

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 3 DECEMBER 2020

## 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

## NATION | 5

**Yogi denies luring film city from Mumbai to UP**

## WORLD | 5

**Barr denies Trump's election fraud claims**

## SPORTS | 8

**Schumacher's son Mick set for F1 next year**



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## 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
218

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  
**HURI CALENDAR**  
**Rabbi-ul Aakhir 17, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 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

### NGT for total ban on firecrackers

**New Delhi:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed that there would be a total ban on the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers during Covid-19 pandemic in the National Capital Region-Delhi and all cities/towns in the country where the ambient air quality falls under the 'poor' and above category. A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said its direction to restrict the use of firecrackers in cities where air quality is 'moderate' or below to green crackers and for the duration of not more than two hours will continue.

### Local aircraft carrier by 2022

**Kochi:** The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), which has entered final phase of its construction at Cochin Shipyard Ltd here, will be commissioned by next year end or by early 2022, Vice-Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, said. Addressing the media onboard INS Shirdul at Naval Base, he said sea trials of the IAC are planned in the first half of next year, while improved flight operations on the aircraft carrier are expected to be carried out in the second half.

## Preparing for a showdown



Farmers stage a protest at Singhu border against the Centres new farm laws in New Delhi on Wednesday. — PTI

## Protesting farmers warn of a nationwide stir on Dec. 5

**SANJAY KAW and RAJNISH SHARMA | DC 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 Union government, the protesting 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 protest on December 5.

Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh 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."

On Tuesday, his meeting with 35-odd farmers' union leaders was "inconclusive". The protesting farmers rejected the government's offer to be part of a panel to look into their concerns.

Security officials said that the farmers are prepared for a long haul and seem prepared to continue their agitation for several months. While Mr Tomar hopes to address the farmers' concerns at Thursday's meeting, the home ministry is taking no chances and has kept 50 additional companies of

forces on standby to meet any eventuality.

The All-India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), an umbrella body of goods' vehicles operators, on Wednesday expressed solidarity with the protesting farmers and threatened to halt the movement of goods across north India and subsequently the entire country if their demands are not met.

AIMTC also 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. 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 Kultaran Singh Atwal.

## Telugus find no place in language project

**DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, DEC. 2**

Bharathiya Bhasha Viswavidyalaya (BBV), a Central government project to promote Indian languages, will be upgraded to a Central University. The Union ministry of education had formed the 11-member committee to explore and suggest the governance structure, requirement of funds and the broad objectives of the proposed BBV.

The committee headed by retired Gujarat-cadre IAS officer N. Gopalaswami was given three months to submit a report.

BBV and IITI. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysuru, set up over 50 years ago to promote Indian languages, will be upgraded to a Central University. The Union ministry of education had formed the 11-member committee to explore and suggest the governance structure, requirement of funds and the broad objectives of the proposed BBV.

The committee headed by retired Gujarat-cadre IAS officer N. Gopalaswami was given three months to submit a report.

## BATTING | WONDER

**Indian skipper becomes the fastest batsman to score 12,000 runs in ODIs**

## Kohli in fast lane, overtakes Tendulkar

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2**

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 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.

Going into the match, he needed 23 to reach the milestone. He got 63 though, on the way blast-

ing 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.

Having made his debut in 2008, the 32-year-old Kohli

was playing his 251st ODI. He has so far smashed 43 centuries, 59 half-tons and averages an impressive 59.31. With 12,040 runs, Kohli is also the second-highest scorer for India in ODIs behind Tendulkar's 18,426 from 463 games at an average of 44.83 with 49 tons and 96 half-centuries.

Only four others — Sri Lankans Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Mahela Jayawardene and Ricky Ponting of Australia — have scored 12,000 runs in ODIs.

With age and consistency on his side, Kohli is surely in the driver's seat and is set to zoom past many more landmarks in his cricketing journey.



Virat Kohli plays a shot on way to his half-century against Australia in the third One-Day International at the Manuka Oval in Canberra, Australia, on Wednesday. — AP

## 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**

The Central government has selected Telangana state and Rajasthan for the dry run of Covid-19 vaccine once it was approved to be safe by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). In the process, the two states will also conduct trials of Covid-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network. The online training for the staff will start from December 3.

BioNTech, which they say is 95 per cent effective in preventing illness, just 23 days after Pfizer published the first data from its final stage clinical trial.

"Fantastic news," Johnson told parliament, though he cautioned that peo-

Healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, hospital administration staff and others, are in the first list for the administration of Covid-19 vaccine. Health officials are collating data for the vaccination regime and have asked nursing homes, private and government hospitals to give them the details of their staff.

**■ Page 4: Doctors reluctant to be part of dry run**

ple should not get carried away.

"I strongly urge people to take up the vaccine but it is no part of our culture or our ambition in this country to make vaccines mandatory," Johnson said.

Britain said it would start vaccinating those most at risk of dying early next week. Elderly people in care homes and care home staff are top of the priority list, followed by over-80s and health and care staff.

The world's big powers have been racing for a vaccine for months and coming first may be seen as a coup for a government that has faced criticism over its handling of the crisis.

Both the United States and EU regulators are sifting through the same Pfizer vaccine trial data, but have yet to give their approval.

Just hours after the British announcement, Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian authorities to begin mass voluntary vaccinations next week. He said Russia has 20 lakh vaccine shots ready. Pfizer vaccine executive Ralf Rene Reinert said other countries were looking to emulate Britain. — Reuters

## TRS WILL WIN 80 SEATS AND FORM COUNCIL: KCR

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 2**

Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu 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**

## GHMC, SEC bungle in Hyd polls

**MADDY DIKSHITH | 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 divisions. Analysts claim that these 54 divisions could decide the fate of political

parties on the counting day on December 4.

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 woman voters participated in the polling. 72 out of 675 registered voters identified themselves as the 'other' category in the GHMC elections.

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.

According to sources, the lack of training for poll staff was one of the prime reasons for declaring wrong hourly poll percentages. The final report by the GHMC was changed six times before releasing it.





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## OTHER STORIES

## Inter admission deadline extended

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Wednesday announced that the last date for admission to FY Intermediate for 2020-21 has been extended up to December 12. This will be the last chance for candidates seeking admission into FY and that no further extensions will be permitted after this, it added.

## DC IMPACT: PRICE OF PALM PRESSED FIBRE REDUCED

**DC CORRESPONDENT DAMMAPET (KOTHAGUDEM), DEC. 2**

The officials of Oilfed have initiated an enquiry into not selling of crude palm oil, increasing prices of palm pressed fibre (PPF), oil palm fronds (OPF) and empty fruit bunches (EFB) in Apparopet and Aswaraopet palm oil factories. All these products are being considered as waste from the factory.

The Deccan Chronicle had carried an item in these columns, on how farmers are losing ₹400 per ton on their palm fruit bunches, and how they are facing difficulties with the increase in PPF prices from ₹50 to ₹200 per tonne.

The Oilfed announced that farmers can buy PPF at ₹50 per ton. The government asked the Oilfed to study the moves of the Central government and various countries to take a proper decision on selling crude palm oil in the market.

## 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.

## STATE REPORTS 565 NEW COVID CASES, 1 DEATH

**DC 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 135 cases. Significantly those who have suffered from post-Covid-19 complications 2-3 months ago are among those now frequenting hospitals. Dr. Reddy remarked, "Some patients do require follow up care from three months to one year."

## Parties 'donate' ahead of Adilabad Rural ZPTC polls

TRS, BJP is said to have spent ₹10 lakhs each till date

**PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, DEC. 2**

Political parties have begun campaigning early for the Adilabad Rural Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seat that fell vacant with the death of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) ZPTC Are Rajanna.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the TRS are said to have given large sums of money as 'donations.' Besides distributing new clothes to the voters, the two parties have given up to ₹10,000 to each village, to celebrate feasts.

■ **FOR ADILABAD** MLA Jogu Ramanna, winning the seat is a matter of prestige, since the sitting ZPTC was from the TRS. He is making all efforts to retain the seat.

A senior Adivasi leader on condition of anonymity said, "Already the TRS and the BJP have each spent at least ₹10 lakh till date to attract voters in connection with the Adilabad Rural ZPTC seat."

The Congress also joined the bandwagon last week. A team of Congress leaders, com-

prising of Adilabad assembly constituency party-in-charge and TPCC state general secretary, Gandrath Sujatha, Adilabad market committee former chairman Sanjeev Reddy, and probable candidate Konda Gangadhar, have been visiting the interior villages in the last one week and interacting with the people in Adilabad Rural mandal.

News is that the Congress leaders want to field Konda Gangadhar for the Adilabad Rural ZPTC seat.

Because of which, Congress leader, Madavi Raju, was seen campaigning independently in the

villages.

Villagers heard Raju saying, "I will contest as an independent, if the Congress does not give me a ticket."

For Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna, winning the seat is a matter of prestige, since the sitting ZPTC was from the TRS. He is making all efforts to retain the seat.

Meanwhile, it is alleged, that the TRS is trying to split the Adivasis votes by indirectly fielding an Adivasi candidate as an independent for the elections. The Adivasi votes matter as it is they who will decide the results of the Adilabad ZPTC elections.



Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao called on Nizamabad urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta, TRS NRI cell coordinator Bigala Mahesh Gupta at Makloor on Wednesday as the latter's father Bigala Krishna Murthy passed away recently.

## CM calls on Nizamabad urban MLA, Ganesh Gupta's family

**DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, DEC. 2**

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday called on the family members of Nizamabad urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta at Makloor, 10 km away from Nizamabad on Wednesday.

The MLA's father Bigala Krishna Murthy had passed away recently. Mr Rao, accompanied by deputy chief minister Mahamood Ali, ministers T. Harish Rao, A. Indrakaran Reddy and V. Prashanth Reddy spoke to the bereaved family members.

The Chief Minister

was supposed to reach Makloor by helicopter. The district administration had made the necessary arrangements, including setting up of a helipad at Makloor on the Nizamabad-Nandipet route.

However, the Chief Minister changed his travel plan at the last minute and reached Makloor by road amidst tight security on National Highways 44 and 63 en route to Makloor.

Mr Rao paid rich tributes to a portrait of Bigala Krishna Murthy, who is a philanthropist and district president of the Arya Vysya

Mahasabha. Rajya Sabha member K.R. Suresh Reddy, MLAs V.G. Goud, Akula Lalitha, Boggarapu Dayanand, MLAs Gampa Govardhan, Bajireddy Govardhan, A. Jeevan Reddy, Hanumanth Shinde, J. Surender, TS Redco, TSIDC, Tourism development corporation and police housing corporation chairmen S.A. Aleem, Amaravadi Laxminarayana, Uppala Srinivas, Koleti Damodar Gupta, Nizamabad, Kamareddy ZP chairpersons D. Vittal Rao, D.Shobha, district collector C. Narayana Reddy, C.P. Kartikeya and others were present.

## Protest held against Centre's farm laws

**DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, DEC. 2**

All India Kisan Mazdoor Sangh (AIKMS) staged a protest at dharna chowk on Wednesday against the controversial agriculture laws passed by the Central government.

Farmers, workers and AIKMS leaders participated in the protest demanding that the farm laws be withdrawn.

Speaking at the dharna, AIKMS national president Vemulapally Venkataramaiah said that the Narendra Modi government is working to protect the interests of corporate companies. He said that using

paramilitary forces to repress the farmers' agitation is unfortunate. The Central government should cancel the controversial laws, which cause damage to the farming community.

He alleged that treating the farmers as extremists's police forces are trying to foil their agitation in New Delhi. Venkataramiah urged the people of different sections to support the farmers' agitation. A book written by V e m u l a p a l l y Venktaramaiah, on farmers, was released.

AIKMS state secretary V.Prabhakar, and other state leaders were present.

## Wear face masks behind head to avoid tiger attacks: Officials

**DC CORRESPONDENT KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, DEC. 2**

The forest department officials on Wednesday issued guidelines for people living in interior areas where tiger movement was found in recent months in the erstwhile Adilabad district especially in Koamram Bheem Asifabad district.

The guidelines comprise Do's and Don'ts for their safety and to avoid further tiger attacks.

Forest officials have asked the people working in agriculture fields and cattle grazers to wear 'Face masks' behind their heads as a precautionary method to avoid

## OFFICIALS SEIZE 56 BOLTS OF LSD FROM 3 TECHIES

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD DEC. 2**

Excise enforcement officials seized 56 bolts 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 Shivaseena 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 bolts and seized 24 grams of marijuana oil from them.

"It was revealed during investigation that Reddy had purchased the LSD for ₹800 per bolt from Goa and sells it for ₹2,000 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 Kartik, a resident of Vizag, is absconding. Kartik sells the oil for ₹1 lakh per kg," 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 bolts 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."

## BJP leaders tried to kill me: Puvvada

**RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, DEC. 2**



Puvvada Ajay Kumar

Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar on Wednesday hit back at the BJP and also CPI leader Narayana for making irrational comments against him on Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polling day.

He said that the BJP leaders attacked two of his cars while he was proceeding to his medical college at Bachupally. The assailants alleged that money was being transported for distribution to voters.

"It is a baseless allegation and BJP leaders attempted to kill me. It was a pre-planned attack. Being a minister, I am aware of the malicious attack launched by the BJP, whose leaders had gone 'insane', he said.

The arrogance and ignorance of BJP leaders have been exposed and aware of its defeat in the GHMC election, their leaders were frustrated. He said that the people of Hyderabad have stood by TRS and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and the party will win the mayoral post on its own.

On Narayana's statement about a man being dragged by his (minister's) car, he

said that it was not his vehicle.

"I wondered when Narayana had joined the BJP", he said and added that he is not the watchman of Maqdoom Bhavan (CPI head office in Hyderabad). He said that he is a member of the State Cabinet and there should be some decorum before making such demands.

"Narayana never won a direct election and he sold 99TV being run by CPI. He obstructed the election of my father Puvvada Nageswara Rao to the Rajya Sabha in 2006. Even the MLA seat in 2009 and MLC seat in 2011 were not given to my father because of him," he said.

Referring to the IT Hub in Khammam, he said that the building was ready and it would be inaugurated on December 7.

## 7 die after SUV rams into lorry near Hyd

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2**

Seven members of a family were killed and four others sustained injuries when a car they were traveling 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 Innova 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

Bahadurpura, his wife Fousia Begum, 40, daughter Mehak Saniya, 18, Naziya Begum, 30, a resident of Kalapathar, Harsiya Begum, 28, of Tadban and her four-year-old daughter Asha. Meanwhile, Syed Ali, Begum, Naushaer and Anwar Khan, besides an infant, sustained injuries.

According to police, the family from Hyderabad was on its way to Gurmitkal for the treatment of Nazia Begum who had suffered a paralytic stroke.

"In an attempt to overtake a vehicle before them, they steered right and crashed into a borewell vehicle coming from the opposite direction. Police teams reached the spot to extricate the bodies from the badly mangled vehicle.

The injured were shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad for treatment and the bodies were taken to a government hospital in Chevella for post-mortem," police said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public in general are hereby informed that Smt. Ravula Sathyavathi W/o Srinivas, R/o H.No. 8-6-385/6, Alkapuri Colony, Karimnagar forwarded an application before SBI, Market Road Branch, Karimnagar for availing take over loan. Smt. Ravula Sathyavathi mortgage the house bearing No. 8-6-385/6 constructed in plot no 55 in Sy. No. 84/1D with an area 178 sq. yds. situated at Alkapuri colony of Karimnagar. She purchased the said plot from Akula Satyanarayana through Regd. Sale Deed bearing Doc. No. 3009/2016. She stated that she lost her original link document bearing Doc. No. 2090/95. In this regard she lodged an application before P.S. I town, Karimnagar, police made efforts to trace out the said document, but they gone in vein.

If any body have any claim or right over the property or above the document, they may approach me or Manager SBI Market Road Branch, Karimnagar with documentary evidence within (7) days from this notice. Other wise bank will initiate loan proceeding.

Sd/- Thuniki Srinivas Reddy, Advocate  
H.No.2-10-119, Jyothinagar,  
Karimnagar  
Cell: 9440070078

## FINAL FAREWELL She successfully identified criminals

## Police canine Julie laid to rest

**ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, DEC. 2**

Jayashankar Bhupalpally district police sniffer dog, Julie, passed away due to sickness on Wednesday.

District Superintendent of Police, Sangaram Singh G. Patil and other officials at the district police headquarters paid rich homage.

The Labrador, born in 2008, was inducted into the police department after it received training in identifying criminals. Dog squad handler P. Ramesh said, "Julie was like family to us. She successfully identified criminals, served VIP's, and

■ **BORN IN 2008**, she was inducted into the police department after receiving training in identifying criminals.

■ **DISTRICT** Superintendent of police, Sangaram Singh G. Patil and other officials paid rich tributes.

identified explosives during the combing operation in agency areas while inspecting culverts."

The final rites of Julie were held with full honours at Bhupalpally.



Jayashankar Bhupalpally district Superintendent of Police Sangaram Singh G. Patil along with other officials pay floral tribute to Julie on Wednesday.

## GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ELECTRICAL AUTOS TO 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.

In the first phase, loans will be given to 1,000 members across the state to purchase autorickshaws, both for passenger and transport vehicles, and the department will provide training and driving licences to interested women, officials said.

Each vehicle costs around ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh and 100 per cent loan will be sanctioned without any contribution from the member.

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## SHORT TAKES

## STAY ALERT ON COUNTING DAY, SAYS KCR

From Page 1

Quoting the Chief Minister, sources said, "There will not be any surprise if the party crosses 100 seats, as the inputs indicate that the peace-loving people of Hyderabad chose the decisive forces against the divisive forces in the civic body polls".

The party's divisions in-charge informed the Chief Minister that voters rallied towards the ruling party in a majority of wards.

They also told the Chief Minister that it appeared that voters don't believe the promises of the BJP.

If the voters were impressed with the hype created by the BJP, they claim people would have come to all the polling centres.

Sources said the Chief Minister asked the party leaders to be cautious during the counting of votes on Thursday as opposition parties may create trouble during the counting as the trend visibly favours the TRS.

Cautioning the party leaders about the possibility of opposition parties trying to invalidate the votes cast in favour of the ruling party, Rao asked the party leaders to alert the counting agents and candidates to watch each ballot carefully.

## DOCS RELUCTANT TO BE PART OF DRY RUN

From Page 1

The dry run of cold chain set-up is being carried out at the primary healthcare centre at Abids. The cold chain has to maintain the two-dose vaccination regime of Day 0 and Day 28.

The Central team will also look at data and logistical support to ensure effective implementation.

Doctors in both private and government hospitals, however, are wary of being part of the dry run of vaccination and have refused to participate in the vaccination regime.

A senior doctor on condition of anonymity says, "All healthcare workers to be immunised on a top priority! Is this a way to get volunteers for mass immunisation programmes even before the third and fourth stages of clinical trials are not over?"

Doctors claim that their opinion was not taken on whether they want to be vaccinated during the dry run. Many of the doctors opined that they will not respond to the call for vaccination. Several others, however, feel a vaccine approved by DCGI will be safe and believe that the government will approve the vaccine that is 80 per cent efficient.

Another group of doctors stated that they have been taking prophylaxis (treatment taken to prevent disease) and have treated hundreds of Covid-19 patients. So, why must they take vaccines now, they question.

The vice-president of TS Indian Medical Association Dr Sanjiv Singh Yadav, said, "The efficacy of the vaccine is the most important criteria and there are past experiences which show that it takes years to determine efficacy in different population groups."

Experts state that there has to be consensus among the medical community before chalking out the programme of administering vaccines to them.

● **DOCTORS CLAIM** that their opinion was not taken on whether they want to be vaccinated during the dry run.

## BJP files complaint against Kavitha with poll panel

## Party says the MLC voted in Bodhan last year

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD/  
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 2

Telangana unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday complained to Election Commission of India (ECI) against ruling TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha casting her vote in Tuesday's Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

In a letter to ECI, BJP's state general secretary G. Premender Reddy pointed out that the MLC had cast her vote in Bodhan assembly constituency the last time assembly and Lok Sabha elections were held. He maintained that Kavitha had used the same EPIC

● **PREMENDER REDDY** felt this makes it evident that she has indulged in electoral malpractice by voting in two different places using the same ID. He demanded that the ECI must take action and disqualify Kavitha from her MLC's post.

number Voter ID in GHMC elections too to cast her vote.

Premender Reddy felt this makes it evident that she has indulged in electoral malpractice by voting in two different places using the same ID. He demanded that taking this into consideration, ECI must take action and disqualify Kavitha from her MLC's post.

## BLAMING TRS FOR LOW TURNOUT IS UNFAIR, SAYS KAVITHA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Nizamabad MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha feels it is unfair on part of opposition parties to blame Telangana Rashtra Samithi for low turnout of voters in GHMC polls.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday after performing pujas at Patabazar Shivalayam, along with civil supplies minister Gangula Kamalakar in Karimnagar, she expressed confidence that ruling TRS would win 100 seats in the corporation elections.

The MLC slammed

BJP state president and local MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar for not sanctioning a single rupee for development of Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency.

She pointed out that it was minister Kamalakar who played a key role in development of Karimnagar by getting ₹1,000 crore sanctioned for it.

Kavitha retorted that instead of questioning about development of Telangana, the BJP president should have focussed on getting funds for the same from the central government.

## FILL UP POST OF WOMEN PANEL CHIEF, HC TELLS TS

VUJJINI  
VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday gave a last chance to the Telangana state government to appoint the Chairperson to State Women's Commission by this month end.

The court also cautioned the government and the chief secretary that if the orders were not complied with by 31 December 31 then it will have to consequences. The court was also upset with the government's apathy in filling the post and keeping vacant for years together.

The court faulted the government and said though the latter might feel that all posts and statutory institutions were not necessary it opined they are very much mandatory. The court adjourned the issue to January 4, 2021 adding by that time the government should submit a report by complying its orders.

## INTER ADMISSION DEADLINE GETS EXTENDED

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) on Wednesday announced that the last date for admission to First Year Intermediate for 2020-21 has been extended up to December 12.

This will be the last chance for candidates seeking admission into First Year and that no further extensions will be permitted after this, the Board stated.

SRIRAM KARRI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Ever since Telangana State Election Commissioner C. Parthasarathy 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 bickering between Parthasarathy 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 alle-

## Unicef calls for focus on hygiene in virtual conclave

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

A three-day virtual conclave on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), organised by UNICEF in collaboration with state governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), began on Wednesday, with a stress on the importance of hygiene, in the pandemic context.

Stressing on the importance of hygiene, Meital Rusdia, Chief, UNICEF Hyderabad Office, said, "The need to prioritise water, sanitation and hygiene for communities has increased exponentially world-wide due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Good hygiene, including hand-washing with soap, is the first line of defense against Covid-19 besides many other diseases."

The theme for this year's conclave brought diverse

players including government, civil society, private sector and academia under one platform to deliberate on WASH strategies, creating an opportunity for collaboration and partnership between state players.

Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Biswabhusan Harichandan, and Director General, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Alka Upadhyaya participated in the event.

## Accused in boy's murder, tries to electrocute self

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, DEC. 2

Manda Sagar, the main accused in the abduction and murder of a nine-year-old boy, Kusuma Deekshith Reddy, of Mahbubabad, attempted suicide on Tuesday night. He was shifted immediately to the MGM hospital for treatment.

According to Warangal Central Prison Superintendent J. Murali Babu, the incident took place when the accused, was let out of the high-security barracks to make a phone call, as is the practice at the prison every Tuesday. "While returning back with two other prisoners, Manda Sagar suddenly stopped on seeing the starter box of the borewell motor pump.

He pulled out the fuse, and put his finger with the intention to kill himself. Due to the shock, he fell on the floor and



Accused Manda Sagar undergoes treatment at the MGM hospital on Wednesday.

lost consciousness for one hour. His health condition is stable now and he is shifted to the prison again. A complaint is lodged at the Matwada police station against Manda Sagar for attempting suicide," Mr Murali Babu said.

The 23-year-old mechanic was arrested in October by the Mahbubabad police and shifted to the Warangal Central Prison on November 20. He was taken to the Forensic Lab in Hyderabad for testing his voice three days back.

## Politicians advised to home quarantine

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Director of public health, Dr G. Srinivas Rao, has advised a week's complete isolation for all political leaders, party workers and those actively involved in campaigning for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections amid fears of a spread of SARS-Cov 2 infection that causes Covid-19.

Road shows, padayatras and public meetings led to gatherings of a large number of people from the city and outside. People were very close to each other and on many occasions, Covid protocol was given the go-by. There was also a lot of movement of leaders from different states to the city, which also allowed movement of viruses and its subsequent transmission.

The fatigue felt by all those involved in electioneering could lead to an immune-compromised state besides being a slip for the virus to attack. Dr Prabhu C, senior consultant, who has treated more than 1,000 Covid-19 patients, says,

"The road shows have allowed the spread of the infection. We will see a rise in positive cases in GHMC limits within the next 10-15 days. It is best that they quarantine themselves for the next 15 days. 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 per cent. We have the highest recovery rate of 96.03 per cent."

## PANEL FORMED TO TRAP TIGER THAT KILLED 15-YR-OLD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Following the tiger attack on a 15-year-old in Kondapally gram panchayat on November 29, the conservator of forests in Adilabad, C.P. Vinod Kumar, has constituted a monitoring committee to track and deal with the tiger.

Apart from himself, the committee comprises Imran Siddiqui, HyTICOS, Venkat from the NGO RECAP, in Kagaznagar, Dr. Shwetaha, veterinary assistant surgeon, Kagaznagar, Upasi Sanjeev, sarpanch, district forest officer, KB Asifabad and forest divisional officer, Kagaznagar.

The committee has also been entrusted the task of drawing a plan of action for dealing with the animal keeping in mind the safety of the people living in the nearby areas, their livestock and also safety of the tiger.

## Eyeing for man of the match



Finance minister T. Harish Rao who was busy with campaigning for the GHMC elections till Tuesday spent time playing a cricket match in Siddipet on Wednesday. A friendly match was held between the Siddipet Cricket Association and the Hyderabad Medicover Hospital. Harish batted for the Siddipet Cricket Association and made 18 runs in 12 balls with two boundaries.

## Huge turnout tribute to our services, says MIM

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

MIM candidates and sitting corporators from the flood-affected areas in Old City claimed that an increase in turnout endorses their work during the lockdown and floods. He said that the turnout was way above the expectations.

Abdul Wahab, sitting corporator and MIM candidate from Chandrayangutta claimed that in flood-affected areas of O Block, B Block, H Block, D Block and part of A Block in Hafiz Baba Nagar, the poll percentage

touched 70% in certain polling booths. Overall it was 65%, while the cumulative poll percentage in the Division was 51.84%.

He claimed that voters have recognised the services rendered by them and the party during the crisis. "Our party has not only extended monetary assistance to the victims but our workers also helped the residents in cleaning the houses after floods and had provided food apart from providing the immediate financial assistance from the government," he said.

Corporator from Kan-

chan Bagh Reshma Fatima is satisfied with the poll percentage. In her division, the total poll percentage was 47.98%. However, voters from flood-hit areas showed enthusiasm and polled up to 70%, she claimed.

Her husband Abdur Rahman Shah said "people did not forget our services. Our party did not forget the poor people during the times of crisis and extended all possible support, including financial aid. Apart from our side, we have "provided ₹40 lakh aid in our Division given by the state government."

## 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 col-

lege management of cheating when it comes to admitting meritorious 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 EAM-CET merit list. Parents allege college authorities are selling seats to the highest bidders and saying that admissions into the course are now closed.

## RPF patted for saving children

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

The Railway Protection Force, South Central Railway (SCR), in collaboration with Terre des Hommes, the Netherlands, Children of Indian Foundation, and CPRL-CESS, Hyderabad held a workshop on 'strengthening of child protection mechanisms in railways' on Wednesday.

The workshop was held at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, and Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat as the chief guest.

RPF's principal chief security commissioner G.M. Eshwar Rao was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occa-

● **RPF'S PRINCIPAL** chief security commissioner swara Rao said that along with protecting railway property and providing security to passengers, every RPF personnel should concentrate on identifying and rescuing children and women found in distress.

sion, Bhagwat stated that police are able to control the prevention of child/human trafficking only with the great support and co-operation from the RPF, other responsible government departments and non-governmental organisations in Telangana state.

"As trafficking is always considered as the 'basket

of crime' which is also an organised crime, the knowledge on protecting children in distress found in the railway stations should be improved. Women and children are most vulnerable. I requested the RPF to pay special attention on identifying suspected offenders and rescuing victims," he said.

Speaking on the importance of effective implementation of the existing Acts against trafficking, he requested the law enforcement officials to have effective prevention, protection and prosecution. He also advised on maintaining the confidentiality of the identity of victims of such abuses. He called upon everyone to work with dedication

and passion, irrespective of the level of the profession, for protecting children.

Eswara Rao said that along with protecting railway property and providing security to passengers, every RPF personnel should concentrate on identifying and rescuing the children and women found in distress.

He said that SCR RPF have rescued around 2,300 children and replaced them to their native locations. Assuring to end child exploitation, he advised the participants to adopt the SOP on Child protection.

Senior RPF officials, RPF & Police Personnel, Staff and NGO members were present during the workshop.

## Child labour not employed, says SEC

SRIRAM KARRI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 2

Ever since Telangana State Election Commissioner C. Parthasarathy 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 bickering between Parthasarathy 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 alle-

gations 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 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 by and large. The voting exceeded

## DC EXCLUSIVE



C. Parthasarathy

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.







## 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 county 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 farm 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 fooled 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

It'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 Merriem-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, "cancelling" them all.

Now all this hooah 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.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

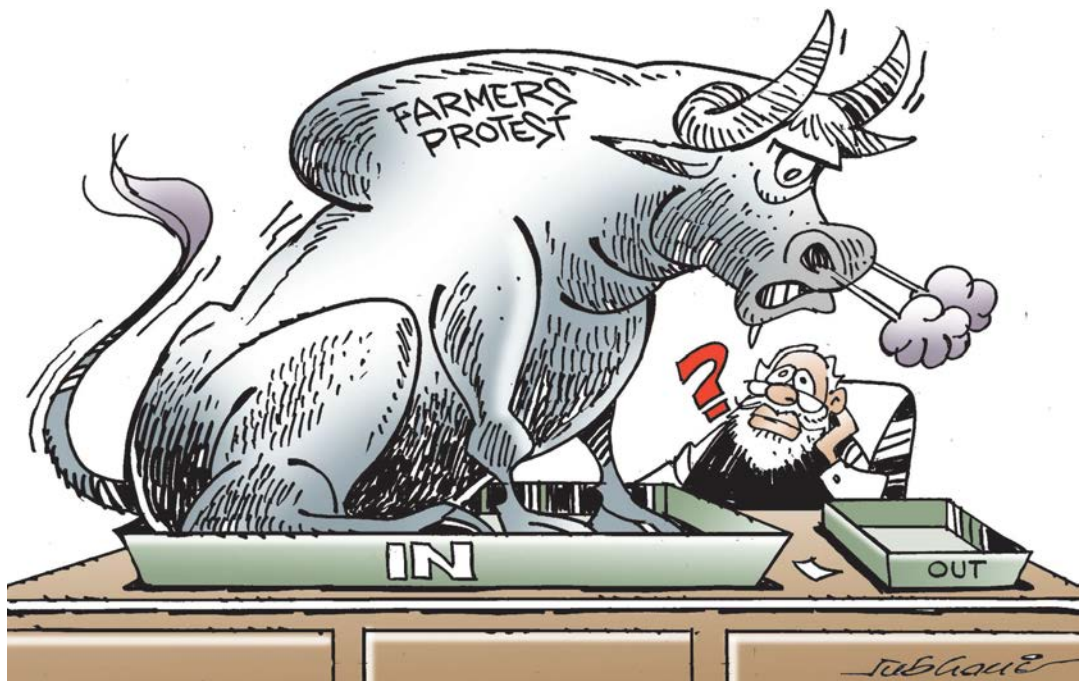
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Subhani



### Pay heed to shadow pandemic of hunger



Patralekha 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 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-

etables the price surge has moved to all the major food components as well," Joseph Thomas, head of research at Emkay Wealth Management, told *Live Mint* newspaper last month.

"The urban poor are particularly vulnerable as the economy stagnates in a post-Covid scenario. It is imperative that the Central government should continue the additional foodgrains being provided under the PDS (public distribution system) for another year and supplement in with free pulses, eggs and oil. Without this minimal package, we are unlikely to be able to stave off hunger and starvation in urban areas," says Biraj Patnaik, executive director of the National Foundation for India and formerly the principal adviser to the commissioners of the Supreme Court in the Right to Food case for close to a decade.

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, many 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

**Though the Centre 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**

**How steeply is malnutrition mounting in India? How severely have children been hit? The short answer: We don't know! There is no official data on this just as there is none on migrant workers who died during the lockdown.**

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 Peoples' 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. According to the WFP, the latest figures show 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-

veys 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 us 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.

Ms Sinha says that 'the massive nutrition portal that was developed at great cost and was supposed to be providing the Centre and states data on delivery of services to children and mothers across nearly 14 lakh anganwadis is not in the public domain and there is no official data on the magnitude of hunger and malnutrition in the country.'

Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres, which are meant to take care of severely malnourished children (SAM), were also non-functional during the lockdown months, and we don't know what has happened to such children during the lockdown and how well or otherwise they have coped, she adds.

Last month, the Central government issued an order allowing the states to reopen anganwadis outside containment zones with immediate effect.

Hopefully, the anganwadi workers will now be enabled to record the height, weight, body mass index (BMI), body circumferences and other anthropometric data of children and monitor their growth, which took a hit during the nationwide lockdown. This data, if and when it materialises, will be critical for policy interventions for the most vulnerable.

Meanwhile, it is vital to track hunger stories in all their variations and demand action.

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

#### 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 it 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 Amendmending 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.

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 Sampatram 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 to 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.

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@Twitter.com.*



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)* (₹)	48,169.675	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

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.



■ 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 its 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 Red-See 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 market-place 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. Post-lockdown, several brands have started selling through their websites, using logistics from third-party players.

"The hiring activity was more predominant in the southern states, while north and west saw almost similar levels of hiring. The hiring was also more spread out to cover newer locations, though large cities still accounted for a large part of the hiring," said Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive vice president, Team-Lease Services. The festive season sales

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.

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. However, 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.

China buys first Indian rice in three decades

RAJENDRA JADHAV MUMBAI, DEC. 2

China has begun importing Indian rice for the first time in at least three decades due to tightening supplies from Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam and an offer of sharply discounted prices, Indian industry officials said.

India is the world's biggest rice exporter and China the biggest importer.

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.

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

"We expect a better H2 FY21 and a stronger FY22 on a very low base and recovery. However, we will remain watchful for the post festive months," Patil said.

CULTURED | MEAT Product is created from animal cells without slaughter of chicken

Singapore first to approve lab-created meat sales

LESLIE PATTON DEC. 2

Eat Just Inc, a maker of meat and egg substitutes, has been approved to sell its laboratory-created chicken in Singapore, which becomes the first government to allow the sale of cultured meat.

The product, created from animal cells without the slaughter of any chicken, will debut in Singapore under the Good Meat brand as a chicken bite with breading and seasoning in a single restaurant. Eat Just is initially working with local manufacturer the Food Innovation and Resource Centre to make the cultured chicken. Additionally, the com-

pany is buying more equipment to expand sales to other restaurants-and eventually grocery stores.

"We want Singapore to be the focus of our manufacturing globally," chief executive officer Josh Tetrick said in an interview. "They're just really forward thinking in building an enabling environment for this kind of work."

He added that the chicken's flavour and taste are the same as the real thing.

Singapore is moving quickly to allow the sale of cultured meat, a move that fits into its broader food-security agenda. The densely populated nation, which relies mostly on other countries for food,



has deepened its focus on getting enough to eat for its 5.7 million people as the Covid-19 crisis exposes fragility in supply chains worldwide.

In response to the pandemic, Singapore is trying to produce 30 per cent of its own food by 2030, up from less than 10 per cent today. It has recently accelerated funding for local

farms.

"Singapore has really spent a lot more time and energy getting this right than Western Europe and the US," Tetrick said.

The new chicken product will be priced similar to premium chicken for the first six months, Tetrick said, adding that the cost will come down over time as the company

builds global scale. "Eventually we want to get to the place where it is significantly more cost effective than conventional production."

That could take a while, since chicken is one of the most inexpensive proteins. In the US, it's also the most popular-with consumption being higher than that of any other meat. Grocery stores regularly sell \$5 whole rotisserie chickens, and some restaurants offer \$1 chicken sandwiches.

At the same time, fast-food chains and grocery stores have been rapidly adding meat alternatives to their menus. While cultured meat is real meat, and not a plant-based sub-

stitute, it can be marketed as more humane and environmentally sustainable.

In Singapore, cultured burgers may be next. Eat Just is planning to submit its application for lab-created beef there during the first half of next year. The approval process for cultured meat products is moving slower in Europe and the US.

San Francisco-based Eat Just, which isn't yet profitable, is planning an initial public offering in the US at some point.

"Our plan is to hit operating profitability before the end of next year," Tetrick said, adding the company would look to go public at some point after that. —Bloomberg

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.

HATSUN TO EXPAND IN MAHA, ODISHA

Chennai, Dec. 2: Dairy products maker Hatsun Agro Product Ltd said it will set up new HAP Dairy outlets in Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha and Chattisgarh. 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, is being manufactured at its Greater Noida, UP factory. The company has started the sale of Vivo V20 Pro across retail stores and e-commerce portals at a price of Rs 29,990 per unit.

PEN MAKERS CHARGED ON WRONG GST SLAB

Kolkata, Dec. 2: The Rs 2,000-crore writing instrument industry said a GST of 18 per cent, instead of 12 per cent, is being wrongly slapped on some products and inputs while the units are facing a demand slump, with educational institutions staying closed.



## 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. Narzary 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. Jamshedpur'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 Mischanuk 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 Vani Kapoor (72). Yet another amateur, Hunar Mittal was tied third with 73 alongside Siddhi Kapoor and Trimann Saluja. Saaniya Sharma and Amandeep Drall were tied sixth with 74 each while Lakshmehar 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. N. 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), Jahar 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

**Europa League:** AC Milan vs Celtic from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1; Zorya Luhansk vs Leicester City from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 3; LASK vs Tottenham Hotspur from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; AZ Alkmaar vs Napoli from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Roma vs Young Boys from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six; Nice vs Leverkusen from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3; Arsenal vs Rapid Wien from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2

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# Blues pull one back

## Hardik, Bumrah win it for India; Australia clinch series

**Canberra, Dec. 2:** Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah found his mojo and the Indian team its winning ways in a morale-lifting 13-run triumph over Australia in the third and final ODI on Wednesday, salvaging some of the lost pride in a 1-2 series defeat.

An in-form Hardik Pandya blasted 92 not out off 76 balls and Ravindra Jadeja's useful 66 off 50 took India to a healthy 302 for 5 in 50 overs after an inept show in the first 30 overs.

It was at least 30 runs short of a par-score on a good batting track but a rejigged bowling attack managed to restrict the home team to 289 all out in 49.3 overs.

Shardul Thakur (3/51) and debutant Thangarasu Natarajan (2/70 in 10 overs) did their bit but it was Bumrah's (2/43 in 9.3 overs) controlled effort with some swing upfront and the dismissal of a marauding Glenn Maxwell in the nick of time which ultimately turned the match in India's favour.

Bumrah did the most important thing by bowling one in the block-hole that had the dangerous Maxwell (59 off 38 balls) having his own little "brain fade" moment trying to free his arms exposing the stumps.

The 'Big Show' was in a mood to punish the bowlers and all he needed was to see off Bumrah and attack the others as he was doing. The cushion provided by his "senior" helped Natarajan to start bowling his yorkers under pressure and Thakur also chipped in with necessary wickets.

The inconsequential



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 wks, in 50 overs) 302.**  
**FoW:** 1-26, 2-82, 3-114, 4-123, 5-152.  
**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.  
**Australia:** M. Labuschagne b T. Natarajan 7, A. Finch c Dhawan b R. Jadeja 75, S. Smith c

Rahul b S. Thakur 7, M. Henriques c Dhawan b S. Thakur 22, C. Green 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.**  
**FoW:** 1-25, 2-56, 3-117, 4-123, 5-158, 6-210, 7-268, 8-278, 9-278.  
**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.

# Kohli feels relieved after win

**Canberra, Dec. 2:** India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday said the consolation win over Australia in the third and final ODI was a timely "boost" for the remainder of the tour, made possible by the freshness that came with a changed squad.

India, who made four changes going into the game, got past Australia by 13 runs to pick up a win after losing the series. India will next take on the hosts in three T20 Internationals (starting Friday) followed by four Tests (starting December 17).

"We were put under the pump in the first half and in the second half of Australia's innings. Shubman (Gill) and others coming in, it brings in a bit freshness... The team needed that kind of a boost," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

The India bowlers, who looked ordinary in the first two games, got a lot

## 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. Sadagoppan 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	12years, 106 days
S. Tendulkar (India)	309	300	15 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 KAISER

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 for the first time with Haas 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.

Haas team principal Guenther Steiner welcomed the two F1 debutants in a tweet: "Super excited about having two rookies in our team for next year! Welcome, Mick!"

They replace Haas's current driver pairing of Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen.

"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

● **Mick Schumacher 21, long-tipped for a Formula One spot, 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.

Steiner said the Formula 2 championship had long served as a proving ground for talent to showcase their credentials.

He added: "Mick has won races, collected podiums and excelled against some pretty exceptional talent in 2020. I firmly believe he's earned the opportunity to graduate into Formula 1 based on his performances." — AFP



# TT championships in Hyd from today

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 2**

The Telangana State Table Tennis Association is conducting the district and state championships from December 3 to 12 at three different venues in Hyderabad.

In view of prevailing pandemic situation the championships will be conducted only in singles events and state teams for the ensuing nationals at Sonapat (Haryana) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) will be selected, TSSTA secretary P. Prakash Raju stated in a press release.

Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Government of Telangana, Sports Authority of India and Table Tennis Federation of

India will be followed, the release read.

Following are the tournaments:

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

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

■ **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**

C. V. Anand won a grand double in the Hyderabad Open Tennis Association seniors tournament held at Surya Tennis Foundation in Bowenpally, Hyderabad.

Anand won both the singles and doubles titles in the 40+ category. In the singles final, the IPS officer and ardent sportsman got the better of Ch. Narasimulu by a 9-5 scoreline.

Later, the fitness freak teamed up with Md. Waheed to defeat Ramakrishna & S. Ashok 8-4 in the doubles final of the tournament played under

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/ Srinivas bt V. Shankar/ V. Ganapathy 8-2.

**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



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. — AFP

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

striker Robert Lewandowski and stand-out goalkeeper Manuel Neuer but still did well enough to stop the Spanish side winning.

Atletico's in-form striker Joao Felix faced less competition without Neuer thwarting him, and he swept in Marcos Llorente's cross from the byline midway through the first half.

But veteran forward Thomas Muller equalised from the penalty spot in the 86th minute.

In Group A's other game, striker Mergim Berisha netted twice as Salzburg won 3-1 at Lokomotiv Moscow to move into third place and prevent the Russian side reaching the round of 16.

Salzburg will upset the odds and qualify if they beat Atletico Madrid at home next week, but Diego Simeone's Atletico need only a draw. — AP