

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 19 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER

Max: 31°C
Min: 20.1°C
RH: 57%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Haze, mist likely.
Max/Min temp: 30/19 °C



NATION | 8

MP's 'gau Cabinet'
to protect cattle



SPORTS | 12

Rafael Nadal beaten
at ATP Finals



TABLOID

A makeover for
masculinity

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SHORT TAKE

Pfizer: Vaccine is
95% effective

New York: Global drugmakers Pfizer and BioNTech said on Wednesday that their Covid-19 vaccine was found 95 per cent effective in the final analysis of the Phase 3 trial, including in people aged over 65 years, paving the way for the companies to apply for emergency authorization from US regulators within days. American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said they concluded phase 3 study of their mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate BNT162b2, meeting all primary efficacy end points.

■ Report on Page 9

REAL LIFE

Producers finding it unviable to screen movies in AP alone

Telugu films only if TS screens

SAMPAT G.
SAMRITAN | DC

VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 18

There will be no screening of films in either Telangana or Andhra Pradesh until the former accords permission.

Though Andhra Pradesh has given the nod for screening of films with strict compliance to Covid-19 protocol a few days ago, the Telangana government is yet to give such permission so far. Telugu producers say that

as both states share the market to the tune of 40 per cent and 60 per cent, it will be financially unviable to them to release films only in Andhra Pradesh. Ignoring any one of them will affect the entire industry in a big way. They wonder why the Telangana government is yet to take a decision in this regard even though it has allowed hotels, bars and restaurants, shopping malls, entertainment, transport and other sectors.

Though top actors like Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna and others met Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao recently, no decision has been taken with regard to reopening of theatres.

Telugu Film Chamber secretary K.L. Damodar Prasad said, "Unless TS government also permits screening in its theatres, it will not be possible to restrict ourselves to Andhra Pradesh as it becomes financially unviable."

On the other hand, as most of the theatres are under the control of top producers like Suresh Babu, Allu Aravind, Dil Raju and others, all of them will adopt a uniform approach in terms of their opening and screening.

AP has 1,250 theatres and a majority of them remained shut for nearly eight months and this has resulted in power bill arrears piling up.

■ Page 2: Multiplexes unable to recover screening costs

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+46,329)	(+629)
89,57,905	1,31,617
covid19india.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+948)	(+5)
TS: 2,59,776	1,415
(+1,236)	(+9)
AP: 8,57,395	6,899

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,63,13,394
DEATHS
13,50,534

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 217

worldometers.info/coronavirus**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari; Dakshinayana Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Panchami till 10.04 pm
Star: Poorvashada till 9.41 am
Varjyanam: 5.35 pm to 7.10 pm
Durmuhurtaam: 10.10 am to 10.55 am; 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahuakalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 3, 1442 AH

PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.19 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.04 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.23 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.49 PM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.08 AM

COUNTER POINT

We know why we lost... but don't know why we won in some seats!

SHORT TAKES**WOMAN DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST AT E-SEVA**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

A 50-year-old woman suffered cardiac arrest and died while she was standing in a queue at an E-Seva centre at Tolichowki to collect the flood relief money on Wednesday.

The deceased, identified as Munawar Unisa, 50, a resident of Golconda, was there to apply for the interim relief of ₹10,000 extended to flood victims by the state government when she suffered the stroke, said the police. "She collapsed while standing in the queue and was rushed to a nearby hospital by the locals present there. Duty doctors at the hospital pronounced her dead. No case has been registered as the kin of the deceased did not file a complaint with us," said K. Chandra Shekar, police inspector of Golconda.

2,86L FAMILIES APPLY FOR FLOOD RELIEF

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

The state government on Wednesday said that since Monday, as many as 2,86 lakh families affected by the October floods submitted their applications at various Mee Seva centres and of these, 1,78 lakh were found eligible to receive the ₹10,000 flood relief. The government has deposited ₹178 crore into the bank accounts of the 1,78 lakh families, it said. Other applications, it said, were being scrutinized. The process of receiving applications and disbursal of relief will resume after the GHMC polls, government said. Earlier, between October 20 and November 1, when ₹10,000 was distributed in cash, government said it gave ₹486 crore to 4,86 lakh flood victims.

SEC okays more star campaigners for GHMC elections

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

The State Election Commission (SEC) has increased the number of star campaigners from five to 10 for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections. This comes in the wake of pleas by political parties seeking the SEC to increase the number of star campaigners for the ensuing elections.

According to the SEC's revised order, the Election Commission can permit/accord star campaigner status to 10 persons for recognised political parties registered with the TSEC and five persons in case of registered parties that are without reserved symbol. The parties should submit the list of star campaigners along with their bio-data and also a copy of the individual's identity card (one of those notified by the SEC for the purpose of identification of voters) to the GHMC commissioner and election authority marking a copy to SEC within three days of issuance of election notification.

The GHMC commissioner and election authority are authorised to issue vehicle permission to the star campaigners fur-

nished by the political parties. The permission will be given in the name of the star campaigners and the registration number of the vehicle and the period for which the permit is issued and area of operation.

The permit may be issued in the format annexed to the notification on a square-shaped sticker with suitable adhesive. An attested copy of the permit shall be prominently displayed on the windscreens of the vehicle and the original be kept by the person for checking by police or any other authorities.

Surveillance teams should also be informed about such vehicle permissions issued to the star campaigners of a political party for the purpose of accounting of expenditure either on

behalf of the party or the contestant. Travel expenditure of the star campaigners will be borne by the concerned political party.

In the event of a public rally or meeting by the star campaigner, if the candidate or his election agent shares the dais with the star campaigner/other dignitary, then the entire expenditure of that particular rally other than the travel expenses of the star campaigner should be added to the candidate's expenses.

If the candidate is not present on the dais but the banners/posters with name of the candidate or photographs of the candidate are displayed at the site of public rally or the name of the candidate is mentioned by the dignitary/star campaigner, then also the entire expenditure on the public rally, other than the travel expenses of the star campaigner will be added to the candidate's account of election expenses.

If there is more than one candidate/election agent, sharing the dais or displaying banners or posters with their names in rally/meeting, then the expenses on such a rally/meeting should be equally divided among all such candidates.



People stand in queue to submit their applications to receive ₹10,000 as compensation for damages caused due to the recent floods, at Sikh road on Wednesday. However, the distribution was stopped on SEC orders. — GANDHI

Multiplexes unable to recover screening costs

From Page 1

Power bills for a maximum of ₹50 lakh and a minimum of ₹5 lakh for each theatre has piled up. Though Tollywood biggies approached Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with a request to consider waiv-

ing off at least a part of such arrears so that they can reopen the theatres and resume screening of films, the state government is yet to take a decision on it.

Industry sources say that though some exhibitors are opening theatres including multi-

plexes, by screening old films and those of other languages, there is no patronage at all as only a few people are turning up. Some multiplexes after screening films with five to 10 persons for a show, stopped as they are not even getting maintenance costs.

Former chairman of AP Film Development Corporation Ambica Krishna said, "The Andhra Pradesh government has to resolve the issues including huge power bill arrears of theatres so that it helps resumption of screening of films."

POLL TIME Over 14 lakh disabled persons seek easy arrangements

Differently-abled voters want facilities ramped up

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

With elections to Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) round the corner, the 14 lakh plus disabled persons in the city are a worried lot. Their anxieties are over provision of absence of facilities in polling booths.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, one such voter, who has Multiple Sclerosis shares, "Walking in such a large crowd causes disorientation. Also, we are told that we would be given priority at the entrance queue, but it did not happen earlier, so what is the guarantee that

it would happen now."

According to Election Commission of India's guidelines, there must be Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) at polling stations. At the polling booths, these include signage, help desk, polling booth at the ground floor, obstacle-free wide levelled pathway from entrance to the voting compartment, ramp as per GOI standards, accessible toilets, drinking water, separate entry and exit points, lighting, accessible furniture, Braille ballot guide, adjustable EVMs, wheelchairs, booth volunteers and display of accessible posters on information

pertaining to voting.

However, none of these guidelines are in full implementation, or so it seems from the previous elections. Said All India Disabled Rights' Forum (AIDRF) member Kolli Nageswara Rao.

"It is the same story during every election. We have to go around asking people to help us cast our vote. There is no polling booth in the city that can be called barrier-free. We have given repeated representations but to no avail. This election is not going to be on the EVM, but rather ballot paper. Will they have Braille on them for the visually impaired? There is no guarantee of

that," he said. Similarly, K Ram of the Differently Abled Chambers of Commerce and Industries (DACC) said that all the polling stations must be disabled-friendly.

"They must have a ramp, which can be used by senior citizens, as well. We have given a representation to the Commissioner of Women, Child and Disabled Welfare department. She said the works for the same would be completed," Ram pointed out.

GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar, said that all facilities as mandated by ECI would be made available.

Vox populi: Voters have tasks cut out for new GHMC Council

MAKE ROADS SAFE



Bhagyashree Tarke, Artist Narayanguda

Potholes and open manholes have been the major causes of concern. Until before the lockdown, I used to travel on my bike across the city and the stretch from Secunderabad to Chikkadpally had been in a bad shape and a cause of accidents. Road safety must be improved and in case of any diversions, or barricading on some roads in the city, or even an extended U-turn, these should be promptly publicised to ease road travel. The GHMC must be and vigilant about road safety.

— BHAGYASHREE TARKE,
Artist Narayanguda

BALKAMPET HAS TO BE ILLUMINATED



There is an urgent need to immediately raise awareness about keeping our city clean. It is not only the responsibility of the GHMC but each and every individual. Non-availability of street lights in every part of the city for the safety of general public is the second concern I have. While there are a lot of potholes which are never repaired especially the Balkampet bridge needs some serious attention. Many sewage manholes do not have lids creating problems for two-wheeler in the absence of street lights or during heavy downpours. Installing street lights in every part of the city is mandatory, so that my city always remains illuminated and bright.

— AARTI SREENATH,
Graduate student
Old Bowenpally

REGULAR WATER SUPPLY AT RED HILLS

The major problem in Red Hills division is a disturbance in the water supply and poor drainage system. We expect that the next corporator to focus on water supply and maintenance of roads. In our area water supply is frequently disrupted and many a time without any intimation. When we approach the authorities, they tell us that there is a pressure problem and the water is not reaching the filter beds. Another major problem is overflowing of drainage. The majority of drainage problems is usually caused by inadequate slope which prevents water to flow smoothly from the houses. I also expect our future corporator to develop playgrounds and parks.

— SYED SAQIQ ALI,
Private company employee

SETTLE JAWAHARNAGAR ISSUE



Development must be prioritised for all and not selective as has been observed in the eastern residential colonies of Secunderabad. The biggest hazard is Jawaharnagar dump yard and despite orders from the National Green Tribunal there is no change in status quo. Residents of Dammaiguda are suffering as garbage vehicles continue to go every night and there is no one willing to opt for alternative. Similarly, Kapra lake restoration and sewage connection of colonies is pending. These works have started but there is a tremendous delay, creating more problems. The GHMC need to pay more attention to this.

— VENKATA SUBBA RAO,
Dammaiguda

CM's flood relief move hits SEC block; angers victims

STATE POLL PANEL CHIEF SAYS FLOOD AID CAN BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

Anger, frustration, heartburn and disappointment marked the day for thousands of people who on Wednesday lined up in front of the Mee Seva centres in the city to submit their applications for the ₹10,000 relief promised by the state government to the October flood victims in GHMC areas.

The announcement that the State Election Commission (SEC) put a stop to the disbursal of the relief did not go down well with those standing in long lines of hundreds of people hoping to get their applications into the government system.

It was evident that the programme, initiated by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, was designed to provide immediate and much-needed assistance to the lakhs of families affected by the unprecedented floods, began well but soon appeared to lose its way. Allegations piled up from flood victims as well as other political parties that ground level politicians of the TRS were pocketing much of the money.

Following the outcry over the manner in which the relief was distributed in cash, the government modified the programme and asked the victims to apply online at Mee Seva centres citing the SEC announcement late in the morning. At the Mee-Seva centre in Domalguda, women standing in the lines since early morning, were chased away from the spot.

At the Moghalpura Mee Seva centre, many aged women, angry at being

relief, began shouting that anyone who comes to ask for a vote in the GHMC elections, will be beaten by their slippers if they enter their localities. Such was the anger against the government that 'TRS down down', 'KCR down down' slogans rent the air at several centres.

Sunand Bai, a resident of Domalguda, who was standing in a Mee Seva queue for the past three days, was finally chased out by the police before reaching the main counter to submit her application. She said, "I lost my husband a month ago, in spite of all my other troubles, I was standing in the queue. This is the third day I was in the queue. Now they tell me that they have stopped it till the elections are over."

Santha Venket, a resident of Arvindnagar, near Ashoknagar, said, "My husband sells onions on a cart. Our stock of four bags of onions drowned in the flood. We are in debt."

Victims of flood relief want requests processed

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

Flood victims are furious that the state government is giving ₹10,000 at Mee Seva centres, which is insufficient, and makes a mockery of several people who refuse to stand in queues for the compensation.

Many victims allege that the government charity is not defined by their actual losses but on their need for GHMC elections. This has brought Hyderabad floods back in focus and victims are besieged by different political parties.

Mohammed Nafees, a resident of Tolichowki, says "I have lost entire furniture, electronic

appliances, crockery and many other accessories in the floods. Will ₹10,000 help me to get all of it?"

Why are they making us relive those harrowing days when we had water all over our houses, cleaning all the muck and slush has been very troublesome mentally and physically. We have tried to move on but elections will replay them. All parties are only waiting to exploit the situation. No one wants to help."

Incidentally, people who have been flocking at MeeSeva are those who had no flooding in their homes.

The real people who suffered have to still make their documents as many do not possess them.

B. Raju in Ramanthapur says, "I have to get my documents in place. I am running around for that. The government can do is to make these processes easy for us."

SHORT TAKES

CENTRE TOLD TO CLEAR TRS MLA'S CITIZENSHIP ISSUE

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

Taking up the case related to the citizenship issue of TRS MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh, Justice Challa Kodanda Ram of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to write to the German consulate to confirm the status if the petitioner MLA is holding German passport/citizenship and file an affidavit. Besides, the court also directed the MLA to produce the passport he is holding before the court for perusal and adjourned the case hearing by four weeks. The court passed this order on the petition filed by Ramesh challenging the order issued by the home ministry declaring that he is not a citizen of India.

KCR, BANDI IN WAR OF WORDS ON FLOOD RELIEF

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

The forthwith halting of distribution of flood relief compensation by the Election Commission has resulted in a full-throttled war of words between Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The State Election Commission order to stop collecting relief fund applications comes as the model code of conduct has come into force on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the TRS and several social media platforms have accused Bandi Sanjay of writing a letter to SEC seeking to stop flood relief work. Rao said that thousands of flood-affected people were yet to receive financial aid. By complaining to the election authorities, the BJP has not only hampered relief work but has hurt the poor people.

Reacting strongly, Sanjay challenged Rao to make such statements inside the Bhagyalakshmi temple in Charminar. The BJP leader clarified that he has not written any such letter to the SEC. He alleged that the ruling party and MIM have colluded and are spreading false propaganda against the BJP to derive advantage in the GHMC elections.



BJP national general secretary and GHMC election incharge Bhupender Yadav welcomes Congress leader and former GHMC Mayor Banda Kartika Reddy in the presence of BJP state president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Union minister G. Kishan Reddy at the party office in Nampally on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

BJP will win GHMC, 2023 TS polls: Yadav

People will throw out corrupt TRS govt, says BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

YOUTH CONGRESS LEADER JOINS BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

BJP general secretary and MP Bhupendra Yadav has slammed Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for "practicing unfair rule" in Telangana. "BJP will bag Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and come to power during the next assembly general elections in 2023 as well," he declared.

Yadav asserted that Telangana people will throw out corrupt TRS sarkar and elect non-corrupt BJP government in Assembly elections.

The MP was participated in a meeting of BJP's GHMC Election Committee at the party state headquarters in Nampally. He is here to review the candidates' profile, election strategy

and BJP manifesto for the civic body polls.

Bhupendra Yadav told leaders in key positions to dedicatedly work and motivate cadre for getting majority seats in the municipal elections.

He instructed leaders to clearly inform voters about the central schemes and funds allocated under them to Telangana, so that people become aware of what BJP is doing for the state.

Former mayor of GHMC and senior Congress leader Banda Kartika Reddy, who joined BJP in the presence of Bhupendra Yadav, state party president Bandi Sanjay, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, and national vice president D. K. Aruna were present at the meeting.

On the occasion, Bandi Sanjay asked people of

Bhikshapathi said that he has retired from politics and his son Ravi Kumar will fight for people under BJP's banner.

Hyderabad to send TRS party (with car symbol) to the garage in the GHMC elections. He charged that negligence of KCR government had led to the death of a person in floods. He accused the CM of surrendering to Majlis and Owaisi brothers. He maintained that BJP will fight for Hindus. "The GHMC poll will be a fight between Desh Bhakts and Desh Drohins," the state BJP president declared.

Former mayor Banda Kartika said Congress had cheated people and hence lost the Assembly elections twice. She hoped BJP will win 100 seats in the GHMC elections.

She stated that she does not want any positions in the party but would work to hoist the saffron flag on Golconda Fort.

Yadav, resigned from Congress and joined BJP on Wednesday in the presence of Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

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SHORT TAKES

COUPLE HELD FOR DUPING BANK OF ₹5.3 CRORE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

The Cyberabad Police arrested a couple on Wednesday for cheating a bank to the tune of ₹5.3 crore after submitting forged documents to avail the same.

The couple, identified as Pabanthy Prabhakar, 47, and Pabanthy Saritha, 42, residents of Shaikpet, obtained the loan by submitting false documents like salary slips and Form 16 to the bank, said the police.

They submitted documents at Indian Bank, Shadnagar and availed a loan of ₹5.3 crore. "The fraud came to light when they failed to repay the loan EMIs and defaulted. Bank officials lodged a complaint with the Shadnagar police after which the couple was arrested and produced before court," said the police. The accused Prabhakar was previously involved in six similar cases in various police stations in Cyberabad and Rachakonda.

SPECIALY-ABLED MAN MISTAKEN FOR A THIEF

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

A mentally-challenged man, mistaken for a 'khabrastan chor', was beaten up by locals after they concluded that he was digging up graves at Barkas graveyard and stealing organs. The incident took place in the early hours of Tuesday. The Barkas Muslim graveyard spread over 10 acres is one of the larger graveyards in the Old City. There are some houses in the place and a road cuts through it.

At around 1 am, a passer-by saw a man moving around a grave and stopped his vehicle. In the meanwhile, some people stopped to watch and then went to the spot where the man was. There they found the man picking up some stones and fallen tree branches from inside an old grave that was open.

According to the police, the group dragged the man out of the four feet deep grave and gave him a sound thrashing for allegedly stealing organs from bodies buried in the graveyard. Once they were done with him, the man was handed over to Chandrayangutta police.

The man was identified as Mohd Ghouse, a resident of Saheen Nagar. As the news broke and spread fast in the area about a 'khabrastan chor', the man's mother reached the police station and rescued her son.

According to Sub Inspector K. Goverdan Reddy, "The mother came with prescriptions and records of his treatments at a mental hospital. Ghouse is mentally unwell and is undergoing treatment. Though his mother always kept him in the house, on Tuesday night, he managed to slip out after dinner and walked into the graveyard and went to sleep in the open grave."

When Deccan Chronicle went to the graveyard to inquire about the incident, one of the workers, Ahmed Bhimashan, said "it is an open area, where you have a lot of movement of people. The old graves have been damaged in the recent rains and in many graves large cavities have been formed into which a person can easily fit into."

Matter of faith



Devotees offer milk at snake pits and pray on the occasion of Nagula Panchami during Karthika masam in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

BUSINESSMAN ALLEGEDLY ENDS LIFE, NOTE FOUND

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

A businessman allegedly killed himself by hanging at his residence in Misrigunj, Kamatipura, on Wednesday. Mohammed Faraz Khan, 28, was living with his family near Nawaz Function Hall in Misrigunj, said the police. "On Wednesday morning, his family members found him hanging in his room. As many as 42,433 tests were conducted in the 24-hour period ending at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, the department said.

The GHMC area, meanwhile, continues to report the most cases from anywhere in the state. For the entire week ending on Tuesday (November 17), it was only the Greater Hyderabad

State records 948 new Covid-19 cases

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

Municipal Corporation area that reported fresh Covid-19 cases in three figures. For Tuesday, the department said, GHMC area reported 154 new cases.

The GHMC area reported 150 cases on November 16, 141 on November 15, 167 on November 14, 232 on November 13, 169 on November 12, and 80 on November 11,

The number two and three spots in terms of cases also continued to be that of Medchal-Malkajgiri district with 83 cases, and Ranga Reddy district with 76 cases.

The department, in its daily Covid-19 bulletin, said on Tuesday, 1,607 persons recovered from the disease taking the total recovered cases to 2,45,293 in the state.

TS to reduce cost of Covid test in pvt labs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

viously, he said. This includes collection charges, cost of PPE kits and other costs.

Dr Rao also advised people to get themselves tested at government labs for Covid-19 where the testing is free of cost. The government has 12 testing labs where people can get RT-PCR tests while there are 46 such labs in the private sector in the state. Information on the location of the government and private labs conducting RT-PCR, CBNAT, or TrueNAT, or Rapid Antigen Tests can be had by calling the helpline number 104. While 10 of the government run RT-PCR testing labs are in the city, one is in Siddipet and the other is in Mahbubnagar districts.

22-YR-OLD STEALS ₹29.5 LAKH, HELD

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 18

place and while vacating during lockdown, Naresh lied to the others that he lost his key, which was later used for the theft.

"Yogeswar, an engineer at the National Academy of Construction, GHMC, had saved up the money for the past few years and kept it in a locked suitcase in his room. This was known to all of his roommates. On November 17, the flatmates returned home and found the lock broken and the cash missing. It was the fact that the door was locked from the outside that raised suspicion on Naresh," said the police.

The accused, Avula Nareesh of Warangal, was rooming with his friend K. Yogeswar Rao, 25, along with two more men at a flat in Keesara. The four of them met during their work and were residing there for about a year. All four of them had a key to the

Career Chronicle

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Place: Mumbai
Date: 14.11.2020General Manager
(CRPD)

BJP conspiring to sell public sector firms

From page 1

He alleged that the BJP is conspiring to give away several public sector undertakings including NTPC, BHEL, BSNL and BPCL and LIC to corporate houses in guise of disinvestment. He said the BJP government has disinvested in 23 PSUs in its rule so far.

He questioned the Central government about the necessity in privatising Life Insurance Corporation, which is one of the premier organisations of this nation.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of the country, had set up several public sector companies with a futuristic view, but the BJP government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee had started disinvestment and handed over several premier companies to the corporates. Rao said that employees of PSUs already announced the war against the disinvestment

No flood relief funds from Centre despite plea: KCR

From page 1

The TRS chief said a debate needs to be initiated among people on this during the GHMC polls.

He instructed the party members to reach out to every household and explain to them about the welfare and development activities taken up by the state government in Greater Hyderabad. He also told them to expose the obstructive politics of opposition parties, especially the double standards of state BJP leaders.

Ridiculing the claims of BJP leaders on the Centre's assistance to the state government for the flood relief in Hyderabad, Chandrashekhar Rao said that the BJP-led Central government did not release a paisa towards flood relief despite the

requests from the state government.

"They would not release funds towards the flood relief. Instead, they had resorted to obstructive politics by writing letters to the Election Commission, asking it to stop the financial assistance being extended to the flood-affected families in GHMC and surrounding municipalities."

He alleged that BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has complained to the Election Commission against the flood relief assistance of ₹10,000 being given to each of the affected families by the state government. The Chief Minister, however, reiterated his resolve to extend financial assistance to all the eligible flood-affected families after the election results are declared.

TSBIE EXTENDS ADMISSION DEADLINE TO 1ST YEAR TO NOV 30

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 18

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education on Wednesday announced extension of the deadline for the first year Intermediate admissions till November 30.

In a notice to all junior colleges/composite degree colleges offering two-year Intermediate course, the TSBIE secretary informed of the decision and directed principals to make admissions available until the specified deadline.

● IN A NOTICE to all junior colleges/composite degree colleges offering two-year Intermediate course,

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, etc.), requisite fee and other details, along with a link for online submission of application and online payment of application fee, are available on Bank's website

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Place: Mumbai
Date: 14.11.2020General Manager
(CRPD)

DECCAN Chronicle

19 NOVEMBER 2020

'Love jihad' laws are frivolous, will divide

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right to practise religion; all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of Part III of the Constitution which deals with fundamental rights. Marriage is hardly a subject that comes in the way of a person practising the religion of his/her choice.

However, some of the state governments in India have of late been busy discovering marriage as one. It started with Uttar Pradesh where the chief minister, piggybacking on an order of a single bench of the Allahabad high court that ruled marriage for the purpose of conversion would not stand the scrutiny of the law, said the state government would be bringing in an anti-'love jihad' law. BJP governments in Haryana and Karnataka joined the bandwagon and said they, too, were contemplating introducing such laws.

Governments and parties that seek to perpetuate themselves have the tough route of good governance to take. The alternative is to fashion bogeys.

attracting five years of rigorous imprisonment. Even those assisting such marriages will be considered a party to the crime.

Governments which lack in performance or in meeting the promises they had made to voters or in ensuring basic governance invent terminologies that offer them a covering fire while going to people. "Love jihad" is one such term. Every single authority in India, including Union ministers concerned, have said there is nothing in the law or statute which defines "love jihad"; it remains a derogatory term the right wing uses to denote the marriage of a Muslim man and a Hindu woman (and not vice-versa). In fact, the National Commission for Women has recently made it clear that no such thing exists though its chairperson holds a different view.

Those who advance such regressive ideas must bear in mind that no law that puts specific conditions on people based on their religion has a chance of survival as long as our Constitution lasts. And the Special Marriage Act, 1954, makes no distinction whether a marriage is interfaith or intra-religion. All that a couple has to do is to notify the official concerned a month before the marriage.

Governments and parties that seek to perpetuate themselves have the tough route of good governance to take. The alternative is to coin terminologies and fight an imaginary enemy. If they have the welfare of the people whom they claim to serve in mind, then they must invent ways of improving governance, not meddle with people's private lives. The Union government must advise the states not to go ahead with such divisive and communal tools to protect themselves from the wrath of people.

Gupkar: Let Cong decide

Union home minister Amit Shah has raised the profile of the upcoming District Development Council elections in Kashmir by attacking the J&K mainstream parties as the "Gupkar gang", and viciously and propagandistically describing them as being anti-national and pro-terrorist. He has also rhetorically asked the Congress leadership if it is a part of this "gang".

The DDC polls for 280 seats in J&K, which kick off on November 28, will be the first proper electoral test of the popularity of the Centre's move to do away with the former state's autonomous status in August 2019. If the J&K parties, along with the Congress and the CPI(M) — the latter having limited influence in southern Kashmir — come together for the DDC polls, they are likely to be a formidable combine that could electorally embarrass the BJP.

Fruits of this unity could set up a united front spirit for the subsequent Assembly election also. This too will worry the BJP. The Centre's promises of ushering a new era of development and ending terrorism with the annulment of Article 35-A and the reducing of Article 370 have proved hollow. Political reverse for the BJP in the DDC polls is apt to strengthen the public mood in favour of the Gupkar Declaration passed on August 4, 2019, by the National Conference, PDP, People's Conference, Congress and CPI(M).

This declaration enjoins participants to unite to seek restoration of J&K's special status and to retain the state's identity, a perfectly legitimate demand in accordance with the spirit of federalism. The BJP is baiting the Congress and seeking to scare it with the so-called nationalist card. The Congress is being invited to take flight as it contests elections across the country, not just J&K. The idea is to detach the party from the Gupkar Alliance in the DDC polls.

Last year the Congress had participated in framing the Gupkar Declaration, but now seems defensive on account of stray utterances of PDP and NC leaders (which were later tempered). The party should think for itself and not under BJP's pressure.

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Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patnam Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

MHA hard put to find officers ready to serve in Ladakh, J&K

More than a year after the change in the status of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, there is an acute shortage of IAS, IPS and other all-India service officers in the Union Territories. The situation is dire enough for the ministry of home affairs to write to all cadre-controlling authorities to prepare a list of IAS, IPS and other officers who can be immediately sent on deputation to J&K and Ladakh.

And the ministry is trying to cast its net far and wide. According to sources, a missive from the MHA has been sent to the Railway Board chairman, Comptroller General of Accounts, Comptroller Auditor General of India, secretaries of the ministries of defence, external affairs, corporate affairs and I&B, chairpersons of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and the departments of

commerce, telecom and posts! As of now, sources say, two officers have shown willingness to serve in J&K on deputation. Both are Kashmiri-born officers, one an IAS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre and the other an IRS officer. Not very encouraging, it seems.

After all, J&K has a stipulated cadre strength of 137 IAS officers, out of whom only 58 are serving in the cadre, including nine who are on Central deputation. Similarly, the cadre strength of IPS officers is 147, but only 66 are currently serving in the cadre.

CIC PUTS A LID ON INFORMATION

Among the first things the Central Information Commission (CIC) has done after the appointment of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as Chief Information Commissioner is to allow the Central Secretariat to withhold records of the resignation

Following the appointment of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as Chief Information Commissioner, the CIC let the Central Secretariat withhold records of the resignation of former home secretary Anil Goswami

of former home secretary Anil Goswami. Sinha, a former IFS officer and high commissioner to the UK, was sworn in by President Ram Nath after Bimal Julka retired from the post in August.

The panel has reportedly based its judgment on a Delhi high court order according to which file notings and deliberations of the Group of Officers or the authority cannot be disclosed. The CIC's order came in response to an RTI application filed by IPS officer Anurag Thakur who had sought to know from the

Cabinet Secretariat the details of action taken on a complaint against Goswami, including communication exchanged between various authorities and file notings. Not getting a satisfactory response, Thakur appealed before the CIC. Goswami was forced to resign in February 2015 for allegedly trying to stall the arrest of a former Union minister in a case by the CBI.

MANIPUR INTRODUCES GOOD GOVERNANCE AWARD

Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh has introduced an award for good governance as an incentive for babus to do innovative and extraordinary work at the grassroots level. The initiative will reward government officials whose performance is of "a very high order" and whose work has benefited a large number of citizens and stakeholders.

Sources say that the award will be

presented every year to an individual officer or a team including administrative secretaries, deputy commissioners, heads of departments and to any other official or department. A panel comprising of the chief minister, chief secretary Rajesh Kumar and other senior officials will select the winners who stand to win a cash prize of ₹1 lakh (individual category) and ₹2 lakh (group category). To become eligible, officials will have to successfully complete a challenging task or project that results in significant benefits to the public or in the reduction of time and costs, including implementation of Central or state government schemes.

The awards will be presented on Statehood Day, Republic Day or Independence Day every year.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipticherian@Twitter.com

Subhani



BJP's hopes for its own CM in Patna get dashed



Anand K. Sahay

Far & Near

In Bihar, the BJP is the new regent to a tired, jaded, ruler — Nitish Kumar — whose authority after his Janata Dal (United)'s below-par performance in the recent Assembly election has dimmed to the level of inane formality. The saffron party is thus well placed now to advance its mentor RSS's disintegrative social agendas in Bihar, with the chief minister being the rubber stamp, so besotted is he with the mere idea of being CM even at the cost of his self-esteem.

Whether the BJP is actually able to gain its ends in the foreseeable future will of course depend on many imponderables. But the current situation doesn't bode well for Bihar. The state's governance systems have long been a wreck. Its finances are in a pitiable state due to long-standing disregard by the Centre (despite the so-called "double-engine" government), and the state is a byword for deficient revenue-earning capacity.

Besides, as a party the BJP — the regent — typically takes the wrong turn on serious matters of governance at the Centre and in the states where its writ runs. It has been content, in the main, to play up social faultlines to score at the ballot box and then to politically persecute opponents in disregard of the law, common decencies and democratic culture.

It rules through sloganizing. When it puts its best foot forward, it comes up with "love jihad", the CAA, triple talaq, and so on. What can Bihar gain from such a mindset?

India's poorest state is truly in an unenviable position when a party like the BJP is to the fore and the CM is only too conscious that his best fate may lie in signing on the dotted line, quietly. For all the ear-shattering

reaching new heights of endeavour. He refused to live in the past, he showed energy, and he marshalled his resources and his coalition partners with aplomb. In the end his party won more seats than any other party and bettered its polling percentage by as much as five per cent compared to the 2015 election, which the RJD had fought under his redoubtable but controversial father. The BJP came up next, having dropped five per cent of its vote share, although this time it fought in an alliance with Mr Kumar, rather than independently.

The difference between the ruling NDA's campaign and the opposing Mahagathbandhan campaign was stark. Within the NDA, the BJP played the communal metaphor to the hilt and made promises of "development" that didn't ring true in light of the NDA's abysmal performance in the past five years. Mr Kumar pleaded plaintively with voters to give him one more chance.

Tejashwi Yadav, in sharp contrast, spoke to the most pressing need of the young voter — for jobs and a better deal. Some 20 seats were lost to his party or combine by a couple of hundred votes or less. The Election Commission could have been seen to be scrupulous, but remained satisfied with form, although the gap in votes between the winning and the losing side was only 12,000 in the state overall.

So, who won? This is apt to remain a debate and a source of deep contention in the days ahead in case the NDA's opponents go on the warpath. They boycotted the swearing-in ceremony of the CM and his Cabinet colleagues. That means Bihar's polity is on notice.

India's poorest state is truly in an unenviable position when a party like the BJP is to the fore and the CM is only too conscious that his best fate may lie in signing on the dotted line, quietly

For now, the BJP must remain satisfied playing regent. But in the absence of a mandate, this is still an enviable position to be in. After all, the NDA has won state power, technically or not.

The BJP's core objective of having its own chief minister in Bihar remained unfulfilled in this election. Had the people of Bihar rejected Tejashwi Yadav in the manner that the BJP might have hoped, and the JD(U) had sunk a little lower in the tally, the saffron party might have hoped to win between 90 to 100 seats when the winning mark is 122. Since the BJP's middle name is "defection", the party might then have thought to make up the rest by breaking other parties through money power and using the state police as its personal army.

For now, however, it must remain satisfied playing regent. But in the absence of a mandate, this is still an enviable position to be in. After all, the NDA has won state power, technically or not. The CM will have to sign on the dotted line as told and take the rap when things go wrong, unless even he turns. He may rest assured that the BJP will play both tough and smart with the full force of the pliant media behind it.

Right away, the saffron party sent the tallest Bihar BJP leader, the urbane Sushil Kumar Modi, Mr Kumar's deputy CM of 13 years, home. Although from the RSS cadre, he was thought to be too close to the CM. So, he may not have been the best hatchet man. Out he went and the BJP appointed two novices as deputy CMs. With such ruthlessness on view, the CM had better watch out. The BJP will tolerate no demurrals as the state gets to be governed through remote control from New Delhi, with the capital of the Mauryan empire taking a long holiday.

Whether the BJP is actually able to gain its ends in the foreseeable future will of course depend on many imponderables. But the current situation doesn't bode well for Bihar.

LETTERS

FLOOD AID CHAOS

When we can pay electricity and other bills online from home directly, why does the government want us to apply for flood compensation through Mee Seva only and promote corruption? (People stand in never-ending queues to apply for flood aid, DC, Nov. 18). Government handled this issue in a very casual manner, eying GHMC elections. It must allow us to apply from anywhere.

B. Umakanth
Hyderabad

Poor people cannot stock ₹10,000 worth of rice, pulses, oil, etc., in their houses. How can the authorities judge how much they lost in floods? Wrong claims that can be significant cannot be avoided. Instead of cash compensation, one month free ration can be given through ration shops.

Dr. O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

LUCKY DECEMBER?

Does Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao feel that December is lucky for him? The last Assembly polls which were to be held in 2019 were advanced to December 2018 and now GHMC elections expected to be held in January 2021 are advanced to December 2020. It is not fair for the SEC to accede to the ruling TRS without giving sufficient time for other parties to prepare the list of candidates, file nominations and withdraw.

S. Nageswara Rao
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

IRCs to be set up at Centre, States

NEW DELHI, November 18. Union Labour Minister D. Sanjivayya told the Rajya Sabha today that the Government had decided to set up Industrial Relations Commissions, both at the Centre and in the States, to settle industrial disputes between workers and management.

Replying to questions arising out of a calling attention notice by Mr. T. V. Anandan (Cong-O) and others on the recent strike by the harbour workers of the Madras port, Mr. Sanjivayya said the Government took the decision on the recommendations of the Nation Commission on Labour. The Government proposed to take a decision on the commission's other recommendations. These steps would substantially contribute to industrial peace in the country, he said.



SHORT TAKES

'LADAKH IN CHINA' ERROR: TWITTER APOLOGISES

New Delhi, Nov. 18: Social media giant Twitter has apologised in writing to a key parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and has promised to correct the error by the month-end, the committee's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday.

Twitter's deposition has come in form of an affidavit signed by Damien Karien, Chief Privacy Officer of Twitter Inc, for wrong geo-tagging of India's map, Lekhi said.

Last month, the joint committee of parliament on data protection bill had come down heavily on Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, saying it amounted to treason and had sought an explanation by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit. Appearing before the panel, chaired by Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India had "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India.

"Twitter has now given us a written apology on an affidavit for Ladakh being shown in China," Lekhi said. "They have apologised for hurting Indian sentiments and have sworn to correct the error by November 30, 2020," she added.

POLICE ISSUE 3RD SUMMONS TO KANGANA, SISTER

SAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 18

The Bandra police station in Mumbai issued third summons to actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli asking them to appear before them on November 23-24, for questioning in connection with the spreading enmity case filed against them over their objectionable tweets. The police had first sent summons to the duo asking them to appear on October 26. The duo had sought time to appear stating they were busy with a family wedding till November 15.

The officials stated that this could be the last summons sent out to the duo and if they dodge again, further action would be taken against them. The second time they were asked to appear on November 9-10, however, they did not appear even then, officials said. The series of tweets by the two sisters led to enmity between communities, police claims.

"The duo needs to be questioned based on the complaint we had received, which is the basis of the FIR. They are yet to respond to the third summons we have sent them," said a police officer.

The case pertains to the complaint of fitness trainer Munawar Ali Sayyad in the Bandra court, seeking probe into the tweets and other statements given by the sisters.

ODISHA ASSEMBLY SESSION DROPS QUESTION HOUR

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 18

There shall be no question hour business during the ensuing winter session of the Odisha legislative Assembly. The House, beginning on Friday, will function four-and-a-half-hours everyday, informed Speaker Dr Surjya Narayan Patro on Wednesday.

Briefing media persons, he said since question hour business requires involvement of a huge number of government employees to gather data and information, it is impossible to do this exercise at present when the Covid-19 restrictions are put in place.

The Interim Budget will be tabled on the first day of the session on November 20.

Sitting arrangements have been made keeping in view of the Covid-19 guidelines and senior MLAs will have the option to join the House through video conference.

On the first day of the fifth session, the House will be adjourned for the first half after obituary references for former Speaker Sarat Kumar Kar and some ex-members police personnel.

The opposition BJP and Congress have strongly opposed the decision to suspend the question hour.

'Cow dung' festival



People take part in 'Gorehabba' festival at Gummatapura village on the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states. Laughing and cheering as they scoop up handfuls of cow dung to roll into balls, men and boys from a small village mark the 'Gorehabba' festival every year by flinging cow dung

- AFP

Adhir hints Sibal can leave Cong if he feels out of place

Suggests dissenting leaders may set up new party or join another party

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

● WEST BENGAL unit chief of and Lok Sabha MP Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary said if some leaders think that Congress is not the right party for them then they may set up a new party or can join any other party which they think is progressive and according to their interest

● FORMER UNION finance minister P. Chidambaram also raised doubts over the party's organisational capacity in an interview to a local daily.

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SHORT TAKES

**MP BABU ORDERS
10-HR JAIL FOR NOT
WEARING MASK**

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | DC
Bhopal, Nov. 18

A district collector in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday ordered the police to put those who would be found moving without wearing masks, in an open jail.

Ujjain district collector Ashish Singh directed the local superintendent of police to launch a special drive in the district against those who violated Covid-19 guidelines of wearing masks in public and ordered to sentence such people to 10-hour-imprisonment in an open jail.

Singh was reviewing the pandemic situation in his district at a high level official meeting in Ujjain.

He ordered the police to ensure strict enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines of wearing masks by the people in the wake of sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in other parts of the state as well as the other states.

Ujjain reported 27 fresh cases on Wednesday taking the tally of Coronavirus positive cases in the district to 3,745.

**12 CIVILIANS HURT
IN MILITANTS
FAILED ATTEMPT**

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 18

At least, 12 pedestrians were injured in a failed attempt of suspected militants to target a pillbox of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with a hand grenade in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Kakapora township on Wednesday evening.

All the injured were evacuated to a nearby hospital where doctors attending on them said all of them are 'stable'.

The J&K police in a statement said that militants tossed a hand grenade towards a bunker of the 41 Battalion of CRPF in the main town of Kakapora. "However, the grenade missed the intended target and exploded on road, injuring 12 civilians," it said.

Soon after the attack whole area was cordoned off by police and CRPF reinforcements to nab the assailants, the police sources said. But no arrests had been made till reports last came in.

**GOAIR PASSENGER
DIES OF CARDIAC
ARREST IN PAK**

New Delhi, Nov 18: A Delhi-bound GoAir plane from Riyadh made an emergency landing at Karachi airport in Pakistan on Tuesday after a passenger suffered cardiac arrest and later died. The chartered flight — G8-6658 — carrying 179 passengers had sought priority landing and then landed safely at Jinnah International Airport on Tuesday. An airline official said the male passenger suffered cardiac arrest. The plane landed at Delhi airport early morning on Wednesday and the body of the deceased has been brought to Delhi, the official added. In a statement on Wednesday, GoAir said the airline's staff attended to the passenger and he was administered with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) till landing at Karachi airport, the release said.

SILVER LINING

Belief that copper utensils boost immunity helps improve sales

Pandemic boosts Kashmir's copper trade

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 18

The Coronavirus pandemic may have caused widespread disruptions, affected health systems and living conditions and pushed many parts of the world into recession, it has silver lining, at least, for Kashmir's traditional copperware and thousands of people associated with the trade.

Copperware trader Aaqib Javed said, "Covid-19 has pushed the trade by 20-30 per cent". Another Kashmiri Farooq Ahmed who runs a copperware store in summer capital Srinagar said, "If Coronavirus has brought misery with it for us, it has, at the same time, proved somewhat catalyst for boosting up our trade."

The Kashmiri copperware is an ancient artwork

and the objects are used as household dailyware and also for decorative purposes. The art of casting copperware in the Valley had flourished from years but the trade has received a boost with the outbreak of Coronavirus as it is generally believed that the use of copper utensils for cooking and eating from these helps towards increasing immunity to fight viruses and also minimizes cancer risks and fight back other diseases.

Historians say that the elegant treasure Kashmiri possesses was introduced to it by artisans and traders from Iran and Iraq more than 700-years ago and Islamic scholar from Persia Mir Sayyid Ali Hamdani was instrumental in making copperware popular among the natives.

Geologist and oral historian Jalal Ud Din Shah said,

"Copper was in use during the Hindu period in Kashmir also but only for carving out coins. The first use of this metal for making household utensils and decorative items began during the Muslim period in early 14th century". He said that Valley's copperware art has its origin in Iraq is borne also by the fact that many families associated with it back home continue to use 'Baghdadi' (natives of Baghdad) as their surname. Sajad Muzaffar who runs a copperware factory in Srinagar's Zakura industrial area said, "The demand has increased over a period of time and with that a large number of people got associated with it as artisans and traders. My products are sold locally."

The elegantly designed copper utensils are not only used for cooking and

serving food at homes but also at large attended weddings and other functions. As the doctors insist on maintaining social distancing to ward off Covid-19, the traditional Wazwan cuisine is now served at weddings and other celebrations individually in copper plates which have floral and calligraphic motifs engraved or embossed on them known as 'Kandkari' work in local parlance instead of 'Traam', a bigger plate around which four persons sit to relish the delicacies in chorus and which has been a traditional necessity to 'practice brotherhood'.

"Until a couple of weeks ago when the marriage season was at its peak we would work round-the-clock to make these engraved dinning plates and sarposh (engraved

lids) for these. Indeed, Covid-19 has given a boost to our vocation," said Manzoor Ahmed Misgar, an artisan who also owns a copperware store in central Srinagar.

Sajad is happy to note that perhaps the only silver lining of the pandemic is that "it has improved further the prospects of the trade and, thereby, providing livelihood to more people". Farooq said, "It is better for your health to cook in and eat from copper utensils and dailyware...better than that of stainless steel. Doctors also say this." Local physicians this correspondent spoke to did not dispute it claim but had reservations about the claim that the cooking and eating from copper utensils can increase immunity to fight corona like viruses.

ICMR warns against wrong use of CPT in Covid patients

CPT has been tried in the past for treatment of viral infections like H1N1

Delhi to impose curbs in heavily crowded markets

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 18

The Delhi government on Wednesday imposed restrictions on number of people attending a wedding or large gathering events, scaling it down from 200 to 50 in view of rising cases of the Coronavirus in the national capital.

Delhi government is now all set to impose restrictions in heavily crowded markets though deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia clarified saying there is no plan to impose a lockdown but to have some restrictions in market areas for some days to prevent the

spread of Coronavirus, if such a need arises.

"Lockdown was not a solution to the pandemic. It could be tackled through proper medical arrangements which the government was doing effectively. We have no intention of a lockdown. Let me clarify, we have made a general proposal to the Centre with regard to certain regulations like shutdown for some days in the markets where Covid-19-appropriate behaviour and social distancing violations pose threat of rapid infection," Sisodia said.

While majority of Indian states are on road to recovery from the

Coronavirus, Delhi Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana and Rajasthan are now reporting surge in cases.

Total number of Coronavirus cases in India, as per Union health ministry, were over 89.12 lakh on Wednesday with 38,617 new cases while total deaths were 1.31 lakh with 474 new fatalities.

However, as per covid19India.org, the total cases were over 89.20 lakh and total fatalities over 1.31 lakh by Wednesday evening. On the other hand, India's recovery rate is improving and has reached 93.52 per cent.

cases with moderate Covid-19 disease (PLACID Trial).

It was concluded that CPT did not lead to reduction in progression to severe Covid-19 or all-cause mortality in the group that received CPT as compared to the group that did not receive the therapy "PLACID is the world's largest pragmatic trial on CPT conducted in

464 moderately ill laboratory confirmed Covid-19 affected adults in real world setting wherein no benefit of use of CPT could be established," the ICMR said.

Similar studies conducted in China and the Netherlands have also documented no significant benefit of CPT in improving the clinical outcomes of hospitalised

Covid-19 patients, the advisory stated.

"Indiscriminate use of CPT is not advisable. It is speculated that convalescent plasma having low concentration of specific antibody against SARS-CoV-2 may be less beneficial for treating Covid-19 patients as compared to plasma with high concentration of such antibodies. — PTI

PROTEIN-BASED VACCINES MORE SUITABLE FOR INDIA: SCIENTISTS

New Delhi, Nov. 18: As the world moves into the next stage of Covid-19 management and several vaccine candidates approach end-stage trials, scientists say a critical consideration for India is storage temperature and a protein-based preventive might therefore work best for the country.

The decision on procuring the right Covid-19 vaccine depends on multiple factors, including safety, price and ease of deployment, the scientists added, pitching for a preventive like the one being developed by US firm Novavax that can be stored at higher temperatures rather than those developed from mRNA or viral vectors.

That would potentially rule out the three vaccine candidates that have shown over 90 pc efficiency over the last few days — Pfizer-BioNTech with 90 pc efficacy in Phase 3 trial interim results, Sputnik V with 92 pc and Moderna with 94.5 per cent raising hopes across the globe that a preventive is on the horizon. — PTI

MP's 'gau panel' to take steps for protecting cattle

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURHURY | DC
Bhopal, Nov. 18

been established in 2017, on November 22.

Infrastructure has been laid in the 1,100 acre-sanctuary to provide shelter to 10,000 cattle. However, currently the sanctuary has housed 4,000 cattle.

Incidentally, the previous Congress government in the state headed by Kamal Nath had initiated steps to privatise the sanctuary. However, the move to hand over the sanctuary to a private entrepreneur could not materialise due to the fall of the Kamal Nath government in March this year. "We have set protection of cows as a priority of our government. Around 4,000 cow shelters will be established in the state in the current year", Kamal Patel said.

Kamal Nath however described Chouhan's announcement as 'one among many announcements' which never saw light of the day.

"The Chief Minister has even forgotten to fulfil his promise of establishing cow ministry. He has even reduced the incentive of ₹20 per cow provided by his government to supply fodder to the cattle in cow shelters", he said. MP has a cattle population of 1.76 crore. The state has 1,300 cow shelters where 1.80 lakh cattle have been rehabilitated.

Ex-Kerala minister held in flyover scam

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NOV. 18

2016. By 2019 it developed major cracks in the pier pipes and concrete girders leading to the flyover's closure for traffic. Metro man E. Speedharan and a team of experts from Madras IIT who carried out the technical inspection detected major faults and recommended reconstruction of pier caps, girders and deck.

Kunju's arrest has come as major setback for the Congress led opposition UDF of which Muslim League is the second biggest constituent. The opposition is currently engaged in a full scale agitation against LDF government's corruption.

The Congress and Muslim League leaders, however, termed the arrest politically motivated and aimed at diverting people's attention from the sensational gold smuggling case in which Chief Minister's former principal secretary M. Sivasankar is involved and Life Mission project corruption case.

Driving through the snow



Vehicles lined-up as they move slowly on a snow-covered road near Atal Tunnel at Rohtang in Lahaul-Spiti district on Wednesday. — PTI

98% OF RAPE VICTIMS IN DELHI CLOSE RELATIVES, ACQUAINTANCE OF ACCUSED: POLICE TELLS PANEL

New Delhi, Nov. 18: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has allowed Sudarshan News to telecast the remainder of its controversial programme, Bindas Bol with suitable modifications and moderations.

In the order passed on November 4 but placed on record before the Supreme Court on Wednesday, the ministry pointed out that although freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right, "the tone and tenor of episodes telecast do indicate that the channel through the various utterances and audio-visual content breached the programme code."

"The Ministry finds that they are not in good taste, offensive and has a likelihood of promoting communal attitudes," the order said. The ministry said that it examined the case and balancing it with the fundamental rights of the broadcaster, it has decided to caution the news channel to "be careful in future". The I&B ministry said that the channel should review the content of the future episodes of the show to moderate the audio-visual content and ensure that there is no breach of the programme code.

— Agencies

Anand Sharma. Along with the Delhi Police on Wednesday informed a parliamentary panel that 98 per cent of rape victims in the national capital were either close relatives or acquaintance of the accused, sources said.

The disclosure was made before the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs, headed by Congress MP

a family friend, 13 per cent were relatives and 12 per cent neighbour, the Delhi Police said while making a presentation on the heinous crime and the relationship between rape victims and accused.

It also said 26 pc accused are somehow known person to the victim, and just 2 per cent unknown or stranger to the victim. — PTI

GREATER WARANGAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No. COMM/GWM/C/CTN/03/2020-21, Dated : 16-11-2020
N.W: Engaging of Agency for supply of Man Power to work on Out-sourcing basis in various departments (4) of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation.

Start of Bid Download - 25-11-2020 @ 3 PM Onwards

Bid Document submission end Date & Time - 14-12-2020 @ 4 PM

Technical bid opening Date & Time - 14-12-2020 after 4.30 PM

NOTE: Further details can be seen at "e" procurement market place @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in

Commissioner, Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

VISWA BHARATHI MUTUALLY AIDED CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY LTD.

2-2-112/10/A, OPP: S.B.I. SHIVAM ROAD, NEW NALLAKUNTA, HYDERABAD-44

PHONE : 040-25722322 / 40156547.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that the open public auction of the following immovable property is fixed at the H.No.1-4-523/71, Bolakpur, Musheerabad, Hyd, as is where condition under TCS, ACT, 1964.

Name of the Defaultor	E.P.No.	Schedule of the property	Upset Price	E.M.D.	Date of Auction & Time
Sri. Syed Azgar	10/2018	H.No.1-4-523/71, Bolakpur, Musheerabad, Hyderabad	19,74,000/-	98,700/-	25.11.2020 at 12.00 Noon

For more details contact the Sale Officer during the office hours Ph. No. 9988909706, 8247356315

Sd/- Sale Officer / Senior Inspector Viswa Bharati Maccs Ltd

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / METERING
C-3, SHAHTI VIHAR, PSPCL, PATIALA, PUNJAB 147001

Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax No. 0175-2200284, e-mail: semeting@patiala@gmail.com

Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SC033813

Registration Number: 3313, website: www.pspcl.in

e-tendering page: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Specification No. MQP-167/2020-21/PR

Short Description Procurement of Portable Secondary Injection Type CT & PT Test Equipment for Testing of LT/HT/EHT Current Transformers & Potential Transformers

Start date of downloading of tender documents/ Bid submission start date 18.11.2020 at 11.00 Hrs

IN BRIEF
INDIAN JAILED IN PAK HANDED OVER TO BSF

Lahore, Nov. 18: An Indian national, who had illegally crossed over to Pakistan in 2016 and underwent four years of imprisonment here, was on Wednesday handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Wagah Border. According to officials, Panwasi Lal, son of Kundan Lal, arrived at the Lahore railway station in August 2016 by Samjhauta Express without travel documents and was arrested. Initially, he told the police that his name was Mohammad Aslam and he was a Pakistani.

A sum of Rs 500 was recovered from him. During interrogation, it was revealed that his real name was Panwasi Lal and he was not mentally stable, officials said. The matter was taken up with the Indian authorities as to how he reached the Lahore railway station without travel documents. He was later imprisoned in the Central Jail Lahore on charges of illegal border crossing.

'74 BIRMINGHAM BOMBINGS: COPS ARREST MAN

London, Nov. 18: UK police arrested a man on Wednesday in Northern Ireland in connection with the 1974 bombings of two pubs that killed 21 people and injured more than 200 in Birmingham, England.

Officers from the West Midlands counter-terrorism unit, working with colleagues from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, arrested a 65-year-old man at his home in Belfast, West Midlands Police said.

The man was arrested under the UK's Terrorism Act, and his home was being searched, authorities said.

The arrest came days before the 46th anniversary of the two November 21, 1974 blasts that ripped apart the Mulberry Bush and Tavern in the Town pubs in the city of Birmingham.

The blasts were one of the worst attacks committed by the Irish Republican Army during its armed campaign to get Britain out of Northern Ireland.

1995 DIANA INTERVIEW TO BE PROBED

London, Nov. 18: The BBC's board of directors has approved the appointment of a retired senior judge to lead an independent investigation into the circumstances around a controversial 1995 TV interview with Princess Diana.

Wednesday's announcement came after Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, made renewed claims this month that BBC journalist Martin Bashir used forged statements and false claims to convince the late royal to agree to the interview.

The broadcaster's director general, Tim Davie, said the BBC "is determined to get to the truth about these events." Charles Spencer alleged that Bashir, 57, made false and defamatory claims about senior royals in order to gain his trust and access to his sister 25 years ago. The claims included that Diana's phone was bugged and that her bodyguard was plotting against her. Charles Spencer has demanded an inquiry and an apology.

NOBEL CEREMONY WON'T BE HELD IN PERSON IN OSLO

Copenhagen, Nov. 18: The winner of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize — the World Food Program — and the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Wednesday they have jointly agreed to postpone the in-person award ceremony in Oslo next month because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"With the current restrictions in Oslo, it would not be possible to carry out the ceremony or other parts of the laureate's traditional program in a good and worthy manner," the Nobel Committee said in a statement.

WFP head David Beasley was expected to travel to the Norwegian capital "to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the organization" that won the prestigious award for efforts to combat hunger.

But he will now accept the award during a virtual ceremony on Dec. 10.

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony usually is held at Oslo City Hall. However, organizers said the event would be a scaled-down affair held at the city's university because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cop hurt, Florida slaying suspect killed in Maryland encounter

Maryland, Nov. 18: A suspect in a Florida slaying was killed in an encounter with Maryland law enforcement that left a police officer shot and wounded, authorities said.

Montgomery County Police were attempting to arrest a suspect wanted in connection with a killing in Jacksonville, Florida, when the shooting incident happened.

It occurred in Prince George's County on Tuesday afternoon, the agency stated in a message posted to Twitter.

Montgomery County and

Prince George's County are Maryland suburbs of the nation's capital. One officer was shot by the suspect, officials said. That officer's condition was not immediately known, according to police.

The suspect was killed, the department said. Authorities did not give additional information on how the suspect died.

The wounded officer and suspect were not immediately identified. The agency said it would provide updates as more information is confirmed. — AP

Milwaukee officer who killed 3 resigns

Wauwatosa, Nov. 18: A suburban Milwaukee police officer who has fatally shot three people in the line of duty since 2015, including a Black teenager outside a mall in February, is resigning from the department.

The Wauwatosa Common Council approved a separation agreement with Joseph Mensah on Tuesday night, effective Nov. 30, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office has

ruled all three shootings by Mensah, who also is Black, were justified self-defense. Protests followed the most recent shooting outside Mayfair Mall.

Alvin Cole, 17, was shot five times by Mensah after he fled from police following a disturbance inside the mall. Mensah said Cole pointed a gun at him, so he shot him. Protesters marched for months, calling for Mensah to be fired. They protested outside the mall and Wauwatosa City Hall. Mensah was suspended by the Wauwatosa Police. — AP



A water cannon is used to disperse unmasked protesters during a protest against measures imposed by the German government to limit the spread of the novel Coronavirus, on Wednesday near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. — AFP

Pfizer, BioNTech say Phase 3 virus vaccine candidate is 95% effective

New York, Nov. 18: Global drugmakers Pfizer and BioNTech said on Wednesday that their Covid-19 vaccine was found 95 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 in participants.

Analysis of the data indicates a vaccine efficacy rate of 95 per cent in participants without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (first primary objective) and also in participants with and without prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (second primary objective), in each case measured from seven days after the second dose.

The companies said the first primary objective analysis is based on 170 cases of Covid-19, of which 162 cases of Coronavirus were observed in the placebo group while 8 cases in the BNT162b2 group. Vaccine efficacy was consistent across age, gender, race and ethnicity demographics.

The observed efficacy in adults over 65 years of age was over 94 per cent, they said. There were 10 severe cases of Covid-19 observed in the trial, with nine of the cases occurring in the placebo group and one in the BNT162b2 vaccinated group.

"The study results mark

an important step in this historic eight-month journey to bring forward a vaccine capable of helping to end this devastating pandemic. We continue to move at the speed of science to compile all the data collected thus far and share with regulators around the world," said Dr Albert Bourla, Pfizer Chairman and CEO.

"With hundreds of thousands of people around the globe infected every day, we urgently need to get a safe and effective vaccine to the world," Bourla said. The announcements about the vaccines and their potential availability for use among the general population in the coming weeks and months has offered hope to millions around the world in a year that has seen the Covid-19 pandemic devastate lives and economies and still showing no signs of abating.

So far, the Coronavirus pandemic has infected more than 55 million people around the world and killed more than 1.3 million people. — PTI

TOILET PAPER LIMITS, EMPTY SHELVES BACK

New York, Nov. 18: Looking for toilet paper? Good luck. A surge of new Coronavirus cases in the US is sending people back to stores to stockpile again, leaving shelves bare and forcing retailers to put limits on purchases.

Walmart said Tuesday it's having trouble keeping up with demand for cleaning supplies in some stores. Supermarket chains Kroger and Publix are limiting how much toilet paper and paper towels shoppers can buy after demand spiked recently.

And Amazon is sold out of most disinfectant wipes and paper towels. Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the Consumer Brands Association said he doesn't expect things to be as bad this go-around since lockdowns are being handled on a regional basis. — PTI

US to withdraw troops from Afghanistan

Washington, Nov. 18: The US has announced to reduce the number of American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq to 2,500 each by January 15 next year, which drew sharp reaction from influential lawmakers across the aisle. The decision announced by Acting US Defence Secretary Christopher C Miller on Tuesday is in line with incumbent Pre-

sident Donald Trump's campaign promise to bring the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to a successful and responsible conclusion and to bring service members home.

The move was immediately opposed by the Opposition Democratic Party of the President-elect Joe Biden, whose lawmakers described it as a threat to national security. Several

Republican lawmakers too opposed the move. "I am formally announcing that we will implement President Trump's orders to continue our repositioning of forces from those two countries. By January 15, 2021, our forces, their size in Afghanistan will be 2,500 troops. Our force size in Iraq will also be 2,500 by that same date,"

Miller said during a

press conference, adding that this is consistent with the Trump administration's established plans and strategic objectives. The US currently has a little over 4,500 troops in Afghanistan. Interacting with reporters, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said the remaining troops would be defending US diplomats and facilities. — PTI

user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider.

"Section 230 was developed to allow these technologies to flourish. Early on, if you could sue Twitter or Facebook for content on a Facebook posting or a tweet, and they were liable for what somebody else said or what they felt or did, then the company would have probably never been in existence," Senator Lindsey Graham said during a Congressional hearing.

"My hope is that we change section 230 to incentivise social media platforms to come up with standards that are transparent and opaque that will allow us to make judgments about their judgments."

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 generally provides immunity for website publishers from third-party content and says no provider or

— PTI

EMERGENCY FUNDING Women, girls and people with disabilities will be major beneficiaries

Famine fear: UN releases \$100M to 7 countries

Nairobi, Nov. 18: The United Nations humanitarian office is releasing \$100 million in emergency funding to seven countries at risk of famine in Africa and the Middle East amid conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, while the humanitarian chief says returning to a world where famines are common would be "obscene."

A statement overnight said \$80 million of the money will go to Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen \$30 million.

Sudan and Yemen. Another \$20 million has been set aside for "anticipatory action to fight hunger in Ethiopia," where deadly fighting erupted this month in its

rebellious northern Tigray region. "Without immediate action, famine could be a reality in the coming months in parts of Burkina Faso, northeast Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. This would be the first time famine has been declared since 2017 in parts of South Sudan," the statement said.

A return to a world where famines are commonplace would be "obscene in a world where there is more than enough

food for everyone," UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said.

The UN said the money will target the most vulnerable, especially women, girls and people with disabilities. The money breaks down as follows: \$15 million to Afghanistan, Burkina Faso \$6 million, Congo \$7 million, northeastern Nigeria \$15 million, South Sudan \$7 million and Yemen \$30 million. All have been destabilised by conflict or extremist attacks. — AP



Trump fires top Homeland official

Power transfer will be orderly

Washington, Nov. 18:

President Donald Trump has fired a top Homeland Security official who contradicted his claims of voter fraud and asserted that the November 3 election was the most secure one in America's history. Trump, who has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of fraud, announced on Twitter on Tuesday that he has fired Christopher Krebs, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security. Trump, Republican, has refused to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, and has made unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

"The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were massive improprieties and fraud — including dead people voting, poll watchers not allowed into polling locations, 'glitches' in the voting machines which changed votes from Trump to Biden, late voting and many more," Trump said in a tweet, repeating unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.

"Therefore, effective immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency," he said. Krebs is the latest official to be dismissed by the US president following his defeat, with Defence Secretary Mark Esper also shown the door amid reports Trump doubted Joe Biden on Covid-19, is a potential pick for the post of Secretary of Health and Human Services in January, CIA director Gina Haspel and FBI director Christopher Wray may also be sacked.

Following his dismissal, Krebs, a former Microsoft executive appeared to have no regrets. "Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow, #Protect2020," he tweeted. President Trump said that the only thing secure about the election was that it was virtually impenetrable by foreign powers. — PTI

MURTHY AND MAJUMDAR MAY BE IN CABINET

Washington, Nov. 18:

Two eminent India-Americans, including former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, are among the potential Cabinet picks in the next Biden-Harris Administration, according to media reports. Murthy, who currently is the top Indian-American advisor to President-elect Joe Biden on Covid-19, is a potential pick for the post of Secretary of Health and Human Services and Stanford University Professor Arun Majumdar for the post of Secretary of Energy. The Washington Post and Politico said in their reports on Tuesday that mentions a list of potential picks for various Cabinet-level positions in the Biden administration. Murthy, 43, is currently one of the co-chairs of the Covid-19 advisory board of the transition. He has been a close associate of Biden on Covid issues. — PTI

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and No. 3 party leader Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., were also on track to retain their positions. "Let us all be advocates for unity in the Democratic party, where our values are opportunity and community," Pelosi wrote to Democrats this week. The first female speaker, Pelosi has won wide acclaim among Democrats. — PTI

CHINA HAS NO BASIS TO PICK THE NEXT DALAI LAMA

Washington, Nov. 18:

China has no theological basis to pick the next Dalai Lama, according to a top US diplomat, asserting that the Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their spiritual leader for hundreds of years. "I travelled to Dharamshala, India to speak to the Tibetan community that were assembled there in exile and to tell them that the US is opposed to China picking the next Dalai Lama," Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel D Brownback told reporters on Tuesday during a conference call, recalling his visit to India in October. — PTI

NEPAL'S CPN MEET ENDS IN STALEMATE

Kathmandu, Nov. 18: The much-awaited crucial meeting of the Central Secretariat of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) on Wednesday ended in a stalemate with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli demanding ten days' time to present a separate political document in response to his rival Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda's" accusations that he was running the government without consulting the party. As soon as the meeting started at Prime Minister Oli's official residence in Baluwatar, Oli told the members of the Secretariat that he will present a separate political document in the next meeting and demanded ten days' time. — PTI

SHORT TAKES
OIL FIRMS TO IDENTIFY ALASKA DRILLING LAND

Alaska, Nov. 18: The Trump administration issued a request to energy companies to identify what specific land areas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be offered for sale, according to a government document.

The Department of Interior said the nominations and any comments on the land tracts must be received 30 days after the document is published in the Federal Register. The "call for nominations" is scheduled to be published on Tuesday, but a version was posted on Monday.

The move is a key step toward pulling off a sale of oil drilling leases in a pristine area of the Arctic before Democrat Joe Biden, who opposes energy development there, becomes president.

Drilling had been banned in ANWR for decades before Republican-led tax legislation signed in 2017 removed that ban. Lawmakers in Alaska have long pushed to open up the ecologically sensitive area to oil and gas exploration.

Following the 30-day period after the call for nominations, the government would have to issue a notice for an impending lease sale. The sale would take place 30 days after that, just before Biden's expected inauguration on Jan. 20.

CO₂ EMISSIONS SHOW BIGGEST EVER DROP

London, Nov. 18: Global carbon dioxide emissions fell by 8.8% in the first six months of this year, the biggest drop for a first half-year period, due to the effects of the restrictions imposed on account of Coronavirus, a study showed on Wednesday.

Research published in the journal Nature Communications by a group of scientists from China, France, Japan and the United States said emissions fell by 1,551 million tonnes or 8.8% in the first half of the year, compared to the same period last year.

The 8.8% reduction represents largest ever fall in emissions over the first half year, larger than for any economic downturn.

The drop was also larger than the annual decrease during World War Two, although mean emissions are much bigger now than at that time.

The scientists used data based on real-time activity and analysed the daily, weekly and seasonal trends of CO₂ emissions before and after the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it triggered.

This spring, governments around the world imposed lockdowns to contain the COVID-19 pandemic which curtailed energy use for industrial production and transport.

This resulted in greenhouse gas emissions declining.

EUROPE'S GREEN BUILDING PLAN TO CUT EMISSIONS

Brussels, Nov. 18: The European Union set out plans on Wednesday to launch a wave of green building renovations across Europe to cut greenhouse gas emissions and help people struggling to pay energy bills. The source of more than a third of EU carbon dioxide emissions, three-quarters of Europe's buildings are energy inefficient by modern standards and many are heated using fossil fuels. That needs fixing under the EU's plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Commission plans to double the EU's annual rate of energy-related building renovations, which is currently just 1%, upgrading 35 million buildings by 2030.

"It's not easy. It's not just throwing money at it, we need to get the right regulation in place," Frans Timmermans, Commission executive vice president for the European Green Deal, said on Wednesday.

Funding should prioritise renovations that tackle energy poverty, to support the 34 million Europeans struggling to pay heating bills, the Commission said. Other focus areas are public buildings and polluting heating systems.

Upgrading social housing alone would require an extra 57 billion euros (\$67 billion) in annual investment, and EU support will come from a 67.5 billion euro section of its massive coronavirus economic recovery fund.

Further cash could come from carbon market revenues, while the European Investment Bank will back technical support for projects. The Commission will also rewrite state aid rules, allowing governments to boost national funding.



Locals look at the rising level of the Chiquito river, in La Hoya neighbourhood, in Tegucigalpa, following the passage of Hurricane Iota, on Tuesday.

— AFP

Iota weakens, but flooding and casualty figures increase

Swollen rivers burst banks, roofs were flipped and nine people lost their lives

Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, Nov. 18: Unleashing torrential floods even as it weakened, Storm Iota churned through Central America on Tuesday, causing swollen rivers to burst their banks, flipping roofs onto streets and killing at least nine people across the region.

The strongest storm on record to reach Nicaragua, Iota struck the coast late on Monday, bringing winds of nearly 155 miles per hour (249 kph) and flooding villages still reeling from the impact of Hurricane Eta two weeks ago. But by Tuesday night, the winds had fallen to 50 mph (80 kph) as Iota weakened to a tropical storm but heavy rainfall continued, the US National Hurricane Center said.

Iota was drenching already saturated towns and villages as it moved inland over southern Honduras

and as authorities reported many people missing with some of the worst-hit areas still cut off.

"We're flooded everywhere, the rain lasted almost all night and now it stops for an hour then comes back for two to three hours," said Marcelo Herrera, mayor of Wampusipirí, a municipality in the interior of northeast Honduras crossed by rivers and streams.

"We need food and water for the population, because we lost our crops with Eta," he told Reuters. The Honduran government closed bridges and highways across the country on Tuesday, while opening more than 600 shelters where some 13,000 residents sought refuge.

The double punch of Eta and Iota marked the first time two major hurricanes had formed in the Atlantic basin in November since

records began. The Nicaraguan port of Puerto Cabezas, still partly flooded and strewn with debris left by Eta, again bore the brunt of the hit.

Frightened residents huddled in shelters.

"We could die," said Inocencia Smith at one of the shelters. "There is nothing to eat at all," she added, noting Eta had destroyed local farms.

Nicaraguan Vice President Rosario Murillo said at least six people had died as they were dragged down by raging rivers.

The wind tore the roof off a makeshift hospital. Patients in intensive care were evacuated, including two women who gave birth during the first rains on Monday, the Nicaraguan officials said.

Two people died on Providencia island, part of Colombia's Caribbean archipelago near the coast

of Central America, after it was clipped by Iota, President Ivan Duque said on Tuesday evening.

Nearly all of the infrastructure on Providencia — home to some 6,000 people — had been damaged or destroyed.

Panama's government said a person had died in its western Ngabe-Bugle region due to conditions caused by the storm.

A resident of Brus Laguna on the Honduran coast told local radio a boy was killed by a falling tree, although the mayor, Teonela Wood, said she had no reports of fatalities.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said flooding from Iota risked causing disaster after Eta.

"We are very concerned about the potential for deadly landslides in these areas as the soil is already completely saturated," IFRC spokesman Matthew Cochrane told a media briefing in Geneva on Tuesday. About 100,000 Nicaraguans and Hondurans had been evacuated from their homes, authorities said.

Iota was about 35 miles (56 km) southeast of the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, the NHC said, moving west at 12 mph (19 kph) where it could provoke "catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides."

The center added that Iota could dump up to 30 inches (76 cm) of rain in some areas.

"We are in the hands of God. If I have to climb up trees, I'll do it," said Jaime Cabal Cu, a farmer in Guatemala's Izabal province. "We don't have food, but we are going to wait here for the hurricane that we're asking God to stop from coming."

— Reuters

SHUN CABINET PICKS WITH OIL TIES, BIDEN TOLD

Washington, Nov. 18: US environmental activists are heaping pressure on Democratic president-elect Joe Biden to avoid cabinet appointees with fossil fuel ties, with one group on Tuesday slamming his pick of a congressman who received donations from the oil and gas industry.

The pressure reflects the environmental lobby's desire to push the incoming administration to take aggressive measures to combat climate change, after outgoing Republican President Donald Trump downplayed global warming and rolled back green regulation hampering the drilling industry.

"Today feels like a betrayal," said Sunrise Movement president Varshini Prakash, reacting to Biden's appointment of Cedric Richmond as director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, a role that liaises with outside groups such as activists.

Richmond, a Louisiana congressman, was a co-chair of Biden's presidential campaign and, according to Open Secrets which keeps a database of political funding records, has received \$340,750 from oil and gas companies since 2007.

Richmond did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

Separately, Greenpeace and 75 other climate and environmental justice groups on Monday had issued a statement urging Biden not to select Ernest Moniz, who served as energy secretary under President Barack Obama, for his cabinet.

Moniz, an MIT-trained nuclear physicist, has been a vocal advocate for the continued use of natural gas and nuclear energy to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions.

UN nod to shipping emission curbs

London, Nov. 18: The United Nations shipping agency on Tuesday approved measures to boost energy efficiency in vessels as part of efforts to reduce the industry's carbon footprint, a UN spokeswoman said. Countries approved the additional regulations to reduce the carbon intensity of commercial ships at this week's virtual Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) session of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

Green groups opposed

the approval, saying it would allow the shipping sector's share of emissions to keep rising over the next decade, when limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, in line with the 2015 Paris climate accord, requires greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to be halved.

"The IMO has decided that emissions can keep growing for 10 years at least. Their complacency is breathtaking," John Maggs of the Clean Shipping Coalition said.

The measures, which

aim to reduce the carbon intensity of existing ships, add to already agreed energy efficiency regulations for new vessels and aim to reduce the carbon intensity of international shipping by 40% by 2030 compared with 2008 levels.

The IMO has said it aims

to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from ships by 50% from 2008 levels by 2050, but is under pressure to speed up action. Shipping officials have also said the industry must act now to meet

the 2050 targets.

IMO Secretary General Kitack Lim said on Monday at the start of the MEPC that it was "of utmost importance that the IMO continues to deliver on the implementation of the initial GHG strategy by means of concrete measures".

About 90% of world trade is transported by sea. Carbon emissions from shipping in the six-year period to 2018 accounted for 2.9% of the world's CO₂.

— Reuters

Deal revives US dam demolition plan

Portland (US), Nov. 18: An agreement announced Tuesday paves the way for the largest dam demolition in US history, a project that promises to reopen hundreds of miles of waterway along the Oregon-California border to salmon that are critical to tribes but have dwindled to almost nothing in recent years.

If approved, the deal would revive plans to remove

four massive hydroelectric dams on the lower Klamath River, creating the foundation for the most ambitious salmon restoration effort in history. The project on California's second-largest river would be at the vanguard of a trend toward dam demolitions in the US as the structures age and become less economically viable amid growing environmental concerns about

the health of native fish.

Previous efforts to address problems in the Klamath Basin have fallen apart amid years of legal sparring that generated distrust among tribes, fishing groups, farmers and environmentalists.

Opponents of dam removal worry about their property values and the loss of a water source for fighting wildfires. Lawsuits challenging the agree-

ment are possible.

"This dam removal is more than just a concrete project coming down. It's a new day and a new era," Yurok Tribe chairman Joseph James said.

"To me, this is who we are, to have a free-flowing river just as those who have come before us. ... Our way of life will thrive with these dams being out."

— AP

Investment to protect the Great Barrier Reef

● **THE INVESTMENT** required to meet water quality targets for the Great Barrier Reef is estimated at A\$4 billion (\$2.8 billion), according to James Schultz, the CEO of GreenCollar, which developed the Reef Credit Scheme in partnership with landholders, the Queensland government and natural resource management organisations.

In an attempt to safeguard the reef, HSBC and the Queensland government said they would buy "Reef Credits", a tradable unit that quantifies and values the work undertaken

to improve water quality flowing onto the reef.

Similar to the carbon offset market which incentivises the reduction of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the scheme pays landholders for improved water quality.

The investment required to meet water quality targets for the Great Barrier Reef is estimated at A\$4

billion (\$2.8 billion), according to James Schultz, the CEO of GreenCollar, which developed the Reef Credit Scheme in partnership with landholders, the Queensland government and natural resource management organisations.

For buyers, "Reef Credits" would provide a measurable, audited water quality outcome tracked against internationally recognised targets and based on actual reduction in pollutants entering the reef. "The first water quality market of its kind in the world, Reef Credits will play a pivotal role in protecting the future of the Great Barrier Reef as both an Australian and international icon," HSBC said in a statement.

The Reef was world heritage listed in 1981 by UNESCO as the most extensive and spectacular coral reef ecosystem on the planet.

— Reuters

Zero emissions: UK to ban new petrol cars by '30

● **THE PLAN** offers £582 million in grants for those buying zero or ultra-low emission vehicles to make them cheaper to buy, which was welcomed by auto industry group SMMT.

consumers that they can afford these new technologies," SMMT said in a statement, adding the new deadline posed an "immense challenge" to the sector.

Johnson's plan was broadly welcomed by industry.

"Now is the time to plan for a green recovery with high-skilled jobs that give people the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to make the country cleaner, greener and more beautiful," Johnson said in a column published in the Financial Times on Tuesday.

Britain last year became the first G7 country to set in law a net zero emission target by 2050, which will require wholesale changes in the way Britons travel, use energy and eat.

In total the plan would mobilise £12 billion (£16 billion) of government money, with as much as three times that amount coming from the private sector, and create and support 250,000 highly skilled green jobs by 2030, Johnson said.

The new date for a ban on new petrol and diesel cars is five years earlier than the 2035 pledge made by Johnson in February.

The plan offers £582 million in grants for those buying zero or ultra-low emission vehicles to make them cheaper to buy, which was welcomed by auto industry group SMMT. "Success will depend on reassessing

VW hails govt's low-emission car scheme

Amburg/Frankfurt, Nov. 18: Volkswagen VOWG_p.DE on Wednesday said the German government's 3 billion euro (\$3.57 billion) scheme to support low-emission cars sent a strong signal Berlin would help lift the country's key export industry out of the coronavirus and climate crises.

Germany on Tuesday earmarked fresh cash to help the industry, which is facing tough competition from Chinese and US rivals in electric mobility, to overcome a collapse in demand caused by the coronavirus.

A central element of the scheme is the allocation of 1 billion euros to extend to 2025 a consumer rebate for buying electric cars that had been due to end next year.

"The extension of the innovation rebate for passenger cars will further accelerate the ramp-up of electric mobility and thus drive the change to sustainable mobility," the world's largest carmaker said in a statement.

"At the same time, by rapidly expanding charg-



quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	44,180.05
Nifty 50	12,938.25
S&P 500*	3,614.85
Dollar (\$)	74.19
Pound Sterling (£)	98.61
Euro (€)	88.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,253▼357
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.64
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.878
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.865
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	-0.007

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Smaller towns are 'heroes' of pandemic: Nestle

Smaller towns have emerged as 'heroes' for Nestle India during the pandemic, offsetting 'somewhat muted' performance in large metros, its CMD Suresh Narayanan said. "One of the themes I would be having for the future is our smaller towns—our tier II, III and IV towns, which are towns with population of up to 5 lakh, up to 1 lakh and below a lakh—have really become the heroes of this pandemic," he said.

Global container volumes rose in Q3: Top shipper



The world's biggest shipping company, Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, said global container volumes rose increased by around 1 per cent in the third quarter, a faster rebound than expected earlier in the year. But global demand for containers is expected to contract by 4-5 per cent this year due to Covid-19. CEO Soeren Skou said disciplined execution led to solid earnings and cash flow growth for the firm in Q3.

FPIs stay bullish on equities; pump \$6.3 billion in Q2

Foreign investors have pumped in \$6.3 billion in the Indian equity market in three months ended September on attractive valuations, opening-up of the economy and resumption in business activities, says a Morningstar report. This comes after a net inflow of \$3.9 bn in the June quarter and a net withdrawal of \$6.38 billion in the March quarter. As of Sept, the value of FPI investments in equities stood at \$450 bn, up 31 per cent.

India's laptop, tablet mfg can reach \$100 bn

India has the potential to scale up its laptop and tablet manufacturing capacity to \$100 billion by 2025 through policy interventions, ICEA said. Scaling up laptop and tablet PC manufacturing can take share of India in global market to 26 per cent from 1 per cent now. India Cellular and Electronics Association chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said the country's electronic market has reached \$65 billion.

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Depositors money, employees safe LVB shareholders to lose investment

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, NOV. 18

Public shareholders of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will lose their money as the entire amount of the paid-up share capital will be written off as per the scheme of amalgamation of LVB with DBS India proposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, depositors need not worry as their deposits will be transferred to DBS and would be fully secured.

Around 4,000 employees of LVB also can heave a sigh of relief as they will be moved to DBS at the same remuneration as in LVB for the next three years. However, Damocles sword hangs over key management personnel of LVB as they could be retrenched by DBS, if so required.

The market is also waiting to see whether the RBI will take over troubled private lender Dhanlaxmi Bank, too, as it is being long mired in management issues, and impose a merger or a revival plan.

As per the draft scheme of amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India, the entire amount of the paid-up share capital will be written off. "On and from the appointed date, the entire amount of the paid-up share capital and reserves and surplus, including the balances in the general body meeting under the Companies Act as the Banking Regulation Act—a special Act—will override the provisions of a general law."

LVB depositors contin-

HOPE AND DESPAIR

- ▶ Deposits will be transferred to DBS Bank India and would be fully secured
- ▶ Around 4,000 employees will be moved to DBS India at the current remuneration for 3 years
- ▶ Key management personnel of LVB could be retrenched by DBS, if so required
- ▶ Market is also waiting to see if similar action will follow in the case of Dhanlaxmi Bank

ued to panic since the announcement of the amalgamation scheme by the RBI on Tuesday evening, with the bank witnessing about Rs 10 crore of deposit withdrawals, according to Manoharan.

He assured depositors that their money is safe and expressed confidence that the lender's merger with DBS Bank India will be completed within the December 16 deadline set by the regulator.

Manoharan said all the employees of LVB will be absorbed in DBS after the merger. DBS Bank may also rope in more experienced professionals to carry out a digitisation drive at the troubled bank.

The RBI administrator said that the troubled bank has enough liquidity to pay back depositors.

Shares of LVB fell 19.94 per cent to Rs 12.40 on the BSE, hitting the lower circuit. Shares worth Rs 31.8 crore were traded on the NSE and Rs 3.65 crore, on the BSE.

(With inputs from Ravi Ranjan Prasad)

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(With inputs from Ravi Ranjan Prasad)

VEDANTA BIDS FOR BPCL; FOREIGN PLAYER ALSO IN RACE

New Delhi, Nov. 18: Mining conglomerate Vedanta has put in a preliminary expression of interest (EOI) for buying the government's stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), for which a major foreign player too is said to be in the race.

A special purpose vehicle floated by the BSE-listed Vedanta Ltd and its London-based parent Vedanta Resources submitted an EOI before the close of deadline on November 16.

"Vedanta's EOI for BPCL is to evaluate potential synergies with our existing oil and gas business," the company said in a statement. "The EOI is at a preliminary stage and exploratory in nature."

Sources in the department handling the sale said the EOI has been put in by a special purpose vehicle or SPV floated by Vedanta Ltd and Vedanta Resources.

They also said a major foreign player was among the three-four entities whose EOs were received by the close of the bidding on Monday.

The other potential investors are foreign funds but their identity was not disclosed.

Share price of BPCL has plunged by nearly a fourth since the time the strategic sale was approved in November last year. At Wednesday's closing price of Rs 383.20 on the BSE, the government's 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL is worth Rs 44,000 crore. —PTI

Apple to halve App Store fees to 15% from January

MARK GURMAN

NOV. 18



Apple Inc is cutting by half the fees charged to most developers who sell software and services on the App Store, marking the biggest change to the store's revenue structure since the iPhone maker launched the service in 2008.

The company is lowering the App Store fee to 15 per cent from 30 per cent for developers who produce as much as \$1 million in annual revenue from their apps and those who are new to the store.

The change will go into effect January 1 as part of an App Store Small Business Program, Apple said on Wednesday in a statement.

The company said the new structure will apply to the "vast majority" of developers who charge for apps and in-app purchases on Apple's devices. The programme won't affect some major apps such as those from Netflix Inc and Spotify Technology SA.

The Cupertino, California-based technology giant said it's making the change to help small developers financially and to provide a way for them to invest in their businesses amid the economic struggles caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apple has faced ongoing scrutiny from government regulators and criticism from developers about the percentage of revenue it takes for App Store purchases. The company also is engaged in a lawsuit with Epic Games Inc, the maker of the

video game Fortnite, over its App Store fees and payment rules. Alphabet Inc's Google also charges similar fees to developers on its Android app store.

Small developers make up the majority of App Store sellers. Some major apps, such as those offered by Netflix and Spotify, don't let subscribers sign up through the App Store, avoiding the 30 per cent charge.

Apple is betting that the fee change will result in developers creating more apps and sticking with the App Store, which will create enough new revenue to offset any potential financial negatives from the fee reductions.

Apple's standard 30 per cent fee will remain for developers that generate more than \$1 million in a calendar year.

Chief executive officer Tim Cook testified about the company's App Store practices at a July hearing before US lawmakers. In advance of Cook's appearance, Apple published a study that claimed its 30 per cent cut is normal for the industry or lower than some app stores. "We're launching this programme to help small business owners write the next chapter of creativity and prosperity on the App Store, and to build the kind of quality apps our customers love," Cook said. —Bloomberg

Rising metal prices, freight charges hurt many sectors

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, NOV. 18

Rising metal prices and higher freight charges on imports are posing a new challenge for manufacturers and exporters.

Base metal prices as well as steel prices have seen significant upside of late in the commodity market.

Copper prices have moved up 64 per cent from their March levels, zinc has gone up by 67 per cent, nickel by 50 per cent, aluminum by 30 per cent and lead by 24 per cent from their March levels, said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

"Stimulus packages announced in major economies, the restriction on production in China ahead of the winter due to environmental concerns and weakness in dollar are some of the key factors

supporting base metals. Further, zinc has low levels of inventory, nickel prices are supported by steel demand, lead by recovery in the automobile sector and aluminum by demand from the packaging industry," he said.

While the raw material price is hurting the manufacturers, the recent jump in freight charges on imported goods due to limited availability of containers has worsened the situation. "The price of hot rolled coil, an essential raw material for the engineering industry, has increased from Rs 35,000 a tonne to Rs 42,000 a tonne in the past six months," says the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India.

"Zinc prices too have shot up from Rs 170 a kg to Rs 220 per kg and freight charges have almost doubled," said EEPC India

The exporters want the Centre to intervene and prod the large steel makers to keep prices in check.

The real estate sector is also concerned about the rising steel prices.

SENSEX ENDS ABOVE 44000 FOR FIRST TIME

Mumbai, Nov. 18: Equity benchmarks scaled record highs for the third straight session on Wednesday as investors accumulated banking, auto and engineering stocks amid firm global cues and unabated foreign fund inflows.

The BSE Sensex vaulted 227.34 points to close above the 44,000-level for the first time at 44,180.05.

Intra-day, it touched its lifetime high of 44,215.49. The NSE Nifty advanced 64.05 points to end at its all-time high of 12,938.25, after making an intra-day record of 12,948.85.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 10.76 per cent, followed by L&T.

According to traders, largely positive cues from global markets and persistent foreign fund inflows buoyed market sentiment.

—PTI

Renault names new compact SUV Kiger

MICHAEL GONSALVES

PUNE, NOV. 18



Venkatram Mamillapalle, Country CEO and MD at Renault India, said.

The concept or show car is a joint effort between the corporate design teams in France and Renault India, and the company says it took a lot of input and feedback from Indian customers.

The sub-compact SUV segment in India has grown by leaps and bounds in recent times with multiple options for prospective buyers and it is this rapidly expanding market that Renault Kiger is looking at tapping.

"After Kwid and Triber, Renault Kiger is the third global car from Groupe Renault to be launched in India first, followed by other markets,"

NSE ASKED TO RAISE CORPUS OF INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND TO ₹1,500 CRORE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, NOV. 18

Regulator Sebi has asked the NSE to increase the size of its investor protection fund (IPF) corpus to Rs 1,500 crore in order to protect the interests of investors in light of the recent broker defaults.

The exchange currently maintains about Rs 550 crore in IPF corpus, NSE said when enquired by Financial Chronicle.

"The adequacy of the IPF corpus will be reviewed on a half-yearly basis and incremental contributions will be made to the IPF, if required," the NSE said.

"Sebi has advised NSE to increase the size of its IPF corpus to Rs 1,500 crore in order to protect the interests of investors in light of the recent broker defaults," the NSE said in a statement on Wednesday.

"NSE is focused and committed to further strengthening investor protection through a variety of measures including focused investor education, enhanced broker supervision and surveillance in view of the recent defaults of Trading Members," it said.

Are there more difficulties ahead?

Almost certainly. Fitch Ratings warned in July that capital fund-raising plans by state-owned banks from private sources won't be sufficient to mitigate anticipated risks without additional support from the state. But the government is struggling to find cash to support the lenders and to spur credit. India entered an unprecedented technical recession in 2020 and the central bank said risks are piling up on household and corporate balance sheets that could spill into the financial sector.

What are authorities doing and is it working?

The central bank in 2015 began assessing the bad loans, bringing to light the full scope of the problem. Gross non-performing assets across the banking sector surged from about 3 per cent to more than 9 per cent, then breached 10 per cent—the highest in the world. The government has created a new bankruptcy law to aid loan recoveries but, as the economic growth slows, authorities have taken steps to spur fresh credit and show more leniency toward certain borrowers and small businesses. The central bank warned in July that India's bad-loan clean-up is set to reverse, with soured debt forecast at 12.5 per cent of total credit by March 2021, the

highest level in more than two decades.

"Any silver lining? The health of India's NBFC sector has improved. The RBI had been concerned about 10 companies on a list of 50, but is now just focused on four. Healthier shadow lenders could revive credit for consumers, potentially giving a shot in the arm to the economy," said Apparel Export Promotion Council chairman A Sakthivel.



Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd by Singapore's DBS Group Holdings Ltd, the first such move involving a foreign bank.

What went wrong?

Yes Bank's troubles were rooted in the rapid expansion under its former CEO and co-founder Rana Kapoor. Credit Suisse had noted in a 2019 report the company had the biggest proportion of outstanding loans to large stressed borrowers.</p

SHORT TAKES
Youngster Leon
earns GM norm

Chennai: Young Indian International master Leon Luke Mendonca won a GM tournament in Hungary with a round to spare to close in on the coveted Grandmaster title.

The 14-year-old player from Goa won the First Saturday GM November 2020 event in Budapest late on Monday to earn his second Grandmaster norm in the space of 21 days.

He needs one more norm to earn the GM title.

Mendonca (Elo 2516) finished with 7.5 points and won the title with a round to spare. He remained unbeaten in the event

and scored wins over two Grandmasters. He posted six wins and three draws in the nine-round championship. In the opening round, he drew against higher rated GM Plat Vojtech of the Czech Republic. He had in late October won the Riochess International Chess Festival Grandmaster tournament in Hungary where he gained his maiden GM norm. — PTI

Dalmiya grandson
is football official

Kolkata: Keeping up the family legacy, Aditya Dalmiya, grand-son of former BCCI and ICC president late Jagmohan

Dalmiya, on Wednesday made a foray into sports administration.

Aditya is the son of Dalmiya's daughter Baishali, who happens to be a Trinamool Congress MLA from Bally constituency.

The 21-year-old, who is pursuing masters in sports management, was appointed as the chairman of Indian Football Association 'School Committee' representing Rajasthan Club.

"He is a young man with the right mindset. We made the 'School Committee' with much care and made him the chairman. My nephew Anirban Dutta, who is in the same committee, will work under him," IFA chairman Subrata Dutta said.

Recollecting his father Biswanath Dutta's role in Dalmiya's rise, he said: "My father had spotted Jagmohan Dalmiya in the early 1970s as the administrator of the football unit of Rajasthan Club."

— PTI

Aditi and Diksha
start well in Saudi

King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia: Aditi Ashok and

Diksha Dagar began with a round of one-under 71 respectively as the Saudi Ladies Team International got underway at the Royal Greens Golf and Country Club on Wednesday. They were both tied 14th as Finnish golfer Sanna Nuutinen shot 66 to take the lead after the first round. Other Indians in the field were further down. Tvesa Malik (74) was T-41 and Astha Madan (80) was T-103rd. The tournament has an innovative team format, though the individual pros will also be vying for substantial purse. It is being played over 54-holes with \$500,000 up for grabs — \$300,000 for the team and \$200,000 for the individual. The players and amateurs make up 37 teams. The teams were selected in an NFL-style draft system and they compete in a team of four pro-am format with the best two scores to count. — PTI

CWG all set for
women's cricket

Dubai: Six highest-placed teams in the ICC rankings as on April 1 next year along with hosts England will get direct qualification to the 2022 Commonwealth Games women's T20 competition, which will make its debut at the quadrennial showpiece in Birmingham.

Women's cricket will be a part of the Commonwealth Games for the first time ever when the 2022 edition gets underway in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. It will only be the second time that cricket will feature in the event after a men's competition was part of the Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998. — PTI

Live on TV
TENNIS

ATP Finals: Round robin matches from 7.30 pm and 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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GERMANY'S PAIN

Spaniards shame heavyweights with humiliating defeat

Paris, Nov. 18: Ferran Torres grabbed a hat-trick as Spain condemned Germany to their worst defeat in 89 years on Tuesday, winning 6-0 in Seville to qualify for the UEFA Nations League finals and join France, who came from behind to beat Sweden 4-2.

Manchester City forward Torres was the star for Spain, who were as brilliant as Germany were bad. The result raises further questions about Germany coach Joachim Loew, who was already under pressure coming into this game.

"This has been a black day for us," admitted Loew after Germany's heaviest defeat since losing 6-0 to Austria in 1931.

They came into their final game in League A, Group 4 on top, a point clear of Spain, and so only needed a draw at an empty La Cartuja to qualify for the finals in October next year.

But Alvaro Morata headed Spain in front in the 17th minute before Torres crashed in the second on 33 minutes after Dani Olmo's header hit the bar.

His City teammate Rodri headed in another to make it 3-0 for Spain before the end of a first half in which they lost Sergio Canales and skipper Sergio Ramos to injury.

Germany's defence was missing as Jose Gaya burst through and squared for Torres to get the fourth on 55 minutes, and Fabian Ruiz teed up the 20-year-old Torres to complete his hat-trick.

Germany now have several months to reflect on this loss before the start of 2022 World Cup qualifying in March and then the delayed Euro 2020 in June and July.

Spain, meanwhile, become the second side to qualify for the Nations League finals after France clinched their place by beating Portugal 4-2 at the weekend.

— AFP

THE RESULTS

Spain 6

(Morata 17, Ferran Torres 33, 55, 71, Rodri 38, Oyarzabal 89)

Germany 0

Croatia 2

(Kovacic 29, 65)

Portugal 3

(Ruben Dias 52, 90,

Joa Felix 60)

France 4

(Giroud 16, 59, Pavard 36, Coman 90+5)

Sweden 2

(Claesson 5, Quaison 88)

Luxembourg 0

Azerbaijan 0

Montenegro 4

(Jovicic 14, Boljevic 25,

28, Mugosa 60)

Cyprus 0

Malta 1

(Guillaumier 54)

Faroe Islands 1

(Jonsson 70)



Spain players celebrate a goal against Germany during the UEFA Nations League football match at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain, on Tuesday. Spain won 6-0, Germany's worst defeat since 1931. — AP

Brazil, Argentina 2 good

Montevideo (Uruguay), Nov. 18: Brazil continued their perfect start to the qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup with a 2-0 win over Uruguay while rivals Argentina stayed in touch with an easy win in Peru.

First-half goals from Arthur and Richarlison helped Brazil to a 2-0 win over Uruguay, who had Manchester United striker Edinson Cavani sent off.

Argentina, with Lionel Messi pulling the strings, brushed aside a limited Peru 2-0 in Lima, with goals from Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez and Nicholas Gonzalez in a game in which they were never troubled.

Ecuador, playing on their home turf in high-altitude Quito, hammered Colombia 6-1. Paraguay and Bolivia fought out a 2-2 draw while Venezuela picked up their first points in a 2-1 victory over Chile in Caracas.

Victory in Montevideo left Brazil on top of South America's round-robin competition qualify directly for the World Cup finals in Qatar, while the 5th placed nation faces a playoff against the country qualifying from Oceania.



Brazil's Marquinhos (left) and Douglas Luiz vie for the ball with Darwin Nunez of Uruguay during their FIFA World Cup South American qualifier at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on Tuesday. Brazil won 2-0. — AP

THE RESULTS

Uruguay 0

Brazil 6

(Arthur 33, Richarlison 45)

Peru 0

Argentina 1

(Gonzalez 17, Martinez 28)

Venezuela 2

(Mago 9, Rondon 81)

Chile 2

(Vidal 15)

Ecuador 0

Paraguay 2

Colombia 1

Bolivia 2

(Moreno 41, B. Cespedes 45)

— AFP

— AFP