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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2020

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Vol. 83 No. 326 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

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## Jubilee Hills Annex: AN ADDRESS EXTRAORDINAIRE



Close to Hyderabad  
Golf Course, Jubilee  
Hills Club, KBR Park,  
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Schools & IT Parks.

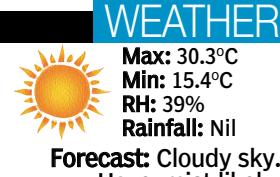
**APARNA**  
**one**

The Royal Society @ Jubilee Hills Annex

Shaikpet Main Road

BOOK TODAY Price 11,999\* SFT.

Construction is in rapid progress



Max: 30.3°C

Min: 15.4°C

RH: 39%

Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.

Haze, mist likely.

Max/Min temp. 30/16 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+45,827)	(+515)
92,20,703	1,34,727
covid19india.org	

## STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+921)	(+4)
TS: 2,65,049	1,437
(+1,085)	(+8)
AP: 8,63,843	6,956

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,97,86,447	DEATHS
14,07,642	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	218
worldometers.info/ coronavirus	

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Ekadasi till  
5.10 am (Thursday)

Star: Uttarabhadra till 6.20 pm

Varjyanam: Nil

Durmuhurtam: 11.40 am to

12.25 pm

Rahuakalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rabbubi Akhir 9, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.23 am

Zohar: 12.13 pm

Asar: 4.03 pm

Maghrib: 5.45 pm

Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.12 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 2.39 PM

## COUNTER POINT



...first dose to healthcare workers, political leaders and people of the states where elections are due!

## SHORT TAKE

### CENTRE BLOCKS 43 MORE CHINESE APPS

New Delhi: India on Tuesday blocked 43 more Chinese mobile apps, including Alibaba Group's e-commerce app AliExpress, in a fresh wave of web sanctions amid its border stand-off with China.

The banned applications, which include a few dating apps, were a threat to the "sovereignty and integrity of India", an official statement said.

The latest list of 43 mobile apps include AliSuppliers, Alibaba Workbench, AliExpress, Alipay Cashier, CamCard, Snack Video, WeDate, Chinese Social, TrulyChinese, ChinaLove, DateMyAge, FlirtWish and Guys Only Dating, Tubit, WeWorkChina, First Love Live, Rela, Cashier Wallet, Jellipop, Munchkin Match and Happy Fish Match.



BJP leader and Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy campaigns for his party candidate for the GHMC elections at Malkajgiri in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Report on Page 4

## Sanjay says BJP will do a surgical strike on Old City

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

**BANDI SANJAY** said parties trying to get votes from illegal sections are alleging that the BJP is a Hindu party, but he declared that the polls were between 'desh bhakths' and 'desh drohitis'.

Reminding people of Hyderabad that terror attacks and bomb blasts, which had become common in the past, like the Goluk Chaat blast and the Lumbini Park blast, had stopped once Narendra Modi-led BJP government came to power at the Centre. "If you want to end terror by Pakistanis in the country, support and vote for the BJP. Our party

alone can end the terror of anti-national and anti-social elements in Hyderabad," he said.

Sanjay said that elections should be held without the illegal staying Rohingyas and Pakistanis getting to vote and violating the integrity of India's elections. He said such anti-national forces were dividing the Hindus for political benefit.

He said parties trying to get votes from illegal sections are alleging that the BJP is a Hindu party, but he declared that the polls were between 'desh bhakths' and 'desh drohitis'.

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The PM was chairing a virtual meeting with the chief ministers of the eight worst-affected states, including his home state Gujarat. The government has, however, ruled out a nationwide lockdown to control the pandemic.

Mr Modi sought unity among states to combat the pandemic, but also attacked political rivals, and sources said that during the meeting he accused the Opposition of playing politics over the issue. He even pulled up Haryana Chief Minister M.L. Khattar for not coming up with a better strategy to combat the pandemic, as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sought her state's GST dues from the Centre.

Mr Modi added that the Centre's aim was to bring down the fatality rate, now at 1.7 per cent, to less than one per cent.

The PM convened the meeting as India saw 37,975 new Covid infections reported in the past 24 hours, taking the nation's aggregate number of infections to 91.77 lakhs, while recoveries crossed 86 lakhs, the Union health ministry's data showed.

While the national daily virus case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban areas — including Delhi —

## Congress promises ₹50,000 for every flood-hit family

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

**THE CONGRESS** promised free local transportation for women, students, divyangans and senior citizens in metro, MMTS and RTC buses. It promised to increase Basthi Dawakhanas.

houses were fully or partially destroyed or damaged, if Congress was voted to power in the GHMC elections," said Uttam Kumar Reddy.

"We also promise ex gratia of ₹25 lakh to families of those who have lost a member due to the floods," the Congress state president said.

As per the Congress manifesto, the party would constitute a 'Lakes Protection Authority' along with RWAs to protect lakes from encroachment.

The Congress also promised free local transportation for women, students, divyangans and senior citizens in metro, MMTS and RTC buses.

■ Page 6: Cong promises to cut private school fees

ment and land grabbing; besides ensuring regular desilting of nallas and construction of retaining walls / fencing.

The Congress promised to bring Covid-19 treatment under Aarogyasri. It also promised to improve the Gandhi, Osmania, Niloufer and other hospitals, increase Basthi Dawakhanas to 450 and extend their operating hours to 9 pm in slums besides providing four dedicated multi-specialty hospitals for reference of cases from them.

The Congress also promised free local transportation for women, students, divyangans and senior citizens in metro, MMTS and RTC buses.

Under the influence of these rains the temperature in the state was likely

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The southern districts of the state would witness rainfall under the influence of Cyclone Nivar, the Indian Meteorological Department-Hyderabad said on Tuesday. Heavy rain was likely to occur at isolated places in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri districts on Wednesday, while there is a possibility of very heavy to extremely heavy rain on Thursday. The cyclone is expected

to cross the Tamil Nadu coast on Wednesday evening. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning were likely on Friday, the IMD warning said. The districts that were likely to witness rains were Jagulambam-Gadwal, Wanaparthy, Nagarjunakonda, Mahabubnagar, Vikarabad, Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Yadadri-Bhongir, Jangaon, Nalgonda, Narayanpet and Khammam.

"Under the influence of these rains the temperature in the state was likely

to come down," said IMD Director K. Nagarathna.

IMD's impact-based weather forecast for Wednesday said: "Light to moderate rain or thunderstorms very likely to occur in many parts of city and at times intense spells in one or two areas of city." It said the maximum and minimum temperature would be about 29°C Celsius and 19°C. On Monday, with the minimum temperatures dropping to 15.4°C, one notch less than the norm for this time of the year.

## BRAHMOS WITH LONGER RANGE PASSES TEST

New Delhi, Nov. 24: India on Tuesday successfully test fired the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos as part of a series of planned trials of the weapon, known for its precision strike capabilities, official sources said.

The range of the new land-attack version of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km but its speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound, they said.

"The land-attack version of the missile was test-fired in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at around 10 am and it was a successful trial," an official source said.

According to official sources, in the next few days, the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy are scheduled to carry out separate test-firing of the new version of the air-launched and naval versions of the supersonic cruise missile respectively.

BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the lethal weapon that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

India has already deployed a sizeable number of the original BrahMos missiles along the LAC with China. — PTI

## DoT accepts Trai's recommendation; Decision will come into force from Jan. 1

## Landline to mobile calls get zero prefix

### FUTURE READY

● Come January 1, people need to add '0' before dialing a mobile number from landline phone.

● All landlines will be provided with STD dialling facility to enable them to make calls to mobile phones.

● The change in dialling pattern will allow the department of telecom generate 254.4 crore additional numbering resources for mobile services to cater to the future requirements.

ment of dialling the prefix '0' for all fixed-to-mobile calls," DoT said in a circu-

lar dated November 20. This announcement should be played whenever

a subscriber dials a fixed-to-mobile call without prefixing '0', it said.

"All the fixed line subscribers should be provided with '0' dialling facility, that is, STD dialling facility," said the circular posted on Department of Telecom's website.

DoT said that time till January 1 is allowed to all the telecom service providers to implement this new system. "Compliance of the same may be intimated," the telecom department said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Telecom





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**IN BRIEF**  
**IIT-H seminar on laser astrophysics**

**Hyderabad:** The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) will host a two-day international workshop on the topic 'Intense Laser Astrophysics Laboratory: Particle Generation and Application' on December 7 and 8. Dr Vandana Sharma, associate professor, department of physics, in collaboration with the University of Oxford UK, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Central Laser Facility, is organising it. Dr Sharma said a different aspect of laser interaction called Laboratory Astrophysics, will be presented in which an active synergy between laboratory experiments and theoretical modelling along with astronomical observation will be presented.

**Joint-webinar on visa-related issues**

**Hyderabad:** The Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), Telangana & AP, and Joel Reifman, the Consul General, US Consulate, Hyderabad, during a virtual interaction on Tuesday said that the authorities of the two institutions will host a joint webinar on visa-related issues for the benefit of Telugu students. The apex bilateral body synergizing India-US business relations, the IACC also discussed issues with regard to bilateral trade opportunities for industries and SMEs in Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh with the Consul General.

**TECHIE KILLED ON SUSPICION OF BLACK MAGIC**

**Hyderabad, Nov. 24:** A 38-year-old software engineer was killed in Jagtial district allegedly by his relative on suspicion that he performed black magic, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred on Monday evening when he had gone to visit his relative in Malaya mandal, they said. The victim, employed in Bengaluru, was set ablaze. Based on a complaint from his father, a case of murder was registered. However, the exact reason for the murder is yet to be ascertained, police said. Investigation was on.

**TRS FILES PLAINT AGAINST BJP MP WHO TORE FLEXIS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Banjara Hills police against BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind for removing its party posters and flexis.

After lodging the complaint, TRS secretary T. Madhusudan told the media that the party had got permission from the GHMC and State Election Commission to put up the advertisements. Only after this had the party installed hoardings in Banjara Hills division. Madhusudhan alleged that Arvind and his followers forcibly removed flexis and posters of TRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao and working president K.T. Rama Rao that were erected at KBR Park and three other places.

Madhusudhan said that the act of the MP amounted to goondaism and requested the police to initiate action against Arvind under several sections of the Indian Penal Code. The police were said to be examining the complaint.

# KTR chides BJP for 'hatred for Muslims'

Rama Rao counter-attacks BJP by equating their leaders with "cousins of Goebbels"

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Emphatically portending that the TRS would win the GHMC elections and reiterating that their principal rival was the MIM, even as the BJP and Congress would slug it out for number three slot, municipal administration and urban development minister and TRS working president K.T. Rama launched a scathing attack against the BJP, equating their leaders with "cousins of Goebbels". Daring the BJP to answer 50 questions he had, Rama Rao said, "the BJP is working with a sole slogan — Becho India. We counter appeal to people — Socho India."

While addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan, he said, "from state leaders to central ministers, everyone in BJP is spreading hatred and lies. BJP is trying to hide their inefficiency behind lies."

Alleging that the Narendra Modi Government was on an asset and public enterprises selling spree, he said, "they are selling Air India, Life Insurance Corporation of India and privatizing the prestigious Indian Railways, among others. We are scared they will sell Charminar, Golconda, and privatize GHMC if given a chance." Rubbishing the BJP's chargesheet against his government, Rao said, "in their chargesheet, they called our government the TRS-MIM sarkar. In reality, we were never in alliance with the MIM. This shows their ill-intentions and hatred for the Muslim



TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao addressing a road show for TRS candidates in the upcoming GHMC elections at Ramnagar in Hyderabad on Tuesday. — GANDHI

community."

Wondering why the BJP even released a chargesheet, he sarcastically said, "is it for TRS achieving exceptional progress in Telangana in just six years, which states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, created by the BJP couldn't achieve?"

Going on a bombastic rhetoric marked by anaphora, Rama Rao said, "the youth of Hyderabad should file chargesheets against the BJP for cancelling the ITIR project. Migrant should file chargesheets against BJP for charging money for rail travel and food expenses during lockdown." "Even God should file a chargesheet against the BJP for blaming God for economic slowdown to cover their failed economic policies and inefficiency. When we demand our rightful share in taxes, they term us separatists. But in reality, BJP leaders are the real separatists, who were with the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

- KTR HURLED SEVERAL QUESTIONS AT THE BJP. INTERESTING ONES ARE:**
- Aren't you selling PSUs, which generate thousands of crores of income, as cheap as chips?
  - Aren't you privatising the world's fourth-largest railway network?
  - Haven't you collected railway ticket charges from helpless migrant workers during lockdown?
  - Isn't your government evading GST dues to Telangana?
  - Aren't you preparing ground to fix meters for agricultural borewells through the new Electricity Act?
  - You are calling us separatists for asking for a rightful share in taxes. Aren't you the one who shared power with a separatist party?
  - Despite low crude oil prices, aren't you responsible for doubling fuel prices?
  - Didn't you evade a special grant as recommended by 15th Finance Commission to compensate for Rs 735 crore loss due to tax devolution?
  - Did you give even a single rupee additional to Hyderabadi?
  - Aren't you the one who didn't sanction even a single paise for flood relief?
  - Aren't you trying to privatise PSUs in Hyderabad such as BHEL, MIDHANI and ECL?
  - Aren't you responsible for not handing over cantonment roads to build skyways for traffic decongestion?



Leaders of political parties visit Gurudwara Saheb at Ameerpet on Tuesday to seek blessings for the upcoming GHMC elections.

## Sikhs want better jobs, educational facilities

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL  
IDC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

off the block to reach out to the community.

"They have helped with a parking lot and laid a white-topped road near our gurudwara. These are welcome and shows they care. But what we really need is a minority office for Sikhs for better execution of benefits for the community," said Sardar Darshan Singh, general secretary of the Sikh Education Society of Hyderabad.

"Our youth need more scholarships for overseas higher education. The government should support downtrodden families in the community. Many work as blacksmiths and need financial assistance and support," he said.

Political parties court the community's support by visiting gurudwaras and seeking their votes during election time. This time too, it has been no different.

The TRS has been first

he added.

Kuldeep Kaur, a housewife from Sikh Chawni in Attapur, said a good education eludes many youngsters from the community, particularly from families that cannot afford to send children to private schools.

"Quality education is not available in the government run schools. The community should be given better educational facilities. In absence of this, many Sikh students are not pursuing higher education. The government should work out a system where such students get seats and financial aid," she said.

Hardayal Singh, also of the Chawni, said, "this residential land was awarded to our forefathers by the Nizam. We are paying taxes, but our ownership needs to be regularised by the government."

Asking for the people's complete support, Rama Rao said, "Let's not spare anyone this time. Let's win over the BJP and the MIM."

He said the Gandipet reservoir was built in 1920, from where the drinking water was supplied to Hyderabad. No one had added to the water sources. He claimed that in the last 100 years no leader had thought about the increasing population in Hyderabad and its needs.

"It is only KCR who thought about it and decided to build the Keshavpuram reservoir which will ensure that there is no water crisis until 2050 in Hyderabad," Rama Rao said.

Stating that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is a futuristic leader, Rama Rao highlighted the KCR Kits, Kalyana Lakshmi, and other schemes introduced by the TRS government under his leadership.

Rama Rao said that the TRS government would be spending ₹450 crore to build a steel bridge near RTC crossroads which will provide major relief to traffic in the area.

choices in life. "The unmarried candidates might not show interest and can be carried away by power at a young age. Being married and having a family teaches one how to be sensible. A bachelor might not think twice before spending money but a married person will try to utilise the cash and analyse their expenditure," said V. Pushpalatha,

36, an independent from Kapra. Agreeing with her, Mallesham Pulimamidi, 33, a Telangana Jana Samiti candidate from LB Nagar, said that married people will be more responsible. "Not that youngsters are not capable but it is not about the age. It is purely about experience and maturity."



B. Bala Prashanthi  
V. Pushpalatha

makes communicating with the masses easier, since our agendas are similar to their's," he said.

Adding to this, B. Bala Prashanthi, 24, a Congress candidate contesting from Begumpet, said that youngsters can bring change in society. "It's not like the elderly lot are bad, but the last five years speaks for itself.

We, the youngsters, will be selfless in the causes. The people in my area are welcoming me like their own. Hopefully, the fight for a better Hyderabad will be won by the young minds," she said.

Married contestants opine that having a family teaches one how to be responsible for their

## 40 BC unions extend support

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Chandrashekar Rao had ensured social justice by allocating 75 per cent seats to Backward Classes candidates, 13 seats to those from the Scheduled Castes and three to the Scheduled Tribes and 17 seats to nominees from the minority communities.

He pointed out though 50 per cent reservations were given to women the Chief Minister had given 85 seats to women, which showed that he gave importance to the role played by women.

Rama Rao said that the TRS had given eight seats to the people who have settled in the city from Andhra Pradesh, as well as nominated settlers from Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. He appealed to the BC unions to vote for the TRS.



Mounted police and other cops of Cyberabad participate in a flag march.  
— By arrangement

## CYBERABAD COPS HOLD FLAG MARCH IN CITY

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD NOV. 24

Ahead of the GHMC elections, The Rachakonda police organised a five-km flag march at various places in the commissionerate here on Tuesday, in preparation for the December 1 elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

A total of 250 personnel including 129 from the civil police and 121 from the TS Special Police (TSSP) will be deployed in sensitive and critical polling locations. Malkajgiri DCP Rakshita Murthy and senior police officials were present in the march. Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat, along with the TSSP platoons, City Armed Reserve, Mounted Police and the law and order police personnel conducted the flag march at Neredmet, Kushaiguda and Jawaharnagar, covering four GHMC wards that are marked sensitive.

## GOVT PROMISES HELP TO TEACHERS, NO CERTAINTY OVER REOPENING

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Addressing the concerns over the reopening of schools in the state, Rama Rao stated that most of the parents are apprehensive about sending their children to school amidst Covid-19. He cited reports of fresh cases in AP and teachers getting infected, which he said was a cause for concern.

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (Land Acquisition)

### Department FORM-VII DECLARATION

(State Rule 25 (1) in section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act 30/2013))

Gazette No. 57/2020 Date: 19-11-2020

District Collector, Siddipet Date: 19-11-2020

Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad File No. C/553/2020 Date: 16-11-2020

Government of Telangana / District Collector, Siddipet, it is hereby decided to acquire land of dimensions Ac. 10-10 guntas in the village of Vadur-Begampet Mandal, Siddipet District for public purpose namely for construction of Project - Package No.10 canal (MDCT-91, MDCT-78L, MDCA-45R) in construction of Kaleswaram Project. Therefore the declaration is issued under Section 19(1) of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.

The total area declared is 10.10 acres of following land of total Ac. 10-10 guntas in the village of Vadur-Begampet, Bejaniki Mandal, Siddipet District.

SCHEDULE

Village:Vadur-Begampet Mandal:Bejaniki District:Siddipet

Boundaries:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Nature of Land	Type of land	Area to be acquired	Name and address of land owner/ Patta/ Enjoys(E)/ interested persons	East	West	North	South	Structures (trees and other including trees & trees)
1	820	Patta	Dry	0.07	Bejaniki Ramudu s/o Malaiyah	828	826	826	826	1-Pipe Line
				0.06						-Nil-
				0.09						-Nil-
2	784	Patta	Dry	0.08	Yerolla Shankaiah s/o Malaiyah	784	784	784	784	-Nil-
				-	Shankaraiah Ambati Joseph s/o Reddy (P)					-Nil-
				0.21	Kachu Raju s/o Beriah (E)					-Nil-
3	781	Patta	Dry	0.08	Venna Kumariah s/o Komuriah	781	781	781	781	-Nil-
				-	Mulu Venkata Komuriah					-Nil-
4	786	Patta	Dry	0.0050	Yerolla Karumai s/o Nammalai	786	786	786	786	-Nil-
				-	Yerolla Venkata Komuriah					-Nil-
5	787	Patta	Dry	0.24	Balaji Karumai s/o Nammalai	787	787	787	787	-Nil-
				-	Dandi Shankarai s/o Ramaiah					-Nil-
6	791	Lavuni Patta	Dry	0.14	Venkayala Kamalaiah s/o Nammalai	791	791	791	791	-Nil-
				-	Chukka Venkayala s/o Ramaiah					-Nil-
				0.01	Venkayala Kamalaiah s/o Nammalai					-Nil-
				-						-Nil-

## IN BRIEF

**3-member gang held for bike theft**

**Hyderabad:** A three-member gang involved in stealing bikes from parking lots was arrested by the Pahadishareef police on Tuesday. Officials recovered 10 stolen motorcycles, worth ₹1.80 lakh, from them. The accused were identified as Shaik Habeeb, 24, from Kothpeta, Mond Nayeem Qureshi, 26, from Balapur and Mohd Asif Qureshi, 25, from Pahadi Shareef. The three are close friends and target parking areas of residential colonies. They steal the bikes by breaking their locks and then sell them to dealers in the city. They were involved in cases in Meerpet, Vanasthalipuram, Santoshnagar, LB Nagar and other places," said the police.

**Inter-state gang held for looting**

**Hyderabad:** The Cyberabad Special Operations Team arrested two members from an inter-state criminal gang involved in a series of house burglaries here, and seized gold and silver ornaments, along with a country-made weapon from them. The accused, Faheem alias ATM alias Faheemuddin, 35, and Mursaleem, 39, were also involved in several property offences in Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh since 2017, said the police. "Faheem is involved in murder, dacoity and robbery and kidnapping cases in Uttar Pradesh. He met Mursaleem while serving jail time in Moradabad jail in 2013," said Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar.

**Two arrested for smuggling drugs**

**Hyderabad:** The District Task Force along with the Uppal police arrested two men and seized four kilos of alprazolam, a narcotic, along with other chemicals at Nacharam on late Monday night. The accused, Pasupulati Manikyala Rao, 36, and A. Koti Reddy, 56, were arrested at the Nacharam bus stop. It was revealed during investigation that the duo was manufacturing the drug at a place in Balanagar and conducted a raid. "We found solvents and machinery used for production of alprazolam. We also seized 10 litres of ethyl acetate, xylene, chloroacetyl chloride, diaxone, 10 litres of mantel glass flask, aluminum covers among other things," said the official.

**SHABBIR SLAMS BANDI FOR 'SURGICAL STRIKE'**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Former minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir condemned BJP state president Bandi Sanjay's statement of conducting a "surgical strike" on the Old City after winning the GHMC elections.

In a statement, Shabbir Ali said: "As a member of Parliament, Bandi Sanjay must know that surgical strikes are conducted on enemy land and not in our own country. Is he trying to say that the Old City of Hyderabad is not a part of India? He should be ashamed of himself for stooping to such a low level just to win a few seats in GHMC elections."

He said, "Bandi Sanjay is clearly trying to create a divide in society on the basis of religion and it is highly regrettable that neither the Election Commission nor the Hyderabad police are taking any action against him for such provocative statements."

The Congress leader also accused MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi of promoting communalism in Hyderabad. He said the BJP and MIM were two sides of the same coin who wanted to win elections on the basis of religious hatred and not on the basis of performance.

● "AS AN MP, Bandi Sanjay must know that surgical strikes are conducted on enemy land and not in our own country. Is he trying to say that the Old City of Hyderabad is not a part of India? He should be ashamed for stooping to such a low level," Congress leader Shabbir Ali said.



BJP MP Tejaswi Surya, the Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha, and activists try to remove barbed wire to enter the Osmania University campus from the NCC gate side on premises where the police closed the gates, removed the barricades and later conducted meeting at Arts college in OU premises.

— S. SURENDER REDDY



Vivek Venkataswamy

**KCR IS LOOTING TS, FAILED TO FULFIL PROMISES: VENKATASWAMY**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

Vivek Venkataswamy, the BJP manifesto committee chairman and former MP, alleged on Tuesday that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was looting the state of its assets.

Vivek was speaking at a road show at Patancheru. He alleged that the Chief Minister had constructed Pragathi Bhavan with people's money, but did not fulfill promises to people.

He questioned the Chief Minister about the money spent on the farmhouses of ministers K.T. Rama Rao and MLC K. Kavitha. He asked Rama Rao about the development in Hyderabad where ₹67,000 had been claimed to have been spent over six years. He claimed that the money had been looted.

Vivek alleged that Chandrashekhar Rao's family had sold 200 acres in the Gachibowli area and asked how much they had earned. He claimed that Chandrashekhar Rao was staying at a farmhouse and enjoying his commercial crop even with people affected by Corona and floods.

He alleged that the Chief Minister was responsible for floods caused by the encroachments on nadas and lake beds. The people will vote for the BJP to develop Hyderabad, Vivek said.

**FARMERS STAGE PROTESTS FOR GOOD PRICE**

**DC CORRESPONDENTS**  
NIZAMABAD, KHAMMAM, NOV. 24

Farmers intensified their agitation in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts demanding remunerative price for paddy. The farmers under different organisations and political parties staged dharnas and blocked roads in several parts of the districts.

Farmers had incurred huge losses due to cultivation of fine variety paddy, which the government had advised, in the Vanakalam season.

To ensure minimum support price (MSP), the district administration set up paddy procurement centres in the districts but a few primary agriculture cooperative centres failed to procure the paddy on time. The farmers have been facing financial losses due to low prices and delay in procurement.

In Khammam, farmers led by the All Party Committee staged a rasta roko at Potti Sriramulu Centre in Nelakondapalli demanding minimum support price to the farm produce.

The farmers raised slogans against the government for not implementing MSP for paddy and cotton. CPI mandal convenor Banu Prasad said that the traders are not paying MSP to the paddy and the farmers are suffering a lot because of it.

**GHMC polls are a fight for self-respect: Surya****BJYM promises new Hyderabad if BJP wins elections**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

● **TEJASWI CHARGED** that Rao and his family had looted the state in the name of Bangaru Telangana. Alleging that bangaru (gold) went to their houses, the people were worrying about the debt-trap the state was in.

Telangana martyrs on the second day of his tour on Tuesday.

Speaking to the media at OU, he alleged that

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's government has tried to stop his visit using police force.

Tejaswi charged that Rao and his family had looted the state in the name of Bangaru Telangana. Alleging that bangaru (gold) went to their houses, the people were worrying about the debt-trap the state was in.

He said Telangana was not KCR's personal property and the ensuing GHMC elections will be fought for the people's self-respect and their well-being and the BJP was prepared to put an end to the Chief Minister's Nizam-like rule.

He said that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, the BJP will build a new Hyderabad and a more vibrant Telangana state.

He appealed to the youth in the campus to team a lesson to the Chief Minister and his family.

He said Telangana was not KCR's personal property and the ensuing GHMC elections will be

**Kishan: Pragathi Bhavan got ready but not houses for poor****BJP man bins TRS manifesto**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

unbecoming of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to announce freebies before the elections. It is clearly showing that the Chief Minister feared the rising acceptance levels of the BJP.

Rao said that people of Hyderabad have stopped believing the TRS and Chandrashekhar Rao as they have failed to honour their promises. He

said he was confident of a BJP win in the ensuing GHMC elections, which will have a national effect.

Accusing the MIM of having a history of demanding the state to be merged with Pakistan, he said would never forget such anti-national sentiments. The TRS and MIM will damage the development of Telangana state, he said.

accused TRS of resorting to money power to retain control of GHMC as their ego was dealt a major blow in the Durbukha by-election.

He said that Kalvakuntla and Owaisi families were on their way out and this alone can ensure better development of Hyderabad and Telangana. BJP will win the GHMC elections and provide a corruption-free administration to the civic body. He appealed to the people to

elect BJP corporators to enjoy better living conditions.

He said after the GHMC election results, IT Minister KT Rama Rao will pack his bags and head for the United States.

**Revanth says TRS has not kept promises, BJP can't work well**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

TPCC working president and MP A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday appealed to the people to question sitting corporators, MLAs and ministers about the promises which were made the last time.

Reddy campaigned at Mansoorabad, Chilukanagar, Habsiguda, Ramamthapur, Hayathnagar with road shows. Reddy told the people to ask about the LRS, which is burdening them and particularly selling their lands.

He said this is not an election between the Chief Minister and Prime Minister and stated that TRS leaders are grabbing money from people wishing to construct houses. He said when Union minister of home G. Kishan Reddy could not do a single work, how can BJP corporators achieve anything.

He said that when promises were not fulfilled in the last seven years, how can TRS leaders candidates promise to bring all schemes. He said the



State Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy campaigns for the party candidate in the December 1 GHMC elections at BN Reddy Nagar, Hyderabad, on — By arrangement

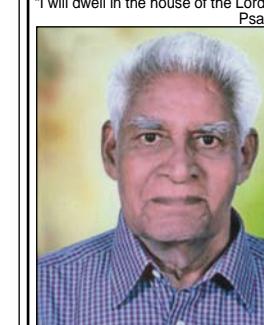
voters should opt for Congress if they wanted better performances. Revanth Reddy asked IT minister K.T. Rama Rao to visit rural areas in constituencies where there is no development and where TRS leaders were grabbing lakes. Reddy for not giving houses to poor people

and wanted to know even if one person guilty of collecting from flood victims was arrested.

He pointed out that ₹20 lakh crore funds are in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hand and yet he did not give a rupee to the flood victims of Telangana state.

**3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalms 23:6



(S/2021/D00846)

**Smt. KHANAPUR KRISHNA RAO SUSHEELA**

DOB: 22-05-1942 DOD: 25-11-2003

Ever in our hearts and miss you always

A tribute from Husband, Children, Grand Children and All KHANAPURS

Ph.No. Mob: 8985195150

(S/2021/D00861)

**17th DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN MEMORY OF**

"WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"

(PS.23.6)

15th Anniversary Remembrance

Sri. M.A.JACOB

DOB: 18-05-1931 DOD: 26-12-1989

Smt. M.J.ROSE MARY

DOB: 15-05-1940 DOD: 25-11-2005

We love and Miss You

Children and Families

9849727770

(S/2021/D00861)

**SMRITI IRANI TO CAMPAIGN TODAY**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

shows. On Thursday, Devendra Fadnavis, former chief minister of Maharashtra, will come to Hyderabad to release the BJP manifesto for the GHMC election. Union minister Prakash Javadekar and Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha president Tejaswi Surya have already campaigned in the city for the polls.

Two more national leaders of the BJP will be coming to Hyderabad to campaign in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections. Union minister Smriti Irani will be in the city on Wednesday to participate in road

**11th DAY CEREMONY**

**V.P. MAHENDRA (Raju)**

S/o Late V.C. Parathasarathy

DOB: 2-2-1958 DOD: 15-11-2020

We deeply mourn for the demise of the RAJA of our family on 25.11.2020 (Wednesday), at our residence, 9-3-31

Regional Bazar, Sec-bd-25

Insetted by: V.P. Lalitha (Mother)

V.M. Reshma (Elvis), V.S. Babita (Bro. Fly,

V.P. Usha Kiran & Fly, Una Fly,

Kalpana Fly (Sister), Family.

Mob: 900427657

(S/2021/D00862)

**"Her children arise and call her blessed" Prov. 31:28**

**Mrs. IVY PAUL**

Beloved Wife of Mr. J.B. Paul (Late)

S.C. Railway, Biratnagar

Sunrise: 14-09-1930 Sunset: 25-11-2011

Mummy, we remember your dynamism, uniqueness, divine nature and nurture

not just today but everyday Mom. Your missing is indeed

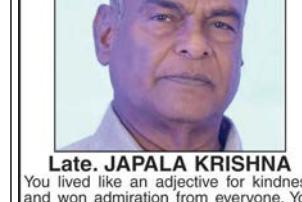
your loss.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Ph: 0012477092, 9884208088

(S/2021/D00869)

(S/2021/D00862)

**12th DAY CEREMONY**

**Late Shri PRASANNA DESHPANDE**

Sorrowing:

Mrs. & Dr. Pradeep Deshpande,

Ratkars, Palekars,

**IN BRIEF**  
**4 held for stealing cash from temples**

**Hyderabad:** Four men, including two juveniles, were arrested by the Medipally police on Tuesday for stealing cash collection boxes from temples.

Police said the gang was involved in 10 cases so far.

Officials recovered stolen material worth ₹1.2 lakh from their possession. "We arrested D. Mahesh, 19, Mohd Sameer, 20, along with the two juveniles. The gang resides in Achampet of Nagarkurnool and moves around on bikes," said the police. Previously, cases were booked against the gang in Medipally, Nagarkurnool and RGI Airport police stations.

**AKBAR FORCED TO DISCONTINUE HIS ADDRESS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

AIMIM Assembly floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi was forced to discontinue his speech in Musheerabad in Bholakpur division on Tuesday night after people in the audience started disrupting him by raising slogans and passing comments.

Disappointed with the reaction, Owaisi asked them whether they wanted to hear him or not. If they were not interested, he would discontinue his speech, Owaisi said.

Though the youth in the front row appealed to him to continue his address, he left the dais.

**SENIORS, COVID+ CAN ASK FOR POSTAL BALLOTS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

In view of the Coronavirus pandemic, the State Election Commission has directed officials to give postal ballots to people above the age of 80, people with disabilities, and those who have tested Covid-19 positive after November 1. All the voters who fall under these categories may visit the official website ([www.tsc.gov.in](http://www.tsc.gov.in)) and apply for the postal ballot at least four days before December 1, the polling date. The returning officer or deputy commissioner will send the postal ballot by post to their address.

**SECRET OF GHMC POLLS TO BE MAINTAINED**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The State Election Commission (SEC) has asked the election staff to maintain secrecy pertaining to voting for the GHMC polls. Action would be taken if there was any breach.

Officials said that during elections to panchayat raj bodies recently, some voters photographed marked ballot paper in their cell phones and circulated it in the social media. To prevent this, the SEC directed that cellphones will not be allowed to the voting compartment.

The SEC has asked the staff to follow certain procedures while voting. When an elector receives the ballot paper she should proceed to the voting compartment, record the vote with the instrument supplied, fold the ballot paper to conceal the vote, insert the folded ballot paper into the box and leave. The voter should not in any manner display the vote.

**Happy Marathi community spreads message of need to vote during polls**

**T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The six-lakh people strong Marathi community in the city says it is quite content with the way they have been treated in the city. Over the years, Telugu and Marathi communities have been living in the city in complete harmony.

"We as a community have been living in the city for a long time. We have not seen any troubled times. We will exercise our franchise for a party that keeps our faith in humanity restored," said Captain S.S. Lele, general-secretary, Health League, a socio-cultural group, based in Badi Chowd.

He adds that since there is no deficiency in power or water supply, it makes me support the existing regime. Others disagree and give a posse of reasons for supporting another

# TRS taking credit for work by UPA: Uttam

**TPCC chief blames the state govt for its inefficiency**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the TRS manifesto should be thrown in a dustbin as the ruling party has only repeated the promises it had made in 2014.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, he reiterated that the TRS government had done nothing to develop Hyderabad in the last six years.

He said they were trying to take credit for the achievements of Congress, including Hyderabad Metro Rail, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Outer Ring Road, P.V. Narasimha Rao Expressway, flyovers and other projects. He said that it was during the Congress regimes that water from the Godavari and Krishna rivers were brought to Hyderabad for drinking purposes.

The Congress leader said that it was due to the inefficiency of the TRS government and the step-motherly attitude of the BJP-led Union government that Hyderabad had lost the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR), which was originally sanctioned by the Congress-led UPA regime.

The TPCC chief asked the Chief Minister to clarify



TPCC incharge Manickam Tagore, TPCC chief N. Uttam kumar Reddy and CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka release the party's GHMC election manifesto at Indira Bhavan, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. ANIL KUMAR

if as to why poor people were not extended free treatment for Covid-19 by including it in Aarogyasri. Over 2.5 lakh families were forced to spend huge amounts on Coronavirus treatment in private hospitals.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that more than 100 people lost their lives due to

recent floods and heavy rains. He said most of the flood relief amount was swindled by ruling party leaders. He said that TRS, BJP and MIM were having a secret alliance to defeat the Congress. He said that the MIM calls itself a national party, but it lacks the guts to contest all 150 wards in GHMC elections.

## Owaisi: We rejected Jinnah, no Pakistanis live in Old City

**ATHER MOIN | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi takes potshots and wisecracks at his opponents during the election campaign. His artful sarcastic comments, fired with a unique Hyderabad modulation, brings down the house.

Using Deccani phrases, which are not known by even Urdu knowing people, to other parts of the city, he is keeping people not only laughing but guessing and asking for meanings of some of the words later.

He uses nicknames and calls out his opponents, rapidly deploying rhetoric, metaphors, analogies and slogans. He tries to respond to every single allegation levelled against him by his opponents in his 15-20 minutes speech.

Participating in a door-to-door campaign during the daytime, he addresses people of the same area in bigger groups in the evening. In a single day, he addresses at least five election meetings.

Owaisi criticises the BJP and the TRS for levelling baseless allegations and unrealistic statements, replying to them with glib comments.



AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi campaigns in Ghanzi Bazaar division at Murgi Chowk near Charminar on Tuesday. Ex-corporator Mohammed Ghouse, MLA Mumtaz Ahmed Khan and other Leaders were present.

— By arrangement

● **OWAISI CRITICISES** the BJP and the TRS for levelling baseless allegations and unrealistic statements, replying to them with glib comments.

border in Ladakh and captured 970 square kilometers, but BJP people do not dare to speak about China." He mocked those who cannot take the name of China, this "bankde pahelwan" (wrestler whose hands are folded) claiming they will do a surgical strike in Hyderbad.

He said all people living in Hyderbad are respectable Indians. "No Pakistani lives here. We do not allow them to stay. Another BJP leader says casting a vote for Majlis is not in the interest of the country. "Kiya yeh mulk tumhare baap ka hai?" (does this country belong to your father?) Actually it belonged to our father, as Adam came here and we are the children of him", he replied.

He hit back at Tejaswi

Surya, president of the Bharatiya Yuva Morcha and MP, for referring to him as new "avatar" of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who is spreading rabid Islamism and allowing Rohingya Muslims to settle in Hyderbad.

"Do you know Jinnah? We are those who rejected the ideology of Jinnah and choose to live here. We are those whose ancestors had issued a fatwa against the British in 1857," he said. He said this fight is between Hyderabad and Bhagyanagar. "BJP leaders are confused. They do not understand what to say. They are in frustration," he said.

Owaisi said in civic body elections his opponents are speaking on irrelevant topics whereas we have to speak on issues like civic problems, drainage, water supply, roads condition, street lights, hospitals and property tax, etc. "They have no nothing to talk about development and they are levelling baseless allegations and unrelated issues," he added.

He added.

— By arrangement

● **THERE IS** enough evidence to prove that Maharshtians had marked their presence in the city for over 300 years. Marathi families living here are concentrated in areas like Shah Ali Banda, Gowliguda, Sultan Bazar, Kachiguda, Barkatpura, and Nallakunta. A majority of them are either doctors, educationists or lawyers.

vice president Maratha Samaj, Nivas Nikkam, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

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Members of Maratha Samaj hold a showpiece of Chhatrapati Shivaji with TRS leaders in Hyderabad.  
— By arrangement

party, which most see as inching closer as an opportunity to the brink of power.

To make sure every person of Marathi descent casts his or her franchise, the Maratha Samaj spreads the message about the elections in a tongue they understand," state

## HC refuses to stay SEC order on funds

**VUJINI VAMSIDHARA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

ent of flood relief compensation. The petitioner argued that the SEC without consulting the government had taken a unilateral decision.

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday refused to impose a stay over the letter issued by State Election Commission, directing the government to immediately stop disbursement of ₹10,000 flood relief to the victims and also stop people from registering themselves in Mee Seva centres.

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayes Reddy, said that the court cannot issue interim orders without hearing the contentions of the government, which failed to submit its stand on Tuesday, despite the court's direction. The bench asked the government to file its response by December 4.

The bench was dealing with petition filed by advocate S. Sharath, who urged the court to declare the letter of the State Election Commission as ultra vires of the Constitution and direct immediate resumption of disbursements.

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## SHORT TAKES

**HC EXTENDS STAY ON DHARANI DATA COLLECTION**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Telangana High Court extended its interim orders to the government to not collect non-agriculture property details and not to insist on Aadhaar and caste details of agriculture property owners, till Wednesday.

The batch of petitions against the listing of Aadhaar and caste details of non-agricultural property owners on the Dharani portal was scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the post-lunch session. This could not happen as the hearing in the case related flood relief was prolonged. With that, the matter was adjourned to Wednesday.

**BANDI: BJP WILL DEVELOP CITY 10**

From Page 1

He alleged that TRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao was scared out to come to Bhagya Lakshmi temple but slept in his farmhouse.

He also announced that if the BJP wins the GHMC elections, the party will organise celebrations at the Bhagyalakshmi temple. He challenged Rao to come for a debate over Central fund allocations made to Telangana state in general, and Hyderabad city in particular. "I am ready for an open debate on funding. Let KCR come to discuss, otherwise, he should apologise to the people of Telangana and BJP for spreading lies," the senior party said.

He criticised MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao for claiming they had spent ₹67,000 crore for the development of Hyderabad, saying, "has the amount come from your pocket or your father's pocket? This money was collected from people of Hyderabad, who are paying ₹2 lakh crore every year to your government."

He said the TRS government was burdening people under the LRS and BRS and collected thousands of crores from people even during lockdown.

He appealed to the people of Hyderabad to vote for BJP because they will then develop the city ten-fold times faster, harnessing Central funds better.

"I urge people to choose wisely between the TRS, which will work for five days until polling day and the BJP, which will work for the public for the next five years."

**CONG PROMISES TO CUT PRIVATE SCHOOL FEES**

From Page 1

Extending metro to Old City and airport besides expanding the MMTS services and one travel card for all public transportation to ensure contact-less and hassle-free travel are listed.

"The Congress party promises to monitor and regulate the fees by corporate and private schools and colleges in collaboration with the Hyderabad Schools' Parents Association (HSPA)," Uttam Reddy said.

The Congress party promised to give every eligible beneficiary a double-bedroom house.

A sum of ₹8 lakh will be given to families who have a plot to construct a house and if they have a single bed-room house ₹4 lakh will be given to construct an additional room.

There will be free insurance against floods, fire accidents and damage due to power fluctuations. Congress will rationalise property tax to increase relief to ₹50,000 and extend it to small commercial properties to help low and middle-income groups. It promised free water supply up to 30,000 litres and drinking water connection free of cost. Pure drinking free of cost by setting up RO water vending machines in slums and double bedroom housing complexes is also on the anvil if a Congress mayor is elected.

"Let Hyderabad look around and ask - who developed the city? Airport, metro rail, ring road, central government industrial units, defence units, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), roads and flyovers, technology and industrial parks. These were developed by the Congress. We have done it and can do it again," said the senior Congress leader.

**Covid test**

With the fears of a second wave of Covid-19, residents in the city line up at a primary health centre to undergo tests for the Coronavirus on Tuesday. — P. SURENDRA

**DRUG PEDDLER FROM GHANA HELD AGAIN**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

A 32-year-old Ghana national was held with 61 grams of cocaine by the Prohibition and Excise department, a fortnight after he was freed on bail.

The accused, Samuel Smith Nelson of Golden Enclave Paramount Colony in Tolichowki, was released from jail on November 12. He was arrested on August 19 for possessing six grams of cocaine along with two Nigerians.

"Following his release, Nelson contacted a supplier Ite-Igwe Iron Pot alias Felix, from Mumbai. Felix handed over the contraband to Nelson on November 15, after which he contacted his old customers by messaging them 'Hai Bro, Happy Weekend' a code for drugs," officials said.

Based on a tip-off, the Excise officials caught Nelson while he was trying to deliver cocaine to a customer near in Banjara Hills.

**Free drinking water sop isn't for middle classes**MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The TRS government's promise to provide free drinking water up to 20,000 litres would not provide any relief to middle and upper middle classes living in over 6,000 apartments, gated communities and townships, among others.

According to the Hyderabad Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (HMWS&SB) records, the city has 1.8 lakh connections. Among those, only 40,000 are non-domestic, which includes industries, theatres, multiplexes and beverage companies.

The TRS government's decision to supply free drinking water up to 20 kilolitres will benefit about four lakh consumers living in 1,800 notified slums. The board has been charging ₹10 per kilolitre until a slab of 15 kilolitres and ₹12 per kilolitre for anything above, which excludes ₹80 sewerage cess.

As per board officials, about two lakh individual households have been

using 20 kilolitres per month on an average. About six lakh people living in slums and individual households would enjoy the benefits.

Officials said the government's announcement would not provide any relief to consumers who reside in apartments, gated communities and townships, among others.

The minimum consumption of a 100-flat apartment is 300 kilolitres. The city has over 6,000 apartments with over 1,000 flats. The water board has been supplying water through a single pipeline as a unified connection.

Residents who are mostly from middle and upper middle classes would end up getting a benefit around 0.50 paisa per month per flat.

This, and such other issues, could have a direct impact on polling percentage, since this particular class has not been enjoying any fruits of government's sops. The city's polling percentage did not even cross 45 per cent in GHMC polls of 2016, the

Assembly polls in 2018 and the Lok Sabha polls in 2019.

A senior water board official, on condition of anonymity, said that about four lakh consumers living in apartments, flats and gated communities would hardly enjoy the free drinking water announced by the government.

He said that though the board is ready to implement the scheme, confusion prevails over whether to include sewerage cess or not.

The board official said that under the one time settlement scheme, the board has collected ₹300 crore, which would compensate the scheme until next financial year. There will be renewed pressure to increase water tariff for commercial and domestic connections (gated communities) after that.

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**I WISH...**

**DC speaks to voters to find out the one thing they want their new corporator to do**

**... WE GET GOOD ROADS, SEWAGE**

**Q** The authorities say they have completed all road work but this is far from true. We lack proper roads, face overflow of sewage, and irregular water supply. The corporator visited our colony just thrice in four years and that too to inaugurate something. We want our corporator to address our needs.

— Fathima Raza  
Padmanagar, Chintal, Qutubullapur

**.... GARBAGE IS CLEARED DAILY**

**Q** I wish my corporator in Division 80, Kacheguda, focuses on replacing broken manholes and filling up the potholes on the roads. The garbage must be lifted daily. The new corporator should cooperate in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in the jurisdiction by visiting the locality every alternate week for 'Swachh Bharat'.

— K.N. Vivaan Vikram Raj

**... WE HAVE MORE BINS**

**Q** I wish that the roads become litter-free. The corporators must make it their prime responsibility to ensure that the roads are spic and span. There should be garbage bins at all places of mass congregation. Officials must ensure that there are dust bins at all places, and they should be cleared.

— P.S.S. Aditya  
Copywriter, KPHB

**... FOR GOOD INFRA WORKS**

**Q** The awfully damaged roads should be immediately fixed. The recent rains have hit the livelihoods of many and also caused severe damage to infrastructure around the city. Due to the damaged roads, instances of people driving on footpath and driving in the wrong direction has increased.

— Rebecca Angeline  
Program manager at Amazon, Bandlaguda

**... WOMEN GET MORE BUSES**

**Q** I expect more from the new GHMC body, whichever party wins the elections. New initiatives for women safety are required, there should be more buses for women. Autos and cabs must have devices to detect route violations and alert the police. The roads too need urgent repairs.

— Dr Padmini Nagulapalli  
Telugu Film Chamber Of Commerce

**... AMENITIES ARE IMPROVED**

**Q** The GHMC is focusing on improving amenities only in certain areas. How can we claim that Hyderabad is emerging as a global city while having slums? In Jambagh, we need a rehab centre for drug abusers, dozens of whom are found near Dargah Youssufia. The roads are in bad shape.

— Mohammed Abdul Arif  
Pharmacist, Nampally

**Surgery permit for Ayush irks doctors**

**IMA plans to approach court on decision**

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) will approach the courts against the order of the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) against their gazette notification for allowing AYUSH doctors to perform surgeries. IMA has strongly condemned this order, saying they will not train any AYUSH doctors in surgery.

There is a huge task before the IMA as they have to first sensitise their doctors against this particular order of the CCIM.

This order of "mixopathy"

has led to anger and discontentment amongst

ayurveda doctors, as it

takes years to build skills

for surgical procedures.

The IMA national body is

holding virtual meetings

with different branches and wings to drive home the point that this mixing is not good and will lead to major confusion. The first task chalked out to them is to stop recruitment of AYUSH doctors in modern hospitals.

Those who have been practising this will now be urged to follow the stream that they have learnt from and support it.

The cost cutting measures, which were seen

wrongly as an advantage

by some, are criticised as

faulty and improper practices.

Doctors say they will

not allow anyone from

ayurveda medicine to

train AYUSH doctors

in surgery.

Since the pandemic has

shown that ayurveda has

worked and there has been a

lowering in mortality rate,

doctors are keen that

this message must be sent

to people at large.

Dr Rajan Sharma, national president, said, "let the CCIM develop its own techniques and technical expertise for surgeries in discipline of AYUSH

and practice them. We are against mixing of streams and strongly object to that."

IMA

has also objected to

the government posting

any doctors in

colleges of

Indian medicine.

The association,

in a strongly

worded note,

said this step of

mixing systems will be

resisted. Doctors from

different states have urged

their state governments to

not allow this policy of

mixing of streams.

Since the pandemic has shown that ayurveda has worked and there has been a lowering in mortality rate, doctors are keen that this message must be sent to people at large.

What is the sanctity of NEET, if these short cuts are to be devised?" the IMA demanded to know. It wants the order to be withdrawn.

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 24

The discovery of a third century BCE terracotta object containing a Brāhma inscription in Prakrit language and rocks with inscriptions from the period between the first century BCE and the first century ACE in Prakrit and in Brahmi script, at Manjira Valley near Medak, is being viewed as a kind of archaeological find in the region.

A team of independent archaeology buffs and researchers discovered a partial terracotta tablet on the bank of Manjira river near Kulcharan village in Medak district. They were exploring an ancient mound between two streams of the Manjira river when they made their discoveries.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, team leader M.A. Srinivasan, said, "This is for the first time that an inscription reading 'devana' prefixed with a symbol of 'nandi-pada' has been found in this region. The word 'devana' suggests indicating the part of the title of the great Emperor

Aúóka of the Mauryan dynasty. This could be strong evidence of presence of Mauryan dynasty in Telangana state."

The inscriptions in Prakrit language and Brahmi script of the first century BC-first century AD found on rocks, read 'Henamo Buddeya', 'dhama', 'he jama'. These inscriptions were found by the team members who cleaned the rocks. The rock shelter they discovered also had some evidence that it was used during the Neolithic period, Srinivasan said.

"The site is spread over 100 acres and is likely to yield a large number of

archaeological materials besides evidences like fortification wall, terracotta objects such as different pot shreds of red slipped ware, black polished ware and dull red ware," he said.

The other members of the team who carried out the exploration of the site for a month, were B

## IN BRIEF

**THACKERAY ASKS MODI TO STOP PROTESTS**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 24

While participating in the video conference meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the chief ministers of other eight states, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray urged the PM to rein in political parties carrying out politically motivated protests in the times of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Thackeray's remarks were made in the wake of the agitations carried out by the BJP in Maharashtra for demands such as opening of temples and relief in electricity bills.

The CM said, "The fear of the second wave is looming large but 'some political' parties are playing with the lives of the people by violating the health protocols. They should be explained the current situation properly and asked not to play politics."

Mr Thackeray also said that either the PM or home minister Amit Shah should call a meeting with all the political parties and apprise them about the gravity of the situation.

"Instead of playing politics, all the political parties should be told to assist to contain the pandemic," he said.

Meanwhile, the state government has formed a task force to manage the distribution of Covid-19 vaccine and to decide how vaccination will be carried out in the state. According to an official statement from Chief Minister Office, Mr. Thackeray informed Mr Modi about the task force.

**NO SCHOOLS FOR NOW, SAYS SISODIA****Curbing Coronavirus**

A policeman imposes fine on offenders for not wearing face masks amidst the Covid-19 pandemic in Prayagraj on Tuesday. The Allahabad High Court on Monday asked the Centre's counsel to arrange a video-conferencing session with the Indian Council of Medical Research as it wants to know the status of the Covid-19 vaccine and preparations for its administration whenever possible. The court further directed SSP Prayagraj Sarvshresth Tripathi to apprise it with the progress in deployment of police to enforce the mandatory use of face masks in public places in the city. - PTI

**Abdullahs' Jammu house on encroached land: J&K admin**

**J&K admin alleges that NC headquarters was legalised under 2001 land Act**

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 24

● **ROSHNI ACT** was promulgated by the Jammu and Kashmir government headed by Mr. Abdullah in 2001.

● **THE PURPOSE** of enactment which granted ownership of the state land to its occupants was stated to be raising money for power projects upon payment of a sum to be determined by the government.

The J&K administration on Tuesday released a list of the beneficiaries of alleged illegal mutations under or in the garb of the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants) Act, 2001, commonly known as 'Roshni Act'.

Former chief minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, in a series of tweets, said, "It is very unfortunate that key leaders of Jammu and Kashmir including Farooq Abdullah used their influence and power for land grabbing and appropriated government land. This is a low level of politics by powerful people of J&K."

Union law and justice minister Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have been named in the list which alleges that their residential house in Jammu is built over an area of nearly one acre which includes state land "physically encroached but not shown in revenue records other than Roshni Act", a charge denied by the father-son duo.

It also highlighted that the headquarters of the National Conference in twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu were legalised under the controversial act.

Mr Farooq Abdullah strongly refuted the allegation. "I'm not a beneficiary of the Roshni Act. I've not availed of the scheme for either my Srinagar residence or that in Jammu as per the head of the coalition government," he said.

The NC in a statement alleged that the 'news' that its president is a beneficiary of the Roshni scheme "is completely false and being spread with a malicious intent". It also said, "Dr Farooq Abdullah has not availed of the Roshni scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and anyone who says otherwise is lying. The fact that they (sections of media) are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on".

But the Bharatiya Janata

Party was quick to blame him and others of being involved in a "conscious land loot" and said this was a low level of politics by powerful people of J&K.

Income Tax department based on the raids conducted on the people considered close to Mr Nath at various places in Madhya Pradesh in March 2019.

Talking to reporters here, Mr Mishra said he has asked the economic offence wing (EOW) of MP police to probe into the matter by seeking relevant documents from the IT department.

The EOW would soon access the I-T report and find out if funds of government departments were misappropriated to mobilise resources for Congress

patients. While issuing notice, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, Justice A. S. Bopanna and Justice V. Rama-subramanian tagged the public interest petition by a lawyer Ajay Agarwal with an earlier matter also pending before the bench headed by the Chief Justice.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought response from the Centre on plea to cap charges for RT-PCR tests uniformly at ₹400 instead of varying rates being charged across the country for testing Covid

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# DECCAN Chronicle

25 NOVEMBER 2020

## Corporate takeover of banks a dangerous idea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## A builder of modern Assam

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

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

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

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

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**H**yderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Pitanata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P), Ph: 0866-255284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-255233/255234; Fax: 0891-2755285  
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**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Adv Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325  
**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagai, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/S/348/2006-08

Dilip Cherian  
**Dilli Ka Babu**

## Who's afraid of Nitin Gadkari?

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

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

the government and tackle corruption.

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

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

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

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

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

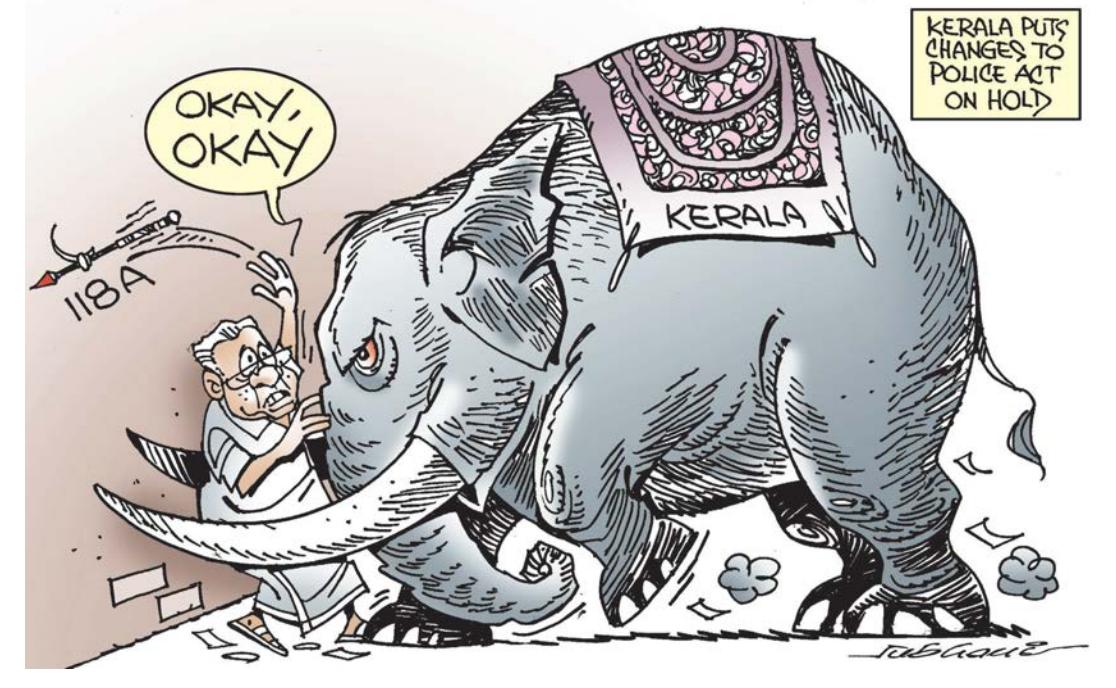
But is this the entire picture? Could there be a flip side — that

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

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

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

Subhani

KERALA PUTS  
CHANGES TO  
POLICE ACT  
ON HOLD

## If 'Trumpism' outlives Trump, America loses

Sunanda K.  
Datta-Ray

Reflections

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

threat perceptions, if any.

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

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

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

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

### LETTERS WE PAY FOR SOPS

It looks like Santa Claus is coming early, what with all political parties luring citizens with a number of free sops, it should not be forgotten that nothing is free, and everything comes with a cost. Indirectly the public will be paying for the so-called benevolence, for which the politicians do not spend from their pockets.

**S. Nageswara Rao**  
Hyderabad

### ON FLOOD RELIEF

Forget about the Centre's promises, where is the flood aid (*All 132 crore Indians must file chargesheets against PM: KTR, DC, Nov. 23?*)? The Opposition wrote to the SEC about flood relief after almost a month. What was the government doing till then? The people of Osmannagar and Tolichowki have been neglected for six years since the formation of the state.

**Dr Syed Attaullah Hussaini**  
Hyderabad

### NOT DIFFERENT

Chief Minister K. Chandrashehar Rao made a veiled threat to the people that if the TRS is not elected in the GHMC elections, the state government will not support the city's development. Then how can he accuse the Centre of step-motherly treatment?

**P.N.S. Lekha**  
Secunderabad

### COVID SAFETY

Everyone must follow Covid-19 safety norms during the GHMC polls. Wearing a mask properly, maintaining physical distance and sanitising hands frequently will keep the second phase of Coronavirus away. Better stick to electronic media for campaigning, debates and e-canvassing.

**P.N.S. Lekha**  
Secunderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Centre's stand on Telangana unchanged

**N**EW DELHI, Nov. 24. Telangana Regional Committee Chairman J. Chokka Rao and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee President Narasa Reddy today called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

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

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

perhaps it is the workman who is quarrelling with his tools for his own failures?

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

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## SHORT TAKES

## CONG LEADERS USING WRONG PLATFORM: BAGHEL

RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 24

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

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

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

"Congress party is an ideology and ideology has no structure. Ideology is the 'neev' (foundation)", he tweeted.

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

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

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

## ODISHA COPS CRACK IIFL DACTOY CASE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VETERAN ACTOR BADOLA NO MORE

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

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

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

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

## ED RAIDS ON SHIV SENA MLA SARNAIK

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 24

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

The raids have been criticised by the Sena leaders.

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

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

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

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, NOV. 24

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

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

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

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

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

## Final journey



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

## RJD fields its candidate for Speaker's post

## UP okays ordinance against conversion for marriage

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

## HC upholds right to choose partner, faults earlier verdict

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

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

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

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

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

Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal made

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

While allowing the writ petition by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka Kharwar alias Alia of Kushinagar, the judges cited Article 21 of the Constitution on personal liberty. "To disregard the choice of a person who is of the age of majority would not only be antithetic to the freedom of choice of a grown up individual but would also be a threat to the concept of unity in diversity," they said. We do not see Priyanka Kharwar and Salamat Ansari as Hindu and Muslim, rather as two grown up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together peacefully and happily for over a year, they said. — PTI

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

But if the woman involved is a minor or belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe, the jail term would range from three to 10 years, he said. The fine would increase to ₹25,000.

In the case of mass conversions, the punishment is from three years to 10 years and a fine of ₹50,000 on the organisations which indulge in it," the minister told reporters.

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

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

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

## SC DISMISSES FORMER BSF JAWAN'S PLEA

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

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

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

## After ED, Customs arrests Kerala CM's ex-secretary

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 24

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

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

The Customs recorded his arrest a day after the

special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases allowed Customs to take the seizure of 30 kg of gold which was smuggled through diplomatic baggage meant for a senior official of UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram.

The seizure made by the customs at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport on July 5 exposed a huge racket involving several people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJP leader Tejashwi Yadav with party MLAs addresses a press conference outside the Bihar Assembly in Patna on Tuesday.

— PTI

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

## Police rescue transsexual doctor begging in TN

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

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

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

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

herself, after being sacked from a hospital here. The surprised inspector then took up the case of the transsexual doctor with her superiors, to extend all possible help. For her part Kavitha provided her a stethoscope and a doctors coat.

"I don't see any problem in changing her records with the MCI. Her rights can't be denied. But first she has to notify the name change in the gazette which will serve as a government order," said Kalki

Subramaniam, a celebrated Indian transgender activist, artist, poet, actor and inspirational speaker. Kalki, founder of Sahodari Foundation, an organisation which works for Indian transgenders, said, "it is nothing but human rights violation to deny her job based on her gender." The hospital cannot sack a person based on gender and may have to reinstate if the said doctor gets a court ruling in her favour, Kalki remarked.

Recalling the 2014

## MP TO KEEP VIGIL ON FILM SHOOTINGS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 24

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

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

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

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The decision comes in the wake of the row erupted over a kissing scene in the web series *A Suitable*

**IN BRIEF**  
**TAIWAN TO BUILD DOMESTIC SUBMARINES**

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

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

**B'DESH MAN HELD FOR HINDU ATTACK PLOT**

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

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

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

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

New York, Nov. 24: David Dinkins, who broke barriers as New York City's first African-American mayor, but was doomed to a single term by a soaring murder rate, stubborn unemployment and his mishandling of a race riot in Brooklyn, has died. He was 93. Dinkins died Monday, the New York City Police Department confirmed. The department said officers were called to the former mayor's home this evening. Initial indications were that he died of natural causes. Dinkins, a calm and courtly figure with a penchant for tennis and formal wear, was a dramatic shift from both his predecessor, Ed Koch, and his successor, Rudolph Giuliani — two combative and often abrasive politicians in a city with a world-class reputation for impatience and rudeness.

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

**DARWIN NOTES STOLEN FROM VARSITY LIBRARY**

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

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

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

# Trump agrees to Biden transition

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

## Michigan certifies Biden poll victory

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INDIA KEY PARTNER IN ENGAGING CHINA: BLINKEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bernstein: 21 GOP senators contemptuous of Trump

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

Bernstein's post was condemned Monday by some of those involved. It was an eyebrow-raising modern twist on journalism from the former *Washington Post* reporter who, with partner Bob Woodward in the 1970s, panned scoops that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

Bernstein said he wasn't violating any confidentiality pledges in listing the senators.

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

"With few exceptions, their craven public silence

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

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

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## quick BITES

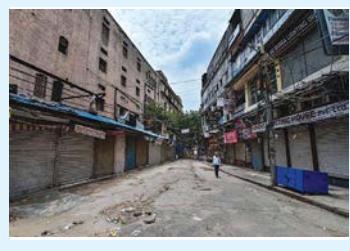
INDICATORS	%
Sensex	44,523.02
Nifty 50	13,055.15
S&P 500*	3,619.28
Dollar (₹)	73.99
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.88
Euro (₹)	87.93
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,569 ▼1,049
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	47.66
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.880
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.865
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.006

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Google pays ₹33,700 cr for Jio Platform stake

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

## Abea to join trade unions in strike tomorrow



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

## Indian sellers join Amazon's US holiday sales

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

## Goa govt issues ₹156-cr demand notice to JSW

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

## Heavy FPI buying pushes indices up Nifty crosses 13000-mark

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, NOV. 24

Benchmark index Nifty-50 created a new milestone by crossing the 13,000-mark for the first time and closed at a new peak of 13,055.15, aided by a sharp rally in financials and auto stocks and heavy foreign portfolio buying.

The index has gained 73.81 per cent from the March low of 7,511.10 in the post-Covid rally over optimism around economic revival and robust second quarter corporate earnings.

The Nifty gained 128.70 points or 1 per cent on Tuesday to reach the new landmark of 13,055.15 after touching an intra-day high of 13,079.10 points.

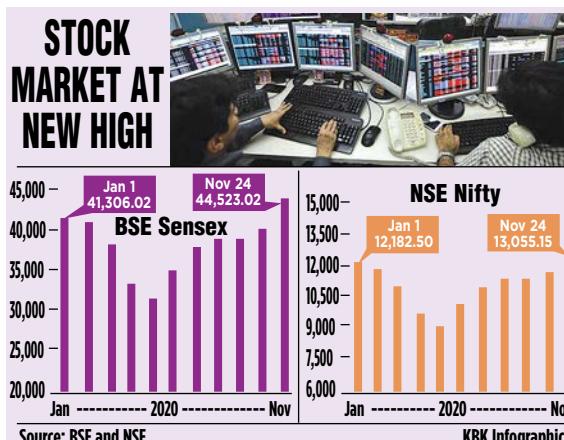
The BSE Sensex also gained 1.01 per cent, or 445.87 points, and closed above the 44,500 mark, at a new all-time high of 44,523.02.

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

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

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

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



BSE Mid-cap Index rising 0.56 per cent and the BSE Small-cap Index rising 0.89 per cent.

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

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

"FPIs have made the highest monthly buying in 2QFY21, enabling sequential recovery for most companies in the consumer sector. Commentaries of NBFCs suggest improving macros across most business segments and the end of the moratorium have led to increased optimism for collection efficiency as well as growth," Jani said.

The broader market also

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

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

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

Motor premiums historically had the highest share

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

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

## RBI nixes Muthoot plan to acquire IDBI Mutual Fund

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

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

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

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

## RE corners 95% energy project financing in 2019



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Motor premiums reclaim top share

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, NOV. 24

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

Motor premiums historically had the highest share

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

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

up more than health at Rs 35,213 crore and its share moved up to 31.1 per cent.

But the pandemic saw health insurance premiums growing. In April

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

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

## LVB shareholders grope in the dark

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO

NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

Unfortunate small shareholders of Laxmi Vilas Bank (LVB) are feeling totally helpless as their voices remain unheard.

DBS Bank, the RBI-appointed new promoter of the bank, is learnt to have announced plans to infuse Rs 2,500 crore to rescue the reckless lender, but the small shareholders, numbering nearly a lakh, are left in the lurch.

Small shareholders always bear the brunt of bad decisions of bank management or the regulators. There was no swap arrangement for Global Trust Bank (GTB) shareholders when the private sector bank was amalgamated with state-run Oriental Bank of Commerce in 2004.

Small investors trust the regulator to do effective and pro-active monitoring of a bank's affairs. Even when that trust is broken and the regulator wakes up late, the small investor ends up paying the price of lazy oversight.

Out of LVB's 98,000 shareholders, 96,838 small shareholders who own stake worth less than Rs 2 lakh in the bank and collectively they hold 8.07 crore shares of the bank.

"In terms of priority, the shareholders come in the last. In this case, the company doesn't have any value," said Arun Kejriwal, founder of investment advisory Kris. This leaves the stake held by its shareholders worthless.

However, the disgruntled shareholders of the bank are now in a mood to challenge the regulator's move to wipe out their equity in the merger plan with DBS Bank India. In their objections to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), shareholders will demand fair valuation and a stake in the new merged entity.

The new Innova is equipped with features such as a new trapezoidal piano black grille with chrome ornamentation, a sharper front bumper design and diamond-cut alloy wheels for a contemporary look. The MPV features seven airbags and Hill Start Assist.

Innova has been dominating the MPV segment in India since it was introduced in 2005, selling over 8.80 lakh units till date.

The new Innova is equipped with features such as a new trapezoidal piano black grille with chrome ornamentation, a sharper front bumper design and diamond-cut alloy wheels for a contemporary look. The MPV features seven airbags and Hill Start Assist.

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

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

—Bloomberg

## India's latest unicorn startup is Cars24

SARAH MCBRIDE &

SARITHA RAI

NOV. 24

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

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

invested \$200 million in the deal.

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

Cars24, which takes a cut of each transaction, is on track to generate estimated gross annual revenue of \$600 million, Chopra said.

"Our awareness among consumers has shot up dramatically," he said.

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

For Cars24, the new

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

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

Bloomberg

—Bloomberg

—Bloomberg

## Oil-rich Kuwait faces reckoning as debt crisis looms

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

But unlike much of the world, where long lines

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

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

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

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

Covid, low oil prices and the liquidity crisis have all come together in a perfect storm, said Bader al-Saif, a professor of history at Kuwait University.

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

**SHORT TAKES**  
Dada underwent  
22 Covid-19 tests

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

**Fans set for EPL games next week**

London: Supporters are set to return to English Premier League games next week for the first time since March. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is allowing a return of spectators to sports stadiums as part of an easing of coronavirus restrictions when the national lockdown ends on December 2.

A maximum of 4,000 fans will initially be allowed into venues in the areas with the lowest Covid-19 infection rates and up to 2,000 in the areas placed in the next tier of restrictions. The highest-risk areas still won't be allowed fans. Plans for the return of spectators in October were put on hold due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

"We are able to get the turnstiles turning sooner than expected," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said. — AP

**Honda end year with double points**

Portugal: Fighting rides from Stefan Bradl and Alex Marquez delivered a double-top ten to wrap up a strong final weekend in here.

The unprecedented 2020 MotoGP came to a close in Portugal with a trio of tremendous races across the classes. Conditions were again near perfect as the sun loomed over the Portimao circuit. Using morning warm up to confirm the final aspects of his setting, Alex was again strong and consistent throughout the 20-minute session. The MotoGP rookie ended in seventh but with excellent pace.

Focus was high for Bradl as the last race day of the year began, the German having put in a very impressive performance on Saturday. A fast fall at Turn 9 saw Bradl walk away unharmed, changing his leathers and returning to the track for the final minutes of warm-up. The crash had no ill effect as Bradl shot forward in the race and immediately began to battle in the top five, giving no quarter. The battle would rage until the end of the race, Bradl earning seventh and achieving his best race finish of the year.

**Live on TV**

**CRICKET**  
Women's Big Bash League:  
Semifinal-I from 1.40 pm on Sony Six

**FOOTBALL**

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

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

**WWE**

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

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20  
Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vellabbi Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 30811957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

# DOUBLE TROUBLE?

Rohit, Ishant may miss entire Australia Test series

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

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

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

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

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

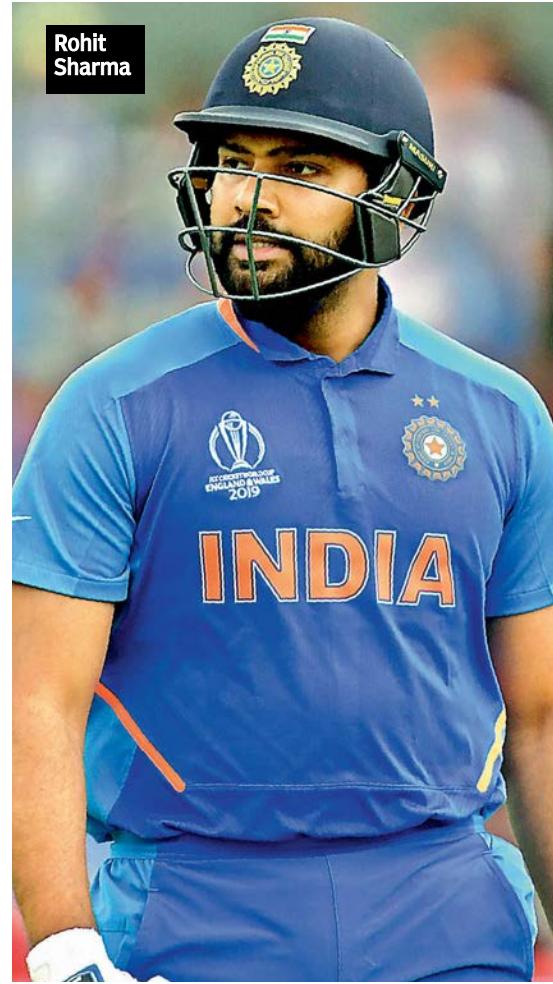
Ishant, on the other hand, is recovering from a side strain.

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

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

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

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



## Shastri backs 'Fav 5' to rule Oz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

in business.

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

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

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

## Thapa shines in Chennaiyin win

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

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

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

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

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

### MFC LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST GOA

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

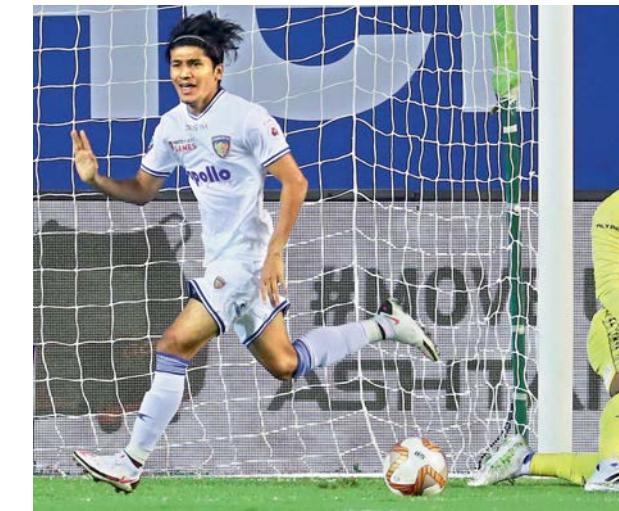
For Mumbai City head coach Sergio Lobera, it will be the first time he will be up against his former club.

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

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

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

— Agencies



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

## TOKYO GOVERNOR SURE OF HOSTING SAFE OLYMPICS

Tokyo, Nov. 24: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said on Tuesday,

Her comment comes a week after International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach's visit to Tokyo, where he held a series of talks with Japanese Olympic officials, including Koike, to showcase their determination to pull off the games.

Japan has experienced an uptick of the infections this month with a nationwide daily total exceeding 2,000 as the government tries to balance preventive measures and business activity without further hurting the pandemic-hit economy.

"As the host city, I'm determined to achieve the

## Kohli, Ashwin nominated for Player of Decade award



Ravichandran Ashwin

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

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

## Clarke says India could be smoked

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

Kohli has been granted paternity leave by the BCCI to be with his wife for the birth of their first child. He will lead the team in the white-ball series, comprising three ODIs and as many T20s, and the opening Test at Adelaide before heading back home.

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

"If India doesn't have success in the One-dayers and the T20s, they are in deep trouble in the Test matches

and they'll get smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he added.

Clarke feels that despite featuring in only one Test, the talismanic Indian skipper could still play a huge role in the outcome of the red-ball series by dominating in the limited overs game.

"I think the tone he sets with this team will play a big role when he leaves, after the first Test match."

The much talked about contest between the two best sides in the world would begin on November 27 with the ODI series-opener in Sydney.

The former World Cup-winning skipper said Jasprit Bumrah will also have a huge role in the much anticipated series, adding that the star pacer needs to bowl aggressively to put the pressure on the home side.

— PTI

## Athletic Bilbao hammer Betis

### THE RESULTS

#### LA LIGA

**Athletic Bilbao**  
(Victor Ruiz 9-og,  
Capa 33, Muniaín 59,  
Berenguer 68)  
**Real Betis**

4  
0

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

**Burnley**  
(Wood 8)  
**Crystal Palace**

1  
0

**Wolves**  
(Neto 75)  
**Southampton**

1  
1

**(Waughton 58)**

London, Nov. 24: Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Chris Wood sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace, while Southampton missed a chance to go third in their 1-1 draw at Wolves on Monday.

Burnley had failed to win any of their first seven games in the joint worst start to a season in the club's history.

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

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

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

world of good," Dyche said.

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

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

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

But Wood ended that four-game goalless run in the eighth minute when he creating chances." — AFP

## Touch Wood! Burnley score first win



fired home from Jay Rodriguez's flick after a poor headed clearance from Cheikhou Kouyate.

**REVITALISED WALCOTT**  
At Molineux, Southampton were on course for a fourth successive win when Theo Walcott put them ahead in the second half.

But Pedro Neto came off the bench to equalise as fifth-placed Southampton had to settle for extending their unbeaten run to seven matches.

"I am happy. For everyone it was a tough game, tactically so demanding. They played 4-3-3, we didn't expect that but we found the answers," Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl said.

Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo added: "I think it was a foul