

DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2020

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Vaccine ahoy! UK to begin inoculation early next week

Russia follows UK on vaccination; Pfizer says others will emulate

Telangana picked for Covid software trial

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

London, Dec. 2: Britain approved Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine on Wednesday, jumping ahead of the rest of the world in the race to begin the most crucial mass inoculation programme in history with a shot tested in wide-scale clinical trials.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson touted the green light from Britain's medicine authority as a global win and a ray of hope amid the pandemic, though he recognised the logistical challenges of vaccinating a country of 6.7 crore.

Britain's move raised hopes that the tide could soon turn against a virus that has killed nearly 15 lakh people globally, hampered the world economy and upended normal life for billions since it emerged in Wuhan, China, a year ago.

Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted emergency use approval to the vaccine developed by Pfizer and

TRS WILL WIN 80 SEATS AND FORM COUNCIL, SAYS CM
S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Wednesday exuded confidence about his party coming to power in the GHMC Council and cautioned party's GHMC election in-charges to be alert during the counting of votes on December 4.

Addressing a meeting of the party's division in-charges after taking stock of trends during the polling, Rao said that he has received inputs from various sources, which show that the TRS will win more than 80 seats.

■ Page 4: Stay alert on counting day, says KCR

Modi calls up Bandi, pats party cadre for poll work

IREDDY SRINIVAS
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Underscoring the BJP's intent to emerge as a serious player in Telangana state politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called up his party's TS unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar for an update on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election.

The Prime Minister also enquired about the attack on Bandi's convoy a day ahead of elections in the city. He also appreciated the work of Bandi and other senior party leaders and asked them to fight for

people in an aggressive manner.

Bandi informed Modi that several party leaders were injured in attacks by TRS leaders during the election process. He said the party was taking care of victims and that he is personally visiting and enquiring about their health condition.

Modi was also appreciative of the hard work done by cadre to position the party in a better position in Telangana.

The Prime Minister also thanked every worker and every leader of the party who worked hard for the GHMC election.

Bandi told the Prime

Minister that the party is increasing its strength day by day in TS and the people are welcoming the party's performance under the leadership of Modi and Union ministers Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Bandi said the Prime Minister's call has significantly boosted the morale of the party cadre and said the BJP's Telangana unit will continue its aggressive work to strengthen the party in the state.

Bandi said Modi was particular in thanking youth leaders for their aggressive campaign for the party in the state.

Farmers threaten nationwide protest

SANJAY KAW and RAJNISH SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

With support pouring in from various quarters, the farmers protesting on the borders of Delhi seem all set to go for their meeting with Union ministers on Thursday in a belligerent and not a conciliatory mood.

On Wednesday, a day before their second round of talks with the Centre, the farmers

asked that a special session of Parliament be convened to repeal the three farm laws.

They reiterated that if their demands are not met, they will intensify their stir by blocking all entry points to Delhi and hold a nationwide stir on December 5.

Security officials said that the farmers are prepared for a long haul and seem prepared to continue their agitation for several months.

Virat in fast lane, overtakes Sachin

MOSES KONDETY | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

won by 13 runs at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

Going into the match, he needed 23 to reach the milestone. He got 63 though, on the way blasting past the Master Blaster's mark, in his 242nd innings, 58 fewer than the Indian legend. That was really 'Schumacher speed' as Sachin had taken 300 innings to complete 12,000 runs in ODIs. Tendulkar, however, holds a clutch of world records still.

The aggressive Indian cricket captain raced into the record books to become the fastest batsman to score 12,000 runs in One-Day Internationals, during the third ODI against Australia which India

won by 13 runs at the Manuka Oval in Canberra.

Virat Kohli has always been a young man in a hurry. On Wednesday, he switched gears, swung into the fast lane... and overtook the iconic Sachin Tendulkar.

The aggressive Indian

cricket captain raced into

the record books to be-

come the fastest batsman to

score 12,000 runs in One-

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WEATHER

Max: 30.4°C
Min: 15.1°C
RH: 38%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Mist or haze likely.
Max/Min temp. 30/15 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+32,388)	(+498)
95,31,109	1,38,627
covid19india.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+565)	(+1)
TS: 2,70,883	1,462
(+663)	(+7)
AP: 8,69,412	7,003

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

6,45,26,022	DEATHS
14,93,487	

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Bahula Tadiya till 7.23 pm
Star: Ardra till 12.18 pm
Varjyam: 12.56 am to 2.37 am (Friday)

Durmuhurtam: 10.15 am to 10.59 am; 2.40 pm to 3.24 pm

Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HILRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Aakhir 17, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.28 am

Zohar: 12.16 pm

Asar: 4.05 pm

Maghrib: 5.46 pm

Isha: 8.59 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.31 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.12 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 8.53 AM

COUNTER POINT



The EC should give us the 'Vote From Home' option!

IN BRIEF

Electric autos for women

Hyderabad: The state government on Wednesday decided to provide loans to the SHG women through the Shreenidhi Credit Cooperative Bank for the purchase of electric autorickshaws.

7 of a family die in road mishap

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Seven members of a family were killed and four others sustained injuries when a car they were travelling in had a head-on collision with a lorry after the driver attempted to overtake. The accident occurred on Wednesday morning near the Malkapur Gate in Chevella mandal on the Hyderabad-Bijapur Highway, about 50 km from Hyderabad.

The Innovas they were travelling in was doing 120 kmph on a highway road with speed limit of 80 kmph, police said, adding that the impact of collision was brutal.

According to police, all the victims belonged to the same family and they were headed to Gurmitkal in Karnataka.

The deceased have been identified as Mohammed Asif Khan, 46, a welder of

ering between Partha-sarathy and the leaders of the Opposition.

The SEC was even blamed by several citizens on social media on the day of the polling for the low voter turnout.

In an exclusive interview with Deccan Chronicle, he responds to the various allegations and clarifies the official view of the Election Commission.

How does the SEC respond to criticisms by citizens and Opposition parties that in several aspects from changing polling booths out of Covid requirements to creating awareness among voters, from perception of impartiality, to lacunae in duplication and deletion of voter names from lists, holding election at end of a long weekend, you have failed the spirit of democracy and are responsible for low voter turnout?

In the General Elections (Lok Sabha, 2019), polling

DC EXCLUSIVE



C. Partha-sarathy

stations (PSs) were created for every 1,500 voters. Thus, at that time, we had 6,911 polling stations in the GHMC area. Now, as per new SEC guidelines, taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation and precautions that had to be taken, we created 9,101 polling stations, providing for only 1,000 voters per PSs. So, additional PSs had to be created. To the maximum possible extent, new PSs were selected in the existing location only. In spite of all the odds you have

mentioned, because of the measures taken by the SEC, polling went off peacefully and by large. The voting exceeded the poll percentage of previous elections.

On the issue of integrity of elections and prevention of voter fraud, it has been pointed out that while Form 21 is normally filled and given to representatives of candidates of all parties while sealing the ballot boxes, this time you have provided Form 17? They also point out that the ballot boxes are not numbered and this does not reflect in the form? Some even say the seal being used is not of the SEC but of the Telangana state government. So, how do voters know on the counting day ballot boxes have not been tampered with, or even replaced?

The Form 17 is used by the Election Commission of India in general elections (Parliament and

Assembly), whereas in the local body elections, as per the SEC's instructions, we use Form 21. Further, the ballot boxes have numbers engraved on it. Due to repeated painting and usage for years, the engraved numbers are not recognisable and hence not mentioned on the form.

There is strong criticism on how a 17-year-old boy was appointed to oversee election work as an official inside a booth? Is the SEC not in violation of child labour laws, besides a posse of other guidelines?

He is not an official but a webcasting student volunteer. There are no age related guidelines for this kind of work. It was lunch hour and the student was inside the polling booth to have lunch with other polling personnel. For webcasting, we take students who have laptops and know how to operate the same. We were following the guidelines.

Says that voting percentage was highest amongst all previous polls

SRIRAM KARRI | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Ever since Telangana State Election Commissioner C. Partha-sarathy announced the decision to commence the elections for the GHMC and released its schedule on November 17, he has been in the eye of a storm.

Opposition parties and citizen bodies have criticised him for the decision for a plethora of reasons, ranging from holding the elections when the Coronavirus pandemic is raging, when the Council still has a couple of months to end its term, to choosing a long holiday weekend to giving too little time to parties to finalise candidates and campaign.

There were other decisions, too, which have been contested or protested against, including choosing the ballot paper option over the untamperable EVMs to being partisan towards the ruling party, among others, leading to constant bick-



Bloomers galore in GHMC voter lists

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
| DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

AROUND THREE to five lakh voters, who attained 18 years, have not been able to exercise their right to vote as the civic elections were advanced by 70 days.

advanced by 70 days.

According to M. Padmanabha Reddy, secretary, Forum for Good Governance, the Election Commission should link Aadhaar or any such software which can identify duplications.

MLA Kalavakuntla Kavitha is in the news as her name figures in Pothangal, Bodhan and also in Hyderabad.

With an estimated 74 lakh and odd voters in GHMC, experts have suggested that Aadhar should be linked to the voter card so that when the change of address is entered, automatically the division and constituency will change, accordingly.

Around three to five lakh voters, who attained 18 years, have not been able to exercise their right to vote as the elections were

"I demand a revamp of the entire electoral system so that such mistakes do not recur," he said.

Tight vigil ahead of vote counting

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

City police officials provided three-level security arrangements in the 15 counting centers, 14 in Hyderabad and one in Cyberabad, spread across the city. Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar and Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar oversaw the arrangements made for the counting day along with the concerned nodal officers, GHMC officials, and other officials on Wednesday.

The CRPF, City Armed Reserve police, and city civil officials are deployed for security and an ACP level officer will be on duty at each centre 24 hours a day, said the officials, adding that one Additional DCP

has been appointed for each of the three counting centers.

"Each strong room was sealed in the presence of a video record as per the orders of the State Election Commissioner. We are also setting up a police outpost, a control room, and a small media point nearby in each center. No person is allowed within 200 meters of the strong room. We appeal to all political parties that no victory rallies are allowed until 48 hours after the counting and request cooperation with the police," said Anjani Kumar. Each ballot box from the strong room is moved to the counting table in the presence of a police escort and arrangements are made for re-polling in Old Malakpet.

The spread of the infection can be curtailed if they isolate themselves from their family members."

Experts state that those who are immune-compromised like suffering from diabetes, heart problems and respiratory diseases will be more vulnerable. Symptoms of severe fatigue, restlessness, breathing problems, wheezing, loss of smell and taste, cough, cold and fever must be tested. Those who

have been active participants in the election process must remember that it is this act of theirs that has caused these symptoms, stated health officials on condition of anonymity.

Dr Srinivas Rao says,

"We are no exception to the virus.

Telangana has the lowest

number of active cases at

9,266 and lowest mortality

rate at 0.53 percent. We have the highest recovery rate of

96.03 per cent."

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, SANGAREDDY
No.G/1/2697/2016
FORM - VII
(See Sub Rule (1) of rule 25 and
Section 19(1) of the Act - 30/2013)

DECLARATION

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana that a total of about Ac. 3.25 1/4 guntas of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Kollar Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal of Sangareddy District for the purpose, namely, Improvement of Radial Road No. 71 "i.e., from Telapur Junction to Edulandam, finally from KM 0/0 to KM 6/570 in Hyderabad" (Sangareddy District stretch is from KM 0/780 to KM 6/570).

Therefore declaration made for a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 3.25 1/4 guntas of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Kollar Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal of Sangareddy District whose detailed description is as follows:

Village: Kollar, Mandal: Ramachandrapuram, District: Sangareddy

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition (Ac. Gs)	Name and Address of Person Interested	Boundaries				Structures	Remarks
					North	South	East	West			
1	123 /AA1	Patta	Dry	1.0925	As per Pahan: 1. Ms Shilpa Ekhla Joint Venture Rep by C. Mohan Reddy Interested Persons: 1. Ms Shilpa Ekhla Joint Venture Rep by C. Mohan Reddy 2. Chittamuri Radhika 3. Chittamuri Murali 4. Latha Pogineni LLP rep. by S. M.D. Sri P. Srikrishna 5. Ravindra Singh 6. Ms. Veni Venkates Pvt. Rep. by Sanjay Kumar Gupta 7. Chetha Gupta 8. D.N. Mohan Reddy 9. Ponnappall Rajini 10. K.B. Gangadhar Reddy 11. Tanguturi Venkata Pradeep 12. Manchala Veera Kumar 13. Vishwakarum Padupadu 14. Sandi Narasimha Reddy 15. Vijay Kumar Yamanchill	123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) &	123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) &	123 (Part) & 123 (Part) & 123 (Part) &	123 (Part) & 123 (Part) &	123 (Part) &	NIL
2	124	Patta	Dry	1.0050	As per Pahan: Sridhar Ashok Nayak Interested Persons: 1. Tanguturi Venkata Pradeep 2. Manchala Vijaya Kumar 3. Varkala Ramana Rao Gadhim 4. Dr. S. Kishore Kumar 5. Smt. Mukutlu Venkata Lathma 6. P. Mohushu Rao 7. Balanuri Prasad Rao 8. Bonpalli Rajeswari Rao	124 (Part) & 124 (Part) & 124 (Part) & 124 (Part) &	124 (Part) & 124 (Part) & 124 (Part) &	124 (Part) & 124 (Part) &	124 (Part) & 124 (Part) &	124 (Part) &	NIL
3	136/ E1	Patta	Dry	1.1550	As per Pahan: Ms. Swarna Properties						

SHORT TAKES

STATE REPORTS
565 NEW COVID CASES, 1 DEATHDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Telangana recorded 565 new cases of Coronavirus, apart from one death due to the disease. It is after three months that the number of deaths has come down to one, which is an achievement for the state.

The decline of active cases to 9,266 is an indication that the disease is under control.

The number of tests carried out has been 51,565. The government is planning to conduct 65,000 tests per day. Of the new cases reported, GHMC accounted for 106, Ranga Reddy 43 and Medchal Malkajgiri 42 cases.

There are about 300 mobile vans being utilised for testing. These will be deployed on priority basis at old age homes and similar centres, where the chances of new cases arising are more.

Dr. Ramesh Reddy, director of Health and Medical Education says, "There are very few cases now. It is very important that people cooperate and follow all safety protocols. The second wave can be controlled if people extend their cooperation."

Gandhi Hospital, which had an average 900 cases earlier, reported only 135 cases. Significantly those who have suffered from Coronavirus and post-Covid-19 complications 2-3 months ago are among those now frequenting hospitals. Dr. Reddy remarked, "Some Covid-19 patients do require follow up care from three months to one year. Hence, people must take care and not expose themselves."

3 CLOSED METRO STATIONS TO OPEN FROM TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HML) has decided to open Bharat Nagar, Musheerabad and Gandhi Hospital metro stations from Thursday.

Though HML started metro trains along all its three corridors on September 7, 8 and 9, it kept shut Bharat Nagar station on Corridor 1, and Musheerabad and Gandhi Hospital stations on Corridor 2, as these locations had then remained declared as containment zones.

Announcing reopening of these closed stations, HML authorities said Metro operations too will start from 6:30 a.m. itself from Thursday instead of at 7 a.m. The last train on all three corridors will leave the originating terminal stations from Thursday at 9:30 p.m. These will reach their destination station by 10:30 p.m.

HML managing director N. V. S. Reddy said, "We are happy to announce opening of the three closed stations from tomorrow onwards as also increase in duration of Metro Rail operations due to high passenger demand."

MAN BEATEN FOR STEALING FROM LOCKED HOUSE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The area locals of Raithu colony in Shadnagar thrashed a man who was caught stealing from a locked house in the wee hours of Wednesday. He was later handed over to the police.

According to Shadnagar police, the incident occurred around 3 am when the house owner, K Jagan Goud, went to his native place to attend a function.

"The accused, later identified as Vijay Kumar, was a resident of Amberpet and went to the colony on his two-wheeler and targeted the house. He sneaked into the compound and broke the main door lock with the help of tools he had brought with him. He opened the almirah and stole valuables in it. The neighbor who was alerted by the sound called the house owner and informed. They also alerted others in the neighbourhood apart from calling the police," officials said.

The local residents rushed to the spot and the Blue Colt staff too reached immediately. The locals caught Vijay Kumar and thrashed him before the police arrested him. The Shadnagar police are investigating.

ACCORDING TO Shadnagar police, the incident occurred around 3 am when the house owner, K Jagan Goud, went to his native place to attend a function.

GHMC poll turnout stands at 46.55% after errors rectified

Faulty data collation, untrained staff on poll duty led to confusion

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Glaring discrepancies ranging from faulty data collation to deployment of untrained staff, including minors, on poll duty were noticed in the civic body elections conducted jointly by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the State Election Commission.

The turnout in the GHMC elections was the highest ever at 46.55 per cent, compared to 45.27 per cent in 2016 and 42.02 per cent in 2009. The officials, however, termed the turnout in the current elections to be the lowest.

Out of 150 divisions in the GHMC, over 50 per cent polling was recorded in 39 divisions, while 40 per cent voting was witnessed in only 15 divi-

sions. Analysts claim that these 54 divisions could decide the fate of political parties on the counting day on December 4.

Ramachandrapuram has recorded the highest polling percentage of 67.71 per cent, followed by Patancheru with 65.77 per cent, Bharat Nagar in 61.89 per cent, Gajularamaram in 58.61 per cent, Nawab Saheb Kunta in 55.65 per cent, Boudha Nagar in 54.79 per cent, Dattatreya Nagar in 54.67 per cent, Rangareddy Nagar in 53.92 per cent, Jangammal in 53.80 per cent, Begum Bazaar 53.64 per cent, Shalibanda in 53.49 per cent, Riyasat Nagar in 50.10 per cent and Suraram in 50.08 per cent.

Flood-hit Kanchanbagh, which recorded the highest polling percentage of 70.39 by Wednesday afternoon, recorded 47.98 per cent by the polling ended.

Wednesday afternoon, recorded 47.98 per cent by the polling ended.

Out of 74,12,601 eligible voters, 34,50,331 participated in the elections. Out of 38,61,748 men voters, 18,60,040 cast their vote, while 15,90,219 out of 35,50,178 women voters participated in the polling. 72 out of 675 registered voters identified themselves as the 'other' category in the GHMC elections.

Fifteen divisions reported the low turnout of less than 40 per cent. Yousufguda recorded

lowest voting with 32.99 per cent, followed by 34.41 per cent in Mehdipatnam, 35.94 per cent in Santosh Nagar, 36.25 per cent in Miyapur, 37.32 per cent in Hydernagar, 37.43 per cent in Moosarambagh, 37.90 per cent in Vijayanagar Colony, 38.02 per cent in Ameerpet, 38.18 per cent in Saidabad, 38.31 per cent in Hafeezpet, 39.40 per cent in Chandanagar, 38.64 per cent in Madhapur, 39.43 per cent in Akbar Bagh, 39.50 per cent in Alwyn Colony and 39.98 per cent in Sanathnagar.

Surprisingly, all these areas were either flood-affected or deprived of development. The poll staff, however, issued wrong polling percentages in each division, without even compiling data from all polling booths.

CBIT accused of selling B. Tech seats

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Students attempting to seek admissions in Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) have accused the college management of cheating when it comes to admitting meritocratic students into its bio-technology course.

At least 80 parents and students claim that CBIT has violated the government order to conduct admissions on basis of TS EAMCET merit list.

THEY ALLEGED the college sold the seats to the highest bidders

dents charge that none of the EAMCET merit holders have been given admission and the management is saying that seats have already been filled. *Deccan Chronicle* tried to reach out to CBIT management, including its principal, to seek a response on the matter; but it was to no avail.

In a separate case, a different set of parents and students have accused CBIT and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) of demanding that students, who completed their B. Tech, should pay ₹2 lakh for issuance of a physical certificate. They say this amount is an excess by at least ₹50,000.

Sumithra enthrals all with grace, poise

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

the *raga* by gradual building up of its structure. *Karunai Tandennai in Begada* was a quick interlude on the way to the main piece for the evening. How can one forget the classic rendition of *Raga Mukhari*.

The choice of *Pahimam* of Muthuswami Dikshitar was ideal. Then came another key item of the evening *Saveri*. It was bliss and soulful to hear it.

Sumithra delved deep into the *raga*, showcasing its essence. Rendering *kritis*, *neraval* and *swaras* made the concert attractive, which were well-received by the audience.

Ganapathi Raman and Guru Prasad, the two experienced percussion *vidhwanas*, exhibited their skills in *Thani Avarthanam*. A small *Virutham* in *Kedargowla* and a Tamil *Pasuram* in *Sindhu Bhairavi* were the next items.

Sumithra concluded her concert with a *Thillana* of Ammachatram Kannusamy Pillai.



Sumithra Vasudev and her team perform at the 53rd Annual Cultural Music Festival of Kalasagaram in the city on Wednesday.

Career Chronicle

WANTED

- PRO's (Male/Female)- 5 Nos.
- RECEPTIONIST (Male/Female)- 2 Nos.
- SITE CO-ORDINATOR - 8 Nos.
- LIAISONING OFFICER - 2 Nos.
- TELE CALLERS (M/F) - 10 Nos.
- HOSPITALITY - 2 Nos.
- TELE CALLERS HEAD - 2 Nos.
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER - 1 No.
- SITE SUPERVISOR - 10 Nos.
- NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR (M)-1 No.

Interested candidates contact below mentioned address or Walk-In Interview with resume & 2 photos between 2 pm to 6 pm on Friday (04-12-2020), Saturday (05-12-2020) & Monday (07-12-2020)

JSR GROUP SUNCITY
PILLAR NO.1633A, KOTHAPET, HYDERABAD.
Email : info@jsrgroupsuncity.com
9963158899, 9949099903

VIRCHOWS

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4. Maintenance Manager: The candidate should have Diploma/B.Tech (Mech.) with 10 to 15 years experience in a similar field in a reputed chemical / bulk drug industry.
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6. R&D/Q.C. Chemist: The candidate should have M.Sc (Chemistry) with 2 to 5 years experience in a similar field in a reputed API Units. Preferable in Cephalosporins.

Interested candidates for the posts under St. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4 can send their resumes to info@virchowps.com

For St. No. 5 & 6 posts candidates can attend Walk in interview on 07-12-2020 & 08-12-2020 from 11:00 AM onwards with copy of resume, Educational certificates and last 3 months payslip.

VIRCHOW PETROCHEMICAL PVT. LTD., PLOT NO. 17A, PHASE-1, IDA PATANCHELU, SANGAREDDY DISTRICT-502319, PH: 08455-240092, 244899.

Officials seize 56 blots of LSD and 236 gm of hashish oil

Drug racket busted, 3 techies arrested

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD DEC. 2

Excise enforcement officials seized 56 blots of LSD and 236 gm of hashish oil from three techies in the Tarnaka area on Wednesday.

The officials, who arrested 10 individuals in the last two months, said that there is a spike in software professionals and students being caught with drugs in the city.

The men, identified as Shivasena Reddy, 27, Meka Sai Vipin, 27, and Cherukuri Harshavardhan, 29, all software professionals, were nabbed during a route watch conducted by the Excise officials following a tip-off.

Officials initially nabbed Reddy and Vipin from Tarnaka and seized

56 LSD blots and seized 24 grams of marijuana oil from them.

It was revealed during investigation that Reddy had purchased the LSD for ₹500 per blot from Goa and sells the same for ₹2,000 here in Hyderabad.

The marijuana oil was supplied to them by Harshavardhan for ₹2,500 per bottle and the same was sold to customers for ₹4,000," said N. Assistant Excise superintendent of Hyderabad enforcement team Anji Reddy.

Based on information given by Vipin, the team further proceeded to search Harshavardhan's house in Pocharam and nabbed him. "We seized a honey bottle containing the marijuana oil from him along with several empty bottles and his smartphone. He disclosed

his dealer's name as one Karthik, a resident of Vizag, who is absconding. Karthik sells the oil for ₹1 lakh per kilo," added the official.

Reddy was earlier arrested about three years back by the State Task Force of Excise for the possession and the sale of LSD blots along with two other persons.

"All the three are addicted to drugs and are using the money they earn to run a side business by peddling and selling narcotics in the city. They only target close circle customers to keep them under the radar," said the official, adding that they were further handed over to the Musheerabad Prohibition and Excise Station taking necessary action.

According to police, the accused, identified as Orsu Srinu, 27, a Class VI dropout, has been working as a labourer for the last five years. "Since 2018, the accused has been using an android-touch screen phone and turned a porn addict.

He later developed a habit of contacting unknown women and sending them obscene messages with an intention to stalk them. He was earlier arrested by Keesara police and sent to jail.

In October 2020 Srinu, after he was released from jail, contacted a victim from Ghantapur village of Ghatkesar and tried to speak with her with intention to develop a relationship but in vain. Later, he sent obscene/nude pictures to the victim's phone through WhatsApp," said the police.

A cyberstalker was arrested by the Rachakonda police on Wednesday for harassing a woman by sending them explicit content in the form of nude pictures and voice messages via WhatsApp.

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DECCAN Chronicle

3 DECEMBER 2020

Trudeau's 'concern' on farmers unwarranted

Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has riled India by making public his observations on the ongoing farmers' protest in this country that had been made through diplomatic channels. This is unconventional to say the least, and the Canadian leader was ticked off, with the Indian spokesman referring on Tuesday to "ill-informed comments by Canadian leaders relating to farmers in India" being "unwarranted". The spokesman also pointed out that it was best that "diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes".

There is a point here. Other than an outlier like the current US leader Donald Trump, who is perceived as an all-round embarrassment, heads of state or governments in the democratic world are not known to personally criticise specific policies in one another's country. If they did, meaningful and productive international life will be hard to construct. However, an important issue of concern need not be brushed under the carpet. When such concerns come up, these are taken up and typically raised through diplomatic conversations away from the public glare, and clarifications sought. Taking recourse to an open platform, on the other hand, is part of the armoury of public commentators, civil society actors, and politicians.

If Mr Trudeau had so wished, he could have had questions raised in the public domain on India's controversial agriculture laws through Canadian eminent persons or politicians of his Liberal Party, which, indeed, boasts 13 of 18 Sikh MPs in the Canadian Parliament. This would have been par for the course. It is his stepping into the fray at the personal level that has raised eyebrows here.

It may be recalled that two years ago Mr Trudeau had been cold-shouldered by the Modi government when he visited India to see the Golden Temple in Amritsar, although the demands of protocol were not breached. There had been some ground to think that pro-Khalistan elements among the large Sikh community in Canada had succeeded in influencing their PM somewhat. Are Mr Trudeau's public comments meant to be a payback of sorts? We hope that is not the case, for such actions can needlessly cast a shadow on otherwise positive inter-state relations.

Interestingly, the Canadian leader brought up his "concerns" regarding the "peaceful" farmers' protest in India at a Sikh gathering in his country when he addressed it on the occasion of the 551st anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of the Sikh faith. In order to appease the Canadian Sikhs, was he overlooking the fact that the ongoing farmers' protest is not a religious issue even if the largest contingent of farmers taking part in it so far are from Punjab? If so, it would appear he was indeed playing politics. An alternative explanation, of course, is that the Canadian mission here was foisted by appearances and failed to keep headquarters informed of the complexity of the farmers' protest.

India cannot deem itself above criticism from international quarters for acts of omission or commission provided the bonafides of the critics are above board. But it is useful to be mindful of protocol when dealing with questions at the official level.

The lingo of Year 2020

I t's quite the no-brainer. The lexicographer's choice of the year at first appearance was gratuitous, but on closer examination drove home the understanding that plague and Spanish flu notwithstanding, in terms of scope and impact, Covid-19 was the world's first real "pandemic" which simultaneously gave us a taste of the awful homogeneity technology and globalisation has reduced us to, in a reckoning of sorts.

But that is what the word of the year, or woty, as it is acronymed, and pronounceably so, does; be it lived reality or a culture war, it captures the spirit of the times. For instance, last year's winner was "they", as used to describe a transgender person, someone who does not identify as male nor female, as compared with or, if you like, opposed to the (cis)gender-neutral pronoun in the singular number, itself interred in 2017 in the Chicago Manual of Style.

No doubt, though, "pandemic", voted in by Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com as Oxford indulged in some good old fence-sitting by picking not one or two but 16 appellations, had good competition. It mainly came from medical lingo like "asymptomatic", "contact tracing", "lockdown" and, of course, "quarantine", as well as neologisms, often at once political and "viral", such as "anti-masker", "the Before Times", "BLM", "Antifa" and "Zoom fatigue", also "Karen" denoting a middle-class white American woman prone to bullying black men in a convenient and self-serving

interpretation of women's rights. But good old "pandemic" — the word first was used in the mid-1600s in the sense of "universal" or "affecting everyone" and began appearing in medical texts concerning the plague soon after — won the vocabulary sweepstakes, 'canceling' them all.

Now all this hoopla over *una palabra* might infuriate some of us who like to look down on intellectual gifts and make a song and dance about "deed over word". We know who they are but we choose here not to name them. Except that the function of the word, of naming, is critical to our understanding of this difficult, maddening, but yet endlessly beautiful, world.

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

Caste fraud stench in Chhattisgarh secretariat

A "high-level" certification investigation committee set up by the Chhattisgarh government has detected 267 cases of government employees with fake caste certificates. Sources say that chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has given instructions to the state chief secretary, R.P. Mandal, to dismiss all such employees from service, except those who got a stay order from the court.

Most of these cases are pending before the state high court or are adjournment orders. Apparently, in the last two years alone, 75 cases have been detected. Sources say that even after receiving the adjournment order from the court in these cases, several officers and employees are still working in important posts.

The state general administration department has stated that a total

of 758 complaints were received by the investigation committee, of which 267 cases of fake caste certificates were detected.

According to Baghel's instructions, all government servants whose caste certificates are false will be immediately removed from their posts. All such cases will be reviewed department-wise by GAD, which incidentally has 14 employees with fake certificates. The school education department apparently has the highest number of cases — 44!

GEHLOT SEEKS SUPPORT OF RETIRED BABUS

After surviving the Sachin Pilot threat, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot is reportedly trying to strengthen his grip on the state administration and neutralise any potential threat. Sources say that

following his appointment of 1989-batch IAS officer Niranjan Arya as the state chief secretary, after superseding 10 IAS officers, Mr Gehlot is now in a placatory mode.

According to sources, Mr Gehlot is now seeking the support of retired scheduled caste officers, in a possible caste twist to an administrative move. He has recently profusely thanked former IAS officers like Mahendra Singh, Lalit Panwar and retired IPS officers Jaswant Sampratram and R.P. Singh, among others, for their acknowledging that Mr Arya's appointment was "a step in the right direction".

This will clearly dilute the eddy currents from many other senior officers. They, of course, are unhappy with Mr Gehlot's rather overt attempt to seek the support of retired officers for the successful tenure of his new chief secretary.

Was Mr Gehlot being merely polite in responding to the retired officers' congratulatory letter on Mr Arya's promotion or is it a step towards garnering support to consolidate his power base in the state administration? As a seasoned politician, he certainly knows the value of ticking off more checkboxes. We'll have to wait and see whether this works.

ED CHIEF GETS EXTENSION

S.K. Mishra will be the first director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to serve for three years. The Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, who is from the 1984-batch, was appointed the post in November 2018 for a fixed tenure of two years. But just before his term was to end, the government modified the earlier order to the effect that the tenure will last for three years. The modi-

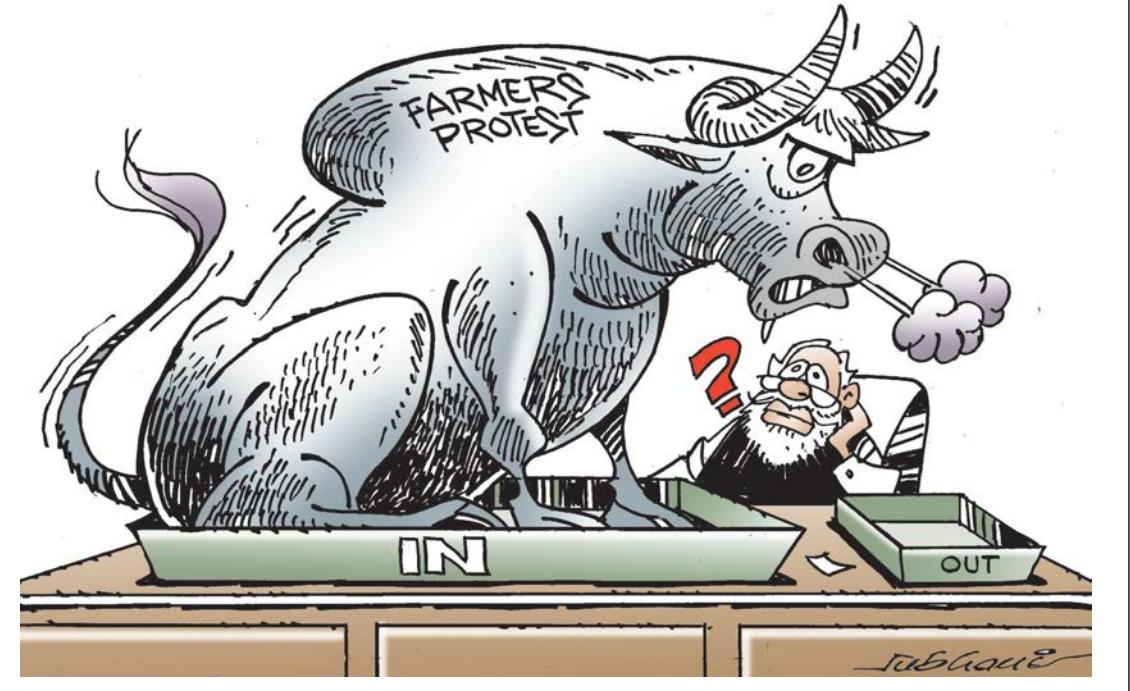
fication was reportedly done on the legal opinion by the solicitor general since the CVC Act has no mention of extension for the post of ED director.

Initially, sources say the government had considered taking the ordinance route but opted for the CVC committee since the appointment of the ED director is governed by the CVC Act.

As ED chief, Mr Mishra is in charge of several high profile and sensitive investigations including Augusta Westland, Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, Yes Bank and others. Does the government want to ensure there is no disruption in the probes of these cases by appointing a new ED chief? We can only speculate.

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Subhani



Pay heed to shadow pandemic of hunger

Patrakeha Chatterjee
Dev 360

More than 1.3 lakh people have died in India since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. There may be an effective vaccine against the coronavirus in the not-too-distant future. But meanwhile, there is the lengthening shadow pandemic of hunger and malnutrition.

Despite the so-called green shoots of recovery in some sectors, demand remains very sluggish. Livelihoods have been gutted. Millions of informal workers are falling through the cracks.

Last month, the Delhi Rozi Roti Adhikar Abhiyan organised an online public hearing on hunger and malnutrition. At the Hunger Hearings, many of the city's poorest and those without ration cards and access to the public distribution system narrated their stories.

The stories were similar to the ones I have heard in the past several months in walks through this city. Many people are back at work but at a hugely reduced salary. Kumar, who works in a South Delhi beauty parlour, is not among the city's poorest but his take-home earnings are now a third of what he earned before Covid-19 struck.

"My children used to have fruits. Now, they don't. There is no money," he told me. Kumar is a father of three children and the sole breadwinner in his family.

If this is the situation in India's capital city, imagine the situation elsewhere across the country.

In urban areas, most people have to buy their food and therefore are more vulnerable to price fluctuations. A sudden and sharp decrease in their purchasing power can drastically affect the diets of poor people, especially in times of food inflation.

Worryingly, "food prices do not seem to be moderating contrary to earlier expectations, and from just fruits and veg-

ables by civil society organisations, such as Hunger Watch by Right to Food campaign, are showing mounting hunger and reduced intake of pulses, vegetables, eggs etc across India, in both villages and cities, it would have been very helpful to have real time data on malnutrition. The Central government promised real time data on child malnutrition in various districts across India at the click of a mouse, but where is this data?" asks Dipa Sinha, assistant professor (economics), School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, who is part of the Right to Food campaign.

Food Campaign in partnership with several civil society organisations from mid-September to mid-October, has thrown up grim insights.

Compared to February-March, that is before the nationwide lockdown was clamped, the situation between September and October in sampled households showed 50 per cent less cereal consumption, 62 per cent less pulse consumption, 67 per cent less egg consumption, and 70 per cent reduced green vegetable consumption, according to Hunger Watch findings presented at a recent webinar organised by the People's Health Movement.

This is bad news, given that India already had a huge malnutrition problem, especially child and maternal malnutrition, even before the pandemic.

Globally, there is a red alert about the shadow pandemic of hunger in the time of Covid-19. The coronavirus pandemic will see over a quarter of a billion people suffering acute hunger by the end of the year, according to new figures from the World Food Programme (WFP), the food assistance wing of the United Nations.

Food security activists have been saying for quite some time now that the impact of the nationwide lockdown and the ensuing economic crisis continue to disproportionately impact the country's poor and unorganised sector workers. They argue that though the Central government has announced relief measures such as the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana and the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, field studies are showing that a lot more needs to be done by way of social protection.

Hunger Watch, a rapid survey across 11 states, initiated by the Right to Food campaign, shows that the lives and livelihoods of around 265 million people in low and middle-income countries will be under severe threat unless swift action is taken to tackle the pandemic, up from the current 135 million.

How steeply is malnutrition mounting in India? How severely have children been affected? The short answer — we don't know!

There is no official data on this in the public domain just as there is no official data on migrant workers who died during the lockdown.

"At a time when sur-

LETTERS

VOTER TURNOUT

After the extensive poll campaign, people responded in a lukewarm fashion (*Hyderabad takes city elections easy, DC, Dec. 2*). With erroneous electoral rolls, rants by politicians, previous promises remaining on paper, the reasons for the poor voting are not far to seek. Unless the Election Commission comes out with a free, fair, transparent and trustworthy process, voters may not respond.

Md Khaja Moinuddin
Hyderabad

The main reason for low voter turnout is the lack of confidence in the Election Commission. If the EC is given marks for its performance, it will hardly pass. We do not need officers in EC as it is filled with "yes" men from the ruling party from top to bottom. We are yet to see the EC taking any action against malpractices of the candidates before and during the elections. Candidates who win on one party's symbol, tend to cheat voters and defect to the ruling party and the EC did not book anyone. So, why should I cast my vote as it is only to help the EC boast about its performance?

Chandra Dasaka
Hyderabad

Political leaders with their unreasonable promises, fierce allegations and counter-allegations and aggressive campaign have confused people leading to poor turnout in GHMC polls. Politicians are responsible for this. Voters cannot be blamed for this. Whichever party wins, it cannot be considered to be having the support of majority of people as the polling percentage was low.

Dr O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle
Major reform tenancy law in Andhra: CM By a staff reporter HYDERABAD, DEC. 2. The main considerations that prevailed on the government to bring in the amendment to the Andhra Tenancy Act of 1956 were to provide security of tenure and to improve the economic status of the tenant, the chief minister K. Brahmamanda Reddi said today in the Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister while explaining salient features of the Andhra Pradesh (Andhra area) Tenancy Amendment Bill 1970, as reported by the Joint Select Committee said that the measure if enacted would constitute the first major reform of the Tenancy Law in Andhra area, subsequent in 1956 Act.

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SHORT TAKES

TN PLANT: SC DISMISSES VEDANTA'S PLEAPARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected mining major Vedanta's plea for the reopening of its Tamil Nadu based Thoothukudi Sterlite Copper smelting plant for four weeks on experimental basis and also declined its plea to approach the court for fresh consideration of its plea at a later date.

Rejecting the plea by Vedanta, Justice Rohit Fali Nariman heading a bench also comprising Justice Navin Sinha and Justice K.M. Joseph said Vedanta's plea challenging the closure of its plant would be taken up for hearing on the resumption of physical court hearing which appears to be unlikely in the near future because of a spurt in the Covid-19 cases across the country.

Appearing for Vedanta, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi told the court about the contribution of the company's copper smelting plant in employment generation and 36 per cent share in the country's copper production.

He sought to blame the "political orchestration" and "street agitations" for the closure of the plant two-and-a-half-years-ago. As Singhvi argued all this, Justice Nariman reminded him that the court was on a narrow issue of permitting the access to the plant for its maintenance.

Senior counsel C.S. Vaidyanathan and K.V. Viswanathan appearing for Tamil Nadu government opposed the plea blaming the company for the contamination of ground water around the plant. They said that two and a half years after the plant was shut down the quality of water has marginally improved and was yet not fit for drinking.

SHOWIK CHAKRABORTY GRANTED BAILSHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

A special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act court on Wednesday granted bail to Showik, brother of actress Rhea Chakraborty, in a drug case linked to Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The NDPS court and the Bombay High Court have rejected his bail applications in the past but he had sought bail claiming there is change in circumstances, as the Supreme Court recently held that the NCB officers are also police officers and statements given to them by accused or co-accused cannot be considered as confessional statements during the trial.

Showik had filed a fresh bail application through advocate Abad Ponda, Ayaz Khan and Anandini Fernandes claiming change in circumstances.

After rejection of bail plea by the trial court on September 11, he approached the high court which also rejected his bail application on October 7 this year. The HC while rejecting his plea for bail had noted his alleged involvement in five instances of drug transactions.

According to the applicant, all these transactions were mentioned in police remand applications or replies filed by the prosecution. However, it was pointed out to the court that all these instances were solely based on statements of co-accused recorded under section 67 of NDPS Act.



Morning walkers at Botanical Garden in Shibpur of Howrah on Wednesday after it reopened for visitors amid the Coronavirus pandemic. — PTI

Centre's new SOP: Open shops on alternate days**Fresh guidelines for retail, wholesale markets, malls, supermarkets issued****DC CORRESPONDENT**
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

With marketplaces being a bigger source of crowding and virus spread, the Union government on Wednesday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the precautionary measures to be followed to contain the spread of Covid-19 in these areas. The SOPs recommend opening shops on alternate days, having special teams to monitor Covid appropriate behaviour among customers and shopkeepers, and imposing penalty on violators.

India's Covid-19 tally on Wednesday reached 95 lakh with 36,604 new detections. The total deaths so far have been 1.38 lakh out of which 501 fatalities are fresh. However, India's total active caseload had significantly dropped to 4.28

lakh and this is the lowest after 132 days. The total active cases were 4.26 lakh on July 23. Health ministry officials said there has been a sustained decrease in the number of active cases and India's present active caseload consists of just 4.51 per cent of its total positive cases. The daily new cases have stayed at around 30,000 for the past three days now and India's Recovery Rate is 94.03 per cent.

"The health ministry in recognition of the fact that marketplaces are visited by a large number of people for their daily needs, shopping, entertainment, and food has designed a protocol to contain the spread of Covid-19. Amid the pandemic with gradual opening of economic activities, markets are witnessing high footfalls. Such large gatherings, without observance of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour have the potential to spread Coronavirus disease," Union health ministry officials said.

These guidelines are for retail, wholesale markets, malls, supermarkets etc.

As per new guidelines, market places in containment zones shall remain closed and only those outside the containment zones will be allowed to open-up. Employees who are at higher risk — older employees, pregnant women and employees who have underlying medical conditions — must take extra precautions and the market associations shall be advised that such persons should not be exposed to any front-line work requiring direct contact with the public.

Covid-19 appropriate behaviour has to be followed in market places, which include physical distancing, use of face covers and masks, frequent hand washing with soap, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Spitting is strictly prohibited in public places.

The guidelines further said that in normal times, markets are usually crowded with high footfalls, suffer from lack of adequate sanitation amenities and have poor hygiene conditions.

To prevent the risk of transmission of Covid, it is crucial that healthy environment is maintained at marketplaces.

This includes all work areas inside the shop should be sanitised by shop owners before beginning their day, cleaning and regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces at regular intervals.

The health ministry officials said Covid-19 appropriate behaviour in marketplaces may be self-regulated by market associations through a number of measures, such as creation of a sub-committee to monitor implementation of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour in marketplaces, mask dispensing kiosks at government approved rates may be set up at entry points and parking lots, provision of distribution of free masks for those who cannot afford, establishing hand washing stations in public utility areas and ensuring availability of soap and water, use of foot operated taps and contactless soap dispensers, providing mass thermal screening provisions at the entry/access points to the market.

Cyclone Burevi: Red alert in four districts of Kerala**DC CORRESPONDENT**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 2

Red alert has been sounded in four districts of Kerala with the MET department forecasting Cyclone Burevi to cross Neyyattinkara taluk in Thiruvananthapuram district between December 3 night and December 4 morning.

The red alert was issued for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha district for December 3.

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● **AS MANY as 26 relief teams have been deployed in Tamil Nadu and Kerala by NDRF.**

● **PEOPLE HAVE been asked to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures as directed by the administration. Venturing into the sea from anywhere along Kerala coast has been prohibited.**

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Based on the central met departments forecast, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority said the cyclone might pass Thiruvananthapuram district on December 4.

People have been asked to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures as directed by the administration. Venturing into the sea

from anywhere along Kerala coast has been prohibited. The ban is applicable to all fishing boats. Those who have already ventured into the sea for fishing activities should return to the nearest coast. "No one will be allowed to venture into the sea till Kerala State Management Authority

assesses the progression and path of the cyclone and gives the nod," an official said here.

Meanwhile, the MET department has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in many parts of the state between December 2 and 4.

Very heavy rainfall is expected in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, and Alappuzha on December 3. These districts are expected to get more than 204.5 mm of rainfall within a period 24 hours.

These districts are also likely to have high velocity winds during this period. KSDMA has directed the departments concerned to take all required precautionary measures and people have been asked to comply with the instructions of authorities.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) is closely monitoring the progress of the cyclone and the path.

INTERNAL | DISPUTES TMC MLA Adhikari resigned 4-days ago in a revoltRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, DEC. 2

In a major political drama, Trinamool Congress MLA of Nandigram Shubhendu Adhikari on Wednesday punctured his party's overnight claim of foiling his defection bid to the BJP and persuading him to continue in the party at a secret meeting in north Kolkata on Tuesday.

Expressing anguish over the leak of meeting details and his projection to the media also conveyed his 'difficulty to work unitedly' with the TMC.

Shubhendu placed his views. Abhishek responded to him. Kishor also intervened. All the problems were sorted out. Shubhendu agreed to continue with the party actively. It was one step which was big and bold. Shubhendu was, is and will be in our party."

He added, "I informed the CM on phone then and there about the meeting's success. She asked us to work as a family after I put my mobile on loudspeaker. Later, the CM spoke to Shubhendu on my phone. He greeted her with 'Pronam.' The CM told him something. None of them talked of past before Shubhendu told her: Yes, alright."

Still Roy claimed later,

Sabarimala to receive more devotees now**GILVESTER ASSARY | DC**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 2

The Kerala government has decided to increase the number of pilgrims visiting Sabarimala temple on weekdays from 1,000 to 2,000.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the number has been raised from 2,000 to 3,000. The decision was taken in the wake of growing demand for allowing more pilgrims to have darshan at the famous hill shrine.

The pilgrims can also get tested at the recognised Covid kiosks set up by government and private agencies en-route temple. The hill shrine was opened for devotees on November 16 for the 62-day annual pilgrimage season. The auspicious mandala pooja will be held on December 26. The Makaravilakku is on January 14. The temple will be closed on January 20.

Phase III trials of Covaxin starts in WB

Kolkata, Dec. 2: West Bengal urban development minister Firhad Hakim became the first volunteer to take a shot of the Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, in the Phase III trial here on Wednesday.

The Phase-III regulatory trial of Covaxin started at the city-based ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), which functions under the department of health research, Union ministry of health and family welfare.

"I feel I am quite lucky to be part of the trial. I am absolutely okay after taking the shot. I do not care even if I die while undertaking this trial," the 62-year-old minister told reporters.

Hakim said that he will be very happy if his contribution helps in the research for the vaccine.

Hakim, also the chairperson of board of administrators of the Kolkata municipal corporation, went through necessary check-ups to find out whether he was having any comorbidity.

"His blood pressure, body temperature and blood sugar level were checked along with other parameters," an official of the NICED said.

Hakim was also briefed by Principal Investigator of the trial, Dr Suman Kanungo, about the steps he requires to follow after being administered the vaccine, he said. The minister will be under close observation for the next seven days.

Govt. of Bihar

Biharsharif Smart City Limited

CIN - U93300BR2018SGC038181
Registered Office - First Floor, Administrative Building,
Biharsharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda
Email: biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com, Ph : 91-6112-232272

NOTICE FOR EMPLOYMENT

Introduction
Biharsharif is the prominent city of Bihar known for its glorious past and rich historical heritage. For making the city more functional, efficient and smart, the Government of Bihar and Biharsharif Municipal Corporation have constituted Biharsharif Smart City Ltd. (BSSCL), a special purpose vehicle company, for planning and implementation of Biharsharif Smart City Project. For strengthening the organization, BSSCL is inviting application from experienced and dynamic professionals who are motivated to work for the innovative scheme of Smart Cities.

Employment Detail:-

Sr. No.	Post	Type of appointment	No. of Positions	Minimum qualification	Experience	Age Limit (As on 1/1/2020)	Honorarium (per month per post)	Category
1	Sr. Manager (Technical)	Contract based	1	For Contractual-B.E/ B-Tech (Civil Engineering)	Not less than 10 years of post-qualification experience in relevant field.	50	1,00,000	EBC-1
2.	Manager (Technical)	Contract based	1	For Contractual-B.E/ B-Tech (Civil or Mechanical Engineering)	Not less than 06 years of post-qualification experience in relevant field.	50	85,000	UR-1 (Ladies)

General Instruction:

1. Detail information and application form can be seen and downloaded from website: <https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/>
2. Applicant form with complete details should be sent through E-mail only on vikash.biharsharif@bihar.gov.in latest by 3 PM on 15.12.2020 with all relevant documents attachment.
3. Applicant should clearly mention the post applied for in the Application Form with Category.
4. Recruited on post would be made initially for a period of Two years Six months on contract basis and therefore based on the performance and need it would be renewed every year to a maximum of two years.
5. Honorarium is as indicated against each post.
6. Candidates serving in Government Department/Undertaking are required to submit No Objection Certificate along with the Application Form.
7. Candidates once recruited by Biharsharif Smart City Limited will be restricted to offer their services elsewhere.
8. All posts are non-practicing in nature.
9. Application charges for Unreserved/BC/EBC category is INR 500 and for SC/ST category is INR 250 in the form of Demand Draft from a nationalized bank in the name of "Managing Director, Biharsharif Smart City Limited" payable at Biharsharif. Candidates are required to attach the scan copy of draft in their application and later have to submit physical DD at the time of interview.
10. Complete application form without necessary detail or application form submitted without Qualification / Experience certificate or unattested certificates will automatically lead to rejection and shall not be considered further.
11. BSSCL reserves the right to reject any or all applications at any time without assigning any reasons whatsoever. In special circumstances the entire process of recruitment can be suspended or cancelled and decision of "Managing Director, BSSCL" in this regard will be final and binding.
12. Qualification criteria laid down for each post is minimum and does not imply that every applicant possessing the same will be called for interview. BSSCL reserves the right to evaluate the proposal as per its requirements.
13. Preference will be given to candidates with higher qualification and relevant experience.
14. In the event of qualification or experience certificate, age proof, caste certificate or any other document found to be incorrect or false after the recruitment, the employment contract will be terminated and suitable legal action will be initiated against the candidate. In this case BSSCL reserve the right to reclaim any or all compensation paid to the candidate.
15. Candidates shall have to submit a declaration that neither has been charged/ convicted from any Hon'ble court nor Dismissed/ Removed/Compulsory retired by way of punishment for the service of any public Undertaking/Private Sector or from Govt. Department nor he has not been declared insolvent by any court.
16. The appointment is purely on contractual basis and in no way should be construed as regular government service. The candidates will not be eligible for absorption as a regular government employee.
17. Shortlisted candidates will be informed about interview and further process through website (<https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/>) and email.
18. Any disputes arising shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Court of Biharsharif.
19. Managing Director, BSSCL reserves the right to terminate any or all process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Managing Director
Biharsharif Smart City Limited

PR. No. 008984 (Ni.Ni) 2020-21

नोवल कोरेना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु www.novalcare.com Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

स्थायी सामर्थी - संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा मुश्किल हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

SHORT TAKES

MEA MUM ON R-DAY INVITE TO BORIS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC 2

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday did not comment on reports that said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had been invited by India to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade on January 26 and that he had accepted the invite.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken on phone to Mr. Johnson just last week on November 27 in which the two leaders agreed that officials from both sides would continue their work to quickly finalise an ambitious long-term roadmap for the India-UK partnership".

The MEA had then said, "The two leaders exchanged thoughts about the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and reviewed the promising cooperation between India and UK in the area of vaccine development and manufacturing."

The MEA had added, "The leaders reiterated their shared desire to impart a quantum jump to the India-UK partnership in the post-Covid, post-Brexit era, and agreed that there was tremendous potential for enhancing collaboration in trade and investment, scientific research, mobility of professionals and students, and defence and security. They laid particular emphasis on India and UK joining hands in the fight against Climate Change, and appreciated their collaboration under platforms like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure."

British Acting High Commissioner Jan Thompson had recently said there was a lot of potential for collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region between her country and India, adding that there has been an increased focus by her country on the crucial region. The latest development comes even as the "Quad" countries—United States, India, Japan and Australia have stepped up cooperation.

YOUTH KILLED IN BSF FIRING IN MURSHIDABAD

PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI | DC
BERHAMPORE, DEC. 2

A youth was shot dead allegedly by the Border Security Force (BSF) at the India-Bangladesh border in Murshidabad of West Bengal. Hasibur Rahaman (28), the victim, was a resident of Raninagar. His relatives and villagers accused the BSF jawans of gunning down him.

Mohobul Sheikh, a neighbour of the victim, claimed, "Hasibur went to a remote area of the border to graze cattle early Wednesday. We suddenly heard gun shots and later found him dead."

The bullet-ridden body was recovered by the police from a field of Puratandil village under the Singhapara border outpost manned by BSF 141st battalion in Raninagar. It was sent for post-mortem.

BSF DIG (Murshidabad) Kunal Majumdar, however, said that a group of smugglers was trying send cattle across the border. When the BSF jawans challenged them, they attacked the BSF, forcing the jawans to fire in self-defence. Hasibur, who was part of the group, suffered bullet injuries while trying to escape.

INCOME OF FARMERS HAS BEEN HALVED, SAYS CONG

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC 2

The Congress on Wednesday kept up its attack on the government over the farmers' protest with former party President Rahul Gandhi alleging that instead of doubling, incomes of farmers has actually been halved.

"They said farmers income will be doubled. What they did was increase incomes of 'friends' four times and those of farmers will be halved. This suit-boot government is of lies and loot," Mr Gandhi tweeted.

The Congress MP from Wayanad also shared a video of the atrocities and use of force against the protesting farmers with a voice-over of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech saying his government was taking steps to resolve the problems faced by farmers and double their income.

Farmers from Punjab and Haryana are protesting at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders of the national capital for the seventh consecutive day against the Centre's new agriculture reform laws. The farmers had an inconclusive meeting with the government on Tuesday and are scheduled to meet them again on Thursday.

The Congress has time and again asked the government to withdraw the new farm laws and redresses the grievances of the protesters.

The Congress, which is the chief Opposition party in Haryana also came down heavily on the JJP over its changing stance on farmers' protest.

"Haryana's history will never forget Dushyant Chautala's betrayal of farmers. They sought votes from farmers against the BJP and promised a loan waiver but today the farmer is on the roads, facing water cannons and teargas shells," Congress Spokesperson leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said. The 90-member Haryana Assembly has 40 BJP MLAs and 10 from the newly JJP.

The Congress has a strength of 31.

Wanted Sushil Kumar Modi in Cabinet, says Nitish



Former Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi flashes the victory sign with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and others after filing his nomination papers for Rajya Sabha as an NDA candidate in Patna on Wednesday. The Chief Minister said that he had wanted Sushil Kumar Modi to join his cabinet after the formation of the newly elected state government "but it seems that his party (BJP) wants him in a central role." - PTI

MAHARASHTRA FARMERS ALSO TO PROTEST TODAY

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Farmers holding mass protests in Delhi against Centre's contentious farm laws will have support from their counterparts in Maharashtra, who have decided to express solidarity with them by staging agitation across the state on December 3.

They have also threatened to march towards Delhi to participate in the mass protests of farmers.

According to the state leaders of Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Sangharsh Samanvay Samiti, more than 80 organisations representing farmers, farm labourers, tribals and labour class organisations in Maharashtra will hold demonstrations at every collector and tehsildar office across the state to express dissent against the Centre's agriculture reform laws and show support to protesting farmers at Delhi.

Farmers' leader Ajit Navale said, "The farmers' organisations in Maharashtra have decided to hold protests across the state on December 3. Organisations representing farmers, labourers and tribals of Maharashtra have also decided to join the protest march."

Maharashtra's minister of state for labour Bachu Kadu has tweeted, "If the central government does not initiate satisfactory dialogue with farmers protesting in Delhi by December 3, then the farmers of Maharashtra will organise a mass protest called 'Chalo Delhi' and travel to the national capital on two-wheelers and four-wheelers."

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Congress has also decided to stage statewide agitation to support the farmers' protests at Delhi. Maharashtra Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat said, "The signature campaign carried out by the party against the farm laws had received the support of more than 60 lakh people in the state. The farmers are not ready to believe the BJP government."

Transporters threaten to stop movement of goods

All India Motor Transport Congress calls for strike to support farmers

SANJAY KAW AND RAJNISH SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Heavy police force was deployed on the national capital's border points on Wednesday as the standoff between the Centre and farmers continued, with commuters facing a harrowing time after the protesters blocked key entrances to the city for the seventh day.

While the police kept the Haryana-Delhi border at Singhu and Tikri closed for traffic, farmers from various districts of western Uttar Pradesh continued their sit-in at the Noida-Delhi border for the second day on Wednesday, leading to closure of a key route that connects the state with the national capital. Police had to use water cannons to prevent

Punjab Youth Congress workers from marching towards Haryana Chief Minister M L Khattar's residence in Chandigarh.

An apex body of transporters has threatened to halt the movement of the goods across North India and subsequently the entire country if the demands of the protesting farmers are not met. The All-India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), an umbrella body of goods' vehicles operators, has called for a strike from December 8 in support of the farmers' protest.

"From December 8 onwards, we will shut all our operations across North India and stop all our vehicles across North Indian states and Union Territories, including Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab,

Himachal, and Jammu & Kashmir. We have decided that if the government still does not agree to the demands of the protesting farmers, then we will call for a Chakka Jam all across India and stop all our vehicles," said AIMTC president K S Atwal.

While Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar hopes to resolve the farmers' issues, the home ministry is taking no chances and has kept 50 additional companies of para-military forces on standby to meet any eventualities. As the number of protesting farmers is likely to reach three lakh by the weekend, reinforcements have been kept ready so that they can be deployed at a short notice at Delhi borders.

More farmer groups and union from Uttarakhand,

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are scheduled to reach Delhi by the weekend.

Ahead of their second round of talks scheduled with the Central ministers on Thursday, the farmers reiterated to intensify their stir by blocking all entry points to Delhi if the three new farm laws are not immediately withdrawn. The farmer union leaders said that the Centre should call a special session of Parliament to fulfill their demands.

A day after "inconclusive" meeting with 35 odd farmer union leaders, Mr Tomar along with minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal held a marathon meeting at home minister Amit Shah's residence to discuss ways to resolve the ongoing crisis. After the

meeting, Mr Tomar said, "We will hold discussions with farmers' leaders tomorrow. Let's see to what extent issues can be resolved."

So far farmer groups have been protesting at some of the important borders like Singhu, Tikri, Bahadurgarh and Ghazipur. In the next few days, some other borders like the crucial one on National Highway-8 near Gurgaon are likely to be closed by the protesters.

So far more than 40 companies of central para-military forces and Delhi Police have been deployed all along Delhi border to ensure that the situation remains under control. Security officials claimed that they had concrete information that the farmers were prepared for a long haul.

China factored in casualties: US

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 2

Chinese government had planned the violent clash with the Indian army in Galwan Valley in the Ladakh sector in June "including the possibility for fatalities", said a US commission report.

"Some evidence suggested the Chinese government had planned the incident, potentially including the possibility for fatalities," said the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission in its annual report to the US Congress. For instance, the report said that several weeks prior to the clash, Defense Minister

Wei made his statement encouraging Beijing to "use fighting to promote stability." Satellite images depicted a large Chinese buildup in the Galwan Valley, including potentially 1,000 PLA soldiers, the week before the deadly skirmish," said the report.

In June, the PLA and Indian troops engaged in a massive physical brawl in the Galwan Valley, located in the far-western Ladakh region along the Line of Actual Control separating the two countries. "The clash, which followed a series of standoffs beginning in early May along multiple sectors of the LAC, led to at least 20 Indian deaths and

an unconfirmed number of Chinese casualties, the first time since 1975 that lives were lost in fighting between the two sides," said the report.

"In the aftermath of the clash, Beijing asserted sovereignty over the entire Galwan Valley, a new claim and significant change to the territorial status quo," it said.

The report said that China and India have engaged in multiple physical clashes along their border for decades, but since General Secretary Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, the two countries have seen five major altercations along their border. It said that the exact motivations

behind the Chinese government's provocative behavior on the LAC this year remain unclear.

"The proximate cause of the clash appeared to be India's construction of a strategic access road to support troops stationed along the LAC. China has also built extensive infrastructure along the LAC in recent years," said the report. The report pointed out that tensions have increased since the initial clash, with China reportedly building up its troop presence along the LAC since July.

"In September, shots were fired for the first time since 1975 along the border around Pangong Tso, a strategic area near

the site of the clash in June. Although no injuries were reported, both sides accused each other of violating a 1996 agreement barring the use of firearms along the LAC," it said.

The report said that despite Chinese and Indian foreign ministers in Moscow in September pledging to defuse tensions "China subsequently conducted war games in Tibet."

The report to the US Congress underlined that in 2020 Beijing ramped up its multi-layered coercion campaign against its neighbors, provoking military or paramilitary standoffs with countries from Japan to India.

REEL VS REAL The Congress has alleged a conspiracy to shift Mumbai's film city to Uttar Pradesh

I'm not stealing anything: Yogi on film city row

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that the film industry is showing a lot of interest in the film city being developed in his state. Dismissing the apprehensions of Maha Vikas Aghadi, ruling alliance in Maharashtra, Mr Adityanath said he was not interested in stealing anything from anyone. "Why should they get so worried by my visit?" he asked.

Mr Adityanath is on a two-day visit in Mumbai in order to attract investment in UP.

In an apparent reference to UP chief minister's visit to Mumbai, Maharashtra



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath with actor Akshay Kumar during a meeting in Mumbai. - PTI

he also said that it is an atmosphere and security in open competition and the which talent can work will one who gives the right get the investments.

"One who can give a safe atmosphere, better facilities and social security, in which one can work without discrimination, will get investments. We are creating something new. Why are you getting concerned? We are giving a new world class infrastructure to all. Hence, everybody will have to grow up, widen his thinking and better facilities will have to be given," Mr Adityanath said.

Mr. Yogi said that instead of taking Bollywood to Uttar Pradesh, he wants to make a world class film city in his state. "For this, I am consulting people related to the film industry," he added.

He said that the new film city would be built up in

one thousand acre land on the bank of Yamuna. The people of the film industry have shown their interest.

Earlier, the Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that nobody can take away the 100 year old film industry from Mumbai.

"What is the status of Noida film city now? Can you create Mumbai's Film City in Lucknow and Patna?" Raut asked.

"Earlier, attempts were made. It is difficult to replicate Mumbai's film industry elsewhere. Mumbai has a glorious film history and past," the Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson said.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister said that there is a huge scope in his state for the film industry.

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 83205024

Date : 02.12.2020

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01.	83205024	Inj. Ramucilrubam 500 mg	24 Nos	25.12.2020

NOTE - 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.

2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

2686/20

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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA				
O/o. District Collector & Executive Chairman, District Rural Development Agency, Ranga Reddy District.	SHORT TENDER NOTICE			
Filed Tenders are invited from TATA Magic vehicle Ajeeyika Gramene Express Yojana (AGEY) sub scheme of DAY NRLM for provision of Vehicles to Telangana (1) and Mandapa Mandal (2) Rs.13.20 lakhs - Madai Mahila Samakalya.				Date : 02.12.2020
S.No. Name of the mandal Vehicle cost (in Rs.) Member Contribution CIF Required / Released amt (in Rs.)				
1.	Madgula	7,27,771/-	2,87,771/-	4,40,000/-
2.	Madgula	7,27,771/-	2,87,771/-	4,40,000/-
3.	Talakkondapally	7,27,771/-	2,87,771/-	4,40,000/-
				21,85,313/- 6,63,313/-
Issue of tender schedule forms from 02.12.2020 to 07.12.2020 on all working days during office hours. The tender schedule forms can be obtained from the O/o CRO/DRCO, DRCO, DRDO, DRDO, Ranga Reddy, Ranga Reddy till the last date				

SHORT TAKES
2 INJURED IN DUTCH STORE STABBING

The Hague, Dec. 2: Two people were injured in a stabbing Wednesday in a shop in the centre of The Hague and a suspect has fled the scene, police said. The city's police force tweeted that there also was a fire at the store that was quickly extinguished. The two injured people were being taken to a hospital by ambulance. Police launched an investigation and appealed for witnesses. Further details weren't immediately available and there was no word on a possible motive. A police spokesman didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

ISRAEL READIES FOR FOURTH POLL IN 2 YEARS

Jerusalem, Dec. 2: Israel took a major step toward plunging into its fourth national election in under two years on Wednesday as lawmakers — supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's main coalition partner — passed a preliminary proposal to dissolve parliament. The 61-54 vote came just seven months after the coalition took office in a declaration of national unity to confront the Coronavirus crisis. But since then, the alliance between Netanyahu's Likud Party and Defence Minister Benny Gantz's Blue and White has been locked in infighting.

The vote gave only preliminary approval to ending the alliance and forcing a new election early next year. The legislation now heads to a committee before parliament as a whole takes up final approval, perhaps as soon as next week.

In the meantime, Gantz and Netanyahu are expected to continue negotiations in a last-ditch attempt to preserve their troubled alliance.

MISINTERPRETING CLIMATE: BRAVUS MINING PAYS FINE

Melbourne, Dec. 2: Adani Group's Australian division, Bravus Mining, has paid a fine of 26,000 Australian dollars for "misinterpreting" environmental approval conditions at its Carmichael Coal mine in central Queensland. The Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment issued an official statement on Tuesday, stating that it had fined the mining company and issued two infringement notices in October this year for not meeting a condition attached to their approval received under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

"The company failed to meet the requirements of condition 7 of the approval which requires them to implement the approved Species Management Plan. The department found that Adani Mining Pvt Ltd failed to implement the Species Management Plan by not undertaking pre-clearance surveys within the required timeframe prior to clearing," it said.

OSCARS '21 TO BE 'IN-PERSON' TELECAST

Los Angeles, Dec. 2: The 2021 Oscars ceremony will be an "in-person telecast", a representative from the Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) and its award show's broadcast partner, channel ABC has said. There is speculation that the biggest annual film awards show will be a virtual affair as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to rage on. But the representative told *Variety*, "The Oscars in-person telecast will happen."

In June, the Academy had announced that the 2021 Oscars will be held on April 25, 2021, eight weeks later than originally planned because of the pandemic's effects on the film industry. The eligibility window for feature films has also been pushed to February 28, 2021. Sources inside the Oscars say that by pushing the awards ceremony back, the institution hoped that theatres would be open again in the spring, thus allowing for more movies to compete at the ceremony.

But even if movie theatres stay shut, by holding the Oscars later in spring, organisers are now focusing to ensure the event continues as it always has live. It is still uncertain how many people will be allowed inside the 3,400-seat Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, where the ceremony takes place.

"The Academy has done a walkthrough of the Dolby recently to see all the multiple options," an awards publicist went on to add.

Single dose vaccine shows protection against Covid-19

Researchers at the Rega Institute, Belgium are preparing for its clinical trials

Virus infections may have hit US as early as Dec. '19

Washington, Dec. 2: The novel Coronavirus may have been introduced into the US as early as December 13 to 16, 2019, suggests a study which assessed archived samples from routine blood donations collected by the American Red Cross.

While the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in the US was identified on Jan-

uary 19, 2020, the scientists, including Sridhar V Basavaraju from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US, noted that antibodies reactive against the virus were detected in 106 of the 7,389 specimens.

According to the research, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 84 of the samples specifically

had neutralising activity against the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which enables it to enter host cells. "The presence of these serum antibodies indicate that isolated SARS-CoV-2 infections may have occurred in the western portion of the US earlier than previously recognised," the researchers wrote. — PTI

RegaVax is a vector vaccine which uses the genetic code of the yellow fever vaccine virus as a carrier for the genetic code of the Coronavirus spikes.

According to an early version of the research paper accepted for publication in the journal *Nature*,

the researchers tested the vaccine in healthy hamsters and monkeys, with another group of the animals receiving a placebo. The researchers first vaccinated the hamsters and then dripped the virus into the

ir noses. They found that 10 days after a single vaccine dose, most of the hamsters were protected against the virus, adding that three weeks after vaccination, all hamsters were protected. "They also didn't

develop any lung infections. The lungs of the hamsters in the control groups, by contrast, showed clear signs of infection and disease," explained Professor Johan Neyts from KU Leuven.

The team also tested the vaccine in monkeys. "In some of the monkeys, we observed neutralising antibodies already seven days after vaccination. After 14 days, high titers of neutralising antibodies were measured in all animals," Neyts said.

"This is very fast. Moreover, in the vaccinated animals, the virus was completely or nearly completely gone from their throats," he said. "Ours is the only vaccine currently in development against Covid-19 that also protects against yellow fever," explained Neyts. Previously, the Rega team said they have used the yellow fever vaccine as the foundation for vaccine candidates against Zika, Ebola, and rabies.

"The effectiveness and safety of the yellow fever vaccine, in use for 80 years, is well-established," Neyts said. — PTI

Remembering road terror victims in Germany



Candles and flowers are placed at a makeshift memorial for the victims at the market column at Hauptmarkt square in Trier, southwestern Germany, on Wednesday, one day after a car drove into pedestrians. A baby was among five people killed when a car tore through a pedestrian shopping street in Trier on Tuesday. A prosecutor said that the driver, a 51-year-old Trier native, appeared to be suffering from "psychiatric problems" and had been under the influence of alcohol during the incident, in which 14 other people were hurt. — AFP

Provisional provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan priority: Imran

PAKISTAN LOADING FUEL IN 1,100MW CHINESE-ASSISTED N-POWER PLANT

Islamabad, Dec. 2: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that his government would work on a priority basis to grant the provisional provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan, according to a media report.

His remarks came after he arrived in the disputed region to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the 14-member Gilgit Baltistan Cabinet. "What will the new government do?

First, we will work on

granting the region provi-

national provincial status so

that the prevailing sense

of deprivation [among the

people] can be eradicated," Dawn newspaper quoted Khan as saying.

India has slammed Paki-

stan for its decision to

hold elections in Gilgit-

Baltistan and said any

action to alter the status

of the militarily-occupied

region has no legal basis.

India also clearly con-

veyed to Pakistan that the

entire Union territories of

Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh, including the ar-

eas of Gilgit and Baltis-

tan, are an integral part of

the country.

Elections were held on

23 seats of the legislative

assembly in Gilgit-Balti-

stan on November 15. Poll-

ing on one seat was post-

poned after the death of

one of the contestants.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-

i-Insaf (PTI) won most of

the seats in the legislative

assembly election. — PTI

Over 3000 PDM ACTIVISTS BOOKED

Lahore, Dec. 2: Over 3,000 activists of the Paki-

stan Democratic Move-

ment, including three sons of

former PM Yousuf Raza

Gilani, have been booked

by Punjab province police

for holding an anti-gov-

ernment rally in violation of

the Covid-19 and public

safety guidelines. — PTI

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quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	44,618.04	-0.08
Nifty 50	13,113.75	0.04
S&P 500*	3,663.54	0.03
Dollar (₹)	73.80	0.21
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.57	0.18
Euro (₹)	88.92	0.75
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,169▲75	1.40
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.72	1.30
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.920	-0.010
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.955	0.022

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Dutch firm sets up its facility at Jadcherla

Trouw Nutrition, a Netherland based Nutreco company, on Wednesday said that it will set up a production facility at Jadcherla near Hyderabad. Nutreco, through its two reputed brands, The 20,000 MT modern plant will primarily produce vitamins, mineral pre-mixes, mineral blends and feed safety solutions for all species. The entire process is automated right from raw material handling to bagging at the plant.

UBI integrates all Corporation Bank branches



Union Bank of India has completed the IT integration after which all the branches of erstwhile Corporation Bank have come fully under its fold as part of the amalgamation exercise, the bank said. With this IT integration, all of Corporation Bank, including service and specialised branches, have been fully integrated with Union Bank of India, it said in a release. All Corporation Bank customers have been migrated.

8-digit HSN Code made must for 49 chem products

The government has made it mandatory to mention 8-digit HSN or tariff code for 49 chemical-based products while issuing GST invoice, a move experts feel is aimed at curbing tax evasion. While notifying the HSN Code for these products, the CBIC said, "A registered person shall mention eight number of digits of HSN Codes in a tax invoice issued by him." Currently, up to 4-digit tariff code are used in invoices.

Ghaziabad to issue municipal bonds: CM

UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath said Ghaziabad will be the next local body in the state which will be raising money through the issuance of municipal bonds. Lucknow has become the first city in UP and seventh nationally to raise money through this route. The CM was speaking at the listing ceremony of Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) bonds. LMC had raised Rs 200 crore via the bond issue last month.

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■ 30% stake could fetch around \$4.8 bn China's Ant plans Paytm stake sale

SUMEET CHATTERJEE,
ADITI SHAH &
ANIRBAN SEN
HONG KONG/NEW DELHI,
DEC. 2

Chinese fintech giant Ant Group is considering selling its 30 per cent stake in Indian digital payment processor Paytm amid tensions between the two Asian neighbours and a toughening competitive landscape, people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Financial details of the possible transaction have not been firmed up and Ant, the Alibaba-backed payments-to-consumer credit behemoth, has not launched a formal sale process yet, four people told Reuters.

Paytm, which is also backed by SoftBank Group Corp among others, was valued at about \$16 billion during its latest private fundraising round a year ago. At that valuation, Ant's stake in the Indian firm is worth about \$4.8 billion.

Both Ant and Paytm said that the information was incorrect. A Paytm spokesman said "there has been no discussion with any of our major shareholders ever, nor any plans, about selling their stake."

Ant's possible exit from Paytm would mark another reversal for the Chinese company hot on the heels of the dramatic suspension of its \$37 billion stock listing last month, which would have been the



world's largest.

It also would be a step back from its ambitions of becoming a global payments leader. Sources told Reuters in October that Ant was cutting its financial support to many of the overseas affiliated e-wallet firms.

The main trigger for Ant to consider the divestment of its stake in Paytm is the worsening diplomatic relations between India and China in the past few months, said the people, who declined to be named, as the deliberations are confidential.

Relations between the countries are at a nadir, with troops locked in a border face-off in the western Himalayas for months.

"There is a growing realisation within Ant management that it would not be able to raise its stake in the company," one of the people with direct knowledge said, adding senior managers at Ant have discussed the idea recently.

Even so, Ant was in the middle of an investment review and it could still

decide to shelve a divestment if it failed to get the desired valuation, he said.

Two other sources said that as a result of the review, Ant could end up retaining a small stake in Paytm.

Indian start-ups are heavily funded by Chinese investors such as Alibaba and Tencent. Bankers have previously said they were looking to bolster their presence in the country with an aim to grow their revenue outside China.

Alibaba has invested over \$4 billion in India so far and had plans to invest around \$5 billion in 2021, which have now been put on hold, one of the sources said.

Alibaba did not respond to a request for comment.

Ant first invested in Paytm in 2015 and owns 30 per cent stake in the firm via its parent company, One97 Communications, according to Ant's initial public offering prospectus, which described the Indian firm as a major associate. —Reuters

TWO SAHARA FIRMS FILE CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST SEBI

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Two Sahara group firms have moved the Supreme Court seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the Sebi, alleging that the market regulator's demand of Rs 62,602 crore from them was not only contemptuous but a mischievous attempt to overreach the directions of the apex court.

The Sebi had moved the apex court seeking direction to the firms to pay the amount in compliance with the court's earlier orders, failing which the group's chief Subrata Roy be taken into custody.

Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd. (SIRECL) and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation Ltd. (SHICL), in their contempt plea have alleged gross, blatant and willful disobedience of the directions of the top court by the regulator.

It said that the Sebi's demand asking the firms to deposit Rs 62,602 crore was in violation of the specific directions of the apex court in its order of February 6, 2017 that at present only the principal amount is to be concerned and the issue of interest will be adverted to later.

It said that Sebi's action of demanding money and filing of contempt against Sahara firms was not only contemptuous but a mischievous attempt to overreach the directions of the court. —PTI



E-com hired over 2.5 lakh temp staff for festivals

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 2

In order to meet the delivery requirements of increased online sales during the recently concluded festive season, e-commerce companies had hired around 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh temporary employees. The jobs predominantly catered to delivery and warehouse management.

The festive season this year saw e-commerce players clocking gross sales of \$8.3 billion against \$5 billion last year, according to Bengaluru-based RedSeer Consulting. This increased sales also reflected in their hiring numbers, which stood around 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh, as per the data from Teamlease Services.

A large part of the jobs were offered by marketplace players like Amazon and Flipkart, while smaller players supported the hiring by third-party logistics com-

panies, which are into last mile delivery, as per the data from Teamlease.

Compared to pre-Covid times, companies this time took a conscious approach towards hiring more women workforce.

Prior to the pandemic, women workforce made up for less than 10 per cent and many companies have set the target to take this up to 25 per cent.

Despite remunerations getting affected across industries, e-commerce continued to pay the temp staff as usual.

Most of the contracts were for a period ranging from 45 days to three months.

Chakraborty says 15 to 20 per cent of the festive season temp staff would be retained by the firms.

this year saw increased demand from tier-II, III and towns beyond. E-commerce companies were seen ramping up their supply chain in smaller towns as well. Amazon had added close to 200 delivery stations, including those operated by delivery service partners across the country.

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China buys first Indian rice in three decades

RAJENDRA JADHAV
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Beijing buys in around 4 million tonnes a year but has avoided purchases from India, citing quality issues. The rice imports come despite political tensions over a border dispute in the Himalayas.

For the first time China has made rice purchases. They may increase buying next year after seeing the quality of Indian crop," B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters Association, said.

Indian traders have contracted to export 100,000 tonnes of broken rice for Dec.-Feb. shipments at around \$300 per tonne on a free-on-board basis. China's traditional suppliers, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Myan-mar and Pakistan, have limited surplus for export and were quoting at least \$30 per tonne more compared with Indian prices.

—Reuters

Strong rural demand for autos to continue

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, DEC. 2

Auto sales improvement seen in November is likely to continue on strong rural demand, low interest rate, improving finance availability and a pick-up in business and economic activity, analysts said.

Tractors outperformed the entire industry, as both Mahindra & Mahindra and Escorts posted 30-55 per cent growth in November, highlighting rural resilience and buying in anticipation of a bountiful rabi season.

"Good rainfall, higher rural growth and sentimentally less fear of Covid also were some of the major contributors. However, post-Diwali, the auto sales trend should be monitored closely as those will be the testing times sans any festivity. As far as domestic two-wheelers and tractors are concerned, we are still seeing a good wholesale growth," said Ashwin Patil, analyst, LKP Securities.

"The automobile sector remains a key beneficiary of economic recovery and low interest rates. We

Nissan rolls out Magnite at ₹4.99 lakh

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, DEC. 2

The Japanese car giant Nissan on Wednesday introduced the much awaited Magnite, the newest entrant in the compact SUV segment in the fiercely competitive and Asia's third biggest car market.

The Magnite's introductory price in the Rs 4.99 lakh-Rs 9.45 lakh range at Delhi showroom makes it the most affordable in the hotly contested sub-4 metre SUV segment.

For the struggling Nissan, the Magnite is a make-or-break model in the car market dominated by Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai, which control nearly 70 per cent of the market.

expect volumes to improve in the coming quarters on strong rural sentiment, low interest rates, improving finance availability, and a gradual pick-up in the business and economic activity. Second half (H2 FY21) wholesales growth should



Magnite is Nissan's bid to take on the extremely lucrative and closely fought sub-compact SUV segment which currently has the likes of Kia Sonet, Hyundai Venue, Maruti Vitara Brezza, Tata Nexon, Mahindra XUV300, Toyota Urban Cruiser, among others.

The Magnite's pricing makes it the cheapest in its segment, and by a decent margin at that. At its introductory Rs 4.99

lakh starting price, it is priced substantially lower than the hot selling Kia Sonet (Rs 6.71 lakh) and Hyundai Venue (Rs 6.75 lakh), both with a waiting period of two months depending on the model. These two models when launched had the most affordable starting prices in the segment.

"The all-new Nissan Magnite marks the beginning of a new chapter in the Nissan next strategy for both the Indian and global market," Sinan Ozkok, president at Nissan Motor India, said.

Built on the philosophy of 'Make in India, Make for the World', the all-new Nissan Magnite comes with more than 20 first-in-class and best-in-segment features, he said.

also be aided by a favorable base," said said Raghuandan N. L. and Mumuksh Mandlesha, analysts, Emkay Global.

"Unless and until there are any lockdowns in occurrence of second wave of the pandemic, we expect normal trend of

growth to prevail, just as it is seen every year," Patil said.

"We expect a better H2 FY21 and a stronger H2Y22 on a very low base and recovery. However, we will remain watchful for the post festive months," Patil said.

Plastic industry alleges fleecing by petchem units

Mumbai, Dec. 2: Plastic manufacturers and processors have urged the government to constitute a regulatory authority to curb undue profiteering in the petrochemicals industry that has left the plastic processing sector on the verge of collapse.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 26, plastic manufacturers and processors—represented by more than 10 associations—have jointly demanded setting up of a regulatory body, a statement said.

The associations have also demanded a stop to imposing anti-dumping duty, mandatory BIS standards, reduced import duty on raw material and a ban or curbs on export of raw material to enable the plastic industry to survive and remain competitive against countries like China.

The plastics industry in India consists of over 50,000 plastics processing units, of which 90 per cent are MSMEs employing more than 50 lakh directly and contributing more than Rs 3 lakh crore to the country's GDP.

The associations have

urged the prime minister to help the plastics processing industry which is on the verge of collapse due to the sharp increase in the prices of raw materials supplied by domestic manufacturers.

The associations have said the prices of raw materials like PVC, ABS, polypropylene, PC, PET have increased between 20 and 140 per cent over the last five months.

"The petrochemical companies are taking advantage of the surge in polymer prices by restricting the supplies to domestic processing units and releasing the material after increasing the prices on regular intervals.

"Unfortunately, PSUs have also joined hands with private players," the letter stated. —PTI

Burger King IPO sees retail rush

Mumbai, Dec. 2: Burger King India's IPO has been fully subscribed on the first day itself on the back of heavy retail individual investors' demand. The IPO has been subscribed 3.13 times with retail portion getting subscribed 15.68 times the number of shares on offer, according merchant bankers.

L&T TO SELL UK ARM TO ROLLS-ROYCE

New Delhi, Dec. 2: L&T said it has inked a pact with Rolls-Royce to divest its UK-based marine automation solution provider Servowatch Systems. Now its 44 employees in the UK and India deliver integrated automation solutions for navies and yachts.

HATSON TO EXPAND IN MAHA, ODISHA

Chennai, Dec. 2: Dairy products maker Hatsun Agro Product Ltd said it will set up new HAP Daily outlets in Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The firm is also strengthening its presence in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, AP, Telangana, Puducherry and Goa.

VIVO MAKES SLIMMEST 5G PHONE IN INDIA

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Smartphone maker Vivo said the slimmest 5G phone from its stable, V20 Pro

SHORT TAKES
Hyderabad draw with Jamshedpur

Vasco, Goa: Stephen Eze salvaged a point for Jamshedpur FC with an 85th-minute strike to help his side hold Hyderabad FC to a 1-1 draw in an Indian Super League match on Wednesday.

Aridane Santana scored his second goal of the campaign to give Hyderabad a 55th-minute lead.

Hyderabad were ahead five minutes after the restart with Santana scoring off a rebound. Narzana danced his way past Renthlei and pulled the trigger.

Goalkeeper Kumar only succeeded in diverting it into the path of Santana, who rolled the ball into the net. Jameshapedur's efforts finally paid off in the 85th minute when Eze fired home from inside the box. — PTI

Another Diego doc being probed

Buenos Aires: The investigation into Diego Maradona's death continued with police raids on the office and home of the psychiatrist who cared for the soccer star and is being investigated for possible medical negligence.

By order of the attorney general's office of San Isidro, officers entered an apartment used by Agustina Cosachov for consultations in Buenos Aires on Tuesday, while another group of police searched her private home.

"The prosecutor let me know that her medical behaviours are being investigated. These are routine measures, as is the case in all the causes of a patient's death, to reconstruct his medical history," psychiatrist Vadim Mischnichuk told reporters. Cosachov was part of a medical team that treated Maradona after he underwent surgery for bleeding on the brain in early November. — AP

Hyderabad teen Sneha takes lead

Noida, Uttar Pradesh: Amateur Sneha Singh stamped her authority on the opening day of the seventh leg as the Women's Pro Golf Tour resumed action after almost nine months.

Playing at the Noida Golf Course, Sneha shot one-under 71, the only under par round of the day. Her performance that included three birdies, two of which came in the last five holes, against two bogeys, gave her a one-shot lead over the seasoned Van Kapoor (72). Yet another amateur, Hunar Mittal was tied third with 73 alongside Siddhi Kapoor and Trinnam Saluja. Saaniya Sharma and Amandeep Drall were tied sixth with 74 each while Lakhmeher Pardesi carded 75.

BAT official in national body

Hyderabad: Shweta Sengupta of the Baseball Association of Telangana has been unanimously elected joint secretary of the Amateur Baseball Federation of India at its General Body Meeting held in Delhi.

The office-bearers: President — M. Krishna Murthy, Vice-presidents — Mithali Ghosh (Chhattisgarh), S. Venkatesh (Tamil Nadu), S. N. Pradhan (Orissa), Ashok Sharma (Rajasthan), Secretary General — Harish Kumar (Punjab), Joint Secretaries — Shweta Sengupta (Telangana), Madhu Sharma (Bihar), Jahan Das (West Bengal), Virendra Bhardwaj (Delhi), Treasurer — Dinesh Yadav (Uttar Pradesh).

Live on TV

CRICKET
Lanka Premier League: Galle vs Jaffna from 3 pm; Dambulla vs Kandy from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL
Indian Super League: Mohun Bagan vs Odisha from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

EUROPE
Paris, Dec. 2: While former champions Liverpool and Porto eased to the knockout stage of the Champions League, record 13-time champion Real Madrid face an embarrassing group-stage exit after losing 2-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk.

Zinedine Zidane's side would have advanced with a win on Tuesday, but they have defended poorly all season and were undone by counterattack goals in the second half. Instead of progressing, Madrid dropped to third place in Group B behind the Ukrainian side and Borussia Monchengladbach.

Liverpool overcame injury problems to beat four-time winners Ajax 1-0 at Anfield, thanks to a second-half goal from midfielder Curtis Jones.

Porto held already-qualified Manchester City to a 0-0 draw at home, although City ensured the

Blues pull one back

Hardik, Bumrah win it for India; Australia clinch series



Jasprit Bumrah (third from left) is congratulated by teammates after the dismissal of Australia's Glenn Maxwell during the third One-Day International match at Manuka Oval in Canberra, Australia, on Wednesday. — AP

SCORECARD

India: S. Dhawan c Agar b Abbott 16, S. Gill lbw b Agar 33, V. Kohli c Carey b Hazlewood 63, S. Iyer c Labuschagne b Zampa 19, K.L. Rahul lbw b Agar 5, H. Pandya (not out) 92, R. Jadeja (not out) 66. Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-2, w-4) 8. Total (for 5 wktS, in 50 overs) 302. FoW: 1-26, 2-82, 3-114, 4-123, 5-152.	Rahul b S. Thakur 7, M. Henriques c Dhawan b S. Thakur 22, C. Jadeja b K. Yadav 21, A. Carey run out 38, G. Maxwell b J. Bumrah 59, A. Agar c Yadav b T. Natarajan 28, S. Abbott c Rahul b Thakur 4, A. Zampa lbw b Bumrah 4, J. Hazlewood (not out) 7. Extras (lb-6, nb-2, wd-9) 17. Total (all out in 49.3 overs) 289.
Bowling: J. Hazlewood 10-1-66-1, G. Maxwell 5-0-27-0, S. Abbott 10-0-84-1, C. Green 4-0-27-0, A. Agar 10-0-44-2, A. Zampa 10-0-45-1, M. Henriques 1-0-7-0.	Bowling: J. Bumrah 9.3-0-43-3, T. Natarajan 10-1-70-2, S. Thakur 10-1-51-3, K. Yadav 10-0-57-1, R. Jadeja 10-0-62-1.
Australia: M. Labuschagne b T. Natarajan 7, A. Finch c Dhawan b R. Jadeja 75, S. Smith c	

Kohli feels relieved after win

VIRAT FASTEST TO 12K

■ Virat Kohli became the fastest to reach 12,000 runs in ODIs. He got to the milestone in his 242nd inning of 251 matches bettering the previous record set by Sachin Tendulkar, who got his 12,000th run in his 300th inning of 309th match.

■ Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja set a new record of highest sixth wicket stand for India against Australia by adding 150 runs for the undefeated stand. Sadagopan Ramesh and Robin Singh's 123-run stand at Colombo on August 28, 1999 was the previous best. It was India's third best sixth wicket stand in one day international cricket.

FASTEST TO 12,000 RUNS IN ONE-DAYERS

Batsman	M	Inng	Time
Virat Kohli (India)	251	242	12 years, 106 days
S. Tendulkar (India)	309	300	13 years, 73 days
R. Ponting (Australia)	323	314	14 years, 229 days
K. Sangakkara (SL)	359	336	13 years, 168 days
S. Jayasuriya (SL)	390	379	17 years, 123 days
M. Jayawardene (SL)	426	399	16 years, 289 days

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

more purchase from the Manuka Oval surface. Kohli said it was a much better pitch than Sydney where the first two games were played.

"I think the pitch was much better for the bowlers. So the confidence levels go up. Playing international cricket for so long, that's

the challenge you face. We were clinical with the ball and in the field," he said.

Kohli made 63 but the unbeaten 150-run stand between Ravindra Jadeja (66) and Hardik Pandya (92) gave India a fighting chance.

"Happy with the performance and hopefully we take the momentum forward. I would have liked to go on for a bit longer, but it was a great partnership between Pandya and Jadeja," said the India skipper.

Pandya, who won the player of the match award, said competing against a team like Australia can be a massive driving force.

"It's fantastic... You need to be on your toes to compete against Australia. I feel that you always have that extra edge in you when you play against Australia, you want to face up to that challenge," he said.

— PTI

ENGLAND ROMP TO T20 SERIES WIN

Cape Town, Dec. 2: England swept the Twenty20 series against South Africa 3-0 with a blistering 99 not out from Dawid Malan seeing the tourists romp to a nine-wicket win in the final game on Tuesday here.

Malan's 99 came from just 47 balls and made a difficult run chase look like a breeze as England overhauled South Africa's 191-3 with more than two overs to spare.

England finished on 192-1 in 17.4 overs, with Malan and Jos Buttler (67 not out) sharing an unbroken partnership of 167 for the second wicket to take England home. It was England's highest partnership in T20s. — AP

Brief scores: South Africa 191/3 in 20 overs (Du Plessis 52 n.o., H. Van der Dussen 74 n.o.; B. Stokes 2/26) lost to England 192/1 in 17.4 overs (J. Buttler 67 n.o., D. Malan 99 n.o.)

Schumacher son set for F1 in 2021

Sakhir (Bahrain), Dec. 2: Mick Schumacher, the son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, will drive in Formula One next season, the team announced on Wednesday, leaving their new recruit "emotionally exploding" at the realisation of a dream.

Schumacher junior, 21, will partner Russian driver Nikita Mazepin, also 21, in the Haas line-up next year.

Bahrain this weekend.

Haas's new signing will get a taste of what is in store when he takes part in free practice ahead of the 2020 season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on December 11 before taking part in testing a few days later.

Schumacher leads the F2 standings by 14 points after achieving 10 podium finishes and feature race victories at Monza and Sochi.

"I'm really looking forward to next year's challenge... It's really been a dream that I've always dreamed about and now it's finally coming true," Schumacher said in a video posted on Twitter.

"So I'm just really really happy and emotionally exploding."

Mick Schumacher currently heads the Formula Two drivers' standings with one race to go in



TT championships in Hyd from today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

India will be followed, the release read.

Following are the tourneys:

■ Cadet Boys and Cadet Girls: December 3 & 4 at St Paul's High School, Hyderabad.

■ Sub-Junior Boys and Sub-Junior Girls: December 5 & 6 at St Paul's High School, Hyderabad.

■ Junior Boys and Junior Girls: December 7 & 8 at Anandnagar Welfare and Sports Association, Khairatabad.

■ Youth: December 9 & 10 at Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology, Bandlaguda.

■ Men and Women: December 11 & 12 at Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology, Bandlaguda.



Winners of the Hyderabad Open Tennis Association seniors tournament pose with their trophies.

Double delight for determined Anand

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

the auspices of All India Seniors Tennis Association.

THE RESULTS (all finals)

■ 30+ singles: Anurag bt Raja 9-2. Doubles: Anurag/Muralidhar beat Dilip/Raja 9-7.

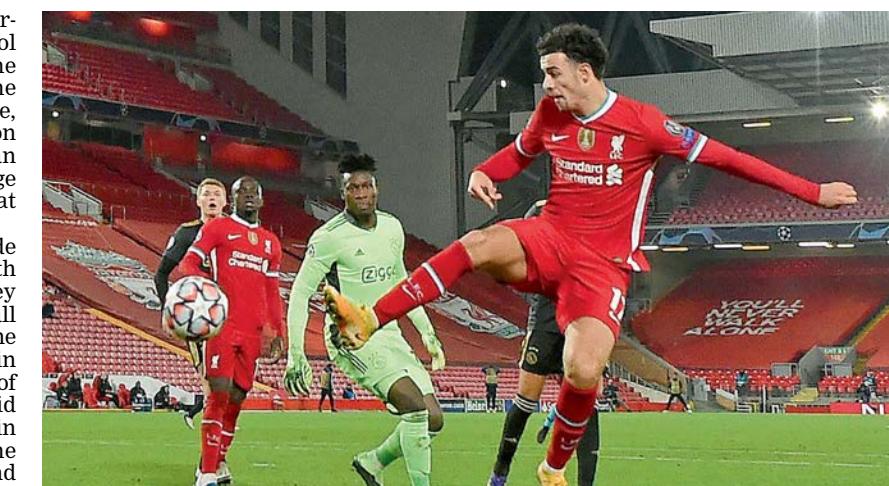
■ 40+ singles: C. V. Anand bt Ch. Narasimulu 9-5.

Doubles: C. V. Anand/Md Waheed beat Ramakrishna/S. Ashok 8-4.

■ 50+ singles: KVN Murthy bt K. Mehar Prakash 8-6.

Doubles: K. Mehar Prakash/Shiva bt Riazul Haq/Mansoor 8-0.

■ 60+ singles: V. Shankar bt M. Suresh 8-2. Doubles: Anand Swaroop/Srinivasan bt V. Shankar/V. Ganapathy 8-2.



Liverpool's Curtis Jones (right) scores against Ajax in their Champions League first round Group 'D' match at Anfield in Liverpool on Tuesday. The hosts won 1-0. — AP

top spot. No drama in those two groups, but plenty in Madrid's as Gladbach missed the chance to advance after losing 3-2 at home to three-

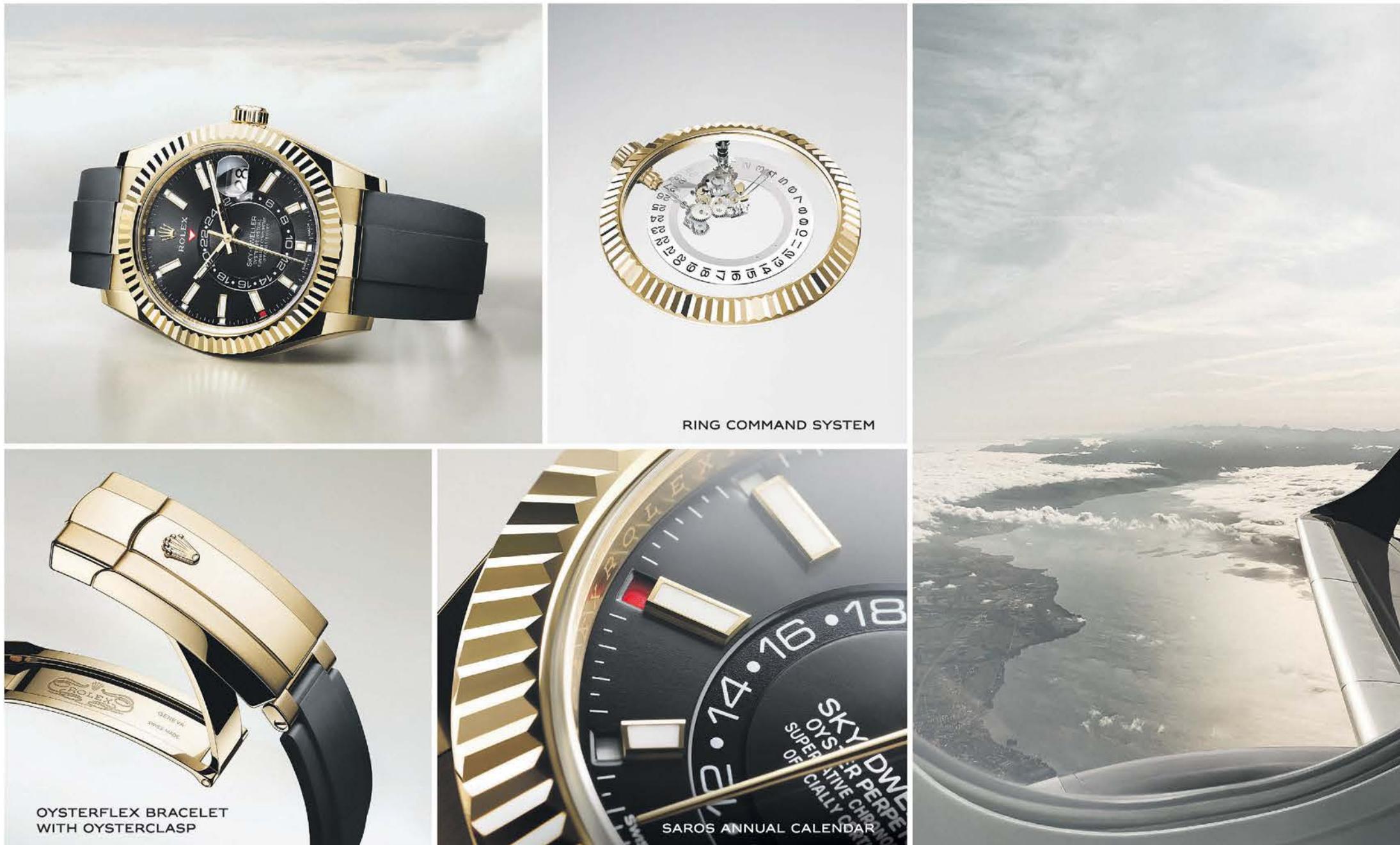
time champions Inter Milan, who had to win.

Atletico Madrid did not do enough, drawing 1-1 at home to Bayern Munich even though the defending champions fielded a weakened side having already qualified.

ATLETICO CLOSE

Munich rested prolific

— AP



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