

SHORT TAKES

20 ventilators added to beds in Burari

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Tuesday added 20 ventilators to beds at Burari hospital which will allow for full-fledged ICU treatments. Clad in PPE kit, health minister Satyendar Jain visited the hospital's Covid-19 ward and met with the patients. A bio medical and surgical waste management site at the hospital was also inaugurated. Mr Jain said that the ventilator is an important facility which is considered as a prerequisite for the patients. Commending the hospital's staff, doctors, nurses and paramedics on the work done by them in the four months since their inception, he said that patients can now avail proper treatment. Urging people to take proper precautions, Mr Jain said that Delhi is undergoing the third wave and the most effective way to protect oneself from this virus is to wear a mask with due diligence and the spread can be curbed if both, the ones who are covid positive and the ones who are not wear a mask.

Fake Covid report: Doctor granted bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday granted bail to a doctor Khush Bihari Parashar, who was arrested on September 3 on the allegation of being involved in issuance of fake Covid-19 test reports on the letterheads of some reputed labs. Metropolitan magistrate of Saket Court Tanya Bannmaly on Tuesday decided to grant bail to accused Dr Parashar, who was sent to judicial custody since September 5 after one day's police custody remand and he had been in jail since then. According to the Delhi police, after investigation, it was found that a person, who was running a business of providing nursing staff to patients, asked Dr Parashar for Covid testing of his nursing staff before hiring them. The doctor forged the reports, which were forwarded to the client through mobile phones. After seeing mistakes in the name, the person contacted the diagnostic centre and asked for the new reports with a correction. It was then revealed that there was no test done at the lab.

1st fully automated tower car parking

New Delhi: First fully automated multilevel tower car parking of Delhi-NCR was dedicated to citizens by Union power minister R.K. Singh on Wednesday. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has constructed first automated multilevel tower car parking of the city and NCR at Green Park, Aurobindo Marg area. Mr Singh dedicated the parking to citizens in presence of lieutenant-governor Anil Baijal, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Rambir Singh Bidhuri, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and SDMC mayor Anamika through video conferencing. He offered to provide expertise, consultancy and help of his ministry in providing boost to the innovative actions in future. Mr Baijal said that this sort of vertical parking is most appropriate in the congested markets and populated colonies as it requires just 1.50 square meter space to park a car in comparison to 30 square meter required in conventional parking.

3 held by Customs for smuggling gold

New Delhi: Two Air India SATS (AISATS) staff members were among three people arrested by Customs officials at the international airport for allegedly smuggling in gold valued at ₹72.5 lakh, according to an official statement. It said a passenger was intercepted by officials on his arrival from Abu Dhabi on Monday. During interrogation, he admitted that he had carried two silver-coloured packets of chemical paste containing approximately 1.48 kg gold and hid the same in lavatory of the aircraft (he had come in), said the statement issued by the customs on Tuesday. One Air India SATS staff member was later caught by Customs officers while he was handing over the packets to another AISATS staff, it said. AISATS is an airport service provider. It is a joint venture between Air India and Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS). — PTI

5,246 new Covid cases in 24 hrs, tally now at 5.45L

Kejri seeks experts' help to reduce deaths, L-G for strict action on violators

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

Delhi recorded 5,246 fresh Covid-19 cases in a day as the positivity rate declined 8.49 per cent, while 99 more fatalities pushed the city's death toll to 8,720 on Wednesday, authorities said. It was after five days that the national capital recorded a single-day death toll below 100. As many as 61,778 tests, including 26,080 RT-PCR ones, were conducted on Tuesday for the detection of Covid-19, according to a bulletin by the Delhi health department on Wednesday.

In the last 13 days, at least seven times the daily number of deaths had crossed the 100-mark. Authorities reported 109 deaths on Tuesday, 121 on Monday and Sunday, 111 on Saturday, 118 on Friday, 131 on November 18 — the

COVID WATCH
4,98,780
PEOPLE CURED IN CITY
8,720
FATALITIES SO FAR

highest till date — and 104 fatalities on November 12. According to the bulletin, the total number of cases climbed to 5,45,787 on Wednesday, of which 4,98,780 have recovered.

The tally of active cases in Delhi was 38,287 down from 38,501 on Tuesday. The number of Covid-19 containment zones in Delhi rose to 4,980 on Wednesday from 4,708 the previous day.

Meanwhile, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday asked expert

groups to audit virus death cases and suggest measures to reduce fatalities, while lieutenant-governor Anil Baijal directed authorities to take exemplary and deterrent action for violation of SOPs, especially in crowded markets.

At a meeting of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Mr Baijal directed officials to ensure timely hospitalisation of Covid-19 patients under home isolation in case of emergency to reduce the mortality rate in the national capital which has recorded over 100 daily deaths in seven of the last 13 days.

Sources said the lieutenant-governor also asked the officials to ensure strict monitoring of Covid-19 patients under home isolation, amid instances of some people not following isolation

norms.

An official said that while discussion on vaccine distribution was on the agenda of the DDMA meeting on Wednesday, it did not happen.

"At the DDMA meeting, the chief minister asked experts to audit death cases and suggest measures which could reduce deaths in the national capital," a source said.

This comes against the backdrop of Delhi's three BJP-led municipal corporations alleging inconsistencies in the official death count vis-a-vis the number of deaths projected by funerals at the crematoria and burial grounds.

According to the Delhi government data, the total number of Covid-19 deaths as on November 23 was 8,512, while the civic bodies claimed to have carried out 10,318 funerals.

FIRE AT GHAZIPUR LANDFILL SITE



People look on as smoke billows from the Ghazipur landfill site after a fire in New Delhi on Wednesday. Several fire tenders were rushed to the site to douse the fire. No injuries have been reported in the incident.

— PTI

Pollution up, air quality deteriorates to 'severe'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

After 10 days, Delhi's air quality deteriorated to the "severe" category on Wednesday due to slow winds, government agencies said. Stubble burning accounted for two per cent of Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution on Wednesday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mobile app, Sameer, the city's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 401 on Wednesday morning and deteriorated to 415 in the evening. It was 388 on Tuesday.

It was 302 on Monday, 274 on Sunday, 251 on Saturday, 296 on Friday and 283 on Thursday.

The capital's AQI was in the "severe" category on November 15, a day after Diwali, but later improved and remained in either "poor" or "moderate" category until November 22.

According to ministry of earth sciences' monitoring system Safar, stubble



Cyclists ride through fog on a cold morning at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

fire counts were quite low at 63 on Tuesday with its share in PM 2.5 in Delhi's air at two per cent on Wednesday.

"Effective stubble fire counts with sufficient potential as estimated from Safar-multi-satellite products are low (around 63). Hence, the stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is estimated as two per cent for on Wednesday, it said.

It forecasted winds to pick up and improve the ventilation condition by Thursday.

The AQI is forecasted to improve towards "very poor" category by tomorrow and likely stay in the lower end of very poor on November 27 and 28, Safar said.

Stubble burning accounted for five per cent of Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution on Tuesday.

2 held for killing BJP worker, son over biz dispute

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

Two days after a 50-year-old man and his son were killed by a group over personal enmity in northeast Delhi's Nandnagri area, the police on Wednesday said to have arrested two brothers in connection with the incident.

Both Khalid (31) and Tarik Ali (30), residents of Sunder Nagri in north-east Delhi have been arrested while efforts are being made to nab their brother Naasir and his accomplice, who are still at large, they said.

Delhi BJP Media Cell head Navin Kumar had said that the deceased, Zulfikar Qureshi, was a party worker while the local BJP leaders had claimed that Qureshi was also an RTI activist and had been opposing illegal scrap dealers.

According to the police, the incident took place on Monday morning when Zulfikar Qureshi was on his way to a mosque in his locality.

Qureshi had gone just a few meters from his house when a group of four men allegedly intercepted him following which a scuffle broke out

between them. One of the attackers then shot him.

He was shot in the head, while his 20-year-old son Jababaz was also attacked with a sharp-edged weapon after he rushed towards his father to save him, a senior police officer said.

They were taken to a nearby hospital where Qureshi was declared brought dead by the doctors, while his son died during the course of treatment, he said.

DCP (Northeast) Ved Prakash Surya said that during the course of investigation, it emerged that Qureshi had an old business dispute with Naasir and his family as both the parties ran a scrap shop.

"When Jaabaz was under treatment, he disclosed names of the attackers and to nab them, their call detail records were analysed and locations were traced. Subsequently, raids were conducted at their prominent hide-outs and both Tarik and Khalid were arrested from the area of Nandnagri," he said.

They confessed to their crime and said they killed them due of personal enmity.

Cops reject requests for farmers' march

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

The Delhi police on Wednesday asserted that it has rejected all requests received from various farmer organisations to protest in the national capital against the Centre's new farm laws. The police said that action will be initiated if rules and guidelines issued in a wake of Covid-19 are not followed.

According to Eish Singhal, the public relation officer (PRO), various

farmer organisations have requested for permission for protest in Delhi on November 26 and 27.

"The police has conveyed to them in writing also and through various media also that the protest is not permitted in view of the latest DDMA guidelines.

"When the condition is good, they can seek due permission and exercise their right of protest in Delhi. For now, they are requested to cooperate with the Delhi police and

THE FARMERS will reach Delhi today through five highways connecting the national capital as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march call

not indulge in any kind of protest. If despite of our appeal they turn up to Delhi, then the legal action will be taken against them," said Mr Singhal.

Meanwhile, a senior police official said that the main focus of the police will be on Uttar Pradesh's

Ghazipur border, Chilla border and DND.

"Following the call from farmers' march and no permission from the authorities, heavy deployment of police personnel is already there and the checking will take place round the clock. The paramilitary force is also placed. The Delhi police will also check the other small borders of the district," said the senior police official.

The farmers will reach Delhi on November 26

through five highways connecting the city as part of their "Delhi Chalo" march call. Taking to Twitter, the city police said requests have been rejected for any such gathering in the national capital.

"Please co-operate with Delhi Police in ensuring no gathering in Delhi amid coronavirus, failing which legal action will be initiated as per law," said the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), New Delhi in its tweet.

Delhi riots: HC seeks police response on Tahir's bail plea

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

The Delhi high court on Wednesday asked the police to respond to a bail plea of former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, who is lodged in jail for his alleged role in the communal violence in northeast Delhi riots in February.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait asked the investigating officer of the case to file a status report on Hussain's plea and listed the matter for further hearing on December 11, his lawyer said.

A trial court had on October 22 denied bail to Hussain. The FIR, in



which he is seeking bail, is related to looting of a shop in Dayalpur area of northeast Delhi causing a loss of about ₹20 lakh to the owner.

Hussain, represented through advocate Rizwan, sought bail on various grounds including parity and that there were general allegations in the FIR and no specific allegation against him.

He contended that there were 10 accused in the case and nine have already been granted bail and only he is left in jail.

He added that he was not even named in the FIR and

claimed that he was falsely implicated in the case and as the charge sheet was filed in July and he was not required for custodial interrogation. While denying bail to Hussain in three cases, the trial court had observed that the violence in February this year amounted to the worst communal riots since partition in the national capital.

Additional sessions judge Vinod Yadav had said it was prima facie apparent that he used his muscle power and political clout to act as a kingpin in planning and fanning the flames of communal conflagration.

SC stays by 1 week return of undertrials to jails

New Delhi, Nov. 25:

Undertrial prisoners, whose bail period was extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the national capital, need not return to jail forthwith as the Supreme Court on Wednesday extended by a week its stay of the Delhi high court order which had asked them to surrender to prison authorities.

The apex court had stayed the high court order which had directed all undertrial prisoners, whose bail period was extended due to the pandemic, to surrender in a

phased manner between November 2 and 13.

The interim order passed on October 29, 2020 is extended by a week. List the matter on December 1, said a bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi.

The matter was mentioned by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who was assisted by lawyer Satya Mitra on behalf of "National Forum on Prison Reforms" (NFPR).

On October 29, the top court had also issued a notice to the Delhi government and others on the

THE APEX COURT had stayed the high court order which had directed all undertrials, whose bail period was extended due to the pandemic, to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and 13

plea challenging the high court order and sought their replies.

It was hearing the appeal of NFPR against the high court order which decided that its blanket order extending all interim

stays and bails granted prior to and during the Covid-19 lockdown would not remain in effect after October 31.

The NFPR said high court direction was completely against the spirit of the order dated March 23, 2020 passed by it, brushing aside, without even perusing, the eight recommendations/ orders of its own high-powered committee appointed by the top court.

The plea said the high court order was passed by grossly misunderstanding the data presented to it and wrongly concluding

that only three coronavirus cases existed among the 16,000 inmates.

Secondly, the observations regarding release of undertrial prisoners in jails on the allegation that they had committed heinous crimes was dealt with by the HPC carefully and reasons given, but these have not even been looked at, it said.

The high court in its order had said all undertrials whose bail period was extended have to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and November 13. — PTI

1 arrested for duping people on pretext of providing jobs

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

A 48-year-old woman arrested on Wednesday for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing them government jobs in Delhi, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused has been identified as Veshakha Gulati, a resident of Sarita Vihar, it said.

On Tuesday, a case was registered where complaint Vijay, a resident of Mohalla Madanpur Khadar, alleged that he met Gulati who claimed that she works under the SDM Sarita Vihar, the police said.

She said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government did not conduct fresh open recruitment and the Delhi government has authorised her to recruit in government job, a senior police officer said.

She asked for documents, including address proof, bank account details, and demanded ₹13,000 from each person through Unified Payments Interface.

According to the police, the accused used to provide fake recruitment letters to the victims and when it was time to give them salaries, she used to fire them after giving irrelevant excuses.

IN BRIEF

HC ALLOWS
REPUBLIC TV TO
AMEND THEIR PLEAAGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday allowed ARG Outlier (parent company of Republic TV) to amend their plea to challenge the charge sheet filed by the Mumbai Police on Tuesday in an allegedly fake TRP scam uncovered by the Mumbai Police. The original plea only sought quashing of the First Information Report (FIR) against Republic and its employees including Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and an order transferring the investigation proceedings from the Crime Branch Mumbai Police to the CBI. On Wednesday, Republic TV counsellor Abad Ponda urged the court to amend the petition because a charge sheet has been filed in this case and he also wants to quash the charge sheet. Subsequently, the Bombay High Court has refused to pass any orders to restrain reporting on ongoing Television Rating Points rigging scam. Court refusal has come when the Maharashtra government urged the Bombay High Court to issue orders directing news channels especially Republic TV from running a parallel investigation and trial into the scam.

SENA MLA GOES IN
QUARANTINE, WILL
NOT JOIN ED PROBEAGE CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Following summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear for questioning in connection with the raids carried out by the agency, Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik quarantined himself informing the officials that he will appear before them after the 14-day period. The sources said that Sarnaik was in Goa when the ED raided his residence and office. He has also informed the probe agency that his daughter-in-law has been hospitalised due to hypertension after Tuesday's ED raids and therefore he and his son Vihang cannot appear before the ED before next week. "The summons were sent to both of them to appear for questioning and we were informed about the reason why they would not be available for questioning," said an officer. The ED officials, meanwhile, are scanning through the seized documents in connection with the alleged laundering of funds pertaining to the security agency run by them. On Tuesday, the ED raided 10 locations in Mumbai and Thane, including premises of a security agency. The searches also included premises of promoters of a security company, some of whom are politicians.

TAKE STEPS TO
REOPEN MEDICAL
COLLEGES: GOVT

New Delhi: The Union health ministry on Wednesday asked state governments to initiate steps for reopening of medical colleges from December 1 or before it, but with strict adherence to all Covid-19 related guidelines. Educational institutions in the country have been closed since March in view of the coronavirus pandemic. In a letter to the chief secretaries and the administrators of all states and UTs, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan also suggested making non-Covid beds available in sufficient numbers in affiliated medical college-hospitals to facilitate undergraduate training. The Health ministry has obtained concurrence from the ministry of home affairs for reopening of medical colleges, the letter mentioned. Accordingly, the states and UTs may take necessary steps to open the medical colleges on or before December 1, 2020, the health secretary said in his letter dated November 25. Needless to say, all SOPs/guidelines with respect to social distancing and prevention of spread of epidemic issued by Central/states and UT governments will be followed scrupulously by all the colleges, he said. The Centre's directive comes in the wake of the National Medical Commission recommending reopening of medical colleges from December 1 or before it for the MBBS students already pursuing their courses. — PTI

Amarinder,
Sidhu bury
hatchet
over lunch

Chandigarh, Nov. 25: Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh met Navjot Singh Sidhu over lunch on Wednesday, triggering speculation that he may be re-inducted into the state cabinet. Both leaders have been not on best of terms since May last year when the CM accused the former cricketer of the "inept handling" of the local government department, claiming it resulted in "poor performance" of the Congress in urban areas during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Mr Sidhu was stripped of key portfolios in a cabinet reshuffle, after which he resigned from the Cabinet and stayed away from all Congress activities.

Amarinder on Tuesday had invited the cricketer-turned-politician for the lunch.

According to a media adviser to the chief minister, both leaders spent an hour together at Amarinder Singh's residence here and shared thoughts on various issues.

It was a warm & cordial luncheon meeting that saw CM @capt_amarinder and Navjot Singh Sidhu discuss a host of important political matters of Punjab and national interest. The two leaders spent a pleasant over an hour sharing thoughts on vital issues, the media adviser tweeted.

Earlier, Mr Sidhu had made a public appearance at a "tractor rally" against the Centre's farm laws in Moga last month where party leader Rahul Gandhi, Amarinder Singh and others were also present. Mr Sidhu attended the "tractor rally" after AICC general secretary Harish Rawat met him at his residence in Amritsar.

With Mr Rawat pushing for a role for Mr Sidhu in the state, party circles are abuzz with speculation that Mr Sidhu may be re-inducted into the state Cabinet. Mr Rawat had dubbed him as the Congress' Rafale and said the Congress MLA's worst critic cannot deny his usefulness. — PTI

Farm Bills stir reaches Delhi



Police stop members of various farmer organisations during a protest march against the farm reform bills in Haryana district on Wednesday. The farmers, who are protesting against the Centre's three new farm laws, will reach Delhi on November 26 through five highways connecting the national capital. — PTI

New guidelines give states free hand to curb coronavirus

States can take call on
lockdown, says MHAVINEETA PANDEY
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

With large parts of North and East India facing a third wave of Coronavirus, the central government on Wednesday issued new guidelines that suggest stringent measures for containment and prevention of the deadly virus along with stricter surveillance.

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) which will be effective from December 1 and will remain in force till December 31, give a free hand to the states and UT to impose lockdowns and movement restrictions if needed to contain the spread of the virus.

However, state/ UT governments cannot impose any local lockdown (at state/ district/ sub-division/city level), outside the containment zones, without the prior consultation with the Central government. Also, there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements.



Health workers, wearing protective gear, collect swab sample of passengers at Bandra Terminus Railway Station in Mumbai on Wednesday. — PTI

India till Wednesday had over 92.22 lakh cases out of which 44,376 are new detections.

In a single day, 481 deaths have been reported taking the total fatalities to close to 1.35 lakh. The MHA said that the main focus of the guidelines is "to consolidate the substantial gains that have been achieved

against the spread of Covid-19 which is visible in the steady decline in the number of active cases in the country."

"Further, keeping in view the recent spike in new cases in few states/ UTs, ongoing festival season and onset of winter, it is emphasised that to fully overcome the pandemic, there is need to maintain caution and to strictly follow the prescribed containment strategy, focussed on surveillance, containment and strict observance of the guidelines/ SOPs issued by MHA and ministry of health and family welfare," officials said.

Local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed containment measures are strictly followed and states and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, are free to impose local restrictions, with a view to contain the spread of Covid-19.

3 mantris in Shivraj govt quit

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, NOV. 25

Three non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj Cabinet who have lost the recent bypolls in their respective Assembly constituencies, have finally resigned.

While state women and child development minister Imarti Devi

resigned on Wednesday, 2 other ministers — Giriraj Dandotia and Anand Singh Kansana — resigned from the ministry over the last couple of days.

"I have tendered my resignation. It is up to the chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to accept or reject it," Ms Devi said.

Haryana seals its
borders to stall
'Delhi Chalo' stir

Chandigarh, Nov. 25: Haryana put up road barricades at its border with Punjab as farmers in the adjoining state massed with their tractor-trailers ahead of a planned "Delhi Chalo" march Thursday to protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

The BJP government in Haryana has said it will seal its borders with Congress-run Punjab for the next two days, stopping farmers on their march to Delhi.

In Haryana, the police used water cannons at least twice Wednesday to disperse protesting farmers and stop them from going to Delhi.

The Haryana authorities also imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC in several parts of the state to prevent assembly of protesters.

Haryana also suspended its bus service to Punjab for November 26 and 27, state transport minister Mool Chand Sharma said. The Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) too suspended its bus services to Haryana for the next two days.

It said in a release that the

IN HARYANA, the police used water cannons at least twice Wednesday to disperse protesting farmers and stop them from going to Delhi

CTU operations in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh may also get affected.

Meanwhile, braving the cold and rainy conditions, thousands of farmers assembled with their tractor-trailers near the Haryana borders in Punjab.

Farmer bodies said they will hold a dharna wherever stopped from moving towards the national capital.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ektta-Ugarhan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan on Wednesday said around 25,000 women will participate in the protest march and over 4,000 tractor-trailers have been arranged it.

The BKU (Ektta-Ugrahan) has claimed that over two lakh farmers associated with it will enter Haryana through Khanauri and Dabwali.

Farmers have brought ration, vegetables, wood and other essentials for their march. — PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is here by informed that one boy Name: Deepak, S/o Ashok, R/o H. No. 26, Shani Bazar Road, Near Dispensary, Mukundpur, Delhi. Age: 19 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour check Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans & Red Shoes in

feet, has been missing his since 25.10.2020 about 08:30 am from the area of PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 85A dated 05.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph. 011-27811933, 27811934
DP/601/ON/2020

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	JOB NO.	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT
1	09/Manager System/Kyocera-Konica/Repair/20-21	Repair of various model of Kyocera Mita and Konica Minolta make photocopier machines	₹6,37,140/-

Which can be uploaded by date 09/12/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 10/12/2020 at 11.00 AM

Manager (System)

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Jallikattu is India's official Oscar entry

New Delhi/Kochi, Nov. 25: Malayalam film feature *Jallikattu*, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 93rd Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Wednesday.

Jallikattu, which was unanimously chosen from 27 entries across Hindi, Marathi and other languages, is about a tribe of men coming together to stop a bull that has run amok in their village.

Pellissery, who has previously made critically-acclaimed features like *Angamaly Diaries* and *Ea*

Ma Yau, said he is "extremely happy" that his movie has been selected for 2021 Oscars.

"Extremely happy to know that *Jallikattu* gained entry in the Oscar. This is a moment of happiness for all those who 'raced' for the film," the filmmaker said. — PTI

OBIT | 1949-2020

Ahmed Patel could be creative in solving problems

A trusted aide, but political
force in his own right also

ANAND K. SAHAY



Ahmed Patel

aisle though he held no high public office and was just one among many MPs.

Last year Patel camped in Mumbai to ensure that the Congress became a part of the three-party ruling coalition headed by Shiv Sena leader

Udhav Thackeray to displace the BJP, to whose national power the state of Maharashtra contributed inordinately. Congress' inclusion was on terms that were acceptable to the top Congress leadership since the Sena had been

seen as a communal party and Rahul Gandhi appeared to have reservations that were being sought to be exploited by the NCP.

The Congress being inserted into the ruling scheme was achieved through skilful negotiations conducted by Patel.

In these negotiations, he acted as the instrument and the principal since he commanded the implicit trust of Mrs Gandhi and didn't have to look over his shoulder or to await instructions at any stage. In her homage on the passing of an invaluable colleague, Mrs Gandhi has been respectful, calling her late colleague an "irreplaceable comrade" and "friend". Such expressions denote parity and trust.

Patel was quiet. He didn't discuss or run down the vilest political opponents even in private.

He seldom declined to see a journalist one on one and on those occasions could be frank in his assessment of a situation even if it was to his party's disadvantage. His independent status

was clear. He had first come to New Delhi, having won the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in 1977 when the Congress was wiped out in upper India.

Then in 2017, the way he won his Rajya Sabha seat is a saga on which a thrilling film can be made. He defeated every machination of the BJP which ran the state government and the Centre and had the resources with which it made MLAs defect and backstab their former colleagues.

This famous win set the stage alight and became the precursor to the Congress nearly winning the Gujarat Assembly election the same year.

This writer had first met Ahmed Patel on the field of cricket in a journalist versus parliamentarian cricket game in 1985, when he had just been made parliamentary secretary to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. He was self-effacing then and also when he was congratulated after beating the BJP in the Rajya Sabha stakes in 2017 — smiling shyly.

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION/
SHORT ORIGATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel/Partially Cancel/Short Terminate/Short Originate/Divert following Passengers Special Trains/Festival Special Trains in view of the Kisan Agitation in Punjab:-

CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAIN			
Train No. & Name		Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)	
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karambhoomi Superfast Clone Special		27.11.2020	
PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
08237 Korba-Amritsar Spl.	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 25.11.2020
08238 Amritsar-Korba Spl.	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	27.11.2020
02715 Nanded -Amritsar Sachkhand Special	at New Delhi	New Delhi- Amritsar	of 25.11.2020
02716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Special	from New Delhi	Amritsar- New Delhi	27.11.2020
02925 Bandra Terminus- Amritsar Special Express	at Chandigarh	Chandigarh - Amritsar	of 25.11.2020
02926 Amritsar - Bandra Terminus Special Express	from Chandigarh	Amritsar- Chandigarh	27.11.2020
04652 Amritsar - Jaynagar Express	from Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.- Amritsar	27.11.2020
DIVERSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Diverted Via		Date (from the Originating Station)
02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	Beas -Tarn Taran - Amritsar		of 24.11.2020
02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar -Tarn Taran - Beas		of 25.11.2020
04649/04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Special	Beas -Tarn Taran - Amritsar		of 24.11.2020
04650/04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Special	Amritsar -Tarn Taran - Beas		26.11.2020

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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SHORT TAKES

UP clears ₹36,402cr Ganga E-way plan

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has approved an ambitious 594-km Ganga Expressway project worth ₹36,402 crore running along the river from Hardwar to Allahabad. The decision to build the expressway between the two cities on the riverbank while running through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, HarDOI, Unnao and Rae Bareilly was taken in a UP Cabinet meeting chaired by chief minister Yogi Adityanath. The Cabinet also approved a district-wise alignment of the expressway, an official release said on Wednesday. The government also decided to monetise the Agra-Lucknow Expressway for funding the ambitious Ganga Expressway project and decided to set up a high-power committee to take procedural and operational decisions to monetise the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. — PTI

Shami's estranged wife gets threat calls

Kolkata: A 25-year-old man was arrested from Kolkata for threatening Indian pacer Mohammed Shami's estranged wife Hasin Jahan. The man was arrested from the Canning Station Road area for making several threat-calls over the last two months, demanding money from her "First it was Jahan's former domestic help who started calling her, demanding money. Then it was a man, claiming to be the woman's son," a police officer said. "He was demanding money and threatened that otherwise, he will post her personal photographs and mobile numbers on social media." — PTI

Cong loses its Chanakya

■ **Continued from Page 1** soul rest in peace," he tweeted. Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J.P. Nadda tweeted their condolences. NCP Chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, DMK leader Kanimozhi condoled the death of Patel. Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said that the Congress Party had lost its "Chanakya" in Patel's demise, while the MVA government has lost a guiding light. "AP", an old-world 24x7 politician and a backroom strategist, was a three-term Lok Sabha MP from Bharuch and a five-term Rajya Sabha MP. He never held a ministerial position but was the most powerful leader in the Congress after the Gandhis. The interesting aspect of his personality was that even his detractors within the party went to him for help and he obliged with a smile. This won him many friends, not only in his party but across the political spectrum. His inroads in all spheres — like the media, the corporate world — made him irreplaceable for the Gandhis. Patel was the key go-to man during the 10 years of the UPA government from 2004-14. Be it the stitching up of alliances, managing the 2008 trust vote of the Manmohan government in Lok Sabha, all of this had the indelible stamp of Patel. One of Patel's main jobs during the UPA era was to be the bridge between the party and the government and, most importantly, conveying in the gentlest of terms that the party is the mother ship and not the government. His political mettle was tested in the 2017 Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat when he was contesting. The Congress legislature party in Gujarat Assembly had split and it was his astute floor management that led to his win. Patel consistently avoided limelight, loved anonymity and assiduously worked during the night. While his residence does not have a nameplate outside, meetings and calls from him to politicians and media persons post midnight were a routine. In his remembrance tweet, Congress leader Pawan Khara wrote that now there will be no call at 2 am with a question, "Were you sleeping?" The Congress presently finds itself in a struggle from within and Ahmed Bhail was the only meeting point between the two factions. Now with the trouble-shooter gone, the Congress leadership will need some out-of-the-box thinking to ensure the party bounces back as a force to reckon with. Patel will be laid to rest at his native village Piraman in Gujarat's Bharuch district. The burial is likely to take place on Thursday.

AMRAVATI LAND SCAM HC had restrained media from reporting FIR filed over land purchase

SC stays Andhra HC gag order on media

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 25

The Supreme Court on Wednesday vacated the Andhra Pradesh high court's order restraining the media from publishing news regarding an FIR lodged on alleged irregularities in land transactions in Amaravati allegedly involving state's former advocate-general Dammalapati Srinivas. While lifting the high court order, Justice Ashok Bhushan, heading a bench also comprising Justices R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah, however, did not interfere with the high court order against any

coercive action against the former law officer of the state and stalling the investigation into the FIR. The top court asked the high court not to finally decide the petition filed by Dammalapati Srinivas against the registration of the FIR as it directed the listing of the matter in the week commencing from January 25, 2021. The high court by its September 15, 2020, order had said, "It is further directed that the news in regard to registration of FIR or in the context of the said FIR shall not be made public in any electronic, print or social media, to foist the office of a former

■ **A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that the high court shall not decide till January last week the pending matter which relates to the alleged illegal land transactions during shifting of the state capital to Amaravati**

advocate-general and also with respect to the other alleged accused persons." While not issuing notice to chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the top court issued notice to the director-general of police, anti-corruption bureau and the head of the state intelligence department. Dammalapati Srinivas who had filed a caveat was represented by the senior counsel Harish

Salve and Mukul Rohatgi. The Jagan Mohan Reddy government had earlier constituted the 10-member SIT, headed by a deputy inspector-general of police-rank IPS officer, on February 21 to conduct a comprehensive investigation into various alleged irregularities, particularly the land deals in the Amaravati Capital Region, during the previous Chandrababu Naidu

regime. Assailing the interim order by the high court directing no coercive action against Mr Srinivas stalling of the investigation into the FIR and gagging media from reporting the FIR, senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan told the court that the investigation into the FIR could not have been blocked. On the gag order, Mr Dhavan cited top court's Constitution Bench judgment in Sahara case where it was held that reporting of the proceedings in criminal matters can only be postponed and not barred. He said that the petition by Srinivas was

filed on September 15 and that very day at 5.30 pm, the high court heard the matter and passed the interim order. Describing as unprecedented "the manner in which the HC had passed the order", Mr Dhavan said that the high court could not have passed such an interim order at all. Harish Salve, however, contended that the entire action of the Andhra government against Mr Srinivas was malafide and was a case of "regime revenge" as the former advocate general had appeared against the chief minister Reddy in a number of criminal matters.

Modi to lay foundation for new Parl bldg in Dec.

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation stone for a new Parliament building in the first half of December, sources said. Sources said around five statues, including that of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhimrao Ambedkar, in the Parliament complex are also likely to be relocated temporarily due to the construction work and they will be reinstalled at prominent places within the new complex once the project is completed. The new building will be constructed close to the existing one under the Central Vista redevelopment project and it is expected to be completed in 21 months from the start of construction work. Although the proposed date of laying the foundation stone is around December 10, the final date would depend on the availability of the PM, the sources said. According to the plan, the new Parliament building will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces as a step towards creating "paperless offices". The new building will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for MPs, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space. — PTI



Pedestrians walk past bullet holes marked outside Nariman House, one of the sites of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that had claimed 166 lives, at Colaba area in Mumbai on the eve of the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 terror attacks on Wednesday. — PTI

■ Induction will boost surveillance, intel amid LAC tension

India leases hi-tech US naval drones

PAWAN BALI
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

In a major development Indian Navy has taken on lease two SeaGuardian aerial vehicles (UAVs) from the United States for carrying out surveillance at a time of heightened tension with China at the line of actual control (LAC). This is the first significant military hardware taken on the lease after India announced new defence acquisition procedure — 2020, in September. It allowed Indian defence forces to lease assets without the need to own them to "substitute huge initial capital outlays". These drones are



"unarmed" and are a variant of the Predator B drones manufactured by US firm General Atomics. These will be used for surveillance and have the capability of being in the air for over 30 hours. India got these drones in the second week of November and were inducted into fly-

ing operations on November 21 at Indian Navy base at INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu. These drones have been taken on lease for one year. The maintenance team has also arrived with these drones, but sortie planning and the joystick control will be with Indian Navy. India is likely to take more drones on lease in the coming days. In the recent armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan armed drones were the most crucial factor to tilt the balance of the war in favour of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan used the armed drones bought from Israel and Turkey to hit Armenia military assets to a devastating effect, which crippled its air defence system, tanks, artillery guns and its armed forces. India is also looking at its drones' strategy and is in process of buying armed drones in coming days. China has a formidable drones strength.

Convoy of Dilip Ghosh attacked in Murshidabad

PRANMOY BRAHMACHARI
BERHAMPORE, NOV. 25

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh's convoy was allegedly attacked by angry Trinamul Congress workers in Murshidabad on Wednesday evening. Stones were pelted and black flags were shown by the TMC workers to him at Purandarpur in Kandi. Mr Ghosh, however, escaped unhurt. But BJP Murshidabad district president Gouri Shankar Ghosh's car was damaged in the attack.

This was the second time the Midnapore BJP MP became the target of the ruling party workers within a month. Earlier, a group of youth showed black flags and chanted slogans "Dilip Ghosh Go Back, BJP Go Back" near Kandi sub division hospital more. They were restrained by the police. Later Mr Ghosh claimed, "Didi and his brothers are panicked. They shouted words like mad to provoke us. It is nothing new to us. We can give them a befitting reply but we maintained our workers." However Trinamul Congress Murshidabad district president Abu Taher Khan brushed aside the BJP's allegations. He alleged the BJP workers masterminded the attack to grab media attention. Earlier in the day, Mr Ghosh remarked that Bengal has turned into "second Kashmir" as terrorists are being arrested every day and illegal bomb-making factories are being unearthed. "West Bengal has turned into second Kashmir. Everyday terrorists are being arrested and illegal bomb-making factories are being unearthed every next day. The only factory that is working here is the bomb-making factory," the Bengal BJP chief said.

Centre to infuse ₹6,000cr in NIIF debt platform

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal for equity infusion of ₹6,000 crore in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) debt platform, which is expected to contribute nearly ₹1 lakh crores in debt to the infrastructure sector over the next five years. This will act as a catalyst in attracting more investments into the infrastructure sector as envisaged in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), under which the Centre plans to provide world-class infrastructure by 2025.

This was one of the 12 key measures announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of government's stimulus to the struggling economy hit hard by the impact of coronavirus pandemic, under the third instalment of AatmaNirbhar Bharat package on November 12. ₹6,000 crores will be invested as equity in the NIIF Debt Platform over two financial years, i.e., 2020-21 and 2021-22. Under the NIP, investments to the tune of ₹111 lakh crore is envisaged in

various infrastructure sub-sectors over the next 5 years. This would require at least ₹60-70 lakh crore in debt financing. Operationalisation of the debt platform will help relieve exposure of banks to infrastructure projects and free up space for new green-field projects. The decision by the government to provide equity infusion to the NIIF debt platform comes at a time when it is struggling to kickstart its ambitious NIP project amid the Coronavirus pandemic. The clearance for equity infusion by the Union Cabinet in the NIIF platform has been given on the condition that only ₹2,000 crore would be allotted during the current financial year. However, in view of the precarious financial condition of the country, the proposed amount may be disbursed only if there is readiness and demand for debt raising. Also the NIIF will have to take all necessary steps to use the equity investments from domestic and global pension funds and sovereign wealth funds expeditiously, official sources said.

PDP leader held over links with terror accused

■ **Continued from Page 1** Council (DDC) elections in J&K. "No coincidence that he filed his nomination for DDC on 20th Nov & received NIA summons next day itself," Ms Mufti said. A statement issued by PDP said that Mr Parra's arrest "signals the level of depravity to which the BJP and RSS can go in targeting and damaging its political opponents" and that these actions of New Delhi "will, however, not deter the PDP. Our actions and our voices will become louder". Mr Parra had appeared before the NIA at its head-

quarters in New Delhi on Monday and Tuesday for questioning. He had said on Monday evening that he was asked about his political career and PDP's soft politics during the questioning. An earlier report said that Mr Parra's name had surfaced during the NIA's probe into the Davinder Singh case but he had publicly expressed ignorance about the same. Singh was arrested along with Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu, one of the most wanted Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants, and his associate Asif Ahmed Rather by the J&K police

in southern Kulgam district on January 11 this year. Subsequently, Kashmiri lawyer Irfan Shafi Mir and Naveed Babu's brother Syed Irfan Ahmed were also taken into custody after they were accused of being the Hizb's over ground workers. The police officer who was soon placed under suspension and the militant duo were travelling in a Hyundai i20 car along the highway connecting J&K's twin capitals — Srinagar and Jammu — and were reportedly on their way to Chandigarh. Investigations done by

the J&K police had reportedly revealed that Singh had accompanied militants or helped them in relocating to various parts of the country on different occasions in lieu of money and other considerations. The Centre later asked the NIA to probe the case. Special Cell of Delhi Police which also probed the police officer's alleged terror links and subsequently filed a case in a Delhi court against him and other accused told it that Naveed Babu and others were planning to execute terror attacks in Delhi and other parts of the country as well as

carry out targeted killings of protected persons. However, the court on June 19 granted Singh and Irfan Shafi Mir bail after noting that the probe agency failed to file chargesheet within 90 days from their arrest, as prescribed under law. Separately, the NIA chargesheet filed in a special court at Jammu on July 6 alleged that Singh had established contact with officials of the Pakistan high commission through a secure social media platform and was, along with five others, involved in terror activities in the country.

Heavy rains in TN, P'cherry

■ **Continued from Page 1** heavy rains, flooded roads and marooned neighbourhoods disrupted normal life in Chennai, keeping the people on tenterhooks all through Wednesday. Inspecting the Chembarambakkam reservoir before opening the sluices to let out the excess inflow of water before noon, chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said the government was prepared to face the situation by ensuring that the people did not suffer much due to the onslaught of the cyclone. People in low-lying areas were being evacuated and put in relief camps, he said, adding that about 200 camps had been established in the 200 wards in Chennai. Authorities ordered Chennai airport closed for 12 hours from 7 pm on Wednesday. Authorities said flights will not take off or land at the Chennai airport until further notice. In Chennai's suburbs of Varadharajapuram and Mudichur water entered homes in many residential localities and people complained of snakes and venomous insects entering the houses. Flood warnings had been issued to people living on the banks of Adyar river, 12 villages in Chengalpattu district and eight in Kanchipuram district due to the opening of the Chembarambakkam lake.

THE ASIAN AGE

26 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden signals US on way back to good governance

Having played truant for weeks while jousting with democratic principles like a Don Quixote engaging with windmills, Donald Trump finally gave in to allow the transition to begin of President-elect Joe Biden to the White House. Given that his political base began crumbling with Republicans too calling on him to cease his assault on the integrity of the presidential election and legal options disappearing as challenges on the premise of fraud in the polls were laughed out of court, Mr Trump may have altered his alternative reality view just a shade to accept Mr Biden was on the way to winning in the Electoral College while having dominated the popular vote.

It is, of course, far from certain that the outgoing President will not place further obstacles in the victor's path as he clings to the delusion the election was stolen from him and has set his lawyers on an incredulous path of conspiracy theories to undermine the sanctity of America's polls. If the US President's hesitant concession to the will of the people and the US electoral process is followed logically, as it must, by Mr Biden being sworn in on January 20, 2021, Mr Trump will become the laughing stock of the liberal world.

The eccentric nomination and firing policies of Mr Trump who let go of loyalists refusing to toe his line when in office may be a thing of the past

The damage Mr Trump has wrought by casting doubts freely in people's minds on the legitimacy of what has emerged as one of the cleanest elections in American history might have repercussions for the rest of the world. Authoritarian leaders in his mould would only be further encouraged to ignore the popular will even as the US election process and its presidential system of governance takes an image hit as a role model for democracies. The election is the very fount of democracy even if the US presidential poll hinges on the transfer of Electoral College votes and not on the popular vote as we saw also in Mr Trump's victory in 2016.

The path ahead of a Biden White House governing the US even with the obvious heft of its economy and the clout of its military might would be riddled with unprecedented health and economic challenges in a world still in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic. The colourful hints to be seen in the incipient composition of the Biden Cabinet straightway convey how different the US is going to be after four years of Mr Trump and his predominantly white and male Cabinet.

It is not only a reflection of the diversity that is to be welcomed as in Mr Biden's black and Indian origin vice-president Kamala Harris or in the choice of treasury secretary, likely to be Janet Yellen, with her expertise as one who headed the Federal Reserve, and in Avril Haines as the first woman to be director of national intelligence. The eccentric nomination and firing policies of Mr Trump who let go of loyalists refusing to toe his line when in office may be a thing of the past. The one thing that America needs most now is a settled mode of governance far from the maddening whimsicality of a Donald Trump, a salesman who became an accidental President.

UP law violates basic rights

The right to life and the right to religious freedom are two fundamental rights of every Indian citizen, guaranteed by the Constitution. However, the Uttar Pradesh government has some other views on them and has come out with an ordinance that criminalises religious conversion even as the Allahabad high court affirmed the right of adults to decide on their choices.

The Uttar Pradesh Unlawful Religious Conversion Prohibition Ordinance, 2020, cleared by the state cabinet, makes religious conversion a cognisable offence inviting a jail term up to 10 years. It makes the onus on proving that a conversion was effected not for marriage or through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or other fraudulent means on the person converting or those who facilitate it. The ordinance is condemnable as it shows how badly the state government seeks to intervene in the personal choices of people and score some propaganda points, violating the very fundamentals of the Constitution.

If someone has a doubt on the impact the new statute will have on interfaith marriages, they can look at the intervention the Allahabad high court was forced to make on Tuesday in a case. Holding that nobody, including the state, can have an objection to a relationship of two major individuals who out of their free will are living together, it quashed an FIR filed against a man, a Muslim, registered on the complaints of his father-in-law under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012, though both the man and his wife, a Hindu, were adults. If the POCSO Act can be misused against an adult in an interfaith marriage, then one can imagine how the new law will make the lives of interfaith couples miserable.

The Uttar Pradesh law is no accident; others on similar lines are in the works in many states. Unless they are stopped in their tracks, the great ideal of personal liberty in this country will suffer a serious setback.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Editor in Chief

Printer & Publisher: K. SUDHAKAR

The Asian Age office is located at: New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for

Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94



Subhani

Use Tibet links, counter China in the Himalayas



Claude Arpi

For millennia, the Himalayas have been an active bridge between the Indic and Tibetan civilisations. The great physical barrier has been a place of intense contacts between two worlds which shared their search for infinity.

After the arrival of a newcomer (Mao's People's Liberation Army) on the plateau in 1950-51, the ancient relations became more and more strained, ending with being completely severed in 1962.

Beijing could not tolerate India's special relations with Tibet.

Today, while Beijing promotes its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), or the new Silk Roads, it has made sure that the ancient kinship between Tibet and the Himalayas is not revived; all the borders have been closed for almost 60 years now, with the exception of three land ports opened for petty trade at Nathu-la, Shipkila and Lipulekh-la; far from the flourishing business that took place over many centuries. Beijing has conveniently set aside these traditional trade routes to sponsor new ones (with Pakistan).

The situation turned for the worse in March 1959, when the Dalai Lama reached Khenzimane, north of Tawang, and was given asylum by the Indian government; and relations between India and Tibet, as well as the trade and pilgrimage, reached a point of no return.

Soon after the Indo-Tibet frontier became the "disputed" Sino-Indian boundary, intrusions took place in Longju in the then North East Frontier Agency (Nefa) and Kongka-la/Hot Springs in Ladakh in the summer of 1959, making New Delhi suddenly realise India had a new neighbour and that

the boundary had not been settled, as the idealist Indian government had wanted to believe.

After 1962, an ancient world disappeared and India (and the Himalayas) lost a friend, a kind neighbour and a peaceful border.

But the kinship of shared values and common history between India and Tibet have remained; unfortunately, this never translated into a coherent policy for Tibetan refugees as well as the populations of the border areas. Though the Indian government never wanted to be politically involved with Tibet, the age-old ties between the Land of Snows and India's Himalayas has remained alive (as we have seen since the start of the present crisis in Ladakh); but now it needs to be revitalised by the government.

While the People's Republic of China was able to annex Tibet by force of arms, Beijing has been unable to assimilate Tibetans into their system. Can Beijing succeed in the future? It is a moot question, the answer to which the future alone holds.

Some argue the past should be forgotten, as the world has changed; further, China has become a powerful state; and the fact that the Communist regime is today dreaming of leading the world and imposing the "Chinese Dream" on the planet is worrying for the Tibetan and the Himalayan population. In view of this situation on India's borders, we must think of a new approach towards the Himalayas.

At the outset, instead of a new policy for Tibet alone, it would be better to have a common policy for the Himalayan belt and Tibet, which have shared countless cultural, spiritual, strategic and economic similarities. I would there-

fore suggest a new "Himalayan and Tibetan Affairs' Policy".

Some general principles should dictate this new policy.

First, that India should look after its own interests, then after the interests of those who are ethnically or culturally close to India, like the Tibetans. It seems obvious, but it has not always been the case.

India should adhere to its ideals of being a peaceful nation, of fighting against any form of imperialism and defending the rights of weaker people; further the government should certainly not take at face value declarations of peace by other nations, particularly China.

Another principle is that India's policies or actions should not be dictated by what others will think or say, particularly how China will react to a particular decision. This tendency has lasted too long with no tangible gain for this country (for example, the 2018 directive that no Indian officials should meet the Dalai Lama); retrospectively, it had counter-productive effects. Unfortunately, India faces a country which still believes that power comes out of the barrel of a gun; without emulating China, India must quietly and forcefully look after its own interests and be honest, frank, straightforward about it.

Whatever overall policy is finally adopted, one element is crucial - coordination. In view of the individualistic tendencies of India's bureaucracy, this is extremely crucial in order to achieve the targeted aim of a common policy for all stakeholders (external affairs, defence, home, education, culture, security agencies). That is why I propose the creation of a Department of Himalayan

and Tibetan Affairs (DHTA), to function under the Prime Minister's Office.

If any "coordinator" were to work under one of the above ministries, he/she will not be able to implement the holistic policy decided by the government.

A DHTA, headed by a secretary-rank officer, could be the central element for developing the border areas.

In the 1950s and 1960s, a post of SOFA (Special Officer of Frontiers Affairs) existed; the scope of the SOFA's responsibilities was limited due to the fact that it worked under the MEA alone; it was however manned by (excellent) officers; a few SOFAs could be professionally looking after border areas and Tibetan affairs.

Keeping in mind the welfare and customs of the local population and the Tibetan refugees, the DHTA could take measures to stop the migration of the local population towards the big cities; build infrastructure, work on closer ties between the defence forces and the local population, an eventual revival of border trade, trans-border pilgrimages, and promote Buddhism on a larger scale.

The DHTA could revive the Indian Frontier Administrative Service (IFAS); in the 1950s, IFAS officers did a great job on India's northern borders and in Tibet; most of them had sacrificed promising careers in the Army to join the service; all were remarkable personalities. Even though the cadre does not exist any longer, they are still a role model for young IAS/IPS officers posted at the borders.

The need of the hour is to revitalise the Himalayas and link it with the welfare of Tibetan refugees and the promotion of their unique culture. It is the only way to balance China's propaganda efforts in the border areas.

The writer is based in South India for the past 42 years. He writes on India, China, Tibet and Indo-French relations.

I propose the creation of a Department of Himalayan and Tibetan Affairs (DHTA), to function under the Prime Minister's Office

LETTERS

AMPLE WARNING

The recent cases of failure of some leading Non-Banking Financial Companies have come about as they went into the unfamiliar terrain of corporate lending. To transform into a commercial bank they would need to demonstrate a huge step-up in skill levels as too would the regulator in flagging deviant signals. Collapse of a number of them in succession indicate that much ground remains to be covered. That in all these, the corporate sector is seen to have lost its sheen should raise eyebrows to it being considered to now run banks. We may not be ready for such enthusiasm yet.

R. Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

REGULARISE TESTS

AT PRESENT, STATES are charging different rates for the RT-PCR test for Covid-19. The rates varies from ₹900 to ₹2,800 under various state governments. The cost of the test to private labs is only ₹200 but they are charging ₹2,400 in Delhi. Thus some businesses are minting money taking advantage of the epidemic. It is, therefore, of utmost importance to the central government to intervene and fix a uniform charge for the test at the lowest possible rate.

D.B. Madan
New Delhi

NIRBHAYA LEGACY

ARE THEY THE BEST cops in India? Richie Mehta's seven-part Netflix Original *Delhi Crime* has become the first Indian drama to win an Emmy Award, and it portrays the Delhi Police's investigation of the Jyoti Singh aka Nirbhaya gang-rape. Shefali Shah, Rajesh Tailang and Rasika Duggal play the cops. Shah's performance as DCP Vartika Chaturvedi tasked with arresting the culprits and bringing them to justice is particularly powerful. The series has been both praised and criticised for its empathetic interpretation of the role of the Delhi Police.

Priyanka Mathur
New Delhi

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

Abhijit Bhattacharyya



RECP: Why India must be firm on staying out

The "real" world of trade, commerce and diplomacy fructify on the facts. Thus, the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), including the 10-nation Asean bloc from Southeast Asia, which came into being in mid-November, can also be evaluated only on the facts, not on any "regret", "shock" or "surprise". When a former Indian commerce minister and a former foreign secretary express anguish over New Delhi committing a "historical blunder", which they feel would negatively impact the nation's progress and prosperity and lead to "international isolation" diplomatically, one needs a scrutiny of the facts.

Why are we so hallucinating? India is a recurring, chronic laggard with the 15-member RCEP club -- except for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines, India's trade balance with the other 11 RCEP states is negative. And while India's total trade surplus with these four Asean countries is just \$1,589.26 billion, the bilateral trade loss from the other 11 RCEP states -- Australia, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and New Zealand -- stands at a staggering

\$99,870.87 billion. How then, with which magic wand, can India be guided to the path of profit and prosperity in the Chinese-run RCEP? One wonders!

Can't we see how all these countries, which till recently had an independent identity and freedom of choice and action in the 10-nation Asean bloc, by one stroke of the pen on Sunday, November 15, in Hanoi, virtually lost all their panache, being subsumed by the RCEP -- subject to the overlordship of the Communist Party of China, operating from Beijing! All in the name of "free trade", "ease of doing business", "free flow of goods", "tariff-free", "common prosperity" and "shared (not shredded) goals"?

Contextually, however, the RCEP that was signed into existence in Hanoi on November 15 can't be seen in isolation as a one-time landmark wishlist for commerce, trade, investment or collective prosperity, etc. Far from it. It is born out of the acute inferiority-cum-insecurity complex of the overlord of Beijing, President-for-life Xi Jinping, who has been left badly shaken by the fate of America's outgoing President Donald Trump. But the maverick US leader is still in office till noon on January 20, 2021, and the autocrat that

he is, President Xi is not quite certain what steps his American counterpart may take against China in his few remaining weeks. That is the fear of the unknown. Therefore, he is searching for security, and the RCEP, he hopes, will fulfil that need.

The Communist Party of China's \$14 trillion economy needs a protective screen of allies urgently, thus the efforts in the past few years towards the Belt and Road Initiative and offshoots like the CPEC. The Chinese-sponsored banks have for long been trying to convince its partners and client states to replace the use of the US dollar with the Chinese yuan (renminbi), which has found few takers. Will it have better luck with the "RCEP Common Market"? If its members agree to use the Chinese currency for its trade, Beijing's road to numero uno status would get easier. No one would miss the symbolism.

After afflicting the entire world with the Chinese virus and killing millions, while it has mysteriously caused the least damage within the People's Republic where it had originated, the Chinese Communists know well it is time to build an image of credibility and trustworthiness. Otherwise there

is the very real danger of the West mobilising to strike back and maybe inflict damage -- reminiscent of nineteenth and twentieth century Chinese history. It knows well that the existing world order faces its existential threat, as aptly shown in the IMF's latest annual report.

"Governments and central banks around the world must spend \$19.5 trillion just to put 'a floor under' the world economy -- which has been reeling under the catastrophic impact of the pandemic". Governments, as of September 2020, have "announced nearly \$12 trillion in stimulus measures and central banks across world have already spent \$7.5 trillion" to soften the impact of the Chinese-origin virus on economics. Yet, the fact is that today "the state of the world economy is worse... than the Great Depression of the 1930s".

What India has done about the RCEP is perfect. It couldn't be otherwise.

Giving preference to imports rather than exporting indigenous goods, India's ruling class had made monumental blunders in the two decades since 2000, which led to New Delhi's capitulation before the CPC, with the Chinese brutally romping deep inside

India's hinterland and taking control of some sensitive and strategic sectors, thus endangering the security of India from within. Just contrast democratic India's behaviour with the way Beijing deals with non-Chinese entities operating in that country. India's decision on RCEP was also partly a damage-control exercise.

Our horrendous 2019-20 total trade deficit (despite the downturn due to the Chinese virus) still stands at \$1,61,348.24 billion, though down from the 2018-19 figure of minus \$1,84,000.33 billion.

India shouldn't be branded a "loser" for not joining the 15-nation RCEP as long as the supreme national interest of its 1.3 billion people is unaddressed by the RCEP's shadow of the CPC-created Chinese virus. Just wait and see: the octopus-like dragon will destroy economics, monopolise trade, break banks, create a debt trap, organise political sabotage, destroy indigenous industry, corner and usurp the dollar from all sources and replace it with the Chinese currency.

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College

IN BRIEF

KIWI SOLDIER
CHARGED WITH
SPYING

Wellington, Nov. 25: A New Zealand soldier has been charged with spying and will face up to 14 years in prison if found guilty. It is the first time somebody from the military has faced such a charge in New Zealand, at least in modern times, the New Zealand Defence Force said Wednesday.

The soldier faces a total of 17 charges and will be tried in a court martial. The military is releasing few other details about the case ahead of the trial, and the soldier's name is being kept secret by court order. The soldier was based at the Linton Military Camp with about 2,000 people near the city of Palmerston North. The website Newsroom said the soldier was first arrested in December and has close ties to far-right extremist groups.

CAR HITS GATE
OUTSIDE MERKEL
GERMAN OFFICE

Berlin, Nov. 25: A car crashed into the front gate of the building housing German Chancellor Angela Merkel's offices on Wednesday morning, but appeared to have caused little damage, Berlin police said.

Officers were on the scene investigating the crash at the German chancellery, police spokesman Hartmut Paeth said, but there were no immediate details about injuries or arrests. Rescue crews on the scene confirmed the man driving the car was being treated in an ambulance that remained in front of the chancellery.

The car, a Volkswagen sedan, had the slogan "You damned murderers of children and old people" scrawled in white paint on one side.

On the other it said "stop the globalisation policies."

It had licence plates from the North Rhine-Westphalia area of Lippe and was driven away by the Berlin fire department showing little sign of damage beyond a few scratches.

The metal gate to the chancellery appeared slightly bent.

The chancellery sits in downtown Berlin next to the Swiss Embassy and across from the capital's parliamentary offices.

AZERBAIJANI
ARMY OCCUPIES
EX-ARMENIA AREA

Baku, Nov. 25: The Azerbaijani army has entered the Kalbajar region, one more territory ceded by Armenian forces in a truce that ended deadly fighting over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

The cease-fire, brokered by Russia two weeks ago, stipulated that Armenia hand over control to Azerbaijan of some areas it holds outside Nagorno-Karabakh's borders. The first one, Aghdam, was turned over last week. Kalbajar was expected to be handed over on November 15, but Azerbaijan agreed to delay the takeover after a request from Armenia.

Azerbaijani officials said worsening weather conditions made the withdrawal of Armenian forces and civilians difficult along the single road through mountainous territory that connects the region with Armenia. Footage showed Azerbaijani troops slowly moving through snowy terrain, looking for mines.

BOAT OVERTURNS
NEAR SPAIN, 7
MIGRANTS DIE

Madrid, Nov. 25: At least seven people died after a migrant boat carrying more than 30 people hit rocks close to a small port on the Canary Island of Lanzarote, Spanish rescue services said Wednesday. The boat was one of 12 intercepted in the islands' waters overnight.

Some 300 people were rescued in the other boats but one died later. The Canary Islands emergency service said the Lanzarote boat crashed into pier rocks and overturned in the Orzola area on the north of the island late Tuesday. Video images showed rescue workers pulling young men in T-shirts from the water in the dark and other migrants sitting on the rocks. The emergency service said seven bodies from the boat were found overnight.

It said search operations are continuing. In the other incidents, the national rescue service and Civil Guard rescued some 300 people, including women and children, arriving in 11 boats. One person died. The services said many of the migrants were from northwest African countries.



A man dressed as Ded Moroz (Santa Claus, or Father Frost) stands in a street in Moscow on Wednesday.

— AFP

First Coronavirus vaccinations
possible by Christmas, says EU

Brussels, Nov. 25: A top European Union official said Wednesday that the first citizens in the 27 nation bloc could be vaccinated against the Coronavirus by Christmas, but she warned that member countries must urgently prepare their logistical chains for the rollout of hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccine.

Claiming that "there's finally light at the end of the tunnel," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers that "the first European citizens might already be vaccinated before the end of December." The commission, the EU's executive arm, has agreements with six potential vaccine suppliers and is working on a seventh contract.

The deals allow it to purchase over 900 million doses, more than the population of the bloc, which stands at around 460 million people.

On Tuesday, Brussels said it would sign a contract for up to 160 million doses of the experimental Coronavirus vaccine developed by Moderna, which the company says appears to be 94.5 per cent effective, according to its preliminary data.

But von der Leyen said that while vaccines are important, "what counts are vaccinations."

"Member states must get ready now. We're talking about millions of syringes, we're talking about cold chains, we're talking about organising vaccination centres, we're talking about trained personnel that is there. You name it. All this has to be prepared," she warned.

— AP

Christmas bubble:
Boris offers days
off from lockdown

London, Nov. 25: Prime Minister Boris Johnson has confirmed a time-limited one-off dispensation from Covid-19 lockdown rules agreed by all parts of the United Kingdom for families to get together to form a Christmas bubble between December 23 and 27. In a video message on Tuesday evening from Downing Street, where he continues to self-isolate after being in contact with a Covid-positive politician, Johnson said a family can get together with

two other households to form such a bubble in order to spend the festive period together.

"All four nations of the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales) have agreed that from the 23rd of December to the 27th of December, you will be able to form a Christmas bubble with up to two other households," Johnson said. It would mean that up to three households will be able to come together from any part of the UK.

— PTI

CHINA STIRS ROW
SAYING FROZEN
FOODS INFECTED

Beijing, Nov. 25: China has stirred controversy with claims it has detected the Coronavirus on packages of imported frozen food.

Frozen shrimp imported from an Ecuadorian company was banned for one week on Tuesday in a continuing series of such temporary bans. While experts say the virus can survive for a time on cardboard and plastic containers, it remains unclear how serious a risk that poses. Like so many issues surrounding the pandemic, the matter has swiftly become politicised.

— AP

Email row: Sanford
Health CEO ousted

Sioux Falls (US), Nov. 25: The head of one of the largest regional health systems in the Midwest has been replaced, less than a week after telling employees that he had recovered from Covid-19 and was not wearing a mask around the office.

Sanford Health said in a release on Tuesday that it has "mutually agreed to part ways" with longtime CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft, who took over in 1996 and helped expand the organisation from a community hospital into what is billed as the largest rural nonpr-

ofit health system in the country. Krabbenhoft left the executive position after telling employees in an email that he believes he's now immune to Covid-19 for "at least seven months and perhaps years to come" and that he isn't a threat to transmit it to anyone. He said wearing a mask would be merely for show. Dr Kathy Anderson, president of the North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said it was "an especially dangerous message to be sending right now in North Dakota."

— AP

RUSSIA SEES
RECORD VIRUS
DEATHS AGAIN

Moscow, Nov. 25: Russian authorities have registered a record number of Coronavirus deaths for a second straight day.

The government coronavirus task force reported 507 new deaths on Wednesday, the country's highest daily toll. The previous record of 491 deaths was reported on Tuesday. A total of 37,538 people have died from the Coronavirus in Russia, according to the task force. Russia has been swept by a rapid resurgence of the outbreak this fall.

— AP

Pak hosts UN proscribed ultras: India

United Nations, Nov. 25: India has reminded Pakistan, the "host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities", of Abbottabad, the garrison city where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden hid for years and was killed, in a hard-hitting response as Islamabad's UN envoy gave a "dossier of lies" to Secretary General Antonio Guterres. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T S Tirumurti on Tuesday tweeted that the "dossier of lies presented by Pakistan enjoys zero credibility".

"Concocting documents and peddling false narratives is not new to Pakistan, host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities. Remember Abbottabad!" he said. The Indian Ambassador's tweet was in response to Islamabad's UN envoy Munir Akram meeting Guterres to hand over the dossier from the Pakistan government that alleged India was promoting terrorism in the country. Tirumurti made a reference to Abbottabad, where bin Laden was hiding for years and was killed.

— PTI

PAK CABINET GIVES NOD TO CHEMICAL
CASTRATION, HANGING OF RAPISTS

Islamabad, Nov. 25: To combat rising cases of sexual attacks on women and children in Pakistan, the federal Cabinet has approved in-principle two anti-rape ordinances aimed at handing out exemplary punishment, including chemical castration and hanging, to rapists, according to a media report.

A Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad on Tuesday also decided to

change the definition of rape, the Dawn News reported on Wednesday. The Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance 2020 and Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 would be finalised in a week to be promulgated, Information Minister Shibli Faraz said. The two ordinances, are aimed at handing out exemplary punishment to rapists, including chemical castration and hanging.

— PTI

SEXUAL | CRIMES

Victims to present case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March

Raped by regime, women demand justice in Uruguay

Montevideo, Nov. 25: When Ana Amoros fell prey to Uruguay's dictatorship, the first thing her torturers did was strip her naked and hit her with a riding crop. Then they raped her. Amoros is one of a group of 28 former political prisoners seeking justice for torture and sexual crimes committed by the military regime that ruled Uruguay between 1973 and 1985.

Nine years after first filing a criminal complaint before Uruguay's courts, the women will present

their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March next year. The women's quest for justice is made more difficult by a law passed a year after the country's return to democracy in 1986 that blocked investigation of dictatorship-era crimes.

That allowed some a fresh start, but for others like Amoros, it meant suppressing the truth about regime-sponsored violence against women.

"Women's bodies were,

and still are, the spoils of war," said Amoros, now 72.

Considered one of South America's most progressive countries, Uruguay remains conflicted about its military past. Torture, killings, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations were committed during the nearly 12-year dictatorship. "Women's stories are only recently emerging. There is a masculine narrative, a very masculine narrative," said former political prisoner

● **THE WOMEN'S** quest for justice is made more difficult by a law passed a year after the country's return to democracy in 1986 that blocked investigation of dictatorship-era crimes.

Luz Menendez, 66. Menendez was arrested and held in La Tablada, an estate outside Montevideo used to torture leftist suspects. She said her torturer had told her: "Girl, don't

Biden: US ready
to lead the world

Prez-elect: Country to sit at head of table

Washington, Nov. 25:

Declaring "America is back," President-elect Joe Biden has introduced his key national security and foreign policy officials and said the incoming administration is ready to lead the world and once again sit at the head of the table. Signalling a sharp shift from outgoing Republican President Donald Trump's "America First" policy over the last four years, Biden said America is "ready to confront our adversaries, not reject our allies. And ready to stand up for our values."

Speaking from his transition center in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden, a Democrat, introduced his six top officials and highlighted the need to rebuild alliances, as well as tackling the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

World leaders, he said, were "looking forward to the United States reasserting its historic role as a global leader over the Pacific, as well as the Atlantic, all across the world."

Biden's nominees and appointees, including Antony Blinken for secretary of state and former secretary of state John Kerry to a new position as special presidential envoy for climate, spoke for the first time since being announced on Monday by the transition team, and many of them offered implicit rebukes of President Trump and his isolationist and "America First" worldview.

"The team meets this moment, this team behind

Harris: End hurdles
for global leadership

Washington, Nov. 25: Acknowledging that they would inherit a series of unprecedented challenges upon walking into the White House, United States Vice President-elect Kamala Harris said overcoming domestic challenges is a necessary foundation for restoring and advancing American leadership around the world.

"President-elect Biden and I have long known that when we were elected, we would inherit a series of unprecedented challenges upon walking into the White House," Harris, 56, told reporters on Tuesday at the transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware where President-elect Joe Biden announced his national security team.

"Addressing these challenges starts with getting this pandemic under control, opening our economy responsibly, and making sure it works for working people. And we also know

that overcoming our challenges here at home is a necessary foundation for restoring and advancing our leadership around the world," she said.

"And we are ready for that work. We will need to reassemble and renew America's alliances; rebuild and strengthen the national security and foreign policy institutions that keep us safe and advance our nation's interests; and confront and combat the existential threat of climate change that endangers us all," Harris said.

Asserting that she takes these issues very seriously, Harris said her whole career has been about keeping people safe, from serving as District Attorney to California's Attorney General to the United States Senate, where she have served on the Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees.

— PTI

● **Joe Biden has become the US first presidential candidate to win over 80 million votes. President-elect Biden won more than 80,011,000 votes as of Tuesday, while President Donald Trump had more than 73,800,000 votes.**

China opposes India's
ban on 43 more apps

Beijing, Nov. 25: China on Wednesday said it was firmly opposed to India's decision to block 43 more Chinese apps on national security grounds, claiming the move violated WTO rules. India on Tuesday blocked 43 more Chinese mobile apps, including Alibaba Group Holding's e-commerce app AliExpress, in a fresh wave of web sanctions amid its border standoff 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 in New Delhi.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT issued the order for blocking the access of these apps by users in India based on the comprehensive reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center, Ministry of Home Affairs, the release said. Earlier on June 29 this year, the government had blocked access to 59 mobile apps and on September 2, another 118 apps were banned under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

The ban had come in the backdrop of border tensions with China in eastern Ladakh since May. Asked for his reaction to the latest ban on Chinese apps by India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here China expresses serious concern over India's move.

— PTI

Japan protests
island infiltration

Tokyo, Nov. 25: Japan used a visit by the Chinese foreign minister on Wednesday to protest Beijing's increased activity and what it calls infiltration around disputed East China Sea islands. Both sides agreed to avoid provocative actions in the contested area.

"The situation is extremely serious," Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsumoto Kato told reporters after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a two-day visit. Relations between the

two countries have been strained over territorial disputes and wartime history, even though ties have improved in recent years while China's trade dispute with the US has escalated. The territorial row in centred on Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands, which Japan calls Senkaku and China calls Diaoyu.

Chinese coast guard ships have stepped up activity around the islands despite protests and warnings by the Japanese authorities.

— AP

CHINESE CONSTRUCTION ALONG INDIA
BORDER WORRISOME: U.S. LAWMAKER

Washington, Nov. 25: Expressing concern over reports of China's illegal construction activities along the Indian border in Ladakh, an influential US lawmaker has said that US will always continue to stand with India and oppose any "revisionist efforts" by the Chinese government or anyone else to challenge the peace and stability in the region.

"I am aware of and concerned with the public reports surrounding Chinese military construction along the disputed

border with India. If these reports are true, and I hope they are not, China's continued military provocations will continue to escalate tensions in the region," Democratic congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said on Tuesday. "The United States will always continue to stand with our Indian partners in the Indo-Pacific region while opposing any revisionist efforts by the Chinese government or anyone else to challenge peace and stability," he said.

— PTI



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,828.10	-1.56
Nifty 50	12,858.40	-1.51
S&P 500*	3,625.96	-0.26
Dollar (₹)	73.92	0.10
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.60	0.27
Euro (₹)	87.96	-0.03
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,273.45	0.09
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.18	0.32
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.885	0.006
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.873	-0.009

* As of 8:30 PM IST

GST: Kerala, West Bengal accept Centre's option

Kerala and West Bengal have accepted the Centre's borrowing proposal and will get Rs 10,197 crore through the special window to meet GST revenue shortfall. These are among the states that had opposed the borrowing plan. "Governments of Kerala and West Bengal have communicated their acceptance of Option-1 to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation," the finance ministry said.

IT & biz services market to reach \$13 bn by Dec.



India's IT and business services market is expected to grow 5.4 per cent annually to reach \$13 billion by December this year, research firm IDC said. The segment grew 5.3 per cent year-on-year in the January-June (H1) 2020 period as compared to 8.9 per cent growth in H1 2019. Of the IT and business services market, the IT services market contributed 77.4 per cent in H1 2020, growing 5.9 per cent YoY.

UP export policy aims at doubling farmer income

The UP Export Policy 2020-25 aims at doubling farmers' income and increasing farm sector exports. The policy seeks to encourage 'Make in UP' and 'Make in India' brands. Key focus areas include handicrafts, agriculture and processed food products, engineering goods, handloom and textile, leather products, carpets and rugs, glass and ceramic products, wood products, sports goods, defence products, etc.

Mahindra's new Thar gets 4-star safety rating

Mahindra & Mahindra said its all-new Thar SUV off-roader has received a four-star rating from vehicle safety group Global NCAP. The SUV underwent a front, side and ESC impact test. The Mahindra Thar was tested in its basic safety specification, two airbags, and got 4 stars safety rating for adult and child occupants, making Thar the safest off-roader. Global NCAP said the Thar also meets the side impact UN 95 regulation.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

Govt okays merger; moratorium goes from Friday Lakshmi Vilas to reopen as DBS Bank from tomorrow

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Customers of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will be able to operate their accounts from DBS Bank India Ltd from Friday, the central bank announced on Wednesday. The announcement came within hours of the Union Cabinet clearing the Scheme of Amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India. Consequently, all branches of LVB will function as branches of DBS Bank India effective Friday and the moratorium imposed on the ailing bank would be lifted on the same day, the central bank said.

This will lead to removal of all restrictions placed on the lender earlier this month by the RBI, including the Rs 25,000 cap on withdrawal of deposits. "The amalgamation will come into force on the appointed date i.e. November 27, 2020. All the branches of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will function as branches of DBS Bank India Ltd with effect from this date. Customers, including depositors of the LVB will be able to operate their accounts as customers of DBS Bank India Ltd. with effect from November 27, 2020. Consequently, the moratorium on the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will cease to be operative from that date. DBS Bank India Ltd is making necessary arrangements to ensure that service, as usual, is provided to the customers of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd," the Reserve Bank of India



The market wants to know as to why did the RBI refuse DBS proposal last year to buy 50 per cent stake in LVB and why is it giving the same bank for free to DBS now? Similarly, investors want to know why was IndiaBulls proposal to acquire LVB rejected?



— J.N. Gupta, former executive director, Sebi

(RBI) said in a statement.

While experts lauded the swift resolution by the apex bank and the government, they cited lack of transparency in the entire process.

J.N. Gupta, former executive director of Sebi, told *Financial Chronicle*, "The RBI has acted with extreme swiftness for a speedy resolution in the last 10 days, which is laudable. But the mess in LVB was going on for the last 18 months and so a question that comes to the mind is as to why did the RBI not take action then and

allowed things to deteriorate to such an extent?"

"Secondly, the RBI should issue a speaking order for every proposal that it rejects. The market wants to know as to why did the RBI refuse DBS proposal last year to buy 50 per cent stake in LVB and why is it giving the same bank for free to DBS now? Similarly, investors want to know why was IndiaBulls proposal to acquire LVB rejected?" added Gupta.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar, announcing the government approval for the bank's amalgamation

on Wednesday, said the LVB board members responsible for the mistakes (that led to the deterioration in LVB's financial health) will be held accountable. "Those who have made mistakes, will be punished. There will be improvement in overall oversight also so as not to repeat such incidents in the future," Javadekar said.

Javadekar said that Rs 20,000 crore deposits of the 20 lakh customers is now safe. "Customers need not rush to banks to withdraw their money. However, whoever does wish to withdraw can now do so at any time in a safe way," Javadekar said.

On November 17, the apex bank put LVB under the moratorium and capped withdrawals at Rs 25,000 per account holder and announced that due to lack of a potential bank for capital infusion, LVB will now be merged with DBS Bank India, a subsidiary of Singapore's DBS.

Meanwhile, the government issued a gazette notification, which notified the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (Amalgamation with DBS Bank India Limited) Scheme, 2020. All employees of LVB shall continue in service and be deemed to have been appointed at the same remuneration and on the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable immediately before the close of business on November 17, 2020, the gazette notification issued by the Department of Financial Services said.

Import hurdles hit Apple, Xiaomi devices from China

SANKALP PHARTIYAL & ADITYA KALRA NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

India's tight control of quality clearances for electronic goods from China slowed the import of Apple's new iPhone model last month and held up other products made by companies like Xiaomi, according to two industry sources.

Applications to the quality control agency, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), typically used to be processed within 15 days, but some are now taking up to two months or longer.

BIS started delaying approvals in August for China-made imports of devices like smartphones, smartwatches and laptops, part of the fallout from deteriorating ties with China.

When Apple's new iPhone 12 was caught in the delays, Apple India executives called on BIS to speed its approval up, giving assurances that the company would continue to expand its assembly operations in India,



the two sources said.

It was not clear how long the iPhone 12 application was delayed, and Apple did not respond to a request for comment.

The company has assembly operations in India, but newer models and the iPhone 12 are imported from China, where contract manufacturers make the bulk of Apple's devices.

As of Wednesday, 1,080 applications to BIS for laptops, tablets and other devices were pending, with 669 of those waiting more than 20 days, according to the agency's website.

These included applications for devices from China-based factories of Wistron and Compal

Electronics, and from Hangzhou Hikvision, the data showed.

Some of the applications for approval have been pending since September.

"While the BIS is delaying approvals for products like smartwatches, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is pushing companies to make these devices in India," said one of the sources.

Under BIS's registration scheme, certain electronic goods—whether imported or locally made—need to meet certain standards. After companies get their products tested in a certified laboratory, BIS approves the applications.

The clearance delays are the latest headache for technology companies whose supply chains were hit by the Covid-19 curbs.

The BIS delays have also hit smartwatch imports for companies including Xiaomi and Oppo, the two sources said.

—Reuters

Market turns volatile ahead of F&O expiry

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 25

After touching new record highs the Sensex fell over 1000 points intraday and the Nifty fell 300 points on Wednesday on profit taking after a big bull run and ahead of the scheduled derivative expiry on Thursday.

The foreign portfolio investors, for a change, remained on the sidelines after heavy buying in the previous session with just Rs 24.20 crore of net buying on Wednesday while domestic institutions continued booking profit with net selling worth Rs 1,840.33 crore.

The Sensex finally closed 694.92 points, or 1.56 per cent, lower at 43,828 while the Nifty-50 closed 196.75 points down at 12,858.40.

Tha sharp fall happened in the second half of trading, around 1.45 pm, after the Sensex touched a new all time high of 44,825.37 after opening. But it began to drift lower as the day progressed. There was some recovery after the Sensex touched an intra-day low of 43,757.97.

The Nifty-50, which also touched a new high of 13,145.85, plunged to a low of 12,833.65 before some recovery.

"The Nifty-50 Index lost its entire gains of the last two days ahead of tomorrow's futures and options expiry. The Nifty 50 Index fell by 1.5 per cent on the back of hefty profit booking after the recent rally that witnessed the Nifty hitting 13K. Globally too, we witnessed a similar type of trend. Monthly expiry has also mounted pressure on the market,"



STOCK RALLY TO CONTINUE IN 2021: POLL

INDRADIP GHOSH & RAHUL KARUNAKAR BENGALURU, NOV. 25

India's stock market rally is set to continue and hit new highs in 2021, according to a Reuters poll of equity strategists who overwhelmingly expected corporate earnings to return roughly to pre-pandemic levels within a year.

The Nov. 12-24 Reuters poll of over 35 equity strategists predicted the Sensex would set new all-time peaks in the next year. It was forecast to rise about 3 per cent from Tuesday's high to 45,750 by mid-2021.

It was then predicted to rise another 4 per cent by the end of 2021, with forecasts ranging from

36,000 to 54,400.

Those forecasts were based on recent progress in developing Covid-19 vaccines even as cases rise around the world, according to over three-quarters of strategists, or 26 of 34, who answered an additional question.

"Looking ahead, continued improvements in global risk appetite will further boost Indian equities, despite the weakness of the economy," said Shilan Shah, senior India economist at Capital Economics.

Asked when corporate earnings would return to pre-Covid-19 levels, 28 of 32 strategists said within a year, including 10 who said within six months.

—Reuters

Shrikant Chouhan, equity technical research analyst, Kotak Securities, said.

Volatility indicator NSE India VIX soared 10 per cent to close at 23.13, up 9.83 per cent.

Barring three stocks all other 30 Sensex constituents closed in the red.

The broader market too got caught in the profit booking as BSE Mid-cap index fell 1.76 per cent while the BSE Small-cap index fell 1.13 per cent.

"In the short term, Indian market looks stretched," Pankaj Tibrewal of Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

Model tenancy law soon: Secy

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday said

the government will soon come out with the model tenancy law, giving a major boost to real estate sector, especially rental homes.

The ministry had in July 2019 floated the draft model tenancy law.

Addressing a webinar organised by realtors body Naredco, he said the government's Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme for migrants, which was launched few months ago, has been progressing well and the programme has the potential to stop creation of slums in cities.

"Model Tenancy Law is ready. It has been translated into various languages as it has far reaching implications," Mishra said.

The deadline for feedback on the proposed model tenancy law ended on October 31 and now states have been asked to send those feedbacks after compiling it, he said.

The secretary said the model tenancy will come "very soon".

Mishra pointed out that 1.1 crore homes were

vacant as per the 2011 census as people fear to give their homes on rent.

The model tenancy law will eliminate anomalies and give a boost to the real estate sector, he said.

The Centre will send the Model Tenancy Law, after approval from the Union Cabinet, to states for its adoption. The draft model tenancy law proposes that landowners will have to give a notice in writing three months before revising rent. It advocated appointing a district collector as rent authority and heavy penalty on tenants for overstaying.

On the ARHC scheme, Mishra said the initial response has been very encouraging and the already completed units have been handed over in cities like Surat and Chandigarh.

"This scheme is the answer for ending slums in the country. No one wants to live in slums," he said.

Talking about the Rs 25,000-crore stress fund to complete stuck real estate projects, Mishra said around Rs 13,000 crore has been committed so far in 135 realty projects. —PTI

L'Oreal to train a million against street harassment



New Delhi, Nov. 25: French cosmetics major L'Oreal Paris on Wednesday said it has launched its bystander intervention training programme against street harassment in India.

The company has tied up with NGO Breakthrough to deliver on-ground training in the country as part of its 'Stand Up' initiative, which has already been launched in various countries like France, Spain, Italy and Mexico.

"We have set an ambitious target of training one million people in India under this initiative by 2022-end," L'Oreal Paris India general manager Pau Gruart told reporters.

Stand Up initiative aims to simultaneously discourage harassers, support victims and encourage bystanders to intervene in a safe manner.

"L'Oreal Paris stands for empowerment in every walk of a woman's life. By removing obstacles that prevent women from fulfilling their ambitions, we are committed to elevating their sense of self-worth," Gruart said.

With Breakthrough, the company invites women and men to stand up and safely respond when they witness or experience street harassment, he added.

Breakthrough India president and CEO Sohini Bhattacharya said the Stand Up initiative would enable women to reclaim public spaces.

—PTI

S.Korea unveils AI chip to keep semiconductor lead

SAM KIM NOV. 25

South Korea is adding a new artificial intelligence chip to its arsenal of semiconductors as the nation seeks a bigger slice of the global tech market and an upgrade of its industrial capabilities.

The Sapeon X220, unveiled on Wednesday by the largest local carrier SK Telecom Co, is designed to speed up servers that cater to a growing number of mobile devices—from drones to self-driving vehicles—that perform better with AI. It's the latest product of the nation's decade-long push to broaden its dominance beyond



memory chips, where Samsung Electronics Co and SK Hynix Inc control roughly two-thirds of the global market.

South Korea sees data-processing chips as a major engine for future economic growth, along with fifth-generation wireless networks. The government has provided

more than 600 billion won (\$542 million) in support to develop such chips and plans to invest another trillion won over the next decade, viewing them as crucial in automating factories and improving the competitiveness of the country's exports.

Semiconductors account for about one-fifth of South Korea's exports, most of them memory chips. The country is now turning to application-specific integrated circuits, or ASICs, such as the X220, which is tailored for AI operations. It follows a similar \$1 billion investment plan announced by the US this summer. —Bloomberg



"Football and the world of sports has lost one of its greatest players today. Rest in Peace Diego Maradona! You shall be missed."

Sachin Tendulkar, batting great



"My hero no more..my mad genius rest in peace ..I watched football for you."

Sourav Ganguly, former India captain and BCCI president who terms the Argentine as his first sporting hero.



"One of the greatest icons of the game — Diego Maradona passes away, a very sad day for World sports. Condolences to his family, friends and well-wishers."

VVS Laxman, former India batsman



"Thank you for all the memories & madness... that genius left foot that was truly blessed by all the Gods above."

Viren Rasquinha, former Indian hockey captain.



"Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona was like a magician with the ball at his feet. Football has lost an invaluable gem today. His glorious legacy will forever have a place in football history. Rest in peace."

Praful Patel, All India Football Federation President



Diego takes hand of God

Argentine football legend Maradona dies of heart attack aged 60

Buenos Aires (Argentina), Nov. 25: Diego Maradona, the Argentine football great who was among the best players ever and who led his country to the 1986 World Cup title before later struggling with cocaine use and obesity, has died. He was 60.

The office of Argentina's president will decree three days of national mourning because of Maradona's death on Wednesday, and the Argentine football association expressed its sorrow on Twitter.

Maradona died two weeks after being released from a Buenos Aires hospital following brain surgery.

Famed for the "Hand of God" goal in which he punched the ball into England's net during the 1986 World Cup quarterfinals, Maradona captivated fans over a two-decade career with a bewitching style of play that was all his own.

Although his reputation was tarnished by his addictions and an ill-fated spell in charge of the national team, he remained idolised in football-mad Argentina as the "Pibe de Oro" or "Golden Boy."

The No. 10 he wore on his jersey became synonymous with him, as it also had with Pele, the Brazilian great with whom Maradona was regularly paired as the best of all time.

Bold, fast and utterly unpredictable, Maradona was a master of attack, juggling the ball easily from one foot to the other as he raced upfield. Dodging and weaving with his low center of gravity, he shrugged off countless rivals and often scored with a devastating left foot, his most powerful weapon.

"Everything he was thinking in his head, he made it happen with his feet," said Salvatore Bagni, who played with Maradona at Italian club Napoli.

A ballooning waistline slowed Maradona's explosive speed later in his career and by 1991 he was snared in his first doping scandal when he admitted to a cocaine habit that haunted him until he retired in 1997, at 37.

Hospitalised near death in 2000 and again in '04 for heart problems blamed on cocaine, he later said he overcame the drug problem. Cocaine, he once said famously, had proven to be his "toughest rival."

But more health problems followed, despite a 2005 gastric bypass that greatly trimmed his weight. Maradona was hospitalised in early 2007 for acute hepatitis that his doctor blamed on excessive drinking and eating.

He made an unlikely return to the national team in 2008 when he was appointed Argentina coach, but after a quarterfinal exit at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, he was ousted — ultimately picking up another coaching job with the United Arab Emirates club Al Wasl.

Maradona was the fifth of eight children who grew up in a poor, gritty barrio on the Buenos Aires outskirts where he played a kind of dirt-patch football that launched many Argentines to international stardom.

None of them approached Maradona's fame. In 2001, FIFA named Maradona one of the two greatest in the sport's history, alongside Pele.

Maradona reaped titles at home and abroad, playing in the early 1980s for Argentinos Juniors and Boca Juniors before moving on to Spanish and Italian clubs. His crowning achievement came at the 1986 World Cup, captaining Argentina in its 3-2 win over West Germany in the final and decisive in a 2-1 victory against England in a feisty quarterfinal match.

Over the protests of England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, the referee let stand a goal by Maradona in which, as he admitted years later, he intentionally hit the ball with his hand in "a bit of mischief."

But Maradona's impact wouldn't be confined to cheating. Four minutes later, he spectacularly weaved past four opponents from midfield to beat Shilton for what FIFA later declared the greatest goal in World Cup history.

Many Argentines saw the match as revenge for their country's loss to Britain in the 1982 war over the Falkland Islands, which Argentines still claim as "Las Malvinas." — AP



ONE DAY, WE WILL PLAY TOGETHER IN THE SKY, SAYS PELE

Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 25: Brazilian soccer icon Pele hoped he would "some day play ball with Maradona in the sky" as he paid tribute to the Argentine maverick, who died after suffering a cardiac arrest on Wednesday.

The only player, whose name was taken in the same breath with the 'King of Football,' the 60-year-old Maradona died two weeks after undergoing a surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain.

"What sad news. I lost a great friend and the world lost a legend. There is still much to be said, but for now, may God give strength to family members. One day, I hope we can play ball together in the sky," Pele tweeted.

Pele and Maradona had tremendous mutual respect and admiration for each other's skills.

Despite a 20-year age difference, the two were good friends for decades and are widely regarded the most gifted to have played the beautiful game. — PTI

MARADONA IN HIS OWN WORDS

"To see the ball, to run after it, makes me the happiest man in the world."

"I made mistakes, and I paid for them. But the ball is still pure."

"I am Maradona, who makes goals, who makes mistakes. I can take it all, I have shoulders big enough to fight with everybody."

"You can say a lot of things about me, but you can never say I don't take risks. I am black or white, I'll never be grey in my life."

"When I wear the national team shirt, its sole contact with my skin makes it stand on an end."



ON PELE

"There would be no debate about who was the best footballer the world had ever seen, me or Pele. Everyone would say me. Pele should go back to the museum."

ON THE HAND OF GOD

"I was waiting for my teammates to embrace me and no one came... I told them, 'Come hug me or the referee isn't going to allow it'. If I could apologise and go back and change history I would do. But the goal is still a goal, Argentina became world champions and I was the best player in the world."

ON LIONEL MESSI

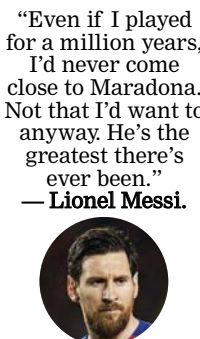
"Messi scores a goal and celebrates. Cristiano (Ronald) scores a goal and poses like he's in a shampoo commercial."



"Maradona is a God to the people of Naples. Maradona changed history. In 80 years, we had always suffered, fighting against relegation, yet in seven seasons with him we won two leagues, a UEFA Cup, two Italian Cups. I'm a fan too and to live those years with Maradona was incredible."

— Naples native Fabio Cannavaro, who was in the youth ranks at Napoli when Maradona was there and later won the World Cup with Italy in 2006.

Diego in the words of others



"Even if I played for a million years, I'd never come close to Maradona. Not that I'd want to anyway. He's the greatest there's ever been."

— Lionel Messi.

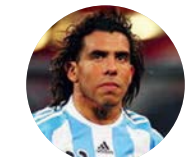


"No ball ever had a better experience than when it was at his left foot."

— Argentina teammate Jorge Valdano.

"Diego, for all Argentinians, is God. And he always will be."

— Carlos Tevez.



"What (Zinedine) Zidane could do with a ball, Maradona could do with an orange."

— Michel Platini, French great



"The best player there has ever been, better than Pele."

— Ruud Gullit, Dutch legend



"Maradona. When he was on form, there was almost no way of stopping him."

— Former AC Milan and Italy defender Franco Baresi, when asked who was the best player he faced.

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlar Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. and Printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C - 9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301.
Editor - T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 57290/94.
Price in Nepal - Nep. Rs. 20.00 per copy.