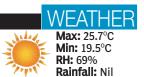
DECCAN onicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2020



Forecast: Cloudy sky. Moderate rains likely. Max/Min temp. 29/19ºC





WORLD 5 **Trump pardons Flynn** for lying to FBI

SPORTS 6 **India begin Oz series**

with ODI today

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COVID-19

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,931)	(+489)
93,08,751	1,35,734

covid19india.org		
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS		

(+862)	(+3)
TS: 2,66,904	1,444
(+1,031)	(+8)
AP: 8,65,705	6,970

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



worldometers.info/ coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Dwadasi till 7.46 am Star: Ashwini till 12.21 am (Saturday) **Varjyam:** 7.51 pm to 9.39 pm **Durmuhurtam:** 8.44 am to 9.28 am; 12.25 pm to 1.09 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rabbi-ul Akhir 11, 1442 AH **PRAYERS**

Fajar: 5.24 am **Zohar:** 12.14 pm Asar: 4.04 pm Maghrib: 5.46 pm **Isha:** 6.57 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.28 AM SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM **MOONSET** TOMORROW 3.46 AM **MOONRISE TODAY 3.47 PM**



You should have bribed the survey agency for a positive rank!

Navy gets 2 Sea Guardian drones

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has taken on lease two Sea Guardian drones from an American defence major to enhance surveillance over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) but the unmanned aerial vehicles can be deployed in the Ladakh region if the need arises, sources said. Two drones have been leased for one year with an option of extending the period by another year, they said. The lease came in the midst of India's plans to procure up to 30 weaponised versions of the drones from the US to bolster the Navy's overall surveillance capabilities in the IOR.

No global flights till Dec. 31: DGCA

Mumbai: Aviation safety regulator DGCA on Thursday extended the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger flights to December 31. The restrictions, however, will not apply on international all-cargo operations and flights specif-

ically approved by the DGCA, a circular said. "The competent authority has further extended the validity of circular issued on the subject cited above regarding scheduled international commer-

cial passenger services to/from India till 2359 hours (IST) of December 31, 2020, the DGCA said in the circular

PM bats for simultaneous elections, single voters' list fire up TRS cadre

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

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday pitched for his oft-repeated concept of "One Nation, One Election", saying it wasn't just a matter of debate, but what the country needed. He also suggested that the Election Commission prepare a single voters' list for all elections — Lok Sabha, Assembly and panchayats, saying separate lists were a 'waste of resources".

"One nation, one election isn't just a matter of debate, this is the need for India. Elections are held at different places every few months. The effect it has on development work is known to all," Mr Modi said in a virtual address at the 80th All-India Presiding

Officers Conference. He said a single voters' list was desirable. "Only one voters' list should be used for the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and other elections. Why are we wasting time and money on these lists?" he said.

Speaking on the 71st anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution on November 26, 1949, the PM emphasised on the need for coordination between the legislature, executive and judiciary.

"Our Constitution has many features, but a special feature is the impor-tance given to duties. Mahatma Gandhi was very keen on this. He saw a close link between rights and duties. He felt once we perform our duties, rights will automatically be safeguard-

2 JAWANS KILLED IN SNEAK ATTACK BY TERRORISTS

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, NOV. 26

Two Army jawans were killed in a sneak attack by three car-borne militants on Srinagar's outskirts on Thursday. The police and witnesses said the gunmen appeared at Aban Shah Chowk in Khoshipora area and opened fire on an Army quick reaction team, crit ically injuring two soldiers. Both succumbed to their injuries while being evacuated to a hospital at the nearby Shariefabad Army cantonment, officials said.

The slain soldiers were identified as Sepoy Rattan Lal of 163 Territorial Army and Sepoy Deshmukh of 101 Territorial Army. They were attached to 2nd Unit of Rashtriya Rifles, the Army's counterinsurgency unit. One report said the assailants also decamped with the service rifle of a slain jawan. Soon after the attack, the Army's 2 RR and the J&K police's Special Operations Group launched a search operation in the area, as the Army pressed a helicopter into service to hunt the militants and the Maruti car used to carry out the attack.

"Terrorists fired indiscriminately at Quick Reaction Team of Army in Khushipora. Being a crowded area, troops exercised restraint to avoid any civilian casu-

alties," the Army said. Meanwhile, a Junior Commissioner Officer (JCO) was killed and a local was injured as Indian and Pakistani armies again exchanged artillery fire along the LoC in J&K's Poonch district on Thursday.



MP and state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

BJP vows free Covid vaccine, 1 lakh houses

IRREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The seemingly unstoppable BJP on Thursday promised that free Covid-19 vaccines will be given to every single person throughout the GHMC area and that no one will have to go to a private hospital for vaccination.

Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis released the BJP manifesto. Minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy, national general secretary Bhupe-

DC CORRESPONDENT

Cyclone Nivar has thrown

life out of gear in Nellore

and Chittoor districts,

apart from other districts

region. Under the influ-

ence of the Cyclone, heavy

downpour associated with

gale winds uprooted as

many as 800 electric poles

and 100 odd trees across

Nellore district. As a result, scores of villages

and some towns plunged into darkness, and traffic

movement was affected

Traffic on the National

Highway No 16 that connects Chennai and

nects Chennai and Kolkata was affected, and

vehicles were stranded for

over eight km in view of

due to the fallen trees.

the Rayalaseema

NELLORE, NOV. 26:

Cyclone Nivar rips

apart villages in AP



nder Yadav, party state president Bandi Sanjay, national vice-president D.K. Aruna, OBC national

president Dr K. Laxman,

PG 5: TS LIKELY TO

GET RAIN DUE TO

CYCLONE NIVAR

water overflowed from

the Pambaleru stream bet-

ween Gudur and Manubolu. Although the movement of two-wheel-

ers and autorickshaws

was restricted to allow the

traffic of cars and heavy

vehicles, they moved at a

snail pace. A diversion

road constructed on the

highway, where the road had breached during

heavy rains witnessed in

2015, to build a new bridge

led to water stagnation

Page 2: Links to many

villages cut off

and overflow on the road.

HYDERABAD TOMORROW

election manifesto committee chairman Vivek Venkata Swamy and others participated in the manifesto release programme in the city. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Fadnavis said that if the BJP comes to power, Hyderabad Liberation Day will be celebrated officially. He said the entire country got Independence on August 15, 1947, but the erstwhile Hyderabad state got it on September 17,

■ Page 2: BJP to scrap Land **Regularisation Scheme**

KCR's speech to

CM expected to give strong reply to Oppn

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The slightly demoralised cadre of the TRS is back to an optimist mood. They strongly believe that party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao's public meeting on November 28 will be a game changer. They are sure it will change the trend of the GHMC election campaigns.

The pink cadres hope that their top boss will give a solid reply to the strident narrative set by the BJP, suspected by many to be in perfect synchronisation with the MIM. The party is expressing confidence of bagging power again in greater Hyderabad, which chances will be cemented once Chandrashekar Rao

makes a public speech. Sources within TRS dis-closed that Rao has received alarming ground level feedback about the stridently aggressive and communal campaign of the BJP party.

Sources, however, said that feedback shows the

BJP's campaign is evoking negative responses from the public, who want peace and harmony. With these ground reports, the TRS is upbeat that BJP is tying itself in knots and is unable to attract neutral voters and those who want development.

Rao did not campaign in 2016 GHMC elections but had addressed a press conference during the campaign. Party leaders claimed it had evoked tremendous response from people of greater Hyderabad, which led to the TRS bagging 99 seats.



K. Chandrashekar Rao

SOURCES SAID Rao has decided to address people in view of inputs from the ground that the people of Hyderabad are in a state of panic following the verbal duel between BJP and MIM. Feedback shows shows the BJP's campaign is evoking negative responses from the public, who want peace

Sources said Rao has decided to address people in view of inputs from the ground that the people of Hyderabad are in a state of panic following the verbal duel between BJP and MIM. TRS leaders find hope in reminding people of a factoid that in 2016 GHMC elections, BJP and TD had contested together but polled only 23 per cent of votes against TRS's 44 per cent vote share. The party feels that Chandrashekar Rao will "put the BJP in place" in the public meeting.

Meanwhile, TRS work ing president K.T. Rama Rao inspected arrangements being made for the public meeting to be held at LB Stadium on Saturday, 4 pm onwards.



HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has questioned BJP as to what stops the Centre from awarding Bharat Ratna to late former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. She pointed out that Central governments have never cared about giving Bharat Ratna either to P.V. Narasimha Rao or former chief minister of united AP N.T. Rama Rao, even though these have been long-standing demands.

Addressing media while campaigning in Gandhinagar for TRS candidates in the upcoming GHMC elections, Kavitha criti cised BJP state president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar for staging a polit ical stunt at former PM Narasimha Rao's ghat. She wondered why the BJP remained silent and did not celebrate the legacy of P.V. when the TRS marked the former PM's centenary celebrations.

> Page 3: BJP silent on falling GDP: Kavitha



K. Kavitha

Expel hatemongers from election, Uttam tells SEC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Telangana Pradesh Con gress Committee presi dent N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday demanded that the State Election Commission (SEC) dis-qualify BJP and MIM parties from contesting the GHMC elections for inciting communal hatred

among the people. He was addressing a press meet along with former minister Shabbir Ali, AICC Secretary Madhu Yashki Goud and other leaders here on Thursday. They released two brochures and a pamphlet on the contribution of Congress governments in the development of Hyde-



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy releases pamphlets on Congress contribution to Hyderabad along with party colleague Shabbir Ali on Thursday.

rabad and the failures of TRS regime.

"I'm surprised as to how the SEC and state government are not taking steps to stop this provocative campaign," he said while

demanding that both the communal parties should be barred from the GHMC

elections.

Page 2: Cong: TRS, BJP polarising votes

GIFT | CHECK SEC directs TS excise department to stop illegal liquor transport

3 dry days, but parties set for high five

PAUL | DC

HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Tipplers note. All liquor shops, pubs and bars will go dry for the next three days because of the upcoming local elections. But if you were expecting some good pre-voting gift from your favourite party or candidate, don't give up hope — all political parties, with the sole exception of the AIMIM, have stocked up aplenty in advance. The State Commission Election (SEC) released a notification on Thursday to the affect keeping in the view Greater Hyderabad

Municipal

 THE STATE Election Commission (SEC) released a notification on Thursday to the affect keeping in the view of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) election, slated to be on December 1, all bars and liquor shops will be suspending sales from November 29 to December 1.

• THE SEC on Thursday met the top officials of State Excise department at his office. He also told them, last year's sales and this year's sales should be compared, the ingredients that are used in making the illicit liquor should be seized.

 LIQUOR IS a must when elections are around the corner and money and goodies are just not enough

(GHMC) election, slated to be on December 1, all bars and liquor shops will be suspending sales from November 29 to December 1. Additionally, December 4, on which the counting Corporation

will be done and results declared, shall also be a dry day.

The decision was taken by State Election Commissioner C. Parthasarathi Reddy

The SEC directed the Telangana excise department to ensure that all illegal transportation of liquor is stopped. It asked them to install check posts and increase vigilance. On Thursday the SEC

met the top officials of State Excise department at his office, he also told them, last year's sales and this year's sales should be compared, the ingredients that are used in making the illicit liquor should be seized

Talking to *Deccan Chronicle*, T. Anji Reddy, assistant excise superintendent, Telangana Excise, said, "with three days closure of all liquor sales and closure of pubs and bars, sale of alcohol will surely go down. Even people may not stock up for consumption for those dry days because of financial constraints.'

When elections are around the corner, however, it is a universal truth that political parties cannot stop at merely distributing money and goodies. Liquor is a must. Candidates are therefore bound to make necessary arrangement for both their own supporters to continue to campaign and to rush to your aid on a dry day with some booze hoping to influence your vote.

■ Page 2: Sale of liquor to go up before polls

HARYANA COPS **USE WATER CANNONS TO STOP FARMERS**

SANJAY KAW and BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

The Haryana police on Thursday used water cannons and teargas in a bid to stop thousands of farmers from Punjab from proceeding towards the national capital for their "Delhi Chalo" march against the Centre's new farm laws.

The situation got tense

at the Shambu inter-state border on the national highway as farmers threw police barricades off the bridge into the Ghaggar river. It was after a two-hour clash on the bridge that farmers from Congress-run Punjab managed to cross into BJP-ruled Haryana, which used heavy force to try and block them for making their way towards Delhi in tractors and on foot on their two-day protest march against the new farm laws that they fear will reduce their earnings and give more power to large retailers. Many roads in Haryana, especially those in Gurgaon, were clogged with heavy traffic as barricades had been put up at different places to prevent the protesters from entering Delhi. The roadblocks were especially intense in places like Kundli, near Sonipat, and on the Delhi-Gurgaon border at Sirhaul and Rajokri. However, despite the

tight security measures, about 70-odd protesters, including some trade union members, managed to gather Jantar Mantar. near



Narendra Modi

MODI TO VISIT CITY FOR REVIEW OF COVAXIN

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Hyderabad on Saturday to review the status of India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine — Covaxin being developed by the city-

based Bharat Biotech. According to sources, the Prime Minister is visiting Hyderabad as a part of his three-city tour, which includes Ahmedabad and Pune, to take stock of the ongoing Covid-19 vaccine development work in the country.

Prior to arriving in Hyderabad, Modi will visit the facilities of Zydus Cadila in Ahmedabad, where ZyCoV-D is being developed, and Serum Institute of India in Pune where the vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca-Oxford would be manufactured. All the three vaccine candidates are currently undergoing Phase-3 clinical trials.

According to the Cyberabad Police, the Prime Minister will arrive in the city at Hakimpet Air Force Station airport on Saturday afternoon and will head straight to Bharat Biotech facility at Genome Valley on the outskirts of the city. Modi is expected to spend an hour at the company's facility to understand the vaccine development.

While there is speculation about Modi campaigning on behalf of the BJP for the GHMC elections, police authorities said the Saturday visit will not include any political activity by the Prime

CONG: TRS, BJP POLARISING

FROM PAGE 1

Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated that both parties were helping each other by polarising the voters. He slammed MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi for his remarks on the memorials of former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao He said those two and Dr. Y.S Rajashekhara Reddy were great leaders, who served the country and the State through out their lives. He said BJP and MIM leaders were misus ing their names for political

The Congress MP appealed to the people to understand the match-fixing between MIM and BJP in the GHMC elec-

Shabbir Ali said that the Congress party has sincerely developed Hyderabad as a global city and spent over ₹1 lakh crore from 2004-2014 to build world-class infrastruc-

They include the international airport at Shamshabad, Outer Ring Road, Metro Rail PVNR Expressway, getting Krishna and Godavari River water for Hyderabad, flyovers and IT corridors.

GOOD GOVERNANCE URGES VOTERS TO OPT FOR NOTA

SANJAY SAMUEL

PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The Forum for Good Governance has urged people to go for NOTA as a means to show their disgust at public representatives, who did nothing to develop their localities Many citizens in the GHMC region are vexed with the per formance of 'Baldiya', which they expressed before the

media here on Thursday. M. Padmanabha Reddy, secretary Forum for Good Governance, said "In many localities, people are against voting as they are unhappy with coporators for their fail ures. Taking all such reactions into considerations, we feel the voter should opt for NOTA, which will be an eyeopener to all parties," Reddy

MANY CITIZENS in the GHMC region are vexed with the performance of 'Baldiva'. which they expressed before the media here on Thursday.

BJP, TRS play politics of alternatives

a large civic body, the Greater Hyderabad rporation (GHMC), with an electorate of close to 75 lakh spread over 150 divisions, but it feels like a war is underway.

The BJP is trying to hard sell itself for the GHMC elections by pressing its top guns like Union home minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda and Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, besides a slew of Union ministers, into service with an eye first on occupying the opposition space, and then to take a

However, it is Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) chief Chandrashekar Rao the enemy's gate. His pitch of a "national alternative"

t is just an election to and asserting that he ple. Unfazed by the TRS a large civic body, the would lead it from the attack, the BJP continues front seems to be getting on to the nerves of the BJP. A civic body poll drawing

national attention is apparently a first-of-itskind phenomenon in India, with the BJP ampliits multi-frontal rhetoric, while Chandrashekar Rao is trying to wrestle the initiative. In effect, both parties

want to grab the space emptied by the "voluntary retirement" of the Congress. The TRS wants to lead the pack of opposition parties at the Centre, while the BJP's objective seems to emerge as the principal opposition in Telangana. The TRS has launched a

diatribe against the BJP by charging it with attempting to destroy the peace and tranquillity of the city and causing communal divide among peo-

its rhetoric, with BJP state president Bandi Sanjay and Union minister Smriti Irani coming up with a veiled threat that their party would launch "surgical strikes" Rohingya and Pakistanis are driven out.

The BJP is trying hard to establish a perception that the TRS and the MIM are partners in crime, even though the TRS has "distanced" itself from the Minister Mailis. municipal administration K.T. Rama Rao, who is leading the TRS fight, tore into BJP leaders' observations and sought to know what they meant by "surgical strikes"

The TRS won 99 seats out of 150 in the outgoing civic body, while the AIMIM bagged 44. The BJP won a four



A. Saye Sekhar

However, the BJP thinks its stock has soared in Telangana state over the last few years, especially after it won four out of 17 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections. The most shocking win was wresting the Nizamabad Lok Sabha seat, defeating Kalvakuntla Kavitha, daughter Chandrashekar Rao.

Buoyed, the BJP began to spread its tentacles. This "sense of arrival" has been bolstered by an unprecedented victory in

Dubbak Assembly by-elections, even though by a wafer-thin majority. This irked Chandrashekar Rao, who loves to maintain an upper hand over rivals in any election or byelection.

Basking in an afterglow of the Dubbak victory, the BJP set its eyes on GHMC elections. The TRS is now facing a new challenger in the BJP in the urban civic polls, with the Congress having debilitated itself, leaving a vacuum. The Congress is now blaming its rivals — TRS, BJP and AIMIM — for conniving with each other in all possible combinations.

As things stand, I personally think the TRS may not be dented too much in the GHMC polls. The TRS urban brand ambassador K.T. Rama Rao has been able to challenge rivals by showcasing numerous development and welfare

schemes implemented in the city. The TRS has taken stable governance" as its slogan, harping largely on development.

Reliefs taxes announced by the TRS government, especially slashing property taxes up to ₹15,000 a year by half and free drinking water to households up to 20,000 litres a month have attracted several citizens. Rama Rao's roadshows are big hits, as compared to other leader. Chandrashekar Rao will be addressing a massive public meeting, which could be a game changer.

In contrast to the TRS development agenda, the first point in the BJP's manifesto was observing September 17 as Hyder-Liberation Day, Corona tests and vaccine for all; scrapping of

Scheme, relief to affected and free power to saloons.

The BJP housing programme, as opposed to 1,00,000 2BHK houses promised by the TRS, establishment of three women's police stations per year, free ride for women in Metro Rail and city buses smack of BJP's amnesia. As Rama Rao said, many of the BJP schemes are "copycat versions" of TRS

development works. While the BJP has succeeded in projecting the GHMC election as a fight between the TRS and itself, Chandrashekar Rao has already projected himself as a "national alternative" to Narendra Modi. Time will tell, whether the BJP can better the pink party, or the TRS can actually mount a challenge to

Civil societies make wish list for parties

UFERWAS demand proper plans for wards

HARLEEN MINOCHA I DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The United Federation of Residents' Welfare Associations (UFERWAS), along with civil societies COVA Peace Network and State Election Watch, have raised several demands in a bid to make political parties accountable for issues of public in the city during the upcoming GHMC elections. On top are matters like illegal encroachments that led to recent floods in the state, legalisation regarding encroached lands, fraudulent sale of lands belonging to water bodies and so

UFERWAS has further asked all political parties to constitute and ensure Area Ward functioning and Sabhas Committees, which should have genuine RWA and civil society representatives on them. This would make sure that all ward development plans are in consultation with ward-level RWA/community groups. Further, UFERWAS must be recogUFERWAS HAS submitted its list of demands to representatives of each political party. The federation is using WhatsApp groups to let all residents of welfare associations in different wards to know about what their local corporator had promised

and how many of those

promises have been

delivered.

nised as the nodal agency for all RWA activity and community engagement. The constitution of advicommittees women, youth, senior citizens and eminent citizens should also be as per the Municipal

among others.

Speaking at an event organised on the occasion, Dr. Mazher Hussain, executive director of COVA, said their objective is to make encroachments and flooding of cities a part of development issues for people, just like employment and civic amenities. It is hoped that the public will make this an electoral agenda from local elections to Lok Sabha polls and prevail upon politicians and the system to reclaim all water bodies and prevent their encroachment.

For bringing in awareness and drive home this objective, a documentary, in collaboration University of Hyderabad, titled "Why did Hyderabad Drown" has also been launched at the event. The civil bodies said that they wished to make contesting candidates commit themselves to policies and actions towards reclaiming water bodies and prevent further encroachments.

The UFERWAS has submitted its list of demands to representatives of each political party. The federation is using WhatsApp groups to let all residents of welfare associations in different wards to know about what their local corporator had promised and how many of those promises have been delivered.



Farmers cover their paddy with tarpaulin sheets in Kusumanchi in Khammam district

Cyclone Niver brings rains, paddy farmers affected

A. RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, NOV. 26

Farmers in Khammam district who had left their paddy at the producing centres had to rush to protect it from the unseasonal rains caused by cyclone

Kusumanchi, Nelakondapalli, Madhira, Wyra, Konigerla, Enkoor, and Errupalem mandals received unseasonal rains. Nearly 70 per cent of farmers did not sell their crops as they had left their paddy for drying in the fields and lifting centres. The farmers had to rush to cover the paddy with tarpaulin sheets on Thursday.

The situation is worse in mandals Wyra, Kusumanchi, Enkoor. Kallur

Cotton farmers had to stop harvesting opera-tions, fearing damage to their crops. The unseasonal rains

are likely to damage, the chilli and other horticulture crops. District horticulture officer, Anasuya asked farmers to drain their fields of rainwater by creating pathways for the water to flow



BJP promises to scrap LRS

FROM PAGE 1

The former chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis released the BJP manifesto on Thursday.

Speaking on the occassion, he said that Chief Minister K. Chandra-shekar Rao failed in construction of double bedroom houses but the BJP government constructed 15 lakhs houses for the people Maharashtra.

The BJP also promised that the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) initiated by the TRS government would be scrapped.

THE FORMER chief minister of Maharashtra **Devendra Fadnavis** released the BJP manifesto on Thursday.

TOP TEN PROMISES IN BJP MANIFESTO:

CORONA VACCINE and testing to all as per Central government stipulations.

SETTING-UP OF exclusive primary health centres (PHCs) in consonance with the population of various locations in greater Hyderabad.

WILL SCRAP LRS to redeem people of greater Hyderabad from ₹15,000 crore burden.

A SUM of ₹25,000 will be given to each flood affected family. Families who have already received ₹10,000 compensation will get

remaining amount of **₹15.000.**

FINANCIAL **ASSISTANCE** to build 1.00.000 one lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. FREE TABS to all chil-

dren from poor families. Ouality WiFi will be provided to poor families to online education.

WAIVER OF property tax in all SC colonies and slum areas. Free permission for construction of houses in less than 125 sq. yds. plots.

WILL PROVIDE tap connections to all houses. Free drinking water

supply to all houses. REJUVENATION OF Musi river, development of Musi river

front. Freeing nalas and tanks from all kinds of encroachments. Creation of ₹10,000 crore exclusive budget for modernization of open nalas and drainages. 'Sumedha Act' will be enacted to

• FREE POWER to all houses using less than 100 units per month. Free power and loan facilities to all professions in traditional

remove all encroach-

occupations.

Links to many villages cut off cusecs of water from the

From Page 1

Similarly, traffic came to a grinding halt between Rapur and Venkatagiri following the collapse of a bridge on NH 565 at Lingasamudram village.

Links between several villages in Venkatagiri, Nellore rural, Gudur, Naidupeta, Sullurpeta, Ozili and several coastal areas were cut-off due to the overflow of water from rivulets, canals and tanks on the roads in 16 places. Heavy inflows of 80,000

cusecs (cubic foot per second) from the Penna upstream forced authorities to release one lakh Somasila reservoir. A breach to the Kanupur

Canal at South Mopur near Nellore led to the flooding of nearby habitations and agricultural lands. Sydapuram Mandal. Kaivalya Vagu overflowed. causing problems to commuters on the Gudur road.

Around 20 passengers travelling in an RTC bus from Gudur to Rapur had a harrowing experience when the bus got stuck between two streams near Tikkavarappadu Road on Thursday night. NDRF teams rushed to the spot with a boat and launched an operation to shift the passengers to

safety. In the Atmakur segment, links were cut-off between Padamatanaidupalli village and the national highway as Kethemanneru vagu was in spate.

In Marripadu Mandal, Boggeru Vagu was also on spate, disconnecting transport links between many between Chejarla and Mamuduru was severed due to overflowing floodwater from the Gollapalli tank

In Sullurpet, Vatrapalem was inundated with floodwater and the local population spent sleepless nights.

only at individual level

but also by the merchants

and stores. But it will not

get reflected in the daily

TSEC ASKS PARTIES TO FOLLOW COVID **GUIDELINES**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The Telangana State Election Commission on Thursday took notice of violations of Covid-19 guidelines during the campaign period GHMC elections, political parties and contesting candidates, and in an appeal, requested all parties to ensure guidelines are followed

strictly. In a letter, the TSEC said that keeping in view the need to curb the spread of Coronavirus, all parties during door to-door campaign, road shows and rallies, should ensure that all Covid-19 related requirements and precautions like face masks, sanitisers and maintaining of

social distancing, are taken care of. It further instructed that during campaigning, not more than five followers including the candidate, and excluding

During road shows and public meetings, all participants have been advised to wear face masks invariably, and moreover huge gatherings should be avoided in

security personnel (if any) should participate.

the first place, it said.

HC seeks 2015 voters record for verification

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Dealing with issues of discrepancies in the allo-cation of voters in Azampura and Chawni divisions of GHMC, the Telangana High Court asked the State Election Commission and GHMC produce records of voters list to

find out in which division the voters were The petitioner Asma

contesting from Azampura alleged that the Commissioner of GHMC had mingled with AIMIM and had shifted nearly 10,000 votes from Azampura to Chawni

division. She said the same was done during the 2015 elections also but after the Court's intervention it was brought back to Azampura, the petitioner said.

The case posted to Monday for verification of the 2015 voters list.

Sale of liquor to go up before polls From page 1

M. Padmanabha Reddy, secretary, Forum for Good Governance, said, "everyone is aware of the use of alcohol to influence voters. Most political parties and their supporters distribute liquor prior to elections. This practice has to be crubbed with an iron hand. The police and excise departments

should act very strictly."
He added, "it is not enough to blame politicians. Even those voters who take liquor to vote should share the blame for poor governance and D. MADAN GOUD,

owner, Shruthi group of wines and bars, said, "sales of liquor will go up because people will be stocking up. The sales will escalate from Friday evening onwards. It is a trend that always works."

corruption for the next five year. If you sell your vote, what more can you expect?

alcohol selling Since establishments have instructions received from authorities about

the sales to go up. D. Madan Goud, owner, Shruthi group of wines and bars, said, "sales of liquor will go up because people will be stocking up.

The sales will escalate Friday evening onwards. It is a trend that always works. Explaining the manner in which the liquor

makes its way around despite the dry days and other stringent announcements of the SEC, an official in the excise department, on condition of anonymity, said, "during elections, stocking up

reports Department sends to the Election Commission. The 'extra' sales will be shown on paper on a later

the dry days, they expect of liquor will happen not

date, long after the elections are over. This is to camouflage real numbers sent from Excise to liquor stores before the dry days. Sale escalate by 25 to 35 per cent of usual sales during elections. Every gets a cut and is Long happy.

OTHER STORIES **2 BILL COLLECTORS SUSPENDED FOR TAKING BRIBES**

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, NOV. 26

Two bill collectors, working in the Wyra Municipality, were suspended for taking bribes.

Municipal commissioner Venkatapathi Raju issued orders to bill collectors Venkanna and Gopala Rao on Thursday.

As per the details, Nagul Meera, a citizen and resident of Wyra municipality, com-plained against the bill collec-tors to the additional collector M. Snehalatha.

Nagul Meera told the additional collector that the two bill collectors are asking bribes while doing their duties.

She asked the commissioner to enquire into the matter. During the enquiry, it was found that the two bill collectors, were collecting bribes from people.

Based on the information, suspension orders were issued, to the two.

IMD WARNS OF LIGHT RAINS IN PARTS OF HYD

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

The city will experience light rains at isolated places on Friday, under the influence of Cyclone Nivar, say meteorolo-

Going by the records of Telangana State Development Planning Society, light rainfall was recorded, especially along the northern and eastern corridors. Places like Moula Ali, Alwal, Monda Market, among others, received close to 23 mm of rainfall in the wee hours of Friday. The maximum temperature too dropped by three notches below normal to 25.7 degrees Celsius.

However, the minimum temperature recorded was 19.5 degree Celsius, three above

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Mahesh Palawat, a meteorologist with Skymet, There are chances of light rainfall on Friday. But, these rains would remain locked to the south-eastern regions of Telangana."

For the winter, he said that the state would witness a drop

in the temperatures this year, unlike last year.
"In the coming days there

will be winds from the northeastern direction, which would be cold in nature blowing over the state," he added.

TS REGISTERS 862 NEW COVID CASES, THREE DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Telangana has recorded 862 new cases of Coronavirus, apart from three deaths. With this, the number of active cases in the state has increased to 10,784.

Health authorities conducted 41,101 new tests. They are planning to test at least 75,000 samples every day in the state. The increase in number of tests is due to winter setting in. Further, Cyclone Nivar has also had an effect with its winds spreading cases of influenza and Coronavirus wider.

This has led to Health Department advising people to be careful and wear masks when going out. They should also ensure social distancing and wash their hands freq-

Authorities say if face masks are worn properly, instances of cough and cold, apart from viruses, will be lesser.

While Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation record ed 164 cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy reported 91 and 57 instances of virus respectively.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES conducted 41,101 new tests. They are planning to test at least 75,000 samples every day in the state.



Trade unions strike evokes good response

Coal production in SCCL hit as 70% workers joined stir

DC CORRESPONDENT KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 26

The nation-wide strike called by the Central Trade Unions on Thursday received a good response in Khammam and Bhadradri districts. Union members raised objections on the Workers Code Acts and Farm Acts.

Shops, business establishments, banks, government offices and institutions downed shutters supporting the

strike.
In Khammam, porters, auto workers, RTC employees, vehicle drivers, government employees and building workers participated in the strike. Farm mar-kets, housing projects, granite factories, workshops and the state highways wore a uccellook due to the bandh. ways wore a deserted

look due to the panal CPI leaders B. Hemanth Rao, P. Prasad and George Clement, CPI-M leaders P. Rao, N. Sudarshan Rao, N. Nageswara Rao and P Venkateswarlu and CPI (ML) New Democracy leader P. Ranga Rao participated in the strike.

In Madhira, leaders of the All-Party Committee staged a protest in front of the RTC depot in the rain. They visited every street and asked the shop-keepers to extend their cooperation by downing shutters.

In Bhadradri-Kothagu- ground mines. Citu, the RTC bus services in and rallies were organdem district, 70 per cent of Singareni Collieries Company Limited workers did not attend duties. About 5,454 workers of the 7,968 workers participated in the strike. Coal production on Thursday was only 17,000 tons in the open cast and under-

Workers take part in the rally in Bhupalpally on Thursday.

Seek rollback of agriculture and food security laws

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 26

As part of the nation-wide strike called by trade unions, hundreds of workers took to the streets across the erstwhile Warangal district.

CITU Bhupalpally district president, K. Rajaiah, said, "Since the BJP came to power at the Center, they have been trying to sell the public sector companies to the corporates by amending the 44 labour laws into four codes, which are in favour of the

He said it would be wrong to merge the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPF) into aled. Laws that under-the Employees' Provident mine agriculture, and Fund (EPF) to privatise the coal sector and retire workers who complete 30 years of service or 50 years of age. He demanded that all

contract workers in the Singareni municipalities be made permanent and given equal pay for equal Workers like Anganwadi, Asha, and mid-day

meal workers should be

assured job security and a

minimum wage ₹21,000," he said. "A welfare board for auto workers should be estab-

health sector. Covid-19 vaccine should be provided free to everyone, and frontline workers port Bill should be repemust be insured," he said.

oyment

Aituc, Intuc, Iftu and all these towns. HMS took part in the CPI state executive strike. Normal life in the member B. Hemanth towns like Paloncha, Rao in Khammam said Yellandu, Sattupalli, Bhadrachalam, Manuguru that the strike by the trade unions is total and and Wyra came to a standstill. The trade every worker participated. The response from the people even in the union leaders succeeded in halting 50 per cent of rural areas was high,

ised in every mandal headquarter. agony of farmers, and employees of all sectors was highlighted during the stir. The response of the people in rural areas can be cited as a best example of involvement by them", he said.

mine agriculture, and

undermine food security,

should be called back.

Wages in the Rural Empl-

Scheme should be increased, and 200 days of

work per year and should

be extended to urban

CITU district secretary

Botla Chakrapani dema-

nded the scrapping of the new pension scheme.

'Public education should

be strengthened by allo-

cating more funds to the

areas," he demanded.

Guarantee

Constitution day celebrated

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 26

The National Institute of Technology, Warangal celebrated the 71st Constitution Day on Thursday virtually. Prof N.V. Raman Rao,

director NIT-Warangal said, "India has the largest written constitu-tion in the world. Students and youth of the nation must be responsible citizens as freedom comes with responsibility and rights come with duties." Later, he read the reamble of the Preamble Constitution to the participants in the online meet. The Registrar of the Institute, S. Goverdhan Rao, said, "The Preamble of the Indian Constitution records the aims and aspirations of the people of India and reflects the basic spirit of the constitution. To spread the importance of the Indian

observes November 26, as

India

B.R. Ambedkar remembered

DC CORRESPONDENT PEDDAPALLI, NOV. 26

The Constitution of India is one of the best among the countries in the world, and India, said Manthani court judge, Nageswara Rao. The 71st Indian Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas was observed on a grand note the Legal Cell Authority in association with the BAR association at the premises of the Manthani court

the Constitution Day of India. The day has also been declared as the Constitution Day to spread awareness about

Peddapalli district on Thursday.

1949, India formally adopted the Constitution, and came into force on 26, January 1950, and is celebrated as National Law Day. As a mark of tribute to India's first law minister, B.R. Ambedkar, played a pivotal role in drafting the Constitution, a set of written principles and precedents of the Government of India.

Judge Nageswara Rao aid, "On November 26,

Ambedkar. This year, the country is celebrating the 71st Constitution Day.

NIT-W Deans, Associate deans and faculty partici-

NIZAMABAD DC CORRESPONDENT

NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY,

Constitution National Day was celebrated on Thursday in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts. Police officials and constables took part in the pledge programme on the

occasion. Nizamabad additional deputy commissioner of police (law and order) K.C.S. Raghuveer said that every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India, the Constitution Day is celebrated.

Addl DCP addressed the policemen at the Armed Reserve police headquarters on Thursday. In Kamareddy, a pledge programme was conducted at

RDO, AO in trouble for not answering RTI properly

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC

The second additional Munsif Magistrate Court Karimnagar, on Thursday issued orders to register a case against the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and Administration Officer (AO) for giving a negligent reply to the Right To Information (RTI) petition regarding the land mafia in Bommakal village

inKarimnagar district.
The city president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Bethi Mahendar Reddy filed an RTI in the RDO office under cc no. S/3010/75, L.R.A. no 8/97 seeking to obtain complete details of the burial ground present in the survey numbers 723, 724 encroached by land grab-bers.The RDO Anand Kumar and AO Srivani did not give information pointwise to the RTI petition.

Mahendar Reddy who was not satisfied with the reply given by the concerned officials, he filed a complaint in the I-Town police station against the RDO and AO.

When the police officials did



Bethi Mahendar Reddy

not take any action, he filed a complaint with the Commissioner of Police V.B. complaint Kamalasan Reddy.

Mahendar Reddy alleged that under the 8 and 9 Public Records Act, 1993, it is the responsibility of the government officials to protect government documents and revenue records related to the public. The officials misused their

power and intentionally gave wrong information, supporting the land grabbers. He said, "Having not

received a proper response from the police department, I approached the second addi-

ground in Bommakal village in Karimnagar district belongs to the Hindus. We will fight to protect it from the land grabbers.

tional Munsif Magistrate Court with evidence and filed a petition through my lawyer Yennampally Gangadhar.'

Viewing the details of the petition, Judge Pradeep issued orders to the House Officer of the I-Town police station to register a case against the RDO Anand Kumar and AO Srivani and start an investigation immediately.
Mahendar said, "The burial

ground belongs to the Hindus. We will fight to protect it from the land grabbers.

The collector must take initiation to protect government lands by placing notice boards. Any officials indulging in irregularities must not be

He demanded that the government suspend the revenue officials who tried to mislead and support the land mafia.

Registration for DOST 2020 opens

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 26

Fresh registrations for the special Drive of DOST 2020 will begin on Friday and continue till December 2. This was announced by the Telangana State Council of Higher Education & Commissionerate of Collegiate Education on Thursday. The special drive is open

for candidates who are yet to register on DOST, for those who have already registered, but could not secure a seat, or did not exercise web-options, or those who were allotted seats in the previous phases, but did not confirm the college. Verification of Special Category Certificates will

be at the respective university Helpline Centres on December 2, whereas seat

■ THE SPECIAL drive is open for candidates who are yet to register on DOST, for those who have already registered, but could not secure a seat, or did not exercise web-options, or those who were allotted seats in the previous phases, but did not confirm the college.

allotment will be on December 4.
The candidates who are

allotted a seat in the special drive will have to report online first, and later to the respective colleges from December 4 to 7 by submitting CCOTP, provisional allotment letter, and other necessary documents.

COPS SEIZE GOLD WORTH ₹18L IN HYD

Hyderabad: Intelligence Unit of Hyderabad Customs booked two cases of smuggling of gold against two passengers at the RGIA Shamshabad and seized the smuggled gold worth ₹18 lakh from their possession on Wednesday.



She is far more precious than Jewels. Many women have done exceedingly well But you surpass them all". Fondly remembered by

G. Sekaran & Christopher & Allan

BJP SILENT ON FALLING GDP, SAYS KAVITHA

From Page 1

The former MP, who is now an MLC, underlined that BJP never speaks on issues that contribute to overall development of society, like falling GDP and so on. Instead, it sticks to using the religion card.

She cautioned people of Greater Hyderabad not to fall prey to such political stunts staged by national parties. She urged people to vote TRS for development of the GHMC area.

During the day, she also

met representatives of RTC unions, advocates, Vaisya and Yadava community people, who extended their support to TRS party in the incoming Greater Municipal Hyderabad Corporation polls.

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For Accessing the Bid document from NMDC website, the bidder has to register as 'New User' in Bid section at NMDC's website link http:// ww.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx

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WARANGAL, NOV. 26 District joint collector K. Swarnalatha directed autho-

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC

rities to make arrangements the Buguloni Sri Venkateswaraswamy Jatara Brahmotsavams without causing inconvenience to the devotees.

Venkateswaraswamy Jatara Brahmotsavam will be held

for five days, from November 29 to December 3, in Tirum-alagiri village, Regonda

Constitution,

mandal Swarnalatha held a meeting with the revenue department officials, village sarpanch and officials of the con-

cerned departments at the Collector's office on Thursday to review arrangements. She said, "The RWS, in collaboration with the local

authorities, need to repair

the hand pumps and boreholes immediately. Existing toilets need to made usable. and temporary toilets should be set up to cater to the influx of devotees Revenue officials were

Get ready for Buguloni Jatara: Collector

directed to temporarily repair the potholes on the roads with gravel in collaboration with the forest department so that vehicles can come from Pandavulagutta, Thirumalagiri

Thirumalagiri village sarpanch Katla Rani has been directed to clean the temple premises, remove the shrubs in the vicinity, and carry out sanitation activities in coor-

dination with the MPDO. Regonda SI Krishna Prasad has been directed to deploy forest personnel for security duties as police personnel will be stationed in Hyderabad for GHMC poll

Bhupalpally RTC depot manager Lakshmi Dharma was advised to run special buses from Bhupalpally and Parkal depots. Power department officials were directed to ensure

duties.

uninterrupted power supply till the end of the fair. Health officials were directed to set up a makeshift medical camp and keep 108 ambulances ready.

FILM

are found to be false.

SHORT TAKES

COVID-19 PATIENT JUMPS OFF HOSP BUILDING, DIES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 26

Covid-19 patient in Chhattisgarh on Thursday jumped off the building of All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Raipur.

The deceased, identified as Muralidhar Sahu (49) of Janjgir-Champa, was admitted in AIIMS, Raipur on November 22 after being tested positive for Covid-19.

He was put on a ventilator a couple of days ago when his condition worsened.

However, the ventilator was removed on Thursday morning when his condition started

According to the Raipur police, Sahul had gone to washroom at around 1.30 in the afternoon and then jumped off the second storey of the AIIMS building. He was later admitted in the intensive care unit. He died during treatment. The reason for his extreme step was yet to be ascertained, police said.

As on Thursday, Chhatti-sgarh has reported 2,29,203 Covid-19 positive cases and 2.783 deaths.

GROOM ARRESTED FOR LINK IN IIFL LOOT CASE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 26

A 30-year-old youth serving as manager in a private gold loan firm was on Thursday arrested in the middle of his marriage rituals by the Crime Branch in connection with dacoity at the IIFL Finance Ltd branch office in Cuttack

The arrested youth was identified as Pitambar Sahoo of Nischintakoili, Cuttack.

Following Pitambar's arrest, the police seized a large quantity of stolen gold and investigation is underway to ferret out more information on the HIFL Finance loot case, said Prateek Singh, deputy com-missioner of police, Cuttack. Following the manager's arrest, the bride and her fami-

ly who were waiting at a hotel had to pack up and cancel the

According to reports, the police had obtained the custodial remand of five accused persons in the loot case. Their preliminary questioning revealed that more than 10 employees of IIFL Company had direct links with the crime that took place on November 19. According to sources, the interrogation of other suspects was on and many more are likely to be arrested.

On the other hand, people who had deposited gold in IIFL Company Ltd with the hope to get more returns have become skeptical whether they would get their deposits back in view of scam and police action.

'NO AUCTION OF NIRAV PENTHOUSE BEFORE DEC. 14[']

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 26

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday made it clear before the Bombay High Court that it will not auction a luxurious penthouse — Samudra Mahal belonging to Nirav Modi December 14.

The HC was hearing a petition filed by Modi's son Rohin challenging ED's move to confiscate Samudra Mahal property. In his petition, Rohin informed the court that his father is nowhere concerned with the said property and it belonged to a trust set up by

Few months back, the ED had filed an application before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court. The agency had brought to the notice of the court that as per provision under Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEO) Act 2018, it can confiscate immovable and movable properties belonging to Nirav Modi. According to the ED, Modi has properties worth ₹1,396 crore in India, England and UAE.

Subsequently, in June 2020 PMLA court had passed order to confiscate Modi's properties. Petitioner Rohin's counsel Amit Sibal argued that property belongs to Rohin Frust and not any individual. He also argued that as per FEO Act, a notice must have been issued to Rohin if ED wants to auction the property and he must be heard before the auction, but no notice was issue to

Farmers are up in arms



Members of various farmers organisations try to cross Shambu Border in Patiala district on Thursday during the 'Delhi Chalo' protest march by farmers against the new farm laws. Farmers faced water cannons and broke police barriers at the state's border with Haryana and by late evening, a large group of them had reached the road toll plaza at Panipat, about 100 km from Delhi

DIDI EXTENDS SUPPORT TO ONGOING FARMERS STIR

RAJIB CHOWDHURI & PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC KOLKATA/BERHAMPORE,

Bengal Chief West Mamata Minister Banerjee on Thursday extended her support to the ongoing farmers' protest rally to New Delhi over the Centre's three bills which has deregulated the essential commodities.

Calling the use of tear gas and water canons on the farmers' rally in Haryana "unfortunate", the Trinamul Congress supremo also offered to join their agitation, if invited, with an eye on the Assembly Election in the state.

She said, "This is unfortunate. I am sorry to say this is the first time the central government wants to capture all the fundamental rights of all sections of peofarmers' democratic rights. The bills are illegal as they are aimed to help the hoarders for blackmarketing, not the farmers. Why did the central government snatch their rights? To allow the people of the country to die? Only one man, one party, one election, one nation?! We were, are and will be with the farmers. If we are invited, we will participate in their rally to Delhi."

Banerjee, however, supported the cause behind the nationwide strike of the Congress and Left trade unions against the Centre's economic policies.

"Today a workers movement happened. We support the cause, not the bandh as it is against our policy," she added. This prompted the BJP to foresee another "Mahagatbandhan" (grandalliance), in line of what happened in Bihar recently, against it in Bengal.

Phase III trial of India-made 'Covaxin' begins at AIIMS

Around 15,000 volunteers will receive the shot over the next few days

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 26

With 44,489 new confirmed cases in the last 24 hours, India's Covid-19 caseload crossed 92 lakh, while the recoveries surged to 86.42 lakh.

The number of total Coronavirus cases rose to 92,22,216, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 1,34,699 with 481 new fatalities.

Phase three trial of India-made Coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, meanwhile, began at AIIMS in New Delhi on Thursday Neurosciences Centre at the premier institute, and three other volunteers receiving the first dose.

Dr Srivastava was the first one to receive the shot, which would be given to around 15,000 volunteers at the medical institute over the next few

The first dose of 0.5 ml Covaxin intramuscular injection was given to four volunteers. They were under observation for two hours and will be monitored for the next few days.

Dr Srivastava said, 'Covaxin is the first indigenously-developed anti-coronavirus vaccine and on top of that, my institute is participating in the trial. I am honoured to be the first volunteer to receive the shot. I am happy to be a part of such a great cause. I am perfectly fine and I'm working."

As part of the trial application, a dose of 0.5 ml with Dr M.V. Padma would be given on day 0 Srivastava, the chief of and on day 28. and on day 28. The phase three randomised double-blind

placebo-controlled multicentre trial would cover around 28,500 subjects aged 18 years and above. It would be conducted in

around 25 sites across 10 states. The trial has alreadv started at a few sites Bharat Biotech has been

given the permission for conducting phase 3 human clinical trials of the Covaxin from the Drugs Controller General of

According to the Union health ministry, the active caseload shot up to 4,44,746, an increase of 6.079 cases from Tuesday. even though it remained below five lakh for the 15th consecutive day, accounting for 4.82 per cent of the total cases.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 86,42,771, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.72 per cent, while the Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.46 per cent.

Of the 1,34,699 deaths reported in the country so far due to the disease. Maharashtra accounts for 46,683, followed by Karnataka (11,695), Tamil Nadu (11,639), Delhi Bengal (8,621), (8,121), West Uttar Pradesh (7,615), Andhra Pradesh (6,956), Punjab (4,653) and Gujarat (3,892).
The Union health min-

istry on Thursday said 60.72 per cent of the 44,489 fresh cases registered in a span of 24 hours have been contributed by six states and UTs, with Kerala leading the tally followed by Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

It said 60.50 per cent of the 524 latest fatalities are concentrated in six states and Union territories -Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Kerala leads the tally

with 6,491 new Covid-19 cases registered in a span Maharashtra has reported 6,159 new cases followed by Delhi with 5.246 new

Delhi with 99 deaths reported the maximum fatalities. Maharashtra saw a fatality count of 65 followed by West Bengal with 51 deaths, the ministry said. According to the ministry, 65 per cent of the active cases are in eight states and UTs which have

contributed to the maximum daily new cases and deaths.
It said 61 per cent of the total deaths are concentrated in these eight

The case fatality rates of Punjab (3.16 per cent), Maharashtra (2.60 per cent), West Bengal (1.75 per cent) and Delhi (1.60 per cent) are higher than the national average of 1.46 per cent, the ministry

said. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have a case fatality rate of 1.43 per cent, 1.02 per cent, 0.87 per cent and 0.37 per cent, respectively.
Delhi has 29,169 Covid-19

cases per million followed by Kerala with 16,201 cases, Maharashtra with 14,584 and Haryana with 7,959 cases per million population.

"This is unfolding of a

BJP FILES COMPLAINT **AGAINST LALU YADAV**

DC CORRESPONDENT PATNA, NOV. 26

A complaint case has been registered against RJD Chief Lalu Yadav at the vigilance police sta-

tion in Patna. BJP MLA Lalan accused Lalu Yadav of making strategies to topple the newly elected NDA government in Bihar filed the com-plaint on Thursday under the prevention of

corruption act.
On Wednesday, BJP leader and former deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi had released an audio clip in which Lalu Yadav was heard talking to Lalan Paswan and asking him to abstain from the voting during the speaker's election.

Sources said that the Jharkhand administration has also asked the officials to ascertain the veracity of the audio clip which was released by the BJP on Wednesday.

Amid the political tur-moil in Bihar and Jharkhand over the issue, Lalu Yadav who is serving his jail term after being sentenced in several fodder scam cases has been sent back to the paying ward of Rajendra Institute of

He was shifted to the director's bungalow last month due to Coronavirus.

"This is an attempt to stop the opposition RJD from raising questions against the NDA. The allegation against Lalu Yadav is baseless and the NDA leaders cannot prove anything. The opposition parties in Bihar would continue to expose the failures of the NDA government in Bihar", RJD spokesper-son Chitranjan Gagan

told this newspaper. Sources, however, said that the RJD is concerned as Lalu Yadav's bail hearing in the fodder scam case is also scheduled on Friday

INDIA, NEPAL **TO ADVANCE MUTUAL COOPERATION**

Kathmandu, Nov. 26: India and Nepal on Thursday agreed to step mutual cooperation during a "productive" meet-ing between Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and his Nepalese counter-part Bharat Raj Paudyal.

Shringla began his two-day official visit to Nepal on Thursday.

He was accorded a warm welcome on his maiden visit to Nepal which is happening at the invitation of Nepal Foreign Secretary Paudyal, amid a strain in bilateral ties following a bitter border row between the two countries.

"FS @harshvshringla had a productive meeting with @PaudyalBR during which they took stock of bilateral cooperation and discussed issues of mutual interest," the Indian embassy in Kathmandu said in a

"Both sides appreciated the progress made on the numerous bilateral initiatives and projects. It was agreed to take further steps to advance mutual cooperation," it said in another tweet.

Shringla arrived at Tribhuvan Inter-national in Kathmandu on Thursday morning. While interacting with

local journalists, he said, "I have wanted to come here earlier also, but because of Covid-19, I couldn't do so. I am very happy to be here. I was here in Kathmandu earlier too, though this is my first visit to Nepal as a Foreign Secretary. have very strong relationship. Our endeavour will be to see how we can take that relationship forward".

Shringla's visit will be a continuation of the regular exchange of highlevel visits between the two friendly neighbour.

Trinamul leader wants Governor removed

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 26

Ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal, the Trinamul Congress has demanded governor Dhankhar's removal from his post by President Ram Nath Kovind after accusing him of having "connections with criminals of the

The ruling party also sought Dhankhar's prose-cution by the Kolkata police on criminal charges over his alleged support on Twitter to two accused Govind Agarwal, a dubious chartered accountant, and Sudipta Roy

man, after their arrests in two separate cases of financial offences into several crores.

On Thursday, Sreerampore TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee claimed at Trinamul Bhavan, "the Governor, as a public servant, is creating obstruction in the ongoing investigation against the two accused. He is trying to indulge criminals of the BJP with whom he has connections. The way Dhankhar is giving threats to the Kolkata police and Bidhannagar police through his tweets, he is liable for prosecution under section 186 and 189

of the Indian Penal Code. The police must initiate a criminal case against him. No sanction is required for this.

He said, "the President must intervene in the matter to see if the two IPC sections were violated by the Governor or not. If so, Dhankhar should be removed by the President as the Governor with immediate effect. He is not entitled to remain as the Governor anymore. According to my reading of the statute, since the Governor has violated two IPC sections, the President should not allow him to continue in his chair fur-ther after considering all

aspects." Asked of the TMC's plan of any memorandum to Kovind for Dhankhar's removal from the Governor's post, Banerjee added, "It will be

Countering the TMC's demand Dhankhar, now in North Bengal, stated, "my attention has been drawn to press release and conference by a ruling party leader. To the extent Governor role or actions are concerned, the reflections are wide off the mark, betraying ignorance of elementary constitu-tional and legal aspects and factually untenable. A classic case of "memory lapse of law and constitu-

strategy to take diversion-ary route so that burning issues can be put on back burner. This shall not happen. It deserves no serious note except for being ill informed on law, fact and constitution. In summa-

tion it is part of ongoing vituperative campaign to cover up monumental lapses and constitutional indiscretions. These cannot be impactful. I cannot help if some can not even read and understand the tweets. I dismiss any assertion made that indicates otherwise than my commitment for accountability and transparency."

TI FINDINGS

The survey was conducted between June 17 and July 17 in India

India has highest bribery rate in Asia: Report

New Delhi, Nov. 26: India has the highest bribery rate in Asia and the most number of people who use personal connections to access public services, according to a new report by corruption watchdog Tra-

nsparency International. The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) Asia, found that nearly 50 per cent of those who paid bribes were asked to, while 32 per cent of those who used personal connections said they would not receive the service otherthe survey which was conducted between June 17 and July 17 in India with a sample size of 2,000.

"With the highest bribery rate (39 per cent) in the region, India also has the highest rate of people using personal connections to access public services (46 per cent)," the report said.

Bribery in public services continues to plague India. Slow and complicated bureaucratic process, unnecessary red tape and unclear regulatory frame

The report is based upon works force citizens to he survey which was conseek out alternate solutions to access basic services through networks of familiarity and petty corruption, the report said.

"Both national and state governments need to streamline administrative processes for public services, implement preventative measures to combat bribery and nepotism, and invest in user-friendly online platforms to deliver essential public services quickly and effectively,' the report said.

Although reporting

cases of corruption is critical to curbing the spread, a majority of citizens in India (63 per cent) think that if they report corruption, they will suffer retaliation, it said.

countries In several including India, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and tion rates are also high and more must be done to prevent sextortion and address specific gendered forms of corruption, the report said.

money or sexual favours anti-corruption agency is

from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity through means like morphed images. In India, 89 per cent

think government corrup-tion is a big problem, 18 per cent offered bribes in exchange for votes and 11 per cent experienced sextortion or know someone who has.

About 63 per cent of surveyed people think the government is doing well tackling corruption Sextortion is extorting while 73 per cent said their

doing well in the fight against corruption, it said. Based on fieldwork conducted in 17 countries, the GCB surveyed nearly 20,000 citizens in total. The report said the results showed that nearly

three out of four people think corruption is a big problem in their country and the survey also found that nearly one in five peo-ple who accessed public services, such as health care and education, paid a bribe in the preceding

40 miners stuck at **Zimbabwe mishap**

Harare: At least 40 informal miners in Zimbabwe have been trapped underground after a shaft in a disused gold mine collapsed, the country's miners' federation said on Thursday. The incident occurred late Wednesday in the town of Bindura, around 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of the capital Harare, said Wellington Takavarasha, head of the Zimbabwe Miners Federation. Takavarasha said the miners were working inside the disused Ran Gold Mine when a shaft caved in. Six miners have since been pulled from the rubble and taken to hospital.

Flydubai lands 1st scheduled flight

Tel Aviv: A flight operated by budget airline flydubai landed in Tel Aviv on Thursday, the first scheduled commercial service between the two cities following the normalisation of ties between the UAE and Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on hand for the arrival of the inaugural flight after its nearly four-hour trip, called it "a moment of history.""As-salaam alaikum (Peace be upon you)," he said to arriving passengers. "Come again and again and again." The United Arab Emirates in September signed a landmark US-brokered deal to formalise relations with Israel, the first such agreement by an Arab state in the Gulf.

Greek oil tanker hit by blast at Saudi

Rivadh: An explosion rocked

a Greek-operated oil tanker docked at Saudi Arabia's port of Shuqaiq on Wednesday, Greek officials said, in an attack that a Riyadh-led military coalition blamed on Yemeni rebels. The blast on the Malteseflagged Agrari tanker follows a string of attacks by the Iran-linked rebels on Saudi oil infrastructure, highlighting the growing perils of a fiveyear military campaign led by the kingdom in Yemen. The tanker was "attacked by an unknown source" while it was preparing to depart from the Red Sea port of Shuqaiq, its Greece-based operator TMS Tankers said, adding that no injuries were reported. "The Agrari was struck about one meter above the

waterline and has suffered a breach," TMS Tankers said in a statement. "It has been safe and there have been no injuries. No pollution has been reported."An investigation was underway after Saudi authorities, including the coast guard, boarded the stricken vessel, it added

PALESTINIAN WHO **WAGED 103-DAY FAST FREED**

Nablus, Palestinian Territries, Nov. 26: Israel on Thursday released a Palestinian who waged a 103-day hunger strike to protest Israeli rules allowing his detention without charge, the Pa Prisoner's Club said. Palestinian

Maher al-Akhras, arrested over alleged membership of a militia group, was transferred from a Tel Aviv hospital to Nablus's Al-Najah University Hospital in the occupied West Bank, the prisoners' rights group said in a statement. A decision on releasing him to return home will follow "a medical assessment of his condition", Al-Najah hospital medical director Abdul-Karim Al-

Barqawi said. Akhras, 49, was arrested near Nablus in July and put in administrative detention, a policy that Israel uses to hold suspected militants without charge. He is suspected of links to the armed Palestinian group Islamic Jihad, labelled a terrorist group by Israel, the United States and the European Union. The father of six launched his fast to protest a four-month detention order, which had been due to end on

November 26. Akhras, who been arrested by Israel several times previously. ended his hunger strike after Israeli authorities committed to not extending his detention beyond that date. Israel's administrative detention policy, inherited from the British mandate of Palestine, allows the internment of prisoners without charge for renewable periods of up to six months each time. Israel says the procedure allows authorities to hold suspects and prevent attacks while continuing to gather evidence, but critics and rights groups say the system is abused.

Trump reiterates voter fraud allegations amid transition

Calls into Pennsylvania Republican event to probe charges

President Donald Trump has baselessly claimed anew that he had won the election and uttered repeated falsehoods as he called into an event held by Pennsylvania Republicans to investigate unproven allegations of voter fraud. "This was an election that we won easily. We won it by a lot," Trump declared to the group gathered at a hotel in Gettysburg on in Gett Wednesday.

Trump, in fact, lost to President-elect Joe Biden by about 1,50,000 votes in the state, and Pennsylvania certified Biden as the winner on Tuesday. The Pennsylvania event was the latest attempt by Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, a former New York City mayor, to try to cast doubt on the results of the democratic election, even as the formal transition process has begun and a growing number of Republicans are recognising Biden as president-elect.
Similar events have been

scheduled in Arizona and Michigan. State election officials across the country and international observers have said there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, and Trump's legal team has lost repeat edly in court, in addition to making numerous elementary errors.

Wednesday's event. by localing including Sen. organised Republicans, Pennsylvania state Sen. Doug Mastriano, an outspoken Trump supporter, came with trappings of an official hearing — flags, a gavel, and "witnesses" who 'testified" in person and by phone. Among them was a special guest — the president — who at one point had been expected to attend in person, but did not after another member of his legal team announced that he had tested positive for the Coronavirus on Wednesday morning.



Two women pray on their knees as they gather with other supporters of President Donald Trump, most without masks, outside of the Wyndham Gettysburg hotel prior to a Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee public hearing to discuss 2020 election issues and irregularities with President Trumps lawyer Rudy Giuliani in

Trump pardons Flynn, his ex-NSA who lied to FBI

Washington, Nov. 26: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order granting pardon to his former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who had been charged with making false statements to the FBI over possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential polls. Trump signed the executive order on Wednesday.

"It is my Great Honor to announce that General Michael T. Flynn has been granted a Full Pardon. Congratulations to Gen Flynn and his wonderful family, I know you will now have a truly fantastic Thanksgiving!" Trump said in a tweet.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said, "The President has pardoned General Flynn because he should never have been prosecut-



Michael Flynn

ed. An independent review of General Flynn's case by the Department of Justice
— conducted by respected career professionals — supports this conclusion." In fact, the Department of

Justice has firmly concluded that the charges against Flynn should be dropped, she said. "This Full Pardon achieves that objective, finally bringing to an end the relentless, partisan pursuit of an innocent man." she said.

"General Flynn should

FBI agents who interviewed General Flynn did not think he was lying. "Multiple investigations have produced evidence establishing that General Flynn was the victim of partisan government officials engaged in a coordinated attempt to subvert the election of 2016," McEnany said. These individuals sought to prevent Trump from being elected, to block him from assuming that office on his election, remove him from office after his inauguration, and undermine his administration at every turn, she said. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in a statement said Trump's pardon of Michael Flynn, who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his dealings with a foreign adversary, is an act of grave corruption and

FACEBOOK FIGHTS WITH ELECTION DISINFORMATION

San Francisco, Nov. 26: The US presidential election is finished: votes cast, the transition — though delayed — begun. But on Facebook, the

fight against election misinformation continues, thanks to "super spread ers" - accounts that disseminate rumours and fabrications, falsely spreading the idea that the 2020 election was beset by organised, extensive fraud by the Democratic Party.

The US non-profit Avaaz has identified 25 pages in particular, including those of Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump — the president's sons — White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany and combative conservative commentators Dan Bongino, Lou Dobbs and Rush Limbaugh, along with pro-Trump organiza-tions such as Turning Point USA.

These are sowing doubt about the President-elect Joe Biden's White House win earlier this month taking their lead from the building's current resident, who has also taken to social media to tweet that he will not "concede" and to outline his so-far unfounded claims that the election was "stolen." Unproven allegations of fraud from these accounts have been "liked," com-mented on and shared more than 77 million times since November 3, according to a study from

Avaaz.

And that doesn't take into account the Facebook accounts of the "superspreader" in chief, Donald Trump himself, nor that of his former adviser Steve Bannon, which was recently removed by the network.

Covid vaccines PANDEMIC OR NOT, **PEOPLE MUST STAY**

'Infodemic' risks

jeopardising

Paris, Nov. 26: As early as February, with the glob-al pandemic spreading fast, the World Health Organisation issued a warning about an "info-demic", a wave of fake news and misinformation about the deadly new disease on social media. Now with hopes hanging

on Covid-19 vaccines, the WHO and experts are warning those same phenomena may jeopardise rollout of immunisation programmes meant to bring an end to the suffering. "The Coronavirus disease is the first pandemic in history in which technology and social media are being used on a massive scale to keep people safe, informed, productive and connected," the WHO

"At the same time, the technology we rely on to keep connected and informed is enabling and amplifying an infodemic that continues to undermine the global response and jeopardises measures to control the pandemic." More than 1.4 million people have died since the pandemic emerged in China late last year, but three developers are already applying for approval for their vaccines to be used as early as December.

Beyond logistics, though, governments must also contend with scepticism over vaccines developed with record speed at a time when social media has been both a tool for information and false-hood about the virus. The WHO defined an infodemic as an overabundance of information, both online and offline, including "deliberate attempts to disseminate wrong information". Last month, a study from Cornell University in the United States found that US President Donald Trump has been the world's biggest driver of Covid-19 misinformation during the pandemic.

In April, Trump mused

ACTIVE, SAYS WHO

Geneva, Nov. 25: The Coronavirus pandemic is no excuse for not getting enough exercise, the World Health Organi-sation said on Wednesday, warning that even before the crisis many were getting too little physical activity.

In an update of its physical activity guidelines, the UN health agency stressed that exercise was vital to physical and mental health, while sedentary behaviour can have serious repercussions. "WHO urges everyone to

continue to stay active through the Covid-19 pandemic," the agency's head of health promotion Rue-diger Krech told reporters. "If we do not remain active, we run the risk of creating another pandemic of ill-health as a result of sedentary behaviour."There are still no clear statistics on what impact the pandemic has had on physical activity, but lockdowns, movement restrictions, gym closures and other measures have clearly forced many people to stay home and have disrupted regular activities and exercise routines.

disinfectants inside the body to cure the virus and also promoted unproven treatments. Since January, *AFP* has pub-lished more than 2,000 fact-checking articles dismantling false claims about the Coronavirus.

"Without the appropriate trust and correct information, diagnostic tests go unused, immunisation campaigns (or campaigns to promote effective vaccines) will not meet their targets, and the virus will targets, and the virus continue to thrive," the — AFP



BRITAIN FUNDS ANTI-TERROR ESTABLISMENT

London, Nov. 26: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced to set aside millions of pounds to establish a "world-leading" Counter Terrorism Operations Centre (CTOC) based in London. As part of a Spending

Review for the next year's

budgetary plans tabled in Parliament Wednesday, the finance minister said he would allocate an additional 400 million pound to help recruit 20,000 more police officers by 2023, with 6,000 new officers in 2021-22; 63 million pound to tackle economic crime; and 337 million pound extra funding for the criminal jus-

tice system, which will

include the new CTOC -

expected to be fully opera-

tional within five years. "Our police and intelligence agencies do an extraordinary job every day to protect us all from terrorist activity," Sunak said. "Bringing these partners together to form a world-leading operations centre will enable them to work more collaboratively to disrupt threats allowing the government to deliver on its first and foremost duty to keep the

public safe," he said.
"We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our police, intelligence agencies and criminal justice system who work tirelessly every single day to keep us safe from terrorism. This world-leading new centre will fully integrate their wealth of knowledge and expertise to ensure that we are responding to the range of threats this nation faces as quickly and effectively as possible," added UK Home Sec-

retary Priti Patel. -PTI

Russia oil giant Iran swaps Australian for 3 Iranians declares Arctic project open

Moscow, Nov. 26: Russian oil giant Rosneft on Wednesday announced the start of operations for its giant Vostok oil project in the Arctic, part of the country's strategic energy plan which has been criticised by environmental-

"It is with great pleasure

that I inform you of the start of the practical implementation of the project," Rosneft chief executive Igor Sechin told President Vladimir Putin at a meeting in Moscow. He thanked Putin, with whom he has close relations, for the adoption of a law facilitating Russian investments in the Arctic.

"The prospecting and exploration work are now underway, in accordance with our timetable," Sechin said, adding that the design work for a 770kilometrer (480-mile) oil pipeline and a port had

completed. The strategic plan for Russia's mineral resources stretches to 2035 and is bank ing on growing global demand, though it does predict that natural gas will partially replace oil and coal.

"Mineral resources will remain a competitive advantage of Russia's economy, and will determine the place and role of the country in the world,'

Environmentalists urged the Russian government last year to stop granting licenses to exploit several Arctic deposits. The Vostok project, the cornerstone of Russia's Arctic ambitions, brings together several Rosneft activities in the Russian Far North, near the northern sea route that the company intends to exploit to deliver to Europe and Asia. -AFP

freed a British-Australian academic who had been detained in the country for over two years in

exchange for three Iranians held abroad, state TV announced.
The television report on

Wednesday was scant on detail, saying only that the three Iranians freed in the swap had been imprisoned for trying to bypass sanctions on Iran. Kylie Moore-Gilbert, 33, was a Melbourne University lecstudies when she was picked up at the Tehran airport as she tried to leave the country after attending an academic conference in 2018.

She was sent to Tehran's Evin prison, convicted of spying and sentenced to 10 years behind bars. Moore-Gilbert had vehemently denied the charges and maintained her inno-cence. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne confirmed the release on

Gilbert would soon be reunited with her family. "Dr. Moore-Gilbert's release has been an

absolute priority for the government since her detention," Payne said in a statement. "The Aus-tralian government has consistently rejected the grounds on which the Iranian government arrested, detained and convicted Dr. Moore-Gilbert. We continue to do so."

"diplomatic engagement" with the Iranian govern ment and was done in consultation with Moore-Gilbert's family. Moore-Gilbert was one of several Westerners held in Iran on widely criticised espicharges onage activists and UN investigators believe is a systematic effort to leverage their imprisonments for money or influence in negotia tions with the West, which

Turkish coup accused get life terms

Ankara, Nov. 26: A Turkish court jailed more than 300 former pilots and other suspects for life in a mass trial stemming from a bloody 2016 coup attempt against President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan. Fethullah Gulen, a USbased Muslim preacher who was once an Erdogan ally, is accused of ordering the failed putsch. His movement has been proscribed as a terrorist group by Ankara, but the 79-year-old denies all

• THE CHAOTIC attempt was swiftly followed by a fierce government crackdown spanning years and resulting in tens of thousands of arrests.

charges.

A total of 251 people died and more than 2,000 were injured in what has turned into the defining moment of Erdogan's rule contemporary Turkish politics.

The chaotic attempt was

swiftly followed by a fierce government crackdown spanning years and resulting in tens of thousands of arrests.

Turkey's largest courtroom was packed with dozens of security personnel and the presiding judge ordered one protesting defendant to "Sit several times before reading the verdict.

He issued multiple life sentences to 27 disgruntled air force pilots who the capital bombed

Ankara and civilians who orchestrated the coup attempt from inside the Akinci military base near

the capital. Court documents subsequently obtained by AFP showed 337 defendants handed life sentences for murder, violating the constitutional order and attempting to assassinate Erdogan.

Sixty suspects were given jail sentences of various lengths while 75 were

leviathan would have 70%

of the U.S. literary and

Penguin Random House Chief Executive Markus

Dohle said on Wednesday

that Simon & Schuster

would retain its editorial

independence and that

individual imprints with-

in Penguin Random House

general fiction market.

PUBLISHING | GIANT Bertelsmann's rival News Corp., which owns HarperCollins, slammed the deal

Penguin to buy Simon & Schuster for \$2bn

media giant Bertelsmann said on Wednesday that its Penguin Random House division is buying rival Simon & Schuster in a megadeal that would reshape the US publishing

Penguin Random House, already the largest American publisher, will buy the New York-based Simon & Schuster, whose authors include Stephen King, Hillary Clinton and John Irving, from TV and film company ViacomCBS for \$2.17 billion in cash. "Simon & Schuster

mann's footprint globally,

Bertels-

strengthens

and (particularly) in the US, its second-largest mar-Germany-based company said in a statement.

The purchase of Simon

& Schuster would reduce the so-called Big Five of American publishing which also includes HarperCollins, Hachette Book Group Macmillan — to four.

The companies said the deal is expected to close in 2021, subject to regulatory

ern times would approach the power of the new com-ViacomCBS said Bertelsmann will pay a

PENGUIN RANDOM **House Chief Executive** Markus Dohle said on Wednesday that Simon & Schuster would retain its editorial independence and that individual imprints within Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster could continue

to compete with each

other for book deals.

termination fee if the deal approval.
No US publisher in modfails due to regulatory rea-

Agents and authors often worry that a concentration of power in publish-

ing could mean less com-

and lower advances.

The Authors Guild, a writers' organisation, said Wednesday that it opposed the sale because it would hurt competition, making it more difficult for authors and agents to negotiate with publishers. It said the U.S. Department of Justice should chal-

lenge it. The department did not immediately return a request for comment.

"As an organisation of writers it's important to us that the publishing industry (thrives), and that there be multiple, robust outlets to bring the

audiences," said Suzanne Nossel, the CEO of PEN America. "To the extent that efficiencies are garnered through consolidation, it is our hope that they are a catalyst to enable greater investment in authors, books, and outreach to readers.

Bertelsmann's News Corp., which owns HarperCollins, the 'Bertelsmann is not just buying a book publisher, but buying market domi-

Thomson said in a state-

nance as a book behemoth," said News Corp Chief Executive Robert

and Simon & Schuster could continue to compete with each other for book deals. Simon & Schuster's cur-rent president and chief executive, Jonathan Karp,

will continue to lead the Bertelsmann said. -AP

DATE OF BIRTH: PLAYING CAREER October 30, 1960 PLACE OF BIRTH: Boca Juniors (1981-82) Buenos Aires, Argentina Barcelona (ESP/1982-84) PLACE OF DEATH:

- Argentinos Juniors (1976-81)
- DATE OF DEATH:
 November 25, 2020

 Napoli (ITA/1984-91)
- Sevilla (ESP/1992-93) Tigre, Argentina Newell's Old Boys (1993)
- **HEIGHT:** 1.65m Boca Juniors (1995-97)

Buenos Aires (Argentina), Nov. 26:

Impatient fans were confronting police as thousands lined up to say goodbye to Diego Maradona on Thursday at the Argentine

presidential mansion staging the funeral of

Fans threw bottles and metal fences at police near the Casa Rosada in the heart of

Open visitation started at 6.15 am local

Maradona's wooden casket was in the

main lobby of the presidential office, covered in an Argentine flag and a No.10 shirt of the national team. Dozens of other shirts

of different football teams were thrown in

by visitors who passed by in tears.

Maradona died on Wednesday of a heart attack in a house outside Buenos Aires where he recovered from a brain operation

The first to bid farewell were his daughters and close family members. Then came

former teammates of the 1986 World Cup-

winning squad including Oscar Ruggeri. Other Argentine footballers, such as Carlos Tevez of Boca Juniors showed up too.

The lines started outside the Casa Rosada

only hours after Maradona's death was con-

firmed. Among those present were the

time after a few hours of privacy for family

one of football's greatest stars.

Buenos Aires.

and close friends.

on November 3.

Position: attacking

Honours

- FIFA World Cup winner (1986)
- FIFA World Cup Golden Ball (1986)
- UEFA Cup winner (1989) Italian champion (1987, 1990)
- Argentine champion (1981)
- Spanish Super Cup (1983) • Spanish Cup (1983)
- Italian Cup (1987)
- Italian Super Cup (1990) Top scorer in Italy (1988),
- Argentina (1979, 1980) • FIFA Player of the Century (2000)



Uncontrollable Argentina cries Country mourns death of favourite son Maradona





Argentines and football. He leaves us but he does not go because he is eternal. I am left with many of the nice moments we shared and I want to send my condolences to all his family and friends. Lionel Messi, six-time



"Today I say goodbye to a friend and the world says goodbye to an eternal genius. One of the best ever. An unparallelled magician.

five-time Ballon d'Or winner

and Juventus forward

"RIP Legend. You will stay

in the history of football for-

ever. Thanks you for all the

pleasure you gave to the

whole world."

– Kylian Mbappe, French
World Cup winner and Paris

Saint-Germain forward

"What Diego has done for

football, for making all of us

fall in love with this beautiful

game, is unique. It is, as he

president

feels like my entire life, he

was part of it. When I was

very young - maybe eight or

nine, 10 years old - I saw

him for the first time and he

was 16 or 17. In any video,

juggling the ball, from that moment on he was the player

for me.'

— Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool

manager

"There are a few incredible

players in all of history, he is

one of them. For people of

our generation, the World

Cup in '86 in Mexico was

something which made this

sport better.'

Manchester City manager

"Our sport lost one of its

biggest idols. I lost a great

friend, whose talent inspired

me from the time I was a

boy. I'm in shock that he's

gone, but grateful that our

paths crossed in life. El Pibe,

your legacy is eternal. Your

magic on the pitch will never

Barcelona and Real Madrid

striker

– Ronaldo, former Brazil,

be forgotten.

– Pep Guardiola,

— Gianni Infantino, FIFA

"I'm 53 years old and it

renowned barrabravas fans of Boca Juniors, one of his former clubs. He leaves too soon, but The first fan to visit was Nahuel de Lima, leaves a legacy without limits using crutches to move because of a disand a void that will never be ability. At the same time, a wave of people filled. Rest in peace, ace. You tried to get ahead and confronted police, will never be forgotten."

— Cristiano Ronaldo, who used tear gas to contain them.

Bodyguards were stopping fans from taking pictures and controlling access to the building. Many fans were breaking down as soon as they left.

Fans who walked past the casket blew kisses into the air, struck their chests with closed fists, and shouted 'Let's go Diego.' Most, but not all, wore masks due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A giant black screen in front of the Casa Rosada was showing historic photos of Maradona as fans go.

Fans also gathered outside the humble home where Maradona was born and raised in the Villa Fiorito neighbourhood. They went to the stadium of Argentinos Juniors, where he started as a professional footballer in 1976. They stood at the historic La Bombonera stadium of his beloved Boca Juniors. More were at the headquarters of Gimnasia La Plata, the team he was coach-





People react as they leave the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, Argentina, after paying tribute to football legend Diego Maradona's coffin.

GOA SET TO INSTALL MARADONA STATUE

In this photo released by Argentinas

Presidency, the coffin with the remains

the presidential palace as mourners file

of Diego Maradona lies in state inside

past in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on

Panaji, Nov. 26: The Goa government will install the life-size statue of late Argentine football legend Diego Maradona in the coastal belt of North district by early next year, a senior min-

Maradona's statue is already under making with a Maharashtra-based artist working on the mould, Calangute MLA and state Ports Minister Michael

Lobo had announced installation of the statue of Maradona in 2018. "The statue would be installed somewhere at Candolim or Calangute to inspire the football playing youth," he said.

Lobo said the mould of the statue is ready. "It is an actual-size statue as tall as late Maradona," the minister said, adding that the 350-kg statue is part of the state government's initiative to encourage football culture.

Lobo said a statue of another football legend Cristiano Ronaldo is also being prepared which will be installed in North district of the state.

KERALA DECLARES

2-DAY MOURNING **Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 26:** A day after Diego Maradona died of heart attack in Buenos Aires, the Kerala government on Thursday announced a two-day mourning in the state's sports sector and appealed to everyone in the

fraternity to join as a mark of tribute. Considered the greatest footballer of all time alongside Brazil's Pele, the Argentine player had a great fan following in the football crazy southern state.

Announcing the mourning, state sports minister E. P. Javarajan said the demise of Maradona has saddened football fans around the world. "In Kerala also, lakhs of fans could not believe his departure," he said.

"There is no cancellation of any event or anything like that as part of the mourning announced in the sports sector. It is just an appeal to the general public, sports buffs and those in the sports fraternity to mourn the death of the legendary footballer," a staff in the minister's office said.

However, no sporting events are scheduled due to Covid-19, he added.

A LIFE IN 10 **KEY DATES**

From his birth in 1960 to Argentina's World Cup triumph in 1986 and his positive drug test at the 1994 finals — here are 10 key dates in the colourful life of Diego Maradona.

OCTOBER 30, 1960:

Maradona is born in Lanus, to the south of Buenos Aires. The son of Diego Maradona and Delma Franco, he was one of seven children.

OCTOBER 20, 1976:

Makes his debut in Argentina's top flight for Buenos Aires side Argentinos Juniors, just before his 16th birthday. He went on to win his first cap for Argentina in February 1977, selected by coach Cesar Luis Menotti for a 5-1 win against Hungary. His first goal for Argentina came in a 3-1 win over Scotland in Glasgow in 1979.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1979:

Wins the World Youth Championship, scoring the third goal as Argentina beat the Soviet Union 3-1 in the final in Tokyo.

JUNE 13, 1982:

Maradona takes part in a World Cup match for the first time as the holders lose 1-0 to Belgium in the opening game at the tournament in Spain.

JUNE 22, 1986:

Scores his two legendary goals against England in the World Cup quarterfinal in Mexico, the "Hand of God" and then his stunning high-speed slalom that was later named "Goal of the Century" by FIFA. Argentina went on to win tne tropny, beating

JULY 8, 1990:

Captains Argentina to a 1-0 defeat against West Germany in the World Cup final in Rome.

Germany 3-2 in the final.

JUNE 25, 1994:

Skippers Argentina to a 2-1 win over Nigeria at the World Cup in the United States. After the match he tests positive for ephedrine and is suspended for 15 months. He had already been suspended for 15 months for cocaine use in his Napoli days. Maradona retired from playing in 1997.

NOVEMBER 4. 2008:

Becomes coach of Argentina, leading them to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Eliminated in the quarterfinals by Germany.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020:

Four days after his 60th birthday, Maradona undergoes brain surgery on a blood clot.

NOVEMBER 25, 2020:

Dies of a heart attack at home in the Buenos

Maradona at the weekend.

FOOTBALL TOURNEY

IN DIEGO MEMORY

Hyderabad, Nov. 26: A football tournament is being conducted in Hyderabad in memory of Argentine legend Diego

The Under 15 boys knockout tournament will be played on November 28 and 29 at Skykings football ground in Bowenpally. Players born on or after 01.01.2006 are eligible to participate. They have to furnish a valid Date of Birth certificate. The last date for entries is November 27.

For further details, contact All India Football Federation 'D' Licence coach Shashikanth on phone number

STADIUM IN NAPLES AFTER MARADONA

Naples (Italy), Nov. 26: The mayor of Naples proposed that the Stadio San Paolo be renamed in honour of the city's beloved footballer, Diego Maradona. "Let's name the San Paolo Stadium for Diego Armando Maradona!!!" Mayor Luigi de Magistris wrote on Twitter.

The stadium on Wednesday was illuminated in honour of the former Napoli player who died of a heart attack at age 60, as fans gathered outside to mourn.

Maradona led Napoli to their only two league titles in 1987 and 1990, becoming a legend in the working-class city, where fans on Wednesday poured into the streets after hearing of his death.

WHEN MARADONA GRIPPED KOLKATA

show glimpses of his deft left foot and

even crooned Spanish songs, as he sweat-

ed it out with a bunch of school children

and bid them adieu with a promise to

his head. But he had no complaints and

was eloquent in his three-minute Spanish

Kolkata, Nov. 26: His promise to bring "big-time" football to India remained unfulfilled as Diego Maradona died after cheating death more than once, leaving a cricket-mad nation devastated in an appropriate reflection of his immortal

A lot many in the 'City of Joy' will recall how a little bulky version of Maradona huffed and puffed during a charity foot-

"bring football" to India. In December 2017, he turned up in shorts, enjoyed every bit of the maddening attention even though the gruelling session literally drained him as he was seen drenched in sweat, pouring water on

ball game here three years ago. The Argentine legend, who was 57 when he came here, had managed to dribble,



In this photo taken on December 6, 2008, Diego Maradona gestures as he attends a felicitation programme at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

Live on TV

Australia vs India: First ODI from 9.10 am on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

Galle from 8 pm on Sony Six, HD South Africa vs England: First

Smackdown: Bouts from 6.30

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India take on Oz in top ODI clash Sydney, Nov. 26: India are

promising to play "hard, aggressive" cricket when they emerge from coronavirus quarantine to face Australia in a blockbuster limited-over series beginning in Sydney on Friday. The first of three ODIs,

Twenty20s next week, comes after the visitors had to endure wrangling over quarantine requirements and an outbreak of the virus in Melbourne, which delayed confirmation of the tour until just

weeks ago. Virat Kohli's squad have been in isolation since their arrival a fortnight ago, although they have been allowed to train with-

It has been an equally odd build-up for Aaron Finch's Australia, with the likes of David Warner, Steve Smith and Pat Cummins, who played in the Indian Premier League, undergoing the mandatory

hard to determine form, on the back of beating 50-

India haven't played together since a tour of New Zealand in February, when they clinched the



whitewashed 3-0 in the But they can take solace from winning their last

ago, although Smith and Warner were banned for ball-tampering.

have separate squads for the one-dayers and T20s, both led by Kohli, but without Rishabh Pant, an explosive batsman who became a viral sensation on India's 2018-19 tour with his banter behind the

stumps.
Injured star opener Rohit Sharma and fast-bowler Ishant Sharma are also

Shikhar Dhawan is likely to open the innings, potentially alongside Mayank Agarwal with wicketkeeper Rahul pushed down the

Jasprit Bumrah will spearhead a dangerous pace attack on expected lively pitches, with all six whiteball games either at the Sydney Cricket Ground or the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

Langer may pick highly rated young in-form allrounder Cameron Green, who was a surprise inclusion, but will largely stick with the side that beat England in September, minus the injured Mitch Marsh and with Smith returning after missing the series with concussion.

All-rounders Maxwell and Marcus

Six Pak players test positive for Covid Wellington, Nov. 26: Six tom check before leaving

of Pakistan's squad tested positive for Covid-19, hosts New Zealand Cricket said on Thursday, throwing preparations for their fivematch tour into turmoil and causing a scare in a country that has largely

eradicated the virus.

The squad's "exemption to train while in managed isolation has been put on hold until investigations have been completed," the governing body said, adding that the six positive players would be moved

Lahore and were tested on arrival in Christchurch on November 24. Six of those results have

come back positive, although two of the six cases are believed to be "historical" New Zealand Health also revealed that "several team members have been seen on CCTV at the facility

tion rules, despite clear, consistent and detailed communication of expected behaviours". 'The team as a whole has been issued with a final

breaching managed isola-

Lanka Premier League: Jaffna vs T20 from 9.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

Telangana State Regd. No. H/SD-2/2K Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121181123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter

in a bio-secure bubble.

14 days of quarantine, which ended Thursday. three

The lack of international cricket this year makes it although Australia head into the white-ball series over world champions England in September.

Twenty20 series but were

— AFP

into strict quarantine. Stoinis will complement New Zealand's ministry The potent combination the four frontline bowlers. -AFPof health said 53 team warning," it said. Test and ODI series in of Mohammed Shami and Australia two summers members passed a symp-