the face of it, the entire hospitality industry and food industry collapsed following the Coronavirus pandemic. With life gradually returning to near normalcy, many fields associated with the industry, including food blogger's, food influencers, chefs, caterers, restaurant owners and hoteliers, got together here on Saturday to discuss new ideas to help them be on the fast-track and regain their clientele.

Mohd Zubair Ali, a blogger, said “Covid-19, has pushed the food and beverage industry into a crisis. Now we want to restore normalcy. Now, we want to create an environment which is safe from Covid-19 and reassure customers of strictly abiding by Covid protocol.”

Hotelier Tabeer Osman, who lent his premises for bloggers and hoteliers for the meeting, said, “When the idea was initially shared with me, I was positive that this open discussion and its outcome would bolster customers, while



● **WITH LIFE** gradually returning to near normalcy, many fields associated with the industry, including food blogger's, food influencers, chefs, caterers, restaurant owners and hoteliers, got together here on Saturday to discuss new ideas to help them regain their clientele.

employees can look forward to resuming their duties.”

Lamba, President of Telangana Chief's Association, said, “It's a wonderful idea to bring people to hotels and restaurants. It will also encourage the food industry. We went through a very tough time. Now there will be employment and people can be assured of the best of quality dishes like the ones they enjoyed before Covid.”

No Covid-19 rules followed: Experts

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Public behaviour towards protecting itself from Sars-Cov-2 virus is the first indicator of ability to control this disease. But with people wearing masks going down to 50 per cent, there is worry that there could be threat of widespread infection.

Human gatherings without protection are one among the prime reasons for increase in number of Coronavirus cases, public health experts say. This is mainly because people give up their guard once the number of cases reduces. They stop using masks and washing hands regularly. This leads to spread of infection.

Dr Ramesh Reddy, director of Medical Education, says, “People have to follow Covid-19 protocols when they are going outside. Their protection is based on safety measures that they follow. It is responsible public behaviour, which will help control the spread of virus and prevent any second wave of this disease.” Dr Reddy underlined.

Incidentally, less positivity rate or fewer cases does not mean that there virus is no more. Lesser infections means more testing is essential. Continued testing of people for Coronavirus is important until herd immunity is achieved. According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), antibody testing shows herd immunity is indicative in 50 per cent of the samples tested.

Thyrocare Technologies CEO Arindam Haldar says they are testing blood samples for antibodies. “In the 6

TS RECORDS 596 FRESH VIRUS CASES, 3 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Telangana has reported 596 new Coronavirus cases, apart from three deaths due to the disease. With this, the number of total cases has reached 2,72,719 which the death toll is 1,470.

Among the new cases reported, 102 are from within GHMC limits, 47 from Medchal Malkajigiri 47 and 46 from Ranga Reddy district. There are a total 8,496 active cases in the state.

The state government has reiterated that people follow all safety protocols of wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining social distancing.

● **LESS POSITIVITY** rate or fewer cases does not mean that there virus is no more. Lesser infections means more testing is essential.

lakh samples that we have tested, antibodies have been found in 40 per cent of cases.” The critical question is how long do antibodies last and till what time do they protect one from infection.

Dr Yadagiri Rao, member of Indian Medical Association, TS unit, says, “Since Covid-19 is a new disease, more clarity about how many have acquired protection from the disease will be known only next year. Till then, people should not give up their guard,” he underlined.

Ex-minister Ram Reddy dies at 83

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Former minister Kamatham Ram Reddy, 83, passed away after prolonged illness in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Ram Reddy was elected from Parigi constituency thrice on Congress ticket and was a Cabinet minister thrice.

He served in the Cabinets of Jalagam Vengala Rao, N. Janardhan Reddy and K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy.

He was first elected from Parigi as an Independent in 1967 and later as a Congress candidate in 1972 and 1989. He was also an MLC.

During the 2014 election Ram Reddy was shifted to the BJP and then joined the TRS. The veteran politician was away from active politics as he was ailing for some time.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao condoled his death and ordered that a state funeral be accorded to the veteran political leader. His funeral will be held in Mahbubnagar district on Sunday.

● **HE SERVED** in the Cabinets of Jalagam Vengala Rao, N. Janardhan Reddy and K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. He was first elected from Parigi as an Independent in 1967 and later as a Congress candidate in 1972 and 1989.

No stay on ballot mark order

HC blames SEC for not training its staff for ‘distinguished mark’

VUJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

A division bench of Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy on Saturday heard the writ appeal filed by Telangana State Election Commission (SEC) seeking stay on interim orders issued by a single judge of the High Court, who had on Friday suspended the commission's circular dated December

4, 2020 allowing consideration of “distinguish marks” on ballot papers used in GHMC elections.

The division bench, however, refused to interfere with the single judge order, observing that it is the mistake of SEC in not imparting proper training to its staff who, instead of providing cross arrow markers to voters, allowed a distinguished mark.

“State Election Commission cannot absolve itself from the mistake it committed. Moreover, it commits a mistake and

then rushes to the division bench with an appeal, when the single judge has given you ample time till December 7 to file your response,” the CJ observed.

SEC's counsel Vidyasagar contended that in Neredmet ward, the margin of votes polled between the two candidates who stood first and second is 504, whereas the disputed votes are 544. Because of the single judge's order, SEC could not declare the result of Neredmet.

Responding to con-

tention of Vidyasagar, the division bench said even if it passes any order in the appeal, it will not have any impact on the results, which have been already been declared on Friday. “Everyone knows which party has got the majority. So, where is the hurry in rushing to the court with an appeal”, the Chief Justice asked.

At this, Vidyasagar submitted that as per Supreme Court's directions, High Courts cannot interfere with the functioning of Election

Commission.

Responding to this, the CJ said, “The entire mess has been created by the State Election Commission. Its officials ought to have double checked. Judgements of Supreme Court do say so, but its subsequent judgements have permitted High Courts to interfere in such matters.”

While disposing of SEC's writ appeal, the Chief Justice directed the single judge to hear the writ petition as the first case on December 7, 2020.

Jr doc ends life by suicide

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

A 35-year-old junior doctor from Gandhi Hospital ended her life due to depression. The incident came to light Friday evening. She hanged herself to a ceiling fan at her apartment in Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, where she was sharing accommodation with other two girls. They vacated when one of them tested Covid-19 positive. The deceased was identified as G. Jhansi.

A complaint has been lodged by her nephew

Siluveru Sumanth, who found her hanging after rushing to her house.

According to the SHO of Begumpet, P. Srinivas Rao, Jhansi, a native of Narsampet, Warangal District, was pursuing her Post Graduation from Gandhi Medical College after doing her MBBS from Russia.

Following differences with her family over a marriage alliance that had been brought, she went away and was not in touch with the family, except with her sister. On December 2 at 4 am, she sent a Google location. Two days

later, the nephew went to Gandhi Medical College, where he came to know that she was not attending college and Dean told him that she was going through depression.”

By tracking the location which was sent on Google, Sumanth reached the spot where Jhansi was found hanging, a note was fixed on the walls saying ‘no one is responsible for my death’

After post-mortem at Osmania Hospital, the body was handed over to the family on Saturday. It was not a suspicious death, the report stated.

3 dead as SUV driver hits motorcycle, roadside hotel

NARENDER  
PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 5

In a shocking incident, three persons, including a woman, were killed and two children narrowly escaped, when the driver of an SUV lost control of the vehicle on Saturday.

Three persons killed in the accident were identified as, Jalla Bhumanna, 48, of Velpur, Chinna Rajananna, 75, and Bhudevi, 72, of Bada Bheemgal.

The SUV driver, identified as Rakesh from Maharashtra, had come to Bheemgal to look into the double bedroom house construction works.

He was travelling to Chengal from Bheemgal.

The vehicle first ran over a motorcycle, before it rammed into the Sri Laxmi Narasimha tiffin centre in Bada Bheemgal village in Nizamabad district.

CCTV footage shows two children between the age group of 5 to 6 years escaped as they moved away from the hotel seconds before the accident.

Speaking to the *Deccan Chronicle*, Armoor assistant commissioner of police V. Raghu said, “An elderly person, sitting in the Sri Laxmi Narasimha tiffin centre, died on the spot.

The motorcyclists, and another woman, were seriously injured in the incident.

They were shifted, to the Government hospital in Armoor, where they succumbed to their injuries. The cause of the mishap is due to rash driving.”

Bheemgal police sent the bodies of the deceased for postmortem and registered a case, and have initiated an investigation.

Meanwhile, minister for roads and buildings, legislative affairs and housing V. Prashanth Reddy expressed shock over the accident.

He asked the police to take stringent action against the SUV driver.

Cops arrest two for running flesh trade

**Hyderabad:** The anti-human trafficking unit of Rachakonda along with Saroornagar police busted a prostitution racket and apprehended two accused from Ganesh Lodge in Dilsukhnagar during a raid on Friday.

The police apprehended Juttu Mahender and Panninti Sujatha in a room of the lodge along with one woman victim, whereas the main organiser, identified as Varun, alias Mallesh is absconding.

According to police, the accused enticed innocent women in need of financial aid and forced them into his

illegal activity. The main accused booked customers online, offering them the required money, and sent them to the selected place with the assistance of Juttu and Sujatha. During the raid, the cops seized two mobile phones.

The arrests by Rachakonda police were made under the supervision of Mahesh M. Bhagwat, CP, G. Sudheer Babu, Addl. CP, under the guidance of J. Surender Reddy, Addl. DCP, SOT, K. Chandra Shekhar, Inspector of Police, Anti Human Trafficking Unit, and K. Seetharam, Inspector of Police, Saroornagar PS.

Collector asks officials to keep login password confidential

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, DEC. 5

In a statement issued on Saturday, collector Sikta Patnaik asked all the tahsildar officer to keep their login password confidential. She said, “Otherwise, it could be misused, like how it happened for the Kalyana Laxmi and the Shaadi Mubarak scheme.”

The collector informed that some miscreants obtained the login username and password of the Boath tahsildar's account and sent the bogus applications, seeking the sanctioning of the amount from the Shaadi Mubarak and the Kalyana Laxmi schemes, to the Adilabad RDO office, without the knowledge of the Boath tahsildar office.

Subsequently, the money was deposited into the bogus bank accounts.

The collector asked the Adilabad RDO to sanction the Kalyana Laxmi amount only after manually verifying the applications with those applications received online.

The collector said, “After the fraud came to light, a senior assistant in the RDO office, Nadeem, was suspended, on charges of his involvement in the scam. We asked the district lead bank officials to block the bank accounts of the bogus applicants, who received the Kalyana Laxmi amount and the middlemen who played a role in the fraud.”

She said that disciplinary action would be taken, against the concerned officials, for their negligence. She recommended to the police to file criminal cases against those employees and officials involved in the fraud.

KCR TOLD LEADERS, CADRE GAP WIDENING

From Page 1

They added that the party boss had already interacted with some senior leaders in the party after the Dubbak and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) results were out.

During the interactions, the leaders brought to the Chief Minister's notice a gap building between the leaders and the cadres and between the new entrants from other parties into the Telangana

Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and old cadres and leaders.

They opined that there is dissatisfaction among the leaders who were associated with the TRS since its inception of being neglected in the party.

As far as the GHMC results were concerned, the Chief Minister is said to have decided to interact with key leaders in the city's party wing to get first-hand information on the party situation, sources added.

TRS may elect mayor without MIM support

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is chalking out plans to use technicalities to elect its mayor and deputy mayor without the support from MIM. As per rules, 50 per cent quorum is essential for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) council to elect the mayor and deputy mayor. In other words, if a certain number of electors absent themselves, the required quorum can elect corporators to the two posts without the support of another political party in the hung house.

Any political party will require 98 electors, including corporators and ex-officio members, to elect its own mayor and her deputy. The mayor's post is, incidentally, received for a woman.

But no political party has got absolute majority even if the parties include their ex-officio members. While the TRS has won 55+1 seats (result of one ward is pending in court), the BJP got 48 seats, MIM secured 44 seats and the Congress has been reduced to just two corporators. Including its 31 ex-officio members, the strength TRS will be 87. MIM's strength with 10 ex-officio member will be 54, while BJP's number will be 51 with its three ex-officio members. Congress has one ex-officio member, which takes its count to three.

TRS does not want to take the support of MIM in getting its candidates elected to the two posts for political reasons, as BJP will take advantage of such an alliance through polarisation of votes in the 2023 assembly general elections. Consequently, TRS has chalked out a technical plan to emerge the winner. The GHMC council requires a quorum of 50



State BJP president Bandi Sanjay along with Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy and senior party leaders welcome newly-elected corporators after the party's impressive performance in the GHMC elections, at the BJP head office in Nampally on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

● **WHILE THE TRS** has won 55+1 seats (result of one ward is pending in court), the BJP got 48 seats, MIM secured 44 seats and the Congress has been reduced to just two corporators.

per cent of the house to elect the mayor and deputy mayor. Including its ex-officio members, TRS has enough strength to get its two candidates elected effortlessly. In case of any emergency, it can ask MIM to keep only minimal corporators in the house at the election time.

Incidentally, the same method was used by TRS while constituting area sabhas in July 2017. At that time, a special meeting of the GHMC was convened to

constitute area sabhas.

While GHMC mayor Bonthu Rammohan did not turn up citing ill health, a number of corporators were conspicuous by their absence. Then, deputy mayor Baba Fasiuddin acted as chairman of the council in the absence of mayor, which was a first in the history of GHMC.

This facilitated the GHMC council in forming 1,347 area sabhas for all the 150 wards.

Significantly, the term of the existing council of GHMC will continue until February 10. So, newly elected corporators can take oath only after February 10. Mayoral elections will be held thereafter with a notification issued by the State Election Commission.

MIM IS IN NO HURRY TO SIGN PACT WITH THE TRS

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

All India Majlis-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) seems to be in no hurry on deciding a post-electoral alliance with Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

It has decided to adopt a wait-and-watch policy with regard to the posts of mayor and the deputy mayor. Though AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has held discussions with party legislators on the issue, he has decided to

maintain silence over any alliance because of the hung house. There is still a long time for expiry of the existing term of current GHMC corporators.

Sources said the party has decided to take a categorical stand that it will wait for TRS to request MIM for support. Earlier, speaking to media, Owaisi said the issue will be decided at a meeting of the party's legislators and newly elected corporators after a few days. “Neither have we offered to extend support nor has TRS invited us to discuss the matter,” he remarked.



## OTHER STORIES

VIJAYA DAIRY  
PARLOURS OPENED  
IN NIZAMABADDC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 5

Vijaya dairy parlours were inaugurated in Nizamabad on Saturday.

Telangana state dairy development corporation managing director G. Srinivas Rao, district collector C. Narayana Reddy inaugurated the parlours at Subhashnagar and Phulong Rythu Bazaar premises. Vijaya dairy MD said that 50 applications were received for the new parlours in Nizamabad district.

Cooling refrigerators will be provided at a 50 per cent subsidy to the parlours, he said. Vijaya products will be supplied at all parlours for the availability of customers, he added. District animal husbandry joint director Yellanna, Lead bank district manager Jaya Santhoshi, Vijaya dairy general manager Kamesh, deputy director Nanda Kumari and others were present.

## Enrolment of new voters begins in Nizamabad

Those who are 18 years as on January 1, 2021, are eligible

NARENDER  
PULLOOK | DC  
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 5

A special summary revision-2021 began on Saturday in Nizamabad district intending to enrol new voters.

Youths, who have attained 18 years of age as on January 1, 2021, are eligible to enrol, their names as voters.

A summary revision programme will be conducted, on December 5 and 6, in Nizamabad district. Chief Electoral Officer, Dr Shashank Goel, directed the district collectors to make arrangements for SSR-2021.

As part of this, booth-level officers and staff will conduct a door-to-door campaign to enrol the new voters. Electoral staff,



District collector C. Narayana Reddy directs booth level officials on the voter enrolment programme in Nizamabad on Saturday

have been told, to enrol 4 per cent new voters to the existing electoral rolls in booth level.

Youths should submit Form-6 to enrol their names as voters.

Forms 7, 8, 8-a will be available for additions and

deletions in the existing electoral rolls, officials said.

The details of dead voters will be deleted, from the voters' list.

For the special summary revision, the district administration has made

arrangements. However, eligible youth can also apply for voter identity cards online.

District collector C. Narayana Reddy, Nizamabad municipal commissioner Jithesh V. Patil visited the special summary revision centres at St Mary High School, Quilla road and Cambridge International School, Habeebnagar in Nizamabad on Saturday.

The collector asked the booth-level officers to carry a door-to-door survey to identify new voters.

He said that all required forms should be made available at the summary revision centres.

He warned, that action would be initiated, against the officials, who neglect the voter enrolment programme.

## Mega Lok adalat to be held on Dec. 12 in Karimnagar

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, DEC. 5

Chairperson of the district legal cell authority, M.G. Priyadarshini said, "A mega lok adalat will be held on December 12, in all the district courts in erstwhile Karimnagar district."

Speaking at a press meet held in Karimnagar district on Saturday, she said, "Because of holidays given to the court due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many cases are pending. The National Legal Cell authority has issued orders to conduct Lok Adalats in their respective jurisdictions."

The mega Lok Adalat will be held, under the State Legal Cell Authority, in the supervision of the District Legal Cell Authority in all the courts present in erstwhile Karimnagar district on December 12 in the court



District judge and chairperson of the District legal cell authority, M.G. Priyadarshini holds a press meet at the court premises in Karimnagar on Saturday.

premises.

District judge, M.G. Priyadarshini said that the Lok adalats would announce the judgement on the spot, solving the many pending cases. The Lok adalats will be useful for victims of vehicle accidents, and they can get proper compensation.

As many as 1,638 cases, can be solved in the Lok Adalat, were identified.

Notices were issued, to both the parties. The plans are to see that at least a 1,000 cases are

resolved, in the mega Lok Adalat.

The BAR Association president, P.V. Raj Kumar said that all advocates of the association are ready to cooperate and make the mega Lok Adalat a success.

The secretary of the District Legal Cell Authority, Sujay, appealed to the people to utilise the opportunity by attending the event which is going to be held from morning to evening on Saturday, December 12.

## CPI stage dharna, try to lay siege to BJP party office

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, DEC. 5

CPI leaders along with student organisation members tried to lay siege to the party office of Karimnagar MP and state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday. They also tried to burn the effigy of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, but the police intervened and arrested them.

Later, the CPI leaders of the district unit staged a dharna at Kaman Chowrasta in Karimnagar district. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ignoring the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat who are agitating seeking the removal of the newly introduced agriculture, said CPI state secretary, Chada Venkat Reddy.

Mr Venkat Reddy alleged that in the name of reforms, the BJP government led by Narendra Modi introduced anti-

**VENKAT REDDY** alleged that in the name of reforms, the government is trying to hand over the nation's wealth to corporate biggies by dissolving the government institutions.

**HE ASKED** members of various peoples organisations and party workers to make the Bharat Bandh call given by the farmers union on December 8, a success.

farmer and anti-worker acts. The government is trying to hand over the nation's wealth to corporate biggies by dissolving several government institutions.

He appealed to members of various peoples organisations and party workers to make the Bharat Bandh call given by the farmers union on December 8, a grand success.

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## AP makes senior bow to junior

Babus in the Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy dispensation are an unhappy lot. Over the two recent appointments, Vijay Kumar as secretary of forest and environment and retired cop B. Malla Reddy as director of Anti Corruption Bureau.

For decades the post of secretary environment and forest is filled with senior bureaucrats of the rank of special chief secretary. This is primarily done because the principal chief conservator of forest, who heads the forest force, is equivalent to the rank of principal secretary or above and reports to senior officials in the government. In babudom a senior officer reporting to junior is almost like a sin and would never happen. But Vijaykumar is much junior to many of the senior officers in the forest department. This is not the first time that the Jagan government took such a decision. Earlier, Karikal Vallevan was appointed as managing director of a small time organisation in Infrastructure and Investment which at that time was headed by his junior Rajat Bhargav. Both Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney or GAD principal secretary Praveen Prakash are not bothered to bring such anomalies to CM's notice and take corrective measures leaving other babus in red.

## A strage victory for the Congress

The Congress settled for two seats in the recently-concluded elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Both seats were located in the Malkajigiri Lok Sabha constituency. In all the other 148 wards, where stalwarts in the Congress campaigned, party candidates were swept away by those of either the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti or the Bharatiya Janata Party, the new superpower. Post the elections, Congress leaders began seeing the victory of the TRS and the BJP as unethical and based on divisive politics. Congress leaders are claiming that though they had been routed, the party had won an ideological victory. The party will emerge as a strong force against the divisive politics of the BJP and the dynastic rule of TRS in the future, they proclaimed. The state Congress' chief has resigned and the party incharge hasn't so much as cast a glance. That must be a strange kind of victory.

## 'TD', 'YSRC', bnoth supported TRS

In highly caste driven Andhra Pradesh politics the bitterness between the Kamma and Reddy communities is well known and their political affiliations by and large sail with Telugu Desam and YSR Congress respectively.

But they have a common liking for Telangana Rashtra Samithi in the neighbouring Telangana as is evident from

the results of the recently held Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls. Both are in considerable numbers in Kukatpally and surrounding areas where the TRS candidates won comfortably enjoying their support. The TD sympathisers are thoroughly upset with BJP not only for soft pedalling against Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy but

also for choosing not to protect the capital status to Amaravati. The YSR sympathisers on the other hand supported TRS because they are afraid of BJP making AP as its next destination if its allowed to grow in Telangana. But people of the capital city thought otherwise and braced BJP to a sizeable extent.

## STATE

### SHORT TAKES

### AIRPORT GEARS UP FOR VACCINE TRANSPORTATION

Hyderabad, Dec. 5: GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo (GHAC), located at the centre of one of the vaccine production regions in the country, is also a key stakeholder in the global vaccine logistics with facilities such as modern temperature-sensitive pharma and vaccine storage and processing zones.

"GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo boasts India's first Pharma Zone with a temperature-controlled GDP-certified facility for temperature-sensitive cargo handling. The terminal is fitted with different temperature zones from -20 degrees Celsius to 25 degrees Celsius and state-of-the-art equipment and cool containers to meet the unique specifications of the product," said the spokesman for the Hyderabad airport.

The spokesperson confirmed that the freighter parking stands are only 50 m from the terminal, thereby reducing the timing of ramp visibility and ensuring the aircraft's rapid turn around.

The airport also introduced the new cool dollies recently to remove any temperature excursions and to keep the cool chain unbroken.

The GHAC also boasts one of India's largest cool container storage facilities such as environmental, c-safe, unicolour, and vacutainer within its premises to ensure 24/7 customers have access to the facility.

The GHAC has also taken many paperless steps to eliminate the human interface, such as e-reception e-OOC, e-LEO e-AWB, among others.

— INN

● **GMR HYDERABAD** Air Cargo boasts India's first Pharma Zone with a temperature-controlled GDP-certified facility for temperature-sensitive cargo handling. The terminal is fitted with different temperature zones from -20°C to 25°C.



AIMIM party candidates who won in the GHMC elections meet party president Asaduddin Owaisi at the party headquarters Darussalam in Hyderabad on Saturday. — P. SURENDRA

## Owaisi: BJP win at a great cost

Says people will stop lotus blooming in TS

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi termed the BJP's win a 'pyrrhic victory' and claimed that it will not garner the same response from the entire state as the political landscape will be far different from what it is in Greater Hyderabad, which is cosmopolitan in nature while in the mainland Telangana, regional emotions determine the outcome.

Interacting with media persons here on Saturday, Owaisi said that the political vacuum created by TDP, Lok Satta, Left parties and a weakened Congress party, was seized by BJP, although it will just be a momentary joy for them. It indulged in a communal and negative campaign. However, the political scenario will

change within the next eight to 10 months.

Owaisi said Telangana has particular regional sentiments, which correlate with K.Chandrashekar Rao. BJP will not be able to get a mandate from the people of Telangana, he asserted and added that BJP's latest showing would not vitiate the prospects of AIMIM.

"Even in GHMC polls, BJP could not harm us even though their national leaders campaigned here. We are satisfied with our present performance. The strike rate of our party is 86%, the highest among all political parties. The voters of the Hyderabad Parliamentary constituency gave a befitting reply to BJP's derogatory campaign".

Replying to a question about the claim of BJP leaders that they will

conquer MIM bastion, Owaisi said Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and others had made similar lofty claims but they could not dent our vote bank.

The MIM boss clarified that the party will consult with leaders of the party in West Bengal over contesting the Assembly elections in that state.

However, the party will not contest in Assam and Kerala where Moulana Badruddin Ajmal's party All India United Democratic Front of and Indian Union Muslim League exist.

"We will confront whoever obviates us. What is the logic that BJP will gain if MIM participates in elections? If so, how could BJP manage to win 18 Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal, when our party was not there," he asked.

However, the officials failed to diagnose the disease.

The incidents were reported mostly at South Street, East Street, Ashoknagar, Arundathipet and in the vicinity areas in Eluru of West Godavari district.

## KCR to decide Rythu Bandhu tomorrow

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will decide on releasing Rythu Bandhu financial assistance of ₹5,000 per acre for the Rabi season to the bank accounts of farmers on Monday.

A high-level meeting will

be held at Pragathi Bhavan with the finance and agriculture department officials on this issue.

The state government had to transfer farm assistance to farmers in October, but it got delayed due to the Dubbak by-election and also the Covid-19 crisis.

However, farmers under

the Dubbak Assembly segment received the farm assistance before the schedule for by-election was released.

The agriculture department said the government is providing financial support to 58.33 lakh farmers across the state for the Kharif and Rabi season

crops.

During the Kharif season this year, the state government transferred farm assistance to 58.33 lakh farmers within 48 hours in June.

The Telangana state government has allocated ₹12,000 crore for the Rythu Bandhu scheme in the 2020-21 Budget.

## SEC, Hyd police failed to hold fair polls: Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday charged the State Election Commission and the Hyderabad police with bias towards the ruling TRS during the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

Addressing a press conference at the state party office, he said that if the

SEC and the Hyderabad police would have conducted free and fair polls, the BJP would have won another 25 seats.

He alleged that the SEC and the police worked under the directions of the TRS.

Stating that the vote share of the party had considerably increased in the GHMC, he pointed out that though the MIM and the TRS had contested together under a secret pact, both of them got just 0.2 per cent more votes

than the BJP.

Bandi also pointed out that the TRS won against the BJP in 55 seats one against Congress, but it did not win a single seat against the MIM.

He said that BJP will extend its support for all-round development and will fight and expose corruption of the ruling party in the GHMC.

He said that the Congress star campaigner and actor-turned-politician Vijayashanthi will soon join the BJP.

## KTR TO MEET NEW CORPORATORS TODAY AT 2PM

Hyderabad: TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao will be holding a meeting at 2 pm with the newly-elected corporators of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on Sunday at Telangana Bhavan. The TRS won 55 out of 150 wards in the GHMC elections. Sources said, the working president will interact with the new corporators on the election of of mayor and deputy mayor of the GHMC. He is likely to ascertain views from the new corporators and second-time elected corporators to strengthen the party in the GHMC in future in view of drubbing the party received.

## MANY IN RACE FOR STATE CONG PRESIDENT POST

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

As the change in the leadership of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has become following the resignation of N. Uttam Kumar Reddy from the post in the backdrop of party's debacle in the GHMC elections and also Dubbak by-election, aspirants have started lobbying.

During an informal chat with reporters here on Saturday, Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that he was also in the race for TPCC chief post. Claiming that he is a strong contender, he reminded that he sacrificed his ministerial berth for the sake of separate Telangana and that there is a need for the AICC to recognise his services to the party.

He said in the event of AICC not considering his candidature he will back MLA D Sridhar Babu's candidature for the post. Sangareddy MLA T Jayaprakash Reddy, alias Jagga Reddy, also indicated that he was in the race. He said that he sought an appointment with Rahul Gandhi to press for his nomination.

Former MP Madhu Yashki Goud wants the post be given to a candidate belonging to Backward Classes.

## New beneficiaries await pensions under Aasara

DURGAM SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

About 10-15 lakh people, who have applied for pensions under Aasara scheme, have been waiting for the past two years with the hope that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will provide solace to them by okaying their applications and granting them pensions.

During 2018 elections, the TRS boss had promised to reduce the age limit for old age pensions from 60 years to 57 years. Following this, officers subsequently received applications from eligible beneficiaries between the age of 57 years to 60 years.

Already two years have elapsed, but there has been no indication from the state government whether or not these applications will be approved and when. Welfare officials disclosed that they have only been awaiting orders from the state government in this regard, as they have already processed the applications of eligible beneficiaries. Officials said as

CATEGORY, NO. OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE AASARA SCHEME	
Old age pension	12,86,363
Disabled persons	4,98,565
Widows	14,52,545
Handloom workers	37,569
Stripe workers	63,162
Single women	1,35,162
Beedi workers	4,08,755
HIV-infected	33,229
Filariasis cases	14,403
Total	39,29,753

● **ALREADY TWO** years have elapsed, but there has been no indication from the state government whether or not these applications will be approved and when.

● **WELFARE OFFICIALS** said they have been awaiting orders from the state government in this regard, as applications of eligible beneficiaries processed.

there have been no orders for payment of pension to people above 57 years, they are distributing pension of ₹2,016 only to each of the people exceeding 60 years of age.

Officers say the state government will have to bear an additional burden of around ₹3,600 to ₹4,000

crore for payment of pensions to beneficiaries between the age of 57 years to 60 years.

They point out that the state government has already been spending ₹1,756 crore per month for payment of pensions to 39,29,753 existing beneficiaries in the state.

## 46 vomit, faint in Eluru mysteriously

DC CORRESPONDENT ELURU, DEC. 5

More than 46 youth and children mysteriously fainted all of a sudden. They were vomiting and had reeling eyes and headache on Saturday. The

reason for their fainting could not be ascertained immediately and the victims were admitted to the Government Hospital at Eluru for treatment.

Some of the affected people also got fits and a five-year-old girl was shifted to

Siddardha Hospital in Vijayawada for better medical care.

District collector Revu Muthyala Raju alerted the medical and health officials and directed them to render immediate medical treatment to the victims.





IN BRIEF

## ONE HELD FOR FLOATING FAKE AIRPORT PORTAL

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 5

A three-member team of IGI Airport police station, New Delhi, on Saturday arrested a youth from his in-laws house at Naraharipur village in Odisha's Bhadrak district for allegedly committing a cyber fraud amounting to ₹1 crore.

The accused, identified as Rajendra Malick of Bairi village in Jajpur district, was held while hiding at his in-laws house to avoid police action.

According to the police reports, Malick runs a travel agency through which he used to "make" online train and flight tickets using fake identity documents. He also used to dupe people of thousands of rupees on the pretext of getting them a job at IGI Delhi Airport.

Malick who lives in Bhubaneswar floated a website faking the official website of IGI Airport. In the website, he advertised for various posts and asked job aspirants to deposit ₹1,000 registration fee. Thousands of youths fell victim to Malick's design and deposited the money.

"The accused has looted people of over ₹1 crore by promising them jobs at IGI Airport. Besides, he has cheated people in many other way. We are probing all cases," IGI Airport police station inspector Vijaya Kumar who led the three-member team said.

A complaint was lodged against Rajendra on December 2 by a resident of Delhi. Based on the complaint, the Delhi police booked a case under Section 420, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code team reached Bhadrak and arrested him on Saturday morning.

"Based on the complaint, we launched the investigation and successfully reached the accused. We are interrogating the accused to know further details about the cheating and fraud perpetrated by him," the police said.

Soon after his arrest, the accused was produced in the local Dhamnagar Court which remanded him in the transit remand of Delhi police.

## SPICEJET PLANE UNDERSHOOTS RUNWAY

New Delhi, Dec 5: A SpiceJet plane undershot the runway while landing at the Guwahati airport on Friday, but no one was hurt in the incident, senior DGCA officials said.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation has grounded the two SpiceJet pilots who were operating the SG960 Bengaluru-Guwahati flight, they said on Saturday.

"They (pilots) have been off-rostered. It (matter) is under investigation," one of the officials said.

Officials said that while the plane landed before the designated point on the runway, none of the passengers were affected. "However, some of the runway lights were damaged while landing the SG960 Bengaluru-Guwahati flight," an official said.

SpiceJet did not respond to PTI's queries on this matter. It was not clear how many passengers were on board the plane when the incident occurred. The SpiceJet plane, which has registration number VT-SLL, is fit for flying and has conducted multiple flights post the runway incident, the officials said.

## HUBBY SEEKS MAINTENANCE FROM WIFE

Thane, Dec 5: A man from Bhiwandi in Thane district of Maharashtra has been booked for allegedly harassing his wife for delivering a baby girl and demanding ₹30,000 as "maintenance" from her parents for the child, police said on Saturday.

Besides the man, his parents were also booked under section 498A (Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), an official said.

The woman (21) was harassed by the accused, identified as Dilshad Gaba Momin, Sonu Gaba Momin and Naushad Momin, for delivering a baby girl and was asked to bring ₹30,000 from her parents towards "maintenance" of the child, the official said quoting the complaint.

Police are yet to make any arrest in the case.



A model of the proposed new Parliament building in New Delhi on Saturday.

# PM to lay foundation stone for Parl building on Dec 10

LS speaker says as many as 1,224 MPs can sit together in the building

New Delhi, Dec 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone on December 10 for a new Parliament building and the construction is expected to be completed by 2022 at an estimated cost of ₹971 crore, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Saturday.

"The existing temple of democracy is completing 100 years... It is a matter of pride for our countrymen that the new one will be built by our own people as a prime example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Birla said here announcing details of the new proposed building.

"The new building will showcase the cultural diversity of the country. Hopefully, in the 75th year of independence (2022), Parliament session will be held in the new building," he said.

Birla said the new building will be earthquake resistant and 2,000 people will be directly involved in the construction of the new building and 9,000 indirectly.

He said as many as 1,224

MPs can sit together in the building, while a new office complex for all MPs of both the houses would be built at the site of the existing Shram Shakti Bhawan.

The existing Parliament building will be conserved as it is an archaeological asset of the country, Birla said.

The existing building is a British era building, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker who were responsible for planning and construction of New Delhi.

The Foundation Stone of the existing Parliament House was laid on February 12, 1921 and the construction took six years and cost ₹83 lakh at that time. The opening ceremony was performed on January 18, 1927 by the then Governor-General of India, Lord Irwin.

The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres and is being built at an estimated cost of ₹971 crore, Birla said.

He said the outlook of the new building will be similar to the existing one.

● **THE EXISTING** Parliament building will be conserved as it is an archaeological asset of the country, Lok Sabha speaker said.

● **THE EXISTING** building is a British era building, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker who were responsible for planning and construction of New Delhi.

● **THE NEW** building will have an area of 64,500 square metres and is being built at an estimated cost of ₹971 crore

"There will be a basement, ground, first and second floors in the new building and its height will be same as the old building so that both are in symmetry," he said.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said the invitation will be extended to all political parties. While some would attend physically and others would attend virtually, Birla said, while adding

that the ground laying ceremony at 1 pm on December 10 would follow all Covid-related guidelines.

As per rules, the speaker of the lower house of parliament is also the custodian of the parliament building.

Sufficient steps have been taken to control air and noise pollution during the construction work for the new parliament building, which will have separate offices for all MPs and those will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces as a step towards creating 'paperless offices'.

The new building will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space.

In the new building, the Lok Sabha chamber will have a seating capacity for 888 members, while Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats for the upper house members.

This has been done keeping in mind the future increase in the number of members for the two houses.

At present, Lok Sabha has a sanctioned strength of 543 members and Rajya Sabha of 245.

In September this year, Tata Projects Limited won the bid to construct the new parliament building at a cost of ₹861.90 crore. The new building will be constructed close to the existing one under the Central Vista redevelopment project.

The existing Parliament House building will be suitably retro-fitted to provide more functional spaces for parliamentary events, to ensure its usage along with the new building.

The existing building is a massive circular edifice of 560 feet in diameter. The Parliament House Estate is enclosed by an ornamental red sandstone wall or iron grills with iron gates that can be closed when occasions demand. The building has twelve gates.

# Hindus will be beaten up if they visit church: VHP

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 5

In what is said to be in retaliation of alleged closure of a Hindu temple in Meghalaya, the right wing group Vishwa Hindu Parishad has warned Hindus against visiting churches during Christmas in Assam's Barrak Valley.

In a viral video Mithu Nath, the general secretary of Cachar district unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, declared himself "outraged" by the alleged shut down of the Vivekananda Centre (part of the Ramakrishna Mission) in Christian-majority Meghalaya state capital Shillong, and said that Hindus would "not be allowed" to attend Christmas Day programmes and festivities.

"If Hindus go and visit Churches on Christmas Day, they will get brutally beaten," warned Mr Nath in his speech amidst the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" by his supporters. He added, "They are locking temples in Shillong and we are going and celebrating Christmas with them. This cannot happen, we will not allow this to happen."

"If we do so (assault by Hindus) I know the headlines in newspapers the

next day - 'Gunda Dal' has vandalised Oriental school... but that is not our priority. We will not allow Hindus in programmes during Christmas when they are locking gates of temples in Shillong," he said.

Addressing a crowd of around 70 people dressed in saffron and shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' repeatedly Mr Nath also said, "We accept this", referring to claims the media twists the right-wing outfit's name.

However, Mr Nath's claim - that the Khasi Student Union had shut down a temple - has been denied by authorities of the Meghalaya government, who said it was the Cultural Centre (where students are taught advanced computer courses) whose gates had been closed - not locked - because of a district holiday. No temple of the Ramakrishna Mission has been shut, the official added.

Although the Christian population in the north-eastern state's Cachar district is relatively small, the Christmas is traditionally celebrated by the Oriental School at Ambikapatty near Silchar. People from various religions gather every year.

## GUJARAT HC JUDGE DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST DURING COVID TREATMENT

Ahmedabad, Dec 5: A sitting judge of the Gujarat High Court died following a cardiac arrest on Saturday while undergoing treatment for coronavirus at a private hospital here, a doctor said.

Justice G R Udhwani (59), who had tested Covid-19 positive on November 19, died at SAL Hospital due to complications arising out of the infection, the doctor said.

He died in the morning, days after he was admit-

ted to the hospital on November 22 in a critical condition, Dr Divyanga Dalwadi, a critical care expert of the hospital, said. "He was admitted to the hospital with severe lung infection. He was also suffering from hypothyroidism," the doctor said.

In his career spanning over three decades, Justice Udhwani had also served as an additional judge of special POTC court in 2003.

# People have a right to protest peacefully: UN

United Nations, Dec 5: People have a right to demonstrate peacefully and authorities should let them do so, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said on the farmers' protests in India.

India has called the remarks by foreign leaders on protests by farmers as "ill-informed" and "unwarranted" as the matter pertained to the internal affairs of a democratic country.

As to the question of India, what I would say to you is what I've said to others when raising these issues is that people have a right to demonstrate peacefully, and authorities need to let them do so, Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said on Friday.

Reacting to the comments by the foreign leaders, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen some ill-

informed comments relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country."

In a terse message, the ministry further added that "it is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes."

On Friday, India summoned Canadian High Commissioner and told him that the comments made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and others in his Cabinet on the farmers' protest constituted an "unacceptable interference" in the country's internal affairs and these actions, if continued, will have a "seriously damaging" impact on the bilateral ties.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and several other states have been protesting for the last nine days at the borders of Delhi against three farm laws. - PTI

## FARMERS' PROTESTS: MPs IN UK SEEK MINISTERIAL INTERVENTION

London, Dec 5: A group of 36 cross-party parliamentarians has written to UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab asking him to make representations with his Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, about the impact on British Punjabis affected by the demonstrations by farmers against new agricultural reforms in India.

India has called the remarks by foreign leaders and politicians on protests by farmers as "ill-informed" and "unwarranted" as the matter pertained to the internal affairs of a dem-

ocratic country.

The letter, issued on Friday, has been drafted by British Sikh Labour MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi and signed by other Indian-origin MPs including Labour's Virendra Sharma, Seema Malhotra and Valerie Vaz as well as former Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said the department has not received the letter as yet. The police handling of protests is a matter for the government of India, an FCDO spokesperson said. - PTI

## FARMERS BRING THEIR OWN FOOD, TEA AT GOVT MEETING

New Delhi, Dec 5: Meeting the government for the fifth time on Saturday with their demands for scrapping the three new farm laws, union leaders decided to have their own tea and food, ferried from their *langar* (community kitchen) at Singhu border, where thousands of farmers are protesting for over a week.

The fifth round of talks began at 2.30 pm and was attended by 40 representatives of various farmer organisations.

Union leaders said they had their own food and tea during a break, rather than having what was arranged by the government at Vigyan Bhawan, the meeting venue.

During their last meeting on Thursday also, the farmer leaders had their own lunch, tea and even water.

Farmers' leaders had earlier on Thursday told the government to focus on resolving the issues instead of trying to be a good host by offering lunch.

Thousands of farmers have been camping at various borders of the national capital as part of their protest against the laws.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Railways, Commerce and Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce Som Parkash, who is an MP from Punjab, are holding talks with the representatives of the farmer groups at the Vigyan Bhawan. The laws have been presented by the government as major reforms in the agriculture sector by removing middlemen and allowing farmers to sell anywhere in the country. - PTI

# Support for agitation by farmers grows, MP farmers leave for Delhi

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC 5

Farmers from various districts in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday started for Delhi to join the ongoing stir in the national capital demanding scrapping of the three farm laws passed in the parliament recently.

Small groups of farmers took out rallies in Shivpuri, Dewas, Gwalior, Mandsaur and Raisen in protest against the farm bills and then left for the national capital in trucks to join the ongoing agitation.

In Dewas, around 40 farmers marched to the local district collector's office and submitted a memorandum to deputy collector demanding scrapping of the farm laws.

In Mandsaur, the local 'Kissan Sabha' staged a demonstration in protest against the farm laws and threatened to intensify the agitation if the Centre did heed to their demand.

Ruling BJP here, however, claimed that the call by some farmers' bodies to oppose the farm laws have no impact in Madhya Pradesh.

"No recognized farmers' bodies in MP have so far joined the stir. Only some local leaders have been trying to provoke the farmers to join the agitation. But, they have failed", BJP spokesman here Rajneesh Agrawal said.

Mr Agrawal said no farmer has joined the stir and only middlemen in the agriculture sector are opposed to the farm laws because they are well aware that the laws will eliminate their role in the market and ensure fair price to the farmers of their produce. Farmers in MP are happy with the Shivraj government for its pro-farmer policies, he



Fumigation drive being carried out at Ghazipur border amid the coronavirus pandemic, during farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' protest march against the new farm law in New Delhi on Saturday.

said. In Chhattisgarh, several farmers' bodies and non-BJP parties backed the ongoing farmers' stir in Delhi.

As many as 50 farmers' bodies on Saturday organized statewide agitation in Chhattisgarh demanding scrapping of the farm laws.

"Farmers staged demonstrations in every village in Chhattisgarh in protest against the farm laws. Two farmer leaders were arrested during agitation in Marwahi in Bilashpur district", president of Chhattisgarh Kissan Sabha and Chhattisgarh state secretary of CPM Sanjay Parate said.

All India Farmers' Alliance along with Aam Admi Party (AAP), Congress, CPI, CPM and Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha held a demonstration in Raipur on Friday evening to protest the farm laws.

## RSS-AFFILIATE BKS SUGGESTS 4 AMENDMENTS TO NEW FARM LAWS

Jodhpur, Dec 5: RSS-affiliate Bharatiya Kisan Sangh proposed on Friday four amendments to the three contentious central farm laws to make it "farmer-friendly" and address the apprehensions that have led to protests.

"Instead of scrapping the new laws as some organisations have been demanding, we propose four amendments in these legislations," BKS general secretary Badri Narayan Chaudhary said, adding that it would be enough to address the apprehensions.

The amendments are that there should be no purchasing below the MSP in the wholesale markets or outside, registration of all traders on a government portal that

can be accessed by all, payment to the farmers in a stipulated time through bank guarantee and setting up of the agriculture tribunals for resolution of farmers' disputes in their hometown itself.

The BKS welcomed the new laws that it said was a "long-pending demand". Chaudhary said the outfit had been pushing for 'one nation-one market' since long.

The BKS leader said the wholesale markets were introduced with the welfare of farmers in mind and it helped them a lot. "But gradually, it became a means of exploitation of farmers," he said, adding that many organisations had been demanding rectification in the system for a long time.

- PTI



# DECCAN Chronicle

6 DECEMBER 2020



Shashi Warriar

Off the beaten track

## The evolution of the indigenous BPO

A friend of mine, a professor of business communication at a business school nearby, dropped in recently after renewing his driving licence. “What’s up?” I asked. “I just thought of something more for us Indians to be proud of,” he said.

“What?” I asked. “Well, Indians thought up aircraft and plastic surgery long before the people in the West thought of them,” he replied, “but there’s also something in management science that we invented long ago.”

“What?” I asked. “Business Process Outsourcing,” he replied. “BPO. The backbone of some of our business... The West invented the term and took credit for the concept, as usual. But we thought of it first. You see it all over the place.”

Pictures came to mind of ranks of young people wearing headphones, speaking in fake American accents answering tedious telephonic questions from overseas customers, or ranks of computers recording inter-bank transactions, and so on. I couldn’t make the connection. “How so?” I asked.

“Back in the 1980s,” he replied, “when I was in Bangalore, if you wanted to register a company, you went to the Registrar of Companies. You did your paperwork, and, when it was done, you handed over an envelope containing his private fee for your work. He’d say, ‘Heh, heh, *saar*, this is not necessary,’ and place the cover in his drawer. A few years later, it had changed. You handed him the cash when the job was done, and he counted it before putting it away. And a few more years down the line, you never even got to see the registrar. You handed your papers and the fee to an agent outside his office and you got your registration a day or two later.”

“I don’t understand,” I said. “Forgive me for being so slow.” “I see you haven’t thought about it,” he said, straightening up and using the professorial tone that he might use on a backbencher who’s just slept through a lecture. “The purpose of governance in India is to create and manage queues. Where there are queues, there are people willing to pay to jump them. Governance is about helping people to jump queues for a consideration. The longer the queue, the bigger the consideration, and the happier the officials. Okay?”

“Okay,” I replied. “That’s why no one bothers about overpopulation,” he continued. “The greater the population, the longer the queue. The idea was, the more the people suffer, the longer the queue, and the more people are willing to pay to jump.”

“Right,” I agreed. “But that’s old hat,” he went on. “Thirty years back, someone saw the virtue of a freer economy. Simple: the more money people have, the more they’ll pay to jump the queue. So they loosened up bits of the economy, and watched the money roll in. And that was when they thought of BPO. People were beginning to complain about corruption, you see.”

“But what’s BPO got to do with corruption?” I asked. “Everything!” he said, happily. “Officials began to outsource their business to agents. The agent collects the money and delivers papers. He settles with the officials afterwards, outside the office. One side-effect: it keeps the officials safe. A surprise check at the office will produce no evidence that anyone’s taken any money under the table!”

“And it doesn’t end there. The government can hire more people for the vigilance department whose people conduct raids. Since there are queues for those jobs as well, they can make more money there, and depend on the vigilance fellows — who have paid to get those jobs — to do what they can to sustain the system, but the people can be lulled into thinking that someone is doing something about corruption. Brilliant!”

“Yes,” I said, not knowing what else to say, “but what does all this have to do with your driving licence?”

“Ah!” he said. “I should have told you. I got my licence from a new transport office at Melkar, some 30 kilometres from Mangalore. It’s a new office, and my wife I only had to wait two minutes to get our work done. So, you see, the agent tells the officials when it’s time to expand the office to get more work done. So there are more jobs, more buildings, more of everything, and they make money out of all that, and at least some people are happy because they get their work done really fast.

“The system has evolved. It used to create queues and take what the traffic would bear. Now, it manages queues so that the people running the system get the best possible income with the least possible risk. It works in good times and in bad. In good times, people earn more, and are willing to pay more. In bad times, the population increases, so there are more people willing to pay...”

“Terrific!” I said. “You should write a paper about this!”

“No way!” he said, horrified. “Officials hate whistleblowers, and they protect themselves. Remember the officer who gave the Wadhawan family a certificate allowing them to travel to their farmhouse during the lockdown? The Wadhawan family is in trouble, but the official who signed the certificate is the police commissioner of Pune. If I write a paper about this, it’ll cost me my job!”

“Right,” I said. “It works very well for officials. But the people are suffering, aren’t they?”

He looked a little shame-faced, but only for a moment. “For an answer to that,” he said, “we have to look to the West.”

“How so?” I asked.

“Before the French Revolution,” he said, resuming his professorial persona, “someone told the French Queen, Marie Antoinette, that the people of France were suffering. ‘The masses are starving,’ he said, ‘they have no bread to fill their bellies.’”

“And how did Marie Antoinette respond?” I asked.

“Let ‘em eat cake!”

*Shashi Warriar has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.*

Subhani



## Battle of ‘Bhagyanagar’ concludes in stalemate



Sriram Karri

It begins with the name. Always. You can hold on to it or change it, but the decision is never easy. Ask parents as they go through greater anxiety in deciding the name of their child to be over any other birthing issue. Should we continue to be Hyderabad, or become Bhagyanagar?

When a city of over one crore was thrown the challenge, over which its nearly 77 lakh registered voters brooded hard during a fortnight of the most shrill vituperative campaign that forced the attention of the nation, in which less than half turned out to vote in the midst of a pandemic, some turning nostalgic for a chance to vote on paper ballots again, the Hyderabad or Bhagyanagar duel, with all its underlying implications of this symbolism and euphemism, ended in an uneasy stalemate.

### A SPLIT VERDICT

The ruling TRS, receiving yet another drubbing by the BJP in the state, received 12,04,167 votes (35.81 per cent) to the saffron party’s 11,95,711 (35.56 per cent), the MIM holding on to its fortress, winning 6,30,866 votes (18.76 per cent), a distant but formidable third. The TRS has 55 divisions in the 150 municipal council, while the BJP has 48. The MIM held on to its 44. A high court judgment on Monday will give us the result for the last seat. The ruling TRS in short had only 8,456 votes more than its challenger.

The Bhagyanagar reference resonates strongly amongst both its supporters and opponents, and is a very viscerally fundamental call to people to

decide on their idea of “mini India” as the city perceives itself to be. Over half of them said they would rather watch from the sidelines. The half that matters, the one that turned up to vote, was nearly split. Statistically, combining the MIM votes to TRS does mean a decisive rejection of the name change idea and all other implications, but it is still largely an uneasy stalemate.

### SAFFRON-PINK BATTLES AHEAD

The TRS has failed to defend its 99 incumbent seats won in the last elections, losing 44 out of them to the BJP. Where it has won too, it is the BJP, which was a close second in most. More importantly, the BJP has stolen the narrative and set the agenda — it has successfully portrayed the TRS as a dynastic, nepotistic, corrupt, decadent party and government, which has failed to deliver its promises, all of which are explained by their policy of appeasing Muslims under pressure from the MIM.

The TRS, in turn, tried hard to set its stated narrative of continuity and development as an alternative paradigm but was unconvincing. The TRS called the BJP communal, fanatic, insane, divisive and a big failure, even promising to be the nucleus of a new formation that would challenge Narendra Modi on a national level.

As a voter said, “while according to the TRS, it was a vote between development and communalism, the BJP dubbed it a battle between a dynasty’s corrupt politics versus nationalistic

Hindutva without appeasement. People see the picture in their own way, without the funnel vision of parties — as a battle between corrupt, nepotistic development versus communal nationalism”.

In this round, the advantage is still with TRS-MIM but the momentum has been taken by the BJP. The impasse will be broken by battles, nay, war, that lies ahead.

### A MULTI-CUT STRATEGY

The BJP has demonstrated successfully, with three different electoral coups — in Nizamabad Lok Sabha elections in 2019 defeating K. Kavitha, incumbent MP and daughter of chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao; in a byelection in Dubbaka last month, in which they humbled the TRS strategist in-charge, T. Harish Rao, minister and CM’s nephew; and finally, the GHMC, in which they had dented the hitherto invincible image of K.T. Rama Rao, CM’s son and heir apparent.

As a BJP leader said, “daughter, nephew and son have been given a drubbing each. Each individually and three together add up to what people feel — a strong anti-KCR family and TRS emotion. The next defeat is reserved for KCR in the Assembly elections”.

Meanwhile, the next bye-election is in sight, in

**The BJP has demonstrated its strategic edge successfully with three different electoral coups — defeating K. Kavitha in the 2019 LS elections, humbling T. Harish Rao in a byelection in Dubbaka last month, and finally, the GHMC, in which they have dented the image of K.T. Rama Rao**

Nagarjunasagar constituency, whose sitting TRS MLA passed away on December 1.

### BJP’S SECOND SOUTHERN BASTION

Despite the fascinating changes in Tamil Nadu and Kerala politics, it is unlikely the BJP is realistically close to winning power on its own in any southern state as Telangana.

In 2013, MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi told me in an interview, explaining why his party was opposed to the formation of a separate Telangana. “The YSRC and TDP will die out in this region because they will be dubbed as Andhra parties. A new regional party may win and come to power based on sentiment, but as we have seen in Jharkhand and other such states, such parties lose credibility soon because of corruption and family domination. Telangana will become very vulnerable to a BJP onslaught.”

Owaisi’s words, spoken when Narendra Modi was chief minister of Gujarat, have come very true. The BJP is not coming for some 60 MLA seats or 17 Lok Sabha seats; it is coming to make more fundamental changes to how south India perceives itself.

For too long, most people argued and believed that the five southern states are not ripe as a social soil for a political Hindutva to bloom. Pakistan is too far away, far less people understand Hindi, education and prosperity levels are relatively higher and delivery of development and welfare much more effective for decades here. The case of Karnataka was dismissed as an exception.

Not any longer. Not the way Telangana is rapidly shifting from pink to saffron. Not unless the development alternative introspects and reinterprets itself as a stronger moral alternative, not a merely more convenient substitute.

## LETTERS

### ANIMAL RIGHTS

I thank DC for the report on a retired colonel (*Retd colonel booked for dog’s death in AWHO, DC, Dec. 5*). Often these RWAs are creating havoc by threatening feeders and causing harm to community dogs. It is brave of the volunteers to pursue the case to ensure justice to the dead. It also sends a strong message that retired colonels and presidents of societies are not above the law. Because of animal rights activists, the police could not avoid booking a case. I request the brave volunteers not to look out for farmhouses for dogs as the law does not permit relocation. They are supposed to live where they are.

Raseel Ahluwalia  
Secunderabad

### GHMC VERDICT

GHMC verdict does not seem to be an anti-incumbency vote for the KCR government (*TRS wins, BJP eats GHMC cake, DC, Dec.5*). There is some dissatisfaction among few sections of society like the youth and working class. This was basically due to his arrogance and family rule. However, a majority of people are happy with KCR’s rule. I feel this verdict was all about polarisation of votes executed effectively by the BJP. KCR took Hindu votes for granted for the last two years. We are vexed with border issues and parties like AIMIM.

Krishna Kumar  
Hyderabad

Credit for the BJP victory should go to the young and dynamic BJP leader Bandi Sanjay who is leading the party from the front and keeping the momentum high during elections. The blame for the TRS losing many seats should go to the party in general and minister K.T. Rama Rao in particular for neglecting infrastructure in Hyderabad which was clearly exposed in heavy rains.

K. Vinaya Kumar  
Hyderabad

The BJP managed to get more seats mainly due to negative campaign by bringing in their leaders from Delhi and other states who had little idea about problems faced by citizens of Hyderabad and the TRS was punished for failing to improve the living conditions of people.

N. Nagarajan  
Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle British diplomat released

MONTREAL, Dec. 5

Seven persons were flown to asylum in Cuba last night in exchange for kidnapped British diplomat James R. Cross, who was released into Cuban custody in Montreal earlier in the day, the Quebec Justice Minister announced.

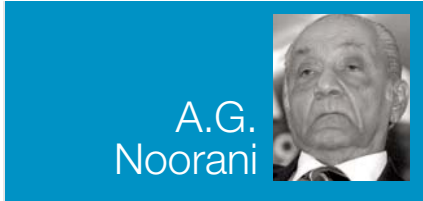
Aboard the aircraft were: Jacques Lancot, his wife and child, Marc Carbonneau Jacques Cosette Trudel and his wife and a seventh person whose identity will be disclosed shortly.

Justice Minister Jerome Choquette said he had met Mr. Cross after he had been escorted from his abductor’s hideaway in Montreal north and taken to what was the Canadian pavilion at Expo-70.

massive bloodshed at worst. ... [T]he myth of the strong leader is a central thread which unifies the discussion of democratic, revolutionary, authoritarian and totalitarian leaders. Those in the first of these categories can do far less damage, precisely because there are constraints upon their power from outside government.

“It is, nevertheless, an illusion — and one as dangerous as it is widespread that in contemporary democracies the more a leader dominates his or her political party and cabinet, the greater the leader. A more collegial style of leadership is too often characterised as a weakness, the advantages of a more collective political leadership, too commonly overlooked.”

Stalin and Mao created famines, as did Churchill in Bengal. Thatcher had to be booted out of power by her party, while Attlee is highly regarded by history. This is true of both domestic and foreign policies. Modi is in decline. Witness the mammoth protests by Punjab’s farmers. But his end is not very near.



A.G. Noorani

## Indians are not alone in falling for the ‘strong man’ myth

IT is not fashionable to cite old classics. But if one turns to Roman, Greek and, more so, the English classics, one is struck by their relevance to modern times. Take this, from John Stuart Mill’s essay on representative government: “There are nations who will not voluntarily submit to any government but that of certain families, which have from time immemorial had the privilege of supplying them with chiefs.” This applies to South Asia.

He added, “But there are also cases in which, though not averse to a form of government — possibly even desiring it — a people may be unwilling or unable to fulfil its conditions. ... Thus a people may prefer a free government, but if, from indolence, or carelessness, or cowardice, or want of public spirit, they are unequal to the exertions necessary for preserving it; if they will not fight for it when it is directly attacked; if they can be deluded by the artifices used to cheat them out of it; if by momentary discouragement, or temporary panic, or a fit of

enthusiasm for an individual, they can be induced to lay their liberties at the feet even of a great man, or trust him with powers which enable him to subvert their institutions; in all these cases they are less unfit for liberty: and though it may be for their good to have had it even for a short time, they are unlikely long to enjoy it.”

India is passing through this dangerous phase. It ought to have known better. Indira Gandhi all but tore up the constitution during her regime and installed herself as a dictator. A wave of anger swept across the country and she lost the 1977 election. But the small men who formed a government fell apart over the loaves and fishes of office. In 1980, the people returned her to power, unmindful of her past record.

Now, Narendra Modi is following in her footsteps. He undermined the cabinet, suborned the civil service, but his greatest challenge was political. As soon as he came to power in 2014, he called for a ‘Congress-free India’. He began

campaigning from day one.

Hyderabad just held municipal elections. Modi was about to descend to the city to campaign against two parties: the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the Aili Majlis-i-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, which was founded by the legendary Bahadur Yar Jung and now led by the indomitable Asaduddin Owaisi. Modi sent his deputy Amit Shah to campaign for the BJP. Owaisi asked, “Why not Donald Trump?”

There is no doubt that Modi enjoys popularity across the country, though it is on the decline. He was elected to power in 2014 and 2019. Why? By common consent, the government led by the extraordinarily upright Manmohan Singh was scarred by his ministers’ corruption. He was perceived as ‘weak’. Nor did he receive the support of his party and its president Sonia Gandhi, which it was her duty to extend. She was focused on grooming her mediocre son. The Congress is in a deep crisis.

Modi is out to wipe out not only the

Congress but also all regional parties and establish one-party rule. To what can we attribute his rise? Besides presiding over the Gujarat pogrom in 2002, Modi oversaw the state’s economic revival. Businessmen courted him and vice versa. He portrayed himself as a ‘strong man’, and the country fell for him.

But Indians are not alone in falling for the ‘strong man’ myth. Countries like Hungary and Poland also revel in democracy in form, but dictatorship in reality. In The Myth of the Strong Leader, Archie Brown writes: “The central misconception, which I set out to expose, is the notion that strong leaders in the conventional sense of leaders who get their way, dominate their colleagues, and concentrate decision-making in their hands, are the most successful and admirable.

“While some leaders who come into that category emerge more positively than negatively, in general huge power amassed by an individual leader paves the way for important errors at best and disaster and



## SHORT TAKES

MINE MISHAP:  
NICARAGUANS  
SEARCH MINERS

**Managua, Dec. 5:** An unregulated gold mine collapsed Friday in southern Nicaragua near the border with Costa Rica, leaving about 10 wildcat miners missing.

Vice President Rosario Murillo said firefighters and rescue personnel were being sent to the scene in the hamlet of La Esperanza.

Murillo did not specify how many people were trapped, but local media put the number at 10 to 15. They reported that one injured miner was able to escape and report the collapse. President Daniel Ortega said that “we hope we don’t have major tragedies” at the mine.

HIGH CARBON  
MONOXIDE LEVEL  
KILLS 18 MINERS

**Beijing, Dec. 5:** Eighteen of the 23 workers were killed in a coal mine in China due to an excessive level of carbon monoxide, local officials said on Saturday.

The accident happened at around 5 pm on Friday at the Diaoshuidong coal mine in the district of Yongchuan in Chongqing Municipality, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Eighteen miners were confirmed dead due to excessive level of carbon monoxide, it said. Rescuers, including police officers and firefighters, are trying to reach the trapped miners.

The cause of the accident is under further investigation, the report said. The Diaoshuidong coal mine, which was established in 1975 and became privately-owned in 1998, has an annual production capacity of 120,000 tonnes of coal, according to the local emergency management department.

Hydrogen sulfide poisoning in the mine left three dead and two injured in March 2013, Xinhua report said.

CRIME VICTIM  
CHASES, SHOTS  
MAN IN FLORIDA

**Miami, Dec. 5:** A man who says he was the victim of a burglary attempt chased a man down a South Florida street and shot and wounded him with an assault-style rifle as he begged for his life, authorities said.

Corthoris Jenkins, 28, was charged with attempted first-degree murder with a firearm, court documents showed Friday. Jenkins told investigators he was playing video games when a man burst into his Miami-area apartment on Tuesday, the Miami Herald reported.

Instead of calling 911, Jenkins grabbed the rifle and ran after the man, who fell to his knees in the street, a police detective said in court. “He begins to what appears to be to beg for his life,” Miami-Dade Detective Iry Watson told a judge on Wednesday afternoon. “But the defendant takes the assault rifle and shoots him multiple times.”

Authorities said the man who was shot remained hospitalised on Friday, and detectives have not yet been able to talk to him.

2 TRUMP ALLIES  
APPOINTED BY  
PENTAGON

**Washington, Dec. 5:** The Pentagon has appointed two close allies of President Donald Trump to a defence advisory board, continuing a post-election purge in the final weeks of the administration.

The acting secretary of defence, Christopher Miller, who was installed by Trump on Nov. 9 after he fired then-Defence Secretary Mark Esper, said in a written statement Friday that nine members of the Defence Business Board had been replaced with the appointment of 11 new members.

The new members include Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie, who are among Trump’s most vocal supporters. The nine others are Henry Dreifus, Robert McMahon, Cory Mills, Bill Bruner, Christopher Shank, Joseph Schmidt, Keary Miller, Alan Weh and Earl Matthews.

“These individuals have a proven record of achievement within their respective fields and have demonstrated leadership that will serve our department and our nation well,” Miller said. He also said the nine individuals removed from the board had been serving in “expired positions,” although this was not explained.

Biden proposes scaled-down  
Prez inaugural to avoid Covid

US President-elect suggests lot of virtual activity with emphasis on safety

**Washington, Dec. 5:** US President-elect Joe Biden has said the presidential inauguration on January 20 will not be a “gigantic” event, but something closer to what the Democratic convention was like, with a lot of virtual activity across America and an emphasis on safety due to the raging Coronavirus pandemic. Biden said he expected to be sworn in on January 20 on the platform already being constructed on the steps of the US Capitol, but plans to avoid the crowds that typically gather on the National Mall and along Pennsylvania Avenue to view the ceremony and parade that attracts millions of people.

“My guess is there probably will not be a gigantic inaugural parade on Pennsylvania Avenue, but my guess is you’ll see a lot of virtual activity in states all across America engaging even more people than before. That’s in train now and I’m not in a position to give you an example of exactly what it will look like,” he said when asked about the inauguration planning at a news conference on Friday in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. “But, I promise you, it’ll be available either virtually or in-person for many and my guess is, there will still be a platform ceremony, but I don’t know exactly how it’s all going to work out. The key is keeping people safe,” he

MOSCOW OPENS  
CENTRES FOR  
VACCINATION

**Moscow, Dec. 5:** Thousands of doctors, teachers and others in high-risk groups have signed up for Covid-19 vaccinations in Moscow starting Saturday, a precursor to a sweeping Russia-wide immunisation effort.

The vaccinations come three days after President Vladimir Putin ordered the launch of a “large-scale” Covid-19 immunisation campaign even though a Russian-designed vaccine has yet to complete the advanced studies needed to ensure its effectiveness and safety in line with established scientific protocols. The Russian leader said Wednesday that more than 2 million doses of the Sputnik V jab will be available in the next few days, allowing authorities to offer jabs to medical workers and teachers across the country starting late next week.

Moscow, which currently accounts for about a quarter of the country’s new daily infections, moved ahead of the curve, opening 70 vaccination facilities on Saturday. Doctors, teachers and municipal workers were invited to book a time to receive a jab, and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that about 5,000 signed up in a few hours after the system began operating on Friday.

Russia boasted that Sputnik V was the world’s “first registered Covid-19 vaccine” after the government gave it regulatory approval in early August.

— AP



An aerial picture taken on Saturday shows a general view of Taksim square and Istiklal avenue in Istanbul during a weekend curfew aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

— AFP

said. Biden, 78, suggested that the festivities could end up looking like the virtual convention Democrats held in August, with on-line activity in the states.

“We are in discussion with the House leadership and the Senate leadership as to what they plan for the inauguration, particularly those 200,000 spots they control. But I think you’re going to see something

that’s closer to what the convention was like than typical inauguration,” he said. He said that his first and foremost objective was to keep people safe but also allow them to celebrate. “We’re in consultation with folks who help us put on the convention, as well as with our colleagues in charge of the inauguration,” he said.

— PTI

Vaccine will not be  
mandatory: Biden

**Washington, Dec. 5:** US President-elect Joe Biden said on Friday that Americans will not be forced to take the Coronavirus vaccine and he is willing to get vaccinated publicly to assuage any concerns about its efficacy and safety. “I don’t think they should be mandatory. I wouldn’t demand it to be mandatory, but I would do everything in my power just like I don’t think masks have to be made mandatory nationwide,” Biden told reporters at a news conference in Wilmington, Delaware.

Biden was responding to a question if Covid-19 vaccine be made mandatory. Biden, who is due to take office on January 20, said he will make sure that the vaccine is both free and available and that any follow up on the vaccine is free and available that relates to any health complications from it. “I will do everything in my power as the president of the United States to encourage people to do the right thing,

and when they do it, demonstrate that it matters. That’s why I said in my inaugural speech I’m going to ask people to commit for 100 days to wear a mask, not because I’m asking it for any reason to punish this is not a political issue,” he said. “It has become one. But if people do it for 100 days in the middle of what will be still a raging crisis and the vaccine is able to be distributed, they are going to see deaths drop off the edge,” he said.

“They are going to see hundreds of thousands of people not getting sick; and my hope is they will be then inclined to say okay, it’s worth the patriotic duty to go ahead and protect other people,” Biden said. On Friday the US recorded 2,861 new deaths. It has seen more than 14 million confirmed cases in total and more than 275,000 deaths. Biden said he is willing to get inoculated in public to assuage any concerns about its efficacy and safety.

— PTI

## Congress urged to pass \$900 bn stimulus

**Washington, Dec. 5:** US President-elect Joe Biden on Friday urged Congress to pass the \$900 billion stimulus package required to provide relief to people and small businesses who have been badly hit by the deadly Coronavirus pandemic.

“Americans need help, and they need it now, and they need more to come early next year,” Biden said at a speech in

Wilmington in Delaware, noting that he is encouraged by the bipartisan efforts in the Senate for the economic relief bill of about \$900 billion.

“It’s a bipartisan effort. If Congress as they work out the details of this relief package they’re going to have to focus on resources for direct public-health responses to Covid-19. We need meaningful funding for vaccines now,

so don’t lose time and leave people waiting for additional months. We need serious funding for testing now,” he said.

“We need to ramp up testing to allow our schools and businesses to operate safely. The sooner we pass the funding, the sooner we can turn the corner on Covid-19,” said Biden, who will take oath as the 46th president of the United States on January 20.

sealed them within the spacecraft for return to Earth, as space developing nations compete in their missions.

Many Hayabusa2 fans gathered to observe the moment of the capsule separation at public viewing events across the country, including one at the Tokyo Dome stadium. In the early hours of Sunday, the capsule, protected by a heat shield, will briefly turn into a fireball as it reenters the atmosphere 120 kilometers (75 miles) above

Earth. At about 10 kilometers (6 miles) above ground, a parachute will open to slow its fall and beacon signals will be transmitted to indicate its location. JAXA staff have set up satellite dishes at several locations in the target area to receive the signals, while also preparing a marine radar, drones and helicopters to assist in the search and retrieval of the pan-shaped capsule, 40 centimeters (15 inches) in diameter.

— AP

Bureaucrats face  
axe if caught for  
graft, says Imran

**Islamabad, Dec. 5:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the government will introduce a new system of “reward and punishment” for the civil servants under which corrupt bureaucrats will be sacked instead of just transferring. Speaking at a ceremony to celebrate the completion of two years of Pakistan Citizen Portal at the Prime Minister House on Friday, Khan said he was dissatisfied over the performance of the current local governments, the *Dawn* reported. “The government was introducing a new system of ‘reward and punishment’ for the civil servants. Under the new system officials would not be transferred but sacked if found involved in corruption and irregularities,” he said.

He also said under a separate new system introduced at the village level funds would be transferred directly to the councils. “A new local government system is being introduced which will usher in a revolution. It will be implemented at the village level where people will be able to elect their representatives who will directly receive funds every



Imran Khan

BLAST KILLS ONE  
IN RAWALPINDI

**Islamabad, Dec. 5:** At least one person was killed and seven others wounded in a rare bomb attack in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi on Friday, police said.

Rawalpindi, the country’s fourth-largest city, is known for its military garrison and adjoins the capital Islamabad.

“One person was killed and seven others wounded. It was a timed device and was planted near a bus terminal,” Rawalpindi police spokesman Sajjad ul Hassan said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. The police spokesman said investigators were probing all angles, including the possibility of terrorism.

— AFP

Lanka to hurry  
Easter Sunday  
probe: Minister

**Colombo, Dec. 5:** Sri Lankan government will expedite the ongoing probe of Easter Sunday suicide bombings that killed 258 people, including 11 Indians, last year, a senior Cabinet minister said on Saturday.

Nine suicide bombers, belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS, carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 258 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500 on the Easter Sunday on April 21, 2019.

“Sri Lankan government will expedite the ongoing probe of Easter Sunday suicide bombing. I will meet the Attorney General on Monday to see how we could proceed,” Sarath Weerasekera, the minister of public security, told the parliament.

He was reacting to an

opposition lawmaker charging that the current government appeared not interested now to carry on with the probe.

Niroshan Perera, the opposition member told parliament, that the head of the local Catholic Church Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith had just a few days ago had expressed doubt if the investigations were leading nowhere. Ranjith said if the current government showed no genuine interest in the investigations to see its conclusion the catholic minority would lose confidence in the government.

Assuring there was no attempt to sweep the investigation under the carpet, Weerasekera said the legal process would be expedited from next week. Weerasekera said 257 people have been arrested and 86 of them are currently under detention orders while 172 are in remand custody.

— PTI

NMC hosp founder  
‘stopped’ by India

**Mumbai/Dubai, Dec. 5:** The founder of troubled hospital operator NMC Health has filed a legal challenge against a move by Indian immigration authorities to prevent him from departing to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last month, according to his court petition.

B.R. Shetty’s NMC, listed in London and UAE’s biggest hospital group, went into administration in April following months of turmoil over its finances and the compa-

ny’s disclosure that it had \$6.6 billion in debt, well above its earlier estimates. Shetty had said November he planned to return to the UAE and denied reports he had fled the country after the hospital group’s implosion.

His petition, filed in the Karnataka high court on November 30, said immigration officials at Bengaluru airport stopped him boarding a flight to the UAE on Nov. 14 “without assigning any reasons whatsoever.”

— Reuters

## SPACE | ODYSSEY

## Hayabusa2 left the asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometres away, a year ago

## Japan awaits spacecraft with asteroid soil samples

**Tokyo, Dec. 5:** Japan’s space agency said the Hayabusa2 spacecraft successfully separated a capsule and sent it toward Earth to deliver samples from a distant asteroid that could provide clues to the origin of the solar system and life on our planet.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the capsule successfully detached Saturday afternoon from 2,20,000 kilometres (1,36,700 miles) away in a challenging operation that required

precision control.

The capsule is now descending to land in a remote, sparsely populated area of Woomera, Australia, on Sunday. Hayabusa2 left the asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) away, a year ago.

After the capsule release, it is now moving away from Earth to capture images of the capsule descending to the planet. Yuichi Tsuda, project manager at the space agency JAXA, stood

up and raised his fists as everyone applauded the moment command center officials confirmed the successful separation of the capsule.

Hayabusa2’s return with the world’s first asteroid subsurface samples comes weeks after NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft made a successful touch-and-go grab of surface samples from asteroid Benu.

China, meanwhile, announced this week its lunar lander collected underground samples and

sent them within the spacecraft for return to Earth, as space developing nations compete in their missions.

Many Hayabusa2 fans gathered to observe the moment of the capsule separation at public viewing events across the country, including one at the Tokyo Dome stadium. In the early hours of Sunday, the capsule, protected by a heat shield, will briefly turn into a fireball as it reenters the atmosphere 120 kilometers (75 miles) above

Earth. At about 10 kilometers (6 miles) above ground, a parachute will open to slow its fall and beacon signals will be transmitted to indicate its location. JAXA staff have set up satellite dishes at several locations in the target area to receive the signals, while also preparing a marine radar, drones and helicopters to assist in the search and retrieval of the pan-shaped capsule, 40 centimeters (15 inches) in diameter.



Journalists wait for the start of a live telecast at JAXA Sagami-hara Campus in Sagami-hara, near Tokyo on Saturday.

— AFP



SHORT TAKES

Covid-hit Hamilton may miss next GP

**Manama:** Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton, who was diagnosed with coronavirus this week, is struggling with the illness and is in doubt for next week's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said on Friday. The seven-time champion won the Bahrain Grand Prix last weekend and was ruled out of Sunday's Sakhir Grand Prix after waking up on Monday with mild symptoms. The 35-year-old is now in the process of isolating for 10 days according to the established protocols.

"He is not great. Covid-19 is something you mustn't take lightly and he is in safe hands," said Wolff.

— AFP

Anderson retires from int'l cricket

**Christchurch:** Plagued by injuries, New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson, who once held the record for fastest ODI hundred, called time on his international career and signed a three-year deal with USA's Major League Cricket. The 29-year-old, who has played 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is for New Zealand, didn't feature in any of Black Caps' assignment for the past two years. In the 93 international games across formats, he scored 2,277 runs with two hundreds and 10 half-centuries. "It's been a huge honour and (I am) extremely proud to represent New Zealand," Anderson, who holds the record for the fastest ODI century for his 36-ball innings against West Indies in 2013, was quoted as saying by 'Cricbuzz'. — PTI

PCB to probe team Covid cases in NZ

**Karachi:** The Pakistan Cricket Board has started a probe into how as many as 10 players tested positive for Covid-19 after landing in New Zealand. The investigation has been launched after it emerged that some players from one or two teams in the ongoing domestic Quaid-e-Azam Trophy had complained of coughing, fever and sneezing — symptoms of a possible Covid-19 infection — just few days before they left for the tour of New Zealand. "These players were deemed to have viral infections due to changing weather and later also tested negative in the Covid-19 tests carried out in Lahore by the board. But they tested positive after reaching Christchurch where the entire squad is now quarantined at a managed facility after the 10 positive tests," a PCB source said. — PTI

NZ's push for 1st Test win stalled

**Hamilton:** New Zealand's push for an innings victory over the West Indies in the first cricket Test was stalled on the third day Saturday by a bold, counter-attacking partnership for the tourists' seventh wicket between Jermaine Blackwood and Alzarri Joseph. New Zealand seemed to be coasting to a win within three days when captain Kane Williamson enforced the follow-on with a 381-run lead after dismissing the West Indies for 138 in reply to their first innings of 519-7 declared.

— AP

**Brief scores: West Indies 138** (Campbell 26, Southee 4-35) & **196/6** (Blackwood 80\*, Joseph 59\*, Wagner 2-62) vs **New Zealand 519/7 decl.**

Live on TV

CRICKET

Australia vs India: Second T20 from 1.40 pm on Sony Six, Ten 1

South Africa vs England: Second ODI from 1.30 pm on Star Sports 1

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Tottenham Hotspur vs Arsenal from 10 pm; Liverpool vs Wolverhampton Wanderers from 12.45 am (Monday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

Italian League: Crotone vs Napoli from 10.30 pm; Sampdoria vs AC Milan from 1.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

FORMULA ONE

Sakhir Grand Prix: Main race from 10.35 pm on Star Sports Select 2

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Sub-plot thickens

Cricket fraternity divided over concussion rule

**Sydney, Dec. 5:** Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar finds nothing wrong in Yuzvendra Chahal coming on as a "concussion substitute" for Ravindra Jadeja but doesn't like the concept of teams being provided cushion for a batsman's inability to face bouncers.

Chahal replaced Jadeja, who got hit on the head, in the first T20 International and did a star turn with figures of 3 for 25 in the team's 11-run victory in Canberra.

"First and foremost let me say that match referee is a former Australian cricketer David Boon. He was okay with Chahal substituting for Jadeja. They normally say like-for-like and Chahal is not an all-rounder but if he goes out with the bat whether it's one run or 100 run, he is an all-rounder," Gavaskar said.

"An Australian match referee had no objection to that. So I don't see why there is so much of noise about it."



Gavaskar however doesn't endorse the concept as he feels it is a leverage given to batters for a technical deficiency.

"On the business of concussion substitute itself, I don't agree with it. May be I am old fashioned and I have always believed that if you are not good enough to play the bouncer and get hit on the helmet, then you don't deserve a substitute. I am sorry," Gavaskar said.

**'RULES SHOULD BE USED FAIRLY'**

Former Australia captain Mark Taylor has cautioned against abusing the concussion substitute rule, saying it is for the protection of players and needs to be used fairly and responsibly.

"The concussion rules are there to protect players. It's up to the players to make sure they use the concussion sub fairly and responsibly," Taylor said. — PTI

Now, it's Handball Premier League

**Jaipur, Dec. 5:** The inaugural edition of the Premier Handball League (PHL) will be held from December 24 to January 10 at the Saiwam Mansingh Indoor Stadium here, the national federation said on Saturday.

The PHL, being held under the aegis of Handball Federation of India, will have 33 matches in 18 days this season.

"This is going to be a significant moment in Indian handball history as the PHL will infuse fresh air to the sport which has immense potential at the grassroots level. The league will bring exciting competition among the players as well as help build handball

as a brand," HFI president Arshnapally Jagan Mohan Rao said at the launch on Saturday.

The first season will have six men's teams — Telangana Tigers, UP Icons, Maharashtra Handball Hustlers, KingHawks Rajasthan, Bengal Blues and Punjab Pitbulls — battling for the title.

The PHL will see more than 80 players taking part in the inaugural edition as each team will consist of 14 players.

The PHL India Sports Private Limited is the official license holder of the league. The matches will be broadcast live on Sony Pictures Sports Network.

— PTI



Ayaz Memon

Over The Top

India's recovery after losing the ODI series in the first two matches itself has been smart and impressive. Winning the third ODI against the trend of play showed resolve, resilience and wherewithal, which was being seriously questioned. It also created the confidence to win the first T20 international.

There was some quirky luck for India when Yuzvendra Chahal, who came in as 'concussion

substitute' for Ravindra Jadeja did the star turn, picking up three wickets. Without Jadeja's batting and Chahal's bowling, India would never have won, so maybe the Man of the Match award should have been shared between the two!

That the Aussies did not like how the substitution was carried out was evident from coach Justin Langer haranguing match referee David Boon during the innings changeover.



Ravindra Jadeja (third from left) has a trainer tend to his leg during the first T20 international between India and Australia at the Manuka Oval in Canberra on Friday.

— AP

INDIANS READY TO HIT TEST MODE

**Sydney, Dec. 5:** India will look to figure out their playing XI as the Test squad gets into the groove by taking on Australia 'A' in a three-day warm-up game at Drummoyne Oval on Sunday.

With India and Australia playing the second T20I on the same day, the visiting Test squad has been named India 'A' for the first of the two practice games scheduled ahead of the much-anticipated four-Test series.

The four games will be a chance to sort out India's combinations both in the batting and bowling departments ahead of opening Day-Night Test scheduled at Adelaide from December 17.

In batting, Mayank Agarwal is set to open the innings but there is a question mark over his partner with the choice being between Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill.

While Shaw was preferred in the New Zealand series, he struggled for consistency in the IPL. Gill, on the other hand, have scored 440 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders and also looked in good touch in the third ODI.

The other option is KL Rahul, who has been in rampaging form and also formed a formidable pair with Mayank for the KXIP, but the last time he had played a Test was in September 2019.

In the wicketkeeper's slot, it will

be Wriddhiman Saha versus Rishabh Pant.

For Saha, who had injured both his hamstrings during the IPL, it will be a test to show his fitness after getting back at the nets recently.

Pant has been India's number one choice in overseas Tests but he was dropped from the limited over series and will have to deliver the goods to seal the keeper's slot.

With skipper Virat Kohli going on paternity leave after the opening Test and the injured Rohit Sharma too uncertain, the onus will be on Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari to show the way.

— PTI



Handball Federation of India president Arshnapally Jagan Mohan Rao (third from right) poses after the launch of Premier Handball League in Jaipur on Saturday.

Chahal for concussed Jadeja was a legitimate switch

Australia's objections, as one understands from reports, was on two fronts.

One, since Jadeja continued batting after being hit on the helmet, was this strictly a case for concussion substitution? Second, was Chahal for Jadeja a "like for like" replacement which this rule demands? Debate on the matter will doubtless continue for some time. What's clear though is that the decision of the referee is final and binding, so Chahal for Jadeja in the first T20 was a legitimate switch.

The momentum is now with India, and if the T20 series can be won, it will be a shot in the arm for the team which looked so beleaguered in the first two ODIs. There is no scope for

excuses at the highest level and India — to put it bluntly — were outplayed and outclassed by the Aussies in the first two matches of the ODI series.

But it must also be acknowledged that unlike the Aussies, who've played a bilateral series in England and also some domestic Sheffield Shield cricket — plus the IPL for those who were in the league — India's players have had no such opportunities apart from the IPL.

Even being in a bio-secure bubble at home is an advantage, which is why I think this turnaround by the Indian team has been quite remarkable. Issue now is sustenance — of form and fitness — and resource management by

the support staff as there is still a lot of cricket remaining on this tour.

Jadeja, for instance, will not play in the remaining two T20s. That is a major blow considering he is a genuine all-rounder and has been in excellent form with bat though his bowling has been found wanting. In the T20s for instance, will he be replaced by Chahal? And if so does that weaken the Indian batting?

This is Kohli/Shastri's immediate vexing problem. In a slightly longer time frame is the bigger concern: will Jadeja be fully fit for the first Test? The Test series which starts on December 17 is the main assignment and India will want all their

Pujara subjected to racism in UK

**Leeds, Dec. 5:** English county side Yorkshire finds itself in the centre of a raging issue with their former players and employees backing cricketer Azeem Rafiq's claims of "institutional racism" at the club, including reference to India's Cheteshwar Pujara with a generic name.

Former West Indies international Tino Best and Pakistan's Rana Naved-ul-Hasan provided evidence in support of Rafiq as part of an ongoing investigations into his allegations.

According to ESPNcricinfo, two former Yorkshire employees — Taj Butt and Tony Bowry — have also given evidence against the club which has institutionalised racism.

"(There were) continuous references to taxi drivers and restaurant workers when referring to (the) Asian community," Butt, who was employed within the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation as a community development officer, was quoted as saying by the cricket portal.

"They called every person of colour 'Steve'. Even (India batsman) Cheteshwar Pujara, who joined as an overseas professional, was called Steve because they could not pronounce his name."

Butt tendered his resig-



Cheteshwar Pujara

nation within six weeks of joining.

Having worked as a coach until 1996, Bowry was the cultural diversity officer at the Yorkshire Cricket Board from 1996 until 2011, before he was appointed as a cricket development manager to develop the game for black communities.

"Many youngsters struggled to make progress, and the few that did found the environment of the dressing rooms very difficult and unwelcoming, as a direct result of racism they faced," Bowry said.

"It affected performance... they were labelled trouble-makers."

— PTI

KDCA elections are put on hold

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 5

Justice G. Krishnamohan Reddy, Ombudsman of the Andhra Cricket Association, has stayed elections to the Krishna District Cricket Association scheduled on Sunday.

KDCA, an affiliate of the ACA, has been asked to adopt a new constitution in tune with the Supreme Court appointed Lodha Committee reforms.

"It is contended by the complainant in his written arguments that the President of KDCA without compliance of the order of the Ombudsman and without any fundamental constitution and just basing on the Rule No. 6 of the byelaws of ACA, cannot proceed with the election of its office bearers and shall wait for a sub-committee report on codifying the Lodha committee reforms for implementation to KDCA otherwise conducting the election on 06-12-2020 is invalid," Justice Reddy said in his order dated December 5.

"It is held that the election process initiated by KDCA through the said

election officer and also consequent unanimous election of the office bearers of its Apex council are declared as null and void and hence, cannot be enforced.

Further, ACA is hereby directed to form a committee to draft appropriate byelaws and, rules and regulations for KDCA in terms of its own byelaws and, rules and regulations subject to making necessary changes as early as possible because further delay in the matter causes more and more inconvenience to KDCA to elect its office bearers. In view of the inconvenience faced by KDCA because of non-conducting of its election after the expiry of the term of the previous office bearers, it is also observed that ACA has to take necessary measures to decide within one week as to who would form the full members of KDCA taking all aspects into consideration to enable KDCA to adopt temporarily the byelaws and, rules and regulations of ACA and then on that basis to conduct the election to its office bearers," the order read.

NORTHEAST UTD TWO GOOD FOR EAST BENGAL

**Goa, Dec 5:** NorthEast United FC piled further misery on SC East Bengal with a 2-0 win in their Hero Indian Super League Season 7 encounter here.

A Suruchandra Singh (33') own goal and an injury-time strike from Rochharzela (90') helped the Highlanders remain unbeaten and climb to second spot in the league table. East Bengal are yet to score in the league. SCEB will be disappointed that a good display did not lead to points, with a couple of key refereeing decisions going against them. NEUFC coach Gerard Nus did five changes to the side that drew against FC Goa. Gurmeet, Ashutosh, Shreef, Kwesi Appiah and Ninthoinganba Meetei were back in the playing eleven.

— Agencies

