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Min: 18.6°C
RH: 51%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Haze, mist likely.
Max/Min temp. 31/19°C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+47,216)	(+530)
91,39,560	1,33,750
covid19india.org	
(+873)	(+4)
TS: 2,63,526	1,430
(+1,121)	(+11)
AP: 8,62,213	6,938

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,87,72,521
DEATHS
13,90,958
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

worldometers.info/
coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudha Navami till
12.34 am (Tuesday)
Star: Satabisham till 1.06 pm
Variyam: 8.09 pm to 9.55 pm
Durmuham: 12.24 pm to
1.09 pm; 2.37 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 7, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.21 am
Zohar: 12.12 pm
Asar: 4.03 pm
Magrib: 5.45 pm
Isha: 6.56 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.26 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
MOONSET TODAY 12.35 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.30 PM

COUNTER POINT



No pollution, no Covid...
I don't need no rescue!

SHORT TAKE

Power outage hits bank operations

New Delhi: Operation of some banks like HDFC Bank were hit on Saturday due to power outage at Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City, in Mumbai which has data centres of several firms. The services were later restored.

TN | ELECTIONS Emissaries sent to meet top BJP leader in Chennai

Rajini, Alagiri in touch with Shah

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR
and D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

After the long night of meetings and tete-a-tetes that Union home minister Amit Shah had with state BJP functionaries and others after his official meeting at Kalaivaran Arangam on Saturday, actor Rajinikanth's message

BJP opens new office in Filmnagar



BJP workers welcome Union minister for information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar during the inauguration of the party's new office at Filmnagar on Sunday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

BSF finds tunnel bringing JeM terrorists into J&K

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 22

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday claimed detecting yet another 'suspected tunnel' along the 198-km stretch of International Border (IB) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district. The tunnel may have been used for pushing in militants by Pakistan, it said.

J&K's director-general of police Dilbag Singh said the tunnel was 150 metres long and was unearthed following investigations into the recent encounter

J&K director-general of police Dilbag Singh said the tunnel was 150 metres long and was unearthed following investigations into the recent encounter

the tunnel along with BSF Inspector General, Jammu frontier, N.S. Jamwal, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Mukesh Singh, said, "The J&K police shared some vital inputs from the encounter site with the BSF which after hectic efforts managed to find the tunnel."

The BSF claimed it found cement bags with a Pakistani factory markings on these deep inside the tunnel.

BSF officials said that a patrolling party of the paramilitary force found

the small tunnel in Regal area of Samba on the IB.

"The tunnel is located close to the IB and is suspected to have been used for infiltration," they said.

The BSF is tasked to guard the 198-km stretch of the India-Pakistan border in Jammu region.

Meanwhile, a security alert was on Sunday sounded along the Line of Control in J&K's Poonch after a flying object was spotted in the district's Mendhar sector. Official sources said that the object was probably a drone which was reportedly shot by the Army.

SDPO Mendhar Z.A. Jafri told local news agency GNS that Army and police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) were conducting searches in the area.

There could be a second Covid wave in the country, he warned.

■ Page 6: Officials told to gear up for second wave

CYCLONE NIVAR MAY HIT AP BY NOVEMBER 25

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 22

Cyclone Nivar, presently brewing in south Bay of Bengal, is moving north-west and may cross the north Tamil Nadu coast and south Andhra and Wednesday, November 25.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has

US allows new drug for Covid

Washington, Nov. 22: US health officials have agreed to allow emergency use of a second antibody drug to help the immune system fight Covid-19, an experimental medicine that President Donald Trump was given when he was sickened last month.

The Food and Drug Administration authorised use of the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. drug on Saturday to try to prevent hospitalisation and worsening disease from developing in patients with mild-to-moderate symptoms.

The drug is given as a one-time treatment through an IV. The FDA allowed its use in adults and children 12 and over who weigh at

least 40 kg and who are at high risk of severe illness from Covid because of age or certain other medical conditions. Emergency authorisation allows use of the drug to start while studies are continuing to establish safety and effectiveness.

Early results suggest the drug may reduce Covid-related hospitalisation or emergency room visits in patients at high risk for disease progression, the FDA said. Regeneron said that initial doses will be made available to roughly 300,000 patients through a federal government allocation programme.

Patients will not be charged for the drug but may have to pay part of the cost of giving the IV. — AP

First Covid vaccine for healthcare workers: CM

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Sunday declared that whenever a vaccine was made available for Covid-19, it would first be given to frontline healthcare workers.

Chief Minister Rao directed officials to take all preventive measures needed to keep Covid-19 under check in Telangana as the number of Coronavirus cases was again increasing in some states. While reviewing the Covid-19 situation in the state in the backdrop of a sudden surge of Covid cases in Delhi, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and other states, he said that all required action and measures will be taken to meet any eventuality in case the state was hit by a second wave of the pandemic.

There could be a second Covid wave in the country, he warned.



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao meets members of the film industry at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday. — DC

Will rescue Covid-hit Tollywood, says KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Nagarjuna that TRS would include measures being taken for the benefit of Tollywood in the poll TRS party's manifesto for the GHMC elections.

■ Page 6: Concessions to be given to film industry: KCR

REGISTRATION OF NON-AGRI LAND FROM NOV. 25: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao told officials to be ready to start registration of non-agriculture properties from November 25.

■ Report on Page 6

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TN | ELECTIONS Emissaries sent to meet top BJP leader in Chennai

Rajini, Alagiri in touch with Shah

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR
and D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

was conveyed to Shah by the auditor and magazine editor S. Gurumurthy. The same was the case with M.K. Alagiri, the DMK strongman in Madurai and son of the late former chief minister M. Karunanidhi. Alagiri is said to have sent a message through K.P. Ramalingam, an ousted DMK leader who joined the BJP earlier on

Saturday. The Shah visit is being seen as a major success both by the BJP and the AIADMK, which announced that their poll tie-up would continue in the 2021 state Assembly polls. The BJP had left no stone unturned to have Shah greeted warmly in the city. According to sources, Gurumurthy was closeted with Shah for over two hours. Rajinikanth is said to have told Gurumurthy what his plans were for the next Assembly elections when the two of them met very recently.

However, Shah did not seem to have missed meeting Rajinikanth, going by his remarks at a party meeting. Shah said that the party should not be dependent on celebrities.





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IN BRIEF
His earphones on, man run over

Warangal: A 28-year-old painter, A. Sunil, of Chandravadan Colony in Chintal, was run over by a train while he was crossing the railway tracks with his earphones plugged on at the Chintal gate on Sunday.

Though pedestrians and motorists waiting at the railway gate warned him of the approaching train, he could not hear them as he was focused on his mobile phone and the earphones plugged in. Warangal Government Railway Police inspector V. Vinay Kumar said that the railway gate guard shouted that the train was coming but Sunil kept crossing the track while looking at his phone. His body was shifted to MGM Hospital mortuary and handed over to his family members after post-mortem examination.

3 YEMINIS HELD FOR SMUGGLING NARCOTICS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Three Yemen nationals were arrested with possession of MDMA, marijuana and other narcotics by the Excise District Task Force on Sunday.

The officials seized 30 grams of MDMA, 300 grams of khat leaves, 1.1 kilos of dry marijuana, and four ganja plants from Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah Giyash and Mohd Abdullah Ahmed Alawar Ali, said K. Karuna, Prohibition and Excise Inspector of District Task Force. They also seized three vehicles from the accused.

They were caught near a theatre in Tolichowki. "Based on the information given by the duo, we apprehended Abdul Rehman Mohammed Abdullah Haddad from a flat in Aravind Colony of Tolichowki. Their associate Ali Al Qafeea Salem Ali Salem, who is absconding, is conducting the business," the task force said.

The accused persons, along with case papers and seized contraband, were handed over to Golconda police for further investigation.

VIJAYASHANTI CALLS TRS, MIM AS SIAMESE TWINS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Actor-turned-politician Vijayashanti on Sunday termed the TRS and the MIM as Siamese twins and said that the MIM's 'threat' of dethroning the TRS government was part of the 'match fixing' between the two parties.

She asked if the MIM was trying to dethrone the TRS government by triggering communal violence as it had only seven MLAs in the Assembly which was insufficient. In a press statement, she alleged that the TRS and MIM had conspired to defeat the RJD-Congress alliance in the Bihar elections so that it will appear to the minorities that the Congress will not come in power at the Centre in the future.

Vijayashanti alleged that both the parties had tried to encash such situations and establish a grip on various states. There was a feeling in political circles that the TRS had funded the MIM to defeat the RJD-Congress alliance.

She said that after the Bihar election results there was talk in political circles that the MIM and TRS were facing a threat of minorities distancing themselves from the combo.

To convince the minorities, Vijayashanti alleged, MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and TRS boss and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had prepared a plan. As part of this, the CM was issuing statements against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and promising to meet leaders of non-BJP parties to form an anti-BJP platform.

It is worth mentioning here that the ground is set for Vijayashanti to leave the Congress and join the BJP. Sources close to her disclosed that Vijayashanti was waiting for a call from Union home minister Amit Shah to join the party. She would likely join the BJP in the next couple of days.

IN A PRESS statement, she alleged that the TRS and MIM had conspired to defeat the RJD-Congress alliance in the Bihar elections so that it will appear to the minorities that the Congress will not come in power at the Centre in the future.

All 132 crore Indians must file chargesheets against PM: KTR

KTR says BJP failed to give ₹25k to rain-affected families as promised

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday spit fire at Union environment and information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar for releasing a chargesheet with 132 charges against the K. Chandrashekhar Rao-led state government.

Rama Rao said, "Over 132 crore chargesheets should be filed against the BJP for failing to give ₹15 lakh to each Indian, as had been promised during the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Another 12 crore chargesheets should be filed against the BJP by youth of this country for not creating two crore jobs each year, as promised."

While addressing mammoth gatherings at multiple roadshows in Khairatabad and Jubilee Hills constituencies, he asked the BJP, "Why will you file chargesheets on us? Will you file chargesheets for setting up Annapurna canteens, setting up CCTV cameras, installing LED lights or for resolving water problems, or for bringing investments to Hyderabad?"

Rao said that TRS leaders stood by people during Covid and the recent floods while BJP and Congress leaders were busy elsewhere.

Stating that a financial assistance of ₹10,000 was given to 6.5 lakh families in rain- and flood-affected areas in the city, he alleged that the Opposition had written letters to the Election Commission and stopped the programme.

He said, "After December 4, we will continue the program and ensure financial assistance reaches families, which did not receive the aid. For this, we need your support."

Criticising the BJP leaders for promising to give ₹25,000 to rain-affected families, he said, "I don't know what is stopping them from delivering the promise today."

Reminding people that the TRS had narrowly missed scoring a century in the previous GHMC



TRS president K.T. Rama Rao gives a thumbs up at a roadshow in Zaheernagar in Hyderabad on Sunday. He held road shows in the Khairatabad and Jubilee Hills Assembly constituencies.

KTR: TRS needed to keep Hyderabad's growth going

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

elections, he appealed to people to vote for them, saying, "This time, we want to hit a century with your support. Elect TRS candidates and let development continue."

WHILE ADDRESSING huge gatherings at multiple roadshows in Khairatabad and Jubilee Hills constituencies, TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao asked the BJP,

"Why will you file chargesheets on us? Will you file chargesheets for setting up Annapurna canteens, setting up CCTV cameras, installing LED lights or for resolving water problems, or for bringing investments to Hyderabad?"

Rao said that TRS leaders stood by people during Covid and the recent floods while BJP and Congress leaders were busy elsewhere.

RAMA RAO said that TRS leaders stood by people during Covid and the recent floods while BJP and Congress leaders were busy elsewhere.

STATING THAT ₹10,000 was given to 6.5 lakh families in flood-affected areas, he alleged that the Opposition had written letters to the Election Commission and stopped the programme.

Rama Rao said, "what matters is whether we make a difference to society or not. Unless you do things with passion, you will not be able to deliver. That is what I believe in."

He was speaking on Hyderabad's global image, inclusive growth, IT ecosystem and future plans for the city at the 'Brand Hyderabad: Future Ready' session at the HICC in the city.

Talking about the city's development, he said,

"Rome was not built in a day. See the intent and sincerity of our government. We have started a journey. We have taken up a lot of development activities and we have a lot more to do."

He stated that Telangana was India's most successful start-up state. "We fought hard for the state and have delivered on many counts. Our government has been an enabler and facilitator. Rest of the credit is to the young talent pool available here."

He said top five most valued companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft have made Hyderabad their second home.

Stating that other than IT and life sciences, in which Telangana state will continue to be a leader, Rao said, "we are looking forward to electronics, e-vehicles, textiles and logistics sector in the next decade for our growth."

Talking about development works in Hyderabad, he said that with SRDP, link roads, the comprehensive road management program, the city's road infra has improved. "Our sewerage system couldn't handle

the cloudburst, which is the highest since 1916. With SNDP, I promise that such a situation won't occur in Hyderabad again," he said.

He said, "Elections will come and go but the culture we are promoting is important. Trying to disturb communal harmony for an election is a cardinal sin. To stall growth of the city is idiocy."

The TRS government treats everyone equally, Rama Rao said, adding that great cities are built with great governance. Delivering promises without any discrimination helped Hyderabad to remain as an investment magnet, he claimed.

Bharani Aroll, president, HYSEA, anchored the talk, which concluded with Rao saying,

"Hyderabad continues to attract people from across the world. Blessed with natural advantages, the city just needs a progressive government as an enabler."

GHMC poll campaign preparation



A vehicle done up with TRS electioneering paraphernalia is parked at Golnaka in Hyderabad on Sunday. Similar vehicles will be used by party activists to campaign for the December 1 GHMC elections.

— P. SURENDRA

RAJA SINGH ACCUSES BANDI OF 'CHEATING'

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Making a sensational accusation, BJP MLA Raja Singh alleged that the party state president Bandi Sanjay had cheated him over allocation of tickets in the GHMC elections from his Assembly constituency. He said he was dissatisfied with the state leadership, which would demoralise the cadre. On Sunday an audio containing the outburst was leaked and went viral in social media.

He stated that he would complain against the state leadership to the party high command that they were taking unilateral decisions and ignoring his consent on issues pertaining to his constituency.

reserved for the TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao, who is leading the TRS' efforts to retain power in the GHMC Council.

"KTR to tota hai (KTR is just a parrot)," Mumtaz Khan said, indicating that Rama Rao is merely parroting during his campaigning what he has been taught to say and repeating the same things time and again.

The AIMIM MLA said many in the past have predicted doom for MIM and the same things are being said about it now. His party has proved such claims wrong in the past and will do so in the future as it works for the people and their progress.

In rare move, MIM MLA slams TRS

Talasani cautions MIM over attack

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

A war of words is slowly erupting between the AIMIM and the TRS, two political parties that have been for long allies on many issues. The crossing of verbal swords, that has resulted from the Telangana Rashtra Samiti deciding to contest from all the 150 GHMC wards for the civic body's Council elections on December 1, made itself felt in no uncertain terms on KTR, the MIM leaders

must see the crowds coming to his road shows and then comment. The MIM may make controversial statements but we will not fall into their trap," said minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav. Bodhan MLA Shakeel also criticised Mumtaz Khan for his remarks.

also get them out of it." During his campaign for his party's candidates for the GHMC polls, Mumtaz Khan said if the

AIMIM decided to do so, it can remove the TRS from power in a matter of two months. But his choicest criticism was

Kavitha ridicules BJP 'chargesheet', mocks at Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

about the hypocrisy and behavioural practices that are preached by BJP towards states where it was not in power.

She said that the extent of discrimination could be felt when considering that there was no additional funding for Telangana, which was carved only six years ago. Such step-motherly treatment was witnessed during the recent floods, while the Centre released over ₹600 crore to Karnataka, nothing was given to Hyderabad.

The BJP did not support Telangana state and its people and in the upcoming GHMC elections, Hyderabad will also not support the BJP, she said. Kavitha said that the people of GHMC will bring the TRS Party back with a greater number and cross the 99-seat mark.

The former MP mentioned

₹11K WORTH LIQUOR SEIZED, ILLEGAL FLEXIS, POSTERS TAKEN DOWN

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

in cash. All the money seized will be handed over to the income-tax department for processing and further investigations into this unaccounted for cash will commence.

Meanwhile, the taking down of posters, flexis, party flags and other publicity material continued with the authorities saying that on Sunday they had removed 2,124 such items. So far, 20,766 items have been taken down.

According to a GHMC official, the goal was to remove all posters, flexis or other advertising materials relating to political parties or their leaders, within 24 hours of them being put up illegally.

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SHORT TAKES

HC ALLOWS TWO ASPIRANTS TO CONTEST POLLS

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The Telangana High Court on Sunday allowed two aspirants to contest the GHMC elections after their nomination papers were rejected by the returning officer on the ground that they had more than two children.

Kuna Srinivas Goud of the Gajularamaram division and Rupa Soni from Ghansi Bazaar had filed separate petitions with the High Court.

Goud's nomination was rejected based on a complaint alleging that he had concealed the fact that he had three children. Goud approached court stating that the principle of natural Justice was violated in his case with the election officer had issued an exparte order without hearing his contention and without issuing notice.

Rupa Soni had a similar issue, of having more than two children, besides which the election officer had not recognised her BC-B community certificate. She contended that until and unless the competent authority cancelled the caste certificate, it is valid in the eyes of the law. Hearing the contentions in two petitions, the High Court directed the election officers to accept their nomination papers and to mention their names in final list of contesting candidates.

DASYAM ADDS GREEN TOUCH TO CM'S RELIEF

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, NOV. 22

Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar while celebrating his birthday on Sunday, presented saplings along with the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to beneficiaries at his camp office in Hanamkonda as part the 'Chettu-Chekku' (sapling-cheque) programme.

He said, "I hope this initiative gains recognition among the people apart from encouraging them to plant more saplings and protect the environment. Every beneficiary in Warangal West constituency under the CMRF will receive a sapling along with a cheque henceforth."

Cheques amounting to ₹22 lakh were handed over to 14 beneficiaries in the constituency undergoing treatment and facing financial difficulties.

The kin of two members, (Aruna and Shiva) who had taken ill received a letter of credit (LOC) of ₹6 lakh for treatment at NIMS Hospital.

NO ALLIANCE WITH TRS NOW, SAYS OWAISI

Hyderabad, Nov. 22: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen would hold deliberations with its party leaders in West Bengal on contesting the polls in the state next year, party chief Asaduddin Owaisi said here on Sunday.

Replies to mediapersons' queries, Owaisi said, "We will talk and after getting feedback from them a decision will be arrived at and we will let you know." Asked if AIMIM would tie up with the Trinamul Congress, Owaisi said, "Let me first talk to the West Bengal unit."

On the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) not having any electoral alliance with the AIMIM in the GHMC polls, Owaisi said, "Yes, there is no alliance with TRS now. And we are fighting against the TRS in some seats where the AIMIM is contesting." He expressed the hope that based on the good work done by the party's corporators, the AIMIM would perform well in the GHMC polls.

Owaisi said the BJP was giving the civic body polls a communal colour. He asked what financial aid the Narendra Modi government at the Centre had given to the GHMC when Hyderabad was hit by floods in October.

"No help was given. If you wake any BJP leader up in the night... ask them to give some names, then the first name is Owaisi, followed by traitor, terrorism and finally Pakistan. It is out of (BJP's) habit."

Asked about some BJP-ruled states proposing to bring a law against 'love jihad', Owaisi said it would be a gross violation of Article 14 and 21 of Constitution. "Will you abolish the Special Marriages Act," he questioned. Due to Covid-19, youth have lost jobs, the economy is down, more people have become poor and to divert attention from all this the BJP is indulging in this sort of language which is "dramebaaz", Owaisi said.

— PTI



From left: Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union minister for information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, party vice president D.K. Aruna and Nizamabad MP D. Arvind release the chargesheet against the TRS at a media conference in connection with the GHMC elections in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

KCR family's graft has ruined TS: Javadekar**Vote for MIM will lead to the division of India, says BJP**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

party and its first family.

He was accompanied by the state party president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, OBC Morcha president K. Laxman, vice president D. K. Aruna and MP D. Arvind.

The chargesheet contained a list of 60 failures of the Chandrashekhar Rao-led TRS government in the last five years of reign over the GHMC. It was prepared under supervision of former MP Vivek Venkateswamy, chairman of the manifesto committee. It mentioned the failures of TRS in fulfilling the promises it made during the previous GHMC elections.

Addressing the media, Javadekar expressed confidence that the BJP will do an encore of Dubbaka in the GHMC polls. He said the people of Hyderabad have decided that it would either be a BJP or an MIM mayor this time. He alleged that if people vote for the Congress or the TRS, they will indirectly ensure the victory of MIM, which will lead to a division of the nation.

Javadekar underlined the key role BJP played in the formation of a separate Telangana state.

Mocking the TRS for its promise of developing Hyderabad as a global city and instead turning it into a flood city, he strongly criticised CM Chandra-

shekar Rao of not even bothering to visit a single flood-affected area, but confining himself to the luxurious comforts of his farmhouse. "KCR did not bother at all about people suffering due to rains and floods," the BJP leader said, adding that TRS leaders have looted flood relief money.

He also questioned the TRS government about the one-lakh jobs and two-lakh double bedroom houses to be constructed in Telangana.

Javadekar added out that the central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had already built two-and-a-half crore houses in the country.

DENIED TICKET FOR GHMC POLLS, BJP ASPIRANT STAGES PROTEST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Followers of BJP ticket aspirant Shailendra Yadav damaged furniture at the state BJP office here on Friday to protest the denial of ticket to him in the GHMC elections. The party had nominated Dr Surekha Om Prakash from the Gunfoundry division in the Goshamahal constituency.

On learning that he had not been given the ticket, Yadav rushed to the BJP office with his followers. There he got into an argument with his party rival while his activists staged a protest.

Slogans were shouted against Union minister for state G. Kishan Reddy and BJP OBC Morcha president Dr K. Laxman.

Yadav alleged that the leaders were insulting party seniors and working according to a personal agenda. They were not letting the party cadre grow, he said.

Police reached the office and escorted the protesters outside. Yadav's followers alleged that the BJP senior leaders were neglecting MLA T. Raja Singh and that they would complain to the high command on the issue.

Alleging that the TRS

was not fulfilling its poll promises prior to the previous GHMC elections, Kishan Reddy pointed out, "They promised construction of one lakh double bedroom houses but they failed. They promised Hyderabad would be developed as Dallas and Istanbul, but they failed."

Kishan Reddy challenged TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao to show where those one lakh double bedroom houses are. He said that the TRS was misleading people with false figures in its progress report, which shows that it had spent ₹67, 000 crore for the development of Hyderabad in six years.

The minister claimed that the Metro Rail cost was overrun by ₹3,500 crore due to delays caused by the K. Chandrashekhar Rao government. Works of the Metro Rail began much before Rao came to power, he said.

Kishan Reddy alleged that MIM has stalled the expansion of Metro Rail to the Old City. Blaming the "poor conditions of civic infrastructure" in the city, Reddy said about six lakh houses were inundated and 15 lakh people affected during the heavy rains that lashed the city last month.

He said if BJP was voted to power in the GHMC polls, the city would witness overall development and across all areas.

He pointed out that the Centre has recommended Hyderabad for the Smart City Project, but the state government opted for Karimnagar and Warangal cities.

Responding to a query with regard to alleged remarks against the Chief Minister by BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, he said "I don't know what exactly he (Bandi) said."

He said if BJP was voted to power in the GHMC polls, the city would witness overall development and across all areas.

The allegations are a) the documents and signatures, of officials and MLAs, were forged on the applications. b) The staff are not verifying the documents attached to the applications properly, and are approving the applications created on names and residences of other people deliberately. Some of the applications that were approved and received the amounts had a resi-

dent certificate of another district and a different caste certificate attached.

Krishnakantam from Adilabad said, "The state government has made it mandatory that the local MLA must approve the application after frequent irregularities came to the fore. But the scammers are now forging the signatures of the local MLA to get the fake applications approved."

MLAs' sign forged for marriage dole

PILLALAMARI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, NOV. 22

Irregularities have surfaced in the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme being implemented in the Adilabad district.

More than 100 applications with fake documents got approved for financial assistance under the two schemes, and the 'benami' candidates withdrew the amounts.

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) personnel have initiated an investigation into the alleged scam along with the district police.

It is not the first time that irregularities in the Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi implemented in Adilabad district surfaced. In 2016, irregularities, in the Shaadi Mubarak scheme, were exposed. Some women and men involved in the crime were arrested.

The documents and signatures, of officials and MLAs, were forged on the applications.

The staff are not verifying the documents attached to the applications properly, and are approving the applications created on names and residences of other people deliberately.

Some of the applications that were approved and received the amounts had a resi-

BJP MLA: DON'T COMMUNALISE GHMC ELECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Like how minister K.T. Rama Rao is asking the Centre what it has done for Telangana state, we would like him to tell as to what the TRS government has done for Hyderabad, said BJP Dubbaka MLA M. Raghunandan Rao.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Rao wondered if "KCR, KTR, Kavitha and Harish Rao were bringing funds from their farm houses to develop Telangana state."

The Chief Minister knows how the Centre distributes funds, the BJP leader said. The CM gave only ₹1.5 lakh to his birth place Chintamadaka whereas the Centre released ₹8 lakh, he pointed out. The Union government has given funds for constructing two lakh houses in Hyderabad.

On other issues, Raghunandan Rao asked if the BJP should take permission from the father and son — a reference to the Chief Minister and his son — or Owaisi to visit temples, he asked.

He said that after TRS came to power, illegal activities have increased in Hyderabad. He adding that while the people were paying huge taxes, the TRS Moula Ali corporator was paying only ₹101. The MLA said the ensuing GHMC should not be projected as a fight between Hindus and Muslims.

He said that after TRS came to power, illegal activities have increased in Hyderabad. He adding that while the people were paying huge taxes, the TRS Moula Ali corporator was paying only ₹101. The MLA said the ensuing GHMC should not be projected as a fight between Hindus and Muslims.

OBITUARY

Shri Jayantilal S. Turakchia

Expired on: 22.11.2020

May your soul rest in peace. You will remain in our hearts forever.

Inserted by:

MAHAIR PHOTO EMPORIUM Chikkadpally, Hyderabad.

(S/2021/D00856)

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF

TELUKUNTA GOVIND RAO

S/o Late T. Narayana

DOB: 14-11-1934 DOD: 14-11-2020

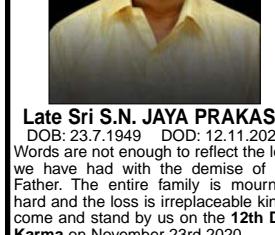
Inserted by:

NYALAMADUGULA VIDHYA RAM MOHAN RAO

NYALAMADUGULA RAJA SHEKHAR

NYALAMADUGULA SHWETA VANGAPALLI SREEDHAR

(S/2021/D00849)

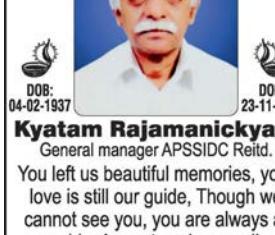
12th DAY CEREMONY

PREMLATHA MAHENDRA

Inserted by:

Family Members

(S/2021/D00850)

In Remembrance

Late Sri S.N. JAYA PRAKASH

DOB: 23.7.1949 DOD: 12.11.2020

We are all sad to reflect the loss

we have had with the demise of our Father.

The entire family is mourning

hard and the loss is irreparable kindly

come and stand by us on the 12th Day

Karma on November 23rd 2020.

Venue: Minerva Hotel, Himayatnagar

Inserted by:

FAMILY MEMBERS

Phone: 9948037333

1st ANNIVERSARY

Kyatam Rajamanickam

General manager APPSIDC Retd.

You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide, Though we

cannot see you, you are always at our side. A great soul never dies.

WE MISS YOU

Inserted by:

Daughter & Son-in-law : Dr. Swathi & Dr. V. Rajesh

Daughter & Son-in-law : Dr. Preethi & Dr. N. Ravinder

Grandchildren & Kyatam Family

Family & Friends - Ph: 9866138895, 9866138895

(S/2021/D00851)

REMEMBRANCE

PRIYANKA MATHUR

DOB: 08.06.1977 DOD: 23.11.2011

In life we loved you dearly in death we

loved you still in our hearts held a

place no one else will ever fill.

Choti you always remain in our thoughts

Mumma, Papa and All Family Members

Phone: 9985756962, 9849727770

SHORT TAKES**CONVOCATION IS LOW-KEY AT SATYA SAI INST.**DC CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR, NOV. 22

Due to the pandemic, the 39th annual convocation of Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) was held with a limited number of students and faculty at Poornachandra Hall in Prasanthi Nilayam premises of Puttaparthi.

Sri Satya Sai Trust celebrates the convocation every year a day before the birthday celebrations of Satya Saibaba in a grand manner.

The chief guest was Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist with Geneva-based World Health Organisation in Switzerland.

RIDER KILLED AS TWO-WHEELER HITS DIVIDERDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

A 24 year old was killed and two others were injured in a road mishap when the two-wheeler they were riding crashed into a road divider in Tadabund of Bowenpally on Sunday evening.

The police identified the trio as Dharmender, Rahul, 21, and Deepak, 22, of Madhya Pradesh who were employed in the city.

At about 4.30 pm, they were heading towards Bowenpally crossroads from Paradise when the accident occurred. "They were going at a very high speed and the impact was such that they were thrown about 20 metres off their vehicle to the opposite side of the road," the Bowepally police said.

While Dharmender died on the spot, Rahul and Deepak sustained serious injuries. None of them had their helmets on and major injuries were reported on their head and torsos, said the Bowepally police, who are verifying whether they had a driving licence and if they were drunk.

They injured men were shifted for medical attention and their condition is said to be critical. Bowepally police booked a case.

FINE VARIETY PADDY FALLS PREY TO PESTSRAVINDRA SESU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 22

Farmers who raised the 5204 paddy variety instead of 1010 and 1064 varieties in Khammam district are finding it tough to sell their produce. Heavy rains caused massive damage to paddy production as well as attacks by pests like brown plant hopper (BPH), rice hispa beetle and meal bug. Paddy is raised on 2.90 lakh acres in the district and they have sown 5204 variety seeds in 90 per cent of them.

Earlier, farmers raised 5204 variety and 1010 and 1064 on 70:30 ratio. The state government encouraged the farmers to go for 5204 (sannarakam, fine variety) rather than 1010 (doddurakam). The 1010 and 1064 can withstand attacks by pests and the yield would not be disturbed.

Heavy rains damaged more the 5204 paddy variety and production came down by 30 per cent.

Farm expert N. Rambabu said, "The farmers, who raised 5204 managed to produce 25 bags instead of 35 of normal yield. Pests adversely impacted the yield. The farmers, who opted for 5204 variety may lose one lakh tonnes of paddy this year and they may lose at least ₹100 crore". There is not much difference between sannarakam and doddurakam paddy prices. The government is paying ₹1,888 as MSP for sannarakam and ₹1,868 to doddurakam.

The farmers, who raised doddurakam, are happily selling their produce while those who went for sannarakam are languishing.

Bomma Rajeswara Rao, Rice Millers Association president, who runs a rice mill in Khammam, said, "Some of the millers in Miryalaguda bought rice from other states where the price is less. Later, the government intervened and stopped import of paddy".

The farmers were asked by the paddy lifting agencies to dry the produce and remove empty ears of corn before bringing the produce for selling. With this, the costs of removing empty ears of corn and drying are adding to input costs.

Sheer neglect

A traffic police shelter in Balanagar has been reduced into a dumpyard for wires of various cable networks in Hyderabad and seems to have been abandoned by the department. — R. PAVAN

Student rams Benz into a cab**Mom, infant die in car mishap**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

A 22-year-old BTech student was booked for driving under the influence of alcohol and crashing his Mercedes Benz into a cab, injuring the passenger and the driver late Saturday night in the Banjara Hills area.

The accused, M. Akhil, was allegedly out partying with his friend and classmate Ashok Reddy on Saturday night in Banjara Hills. "At about 12.30 am, Akhil, on his way back home, crashed his car, (TS07 ED 0888), into a cab which was parked on the roadside at Road No. 3, injuring the passenger Saurabh Jain, a businessman, and the driver, Srinivas

Police said enquiries revealed the driver of the car allegedly fell asleep at the wheel, which led to the car crashing into the lorry. Ravi, along with his wife Triveni, 11-month-old daughter Trinisha, and his parents, started from Bengaluru to Yadagirigutta at 9 pm on Saturday. Triveni, 26, was carrying the infant

in her lap and was sitting in the seat adjacent Ravi who was driving. "At 6.45 am on Sunday, they reached Peddampet when Ravi allegedly fell asleep and crashed the car (KA05 MD 0856) into the lorry. The mother and daughter were killed on the spot," said inspector V. Swamy of Abdullapurmet.

Reddy in that car," said Banjara Hills sub-inspector Ram Babu.

As per sources, there were four people, including a woman and another man, in the Mercedes Benz along with Akhil

during the time of the mishap. However, officials claimed that Akhil and Ashok were the only two in the vehicle. The police also refused to divulge Akhil's Blood Alcohol Count (BAC) but confirmed that he was drunk.

Following a complaint, a case was booked under IPC Section 337 (causing hurt by acting rashly or negligently as to endanger human life).

Dr Chalapathi Rao passes awayDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Dr P.V. Chalapathi Rao

DR CHALAPATHI Rao was also the only surgeon from the Telugu states to have been conferred the Fellowship Ad Hominem, the highest recognition bestowed by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the oldest surgical college in the world.

He retired from government service in 1983 after having served as head of department of surgery at Osmania KIMS Hospitals.

In a letter addressed to the General Manager of SCR, they said that there is no seating facility due to which the passengers are forced to stand or sit on floor till the train arrives. Also, there is no proper roofing over a few platforms due to which the commuters have to bear the brunt of the climate.

The farmers were asked by the paddy lifting agencies to dry the produce and remove empty ears of corn before bringing the produce for selling. With this, the costs of removing empty ears of corn and drying are adding to input costs.

Railway officer embeds seeds in wedding card

Hyderabad, Nov. 22: For a 'green' beginning of his married life, a 29-year-old officer in the Railway Traffic Service has embedded his wedding cards with seeds which invitees to use them to grow flowers and vegetables.

"I want to contribute to greenery, so I came up with this idea. Each card has seeds for three varieties of flower-bearing plants — lily, marigold and chrysanthemum," K. Shashikant said. The envelope has three seeds of green chilli, tomato and lady's finger, he said.

The soon-to-be-bridegroom insists that his friends and relatives to share pictures of the plants they grow using his eco-friendly wedding card. "They (invitees) also have a

responsibility," Shashikant said. His wedding is scheduled on November 28 at Shadnagar, near here. Explaining the process, Shashikant said that paper pulp would be pressed to the required gauge and size and the seeds are embedded. He placed an order with an Agra-based start-up for making the cards at ₹200 each.

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said Shashikant had become a role model to bureaucrats. In a press release, Sajjanar appealed to others to follow such eco-friendly methods for everything they do, to reduce pollution in the environment and safeguard Mother Earth. — PTI

Rail users unhappy with Bolaram stationDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

Passengers say that they are at the receiving end of apathy of the South Central Railway (SCR) at the Bolaram railway station.

In a letter addressed to the General Manager of SCR, they said that there is no seating facility due to which the passengers are forced to stand or sit on floor till the train arrives. Also, there is no proper roofing over a few platforms due to which the commuters have to bear the brunt of the climate.

As many as 300 passengers travel through the

two highways on either side. Bolaram is the most accessible station within

the ORR, there are more than 300 families that live near the station. So

UG freshers face unusual first year**Extraordinary measures put up to fight Covid**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

It will not be the usual first year for the freshman batch of students for most degree courses in colleges and universities. Extraordinary measures have been put in place as the first year kicks off online across premier Indian engineering institutes as they combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

The International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H), has taken measures like seamlessly conducting the admissions process online and tweaking the curriculum and assessment schemes in response to student feedback.

In addition, the institute has for this session designed a special course with half the number of credits and hours required to complete it, thus earning it the moniker of a 'half course'.

The current batch has been split into two sections, the first one started their

classes on September 14, while the second section began on Saturday. "When the decision was taken to split the batch, there was uncertainty about when the second batch would begin," said Prof. Jayanthi Sivaswamy, Dean Academics, IIIT-H.

In contrast, universities like Osmania University and JNTUH said that they would not compromise on the credits or coursework. To complete the course, the universities said, it is likely that the summer vacations will

be cut to only 15-20 days, instead of the earlier 45-60 days.

Induction of the first year undergraduate batches will take place online, most likely in the coming week. The classes at JNTUH will begin from December 2, whereas engineering online classes at Osmania University have already begun, while reopening for other courses is scheduled in the coming weeks.

In case of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H), special measures have been taken to help the incoming students. The institute has enabled bank loans for students to buy laptops, the interest for which will be paid by the IIT.

While online education has proved to be successful for both the faculty as well as students, IIT dean, academics, Prof. Saptarshi Majumdar said that in order to reduce the load, one course from the 1st semester has been shifted to the second semester.

I WISH...

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

...GHMC WORKS TO PREVENT FLOODST.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Sunday issued a set of rules for campaigning for the upcoming elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Among others, the guidelines said vehicles used for the campaign must have permission from the deputy municipal commissioner (DMC).

The SEC said star campaigners would require permission from the GHMC commissioner. No campaign would be permitted without permission; if anyone went ahead, campaign materials would be seized.

On polling day, only one vehicle would be permitted inside the premises of the stations and the DMC would have to give permission. Permission would be granted only for campaigners abide by the traffic laws.

During the campaign, there cannot be no more than two vehicles and they would have to maintain a 100-metre gap between themselves. Government vehicles cannot be used for campaigning.

It said loudspeakers can be operated between 6 am and 10 pm. They cannot be used near hospitals, schools, educational institutions, courts, and places of worship; they must be used at least 100 metres away from them.

Printed flexis, banners, and posters must have the name of the publisher along with his or her address, the SEC said.

ON POLLING day, only one vehicle would be permitted inside the premises of the stations and the DMC would have to give permission. Permission would be granted only for campaigners abide by the traffic laws.

...GHMC PROTECTS MUSI RIVER

The city was built along the banks of Musi river that we now turn a blind eye to. In 2017, the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation was formed to execute plans for abatement of pollution in the river. Close to ₹1,700 crore was set aside for river development and conservation but till date nothing has been done. The river, meanwhile, has gone from bad to worse with increasing domestic and industrial waste being dumped into it. The Musi river must be saved.

— APRAJITA

Senior teacher, Sun City

... 'HIGH BEAMS' CAN BE DIMMED

I don't know if it's ignorance, negligence, plain disrespect towards the law or stupidity, when people drive at night with the high beam of their vehicles on and don't give two hoots about the person coming on the opposite side. It's highly dangerous as it blinds the other driver. This has to change as it's a nightmare driving at night even on well-lit roads. I urge the citizens to be mindful. I ask that steps are taken to tackle this.

— JOEL PALLE

IT professional, Bowenpally

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: B-9, Qutub Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
Website: www.powergridindia.com, CIN: L4011091989G01038121

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from anticipated DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Petition-1; for Transmission Asset "NNTPS switchyard - Ariyalur (Villupuram) 400kV DIC Twin line" and "2 nos of 400kV Line bays at Ariyalur SS (TRANSCO) for terminating NNTPS Switchyard - Ariyalur (Villupuram) 400kV DIC line" under "Transmission system for evacuation of power from 2x500MW Neyveli Lignite Corp. Ltd. TS-1 (Replacement) (NNTPS)" in southern regional grid"

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned transmission system are: (a) KPTCL (b) APRPCIL (c) KSEB (d) Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd. (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APSPDCL (h) TSSPDCL (i) APPCPDCL (j) TSNPDCL (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) MESCOM (o) CESC (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TNELB (r) APEPDCL (s) APNPDCL (t) NLC India Ltd.

3. Tariff details:

Name of the Asset	Petition-1	
Asset 1	Asset 2	
Approved Capital cost (₹ Lakhs) (FR)	₹ 15113.38 lakhs	₹ 1571.60 lakhs
Authority which has approved Capital Cost	Board of Directors of POWERGRID	
Schedule DOCO (FR)	10.06.2018 to 10.07.2019 Progressively	
DOCO (Anticipated)	09.07.2020 (Actual)	30.11.2020 (Anticipated)
Estimated Completion Cost (₹ Lakhs)	₹14711.51 lakhs	₹3336.41 lakhs
Tariff for year 2019-24 (₹ in Lacs)	0.00	0.00
2020-21	1567.52	177.78
2021-22	2322.18	573.51
2022-23	2345.26	587.39
2023-24	2290.45	577.71

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrak Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: GURGAON
Date : 20.11.2020

CGM (Commercial)

A Maharatna PSU

SHORT TAKES

GEAR UP FOR SECOND WAVE, OFFICIALS TOLD

From Page 1

Adding that Telangana is in a position to withstand a second wave but for this, officials should be alert and make necessary arrangements."

Advising people to be cautious and observe self-protection guidelines, the Chief Minister said, "maintaining personal and preventive safety is the best medicine for Covid. There is an un-lockdown process going on now, so people should be cautious, wear masks and follow all Covid guidelines."

Rao further said, "The situation is returning to normalcy in the state. Covid cases are declining in Telangana. Despite a high increase in number of tests conducted, positive cases are fewer than 2.1 per cent. The recovery rate is 94.03 per cent. Though people with Covid are suffering, the mortality rate is low."

"The government is on high alert and is taking all necessary precautions. About 10,000 beds with oxygen facility were kept ready across the state," he said.

CHRISTIANS SEEK SUPPORT FROM STATE GOVT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

While extending support to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, the Telangana United Christians and Pastors Association on behalf of the community raised certain demands to the state government on Sunday.

Considering that the Christians are the second largest minority, the association requested the Chief Minister to accommodate eligible candidates from the community in nomination posts. They also requested the CM to offer a solution for church constructions that are being obstructed even after the Church Building Construction Act 1965, Section 230 has been omitted.

The association members requested the government to allot burial places in district headquarters and mandals and hand them over to the local committees. They demanded granting marriage licences with minimum requirements to the pastors to solemnise Christian marriages.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST COVID TOUGH TASK: DOC

Hyderabad, Nov. 22: Immunisation against Covid-19 involves several challenges, including logistics and supply chains for distribution of the vaccine. Till that is done, there cannot be any lowering of guard on Coronavirus prevention measures, an expert has said.

While the government would do its job on procurement and distribution of the vaccine, the focus should be on keeping the virus spread under check, said Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

Besides production, the other challenges for the Covid-19 vaccine distribution were logistics and supply.

He pointed out that there is no adult vaccination programme, except the one where tetanus shots are given to pregnant women. Even immunisation of children had its share of difficulties with many people not vaccinating, he said.

Most Covid-19 vaccines may require at least two doses, possibly the second one to be administered after a certain number of days. This increases difficulties in logistics and supply. Dr Mishra said.

The vaccines of some companies need to be stored at minus-70° degree cold chain which would be tough to arrange beyond major cities, Mishra said.

In addition, a major concern was that it would not be known till two or three years whether a vaccine was really good or not for long term protection. Dr Mishra said the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research was in the process of developing a proof of concept for a vaccine candidate for Covid-19 to be handed over to Aurobindo Pharma for further process if it shows initial promise. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is aiming to reach "some conclusion" in the endeavour in about three months, Dr Mishra said.

— PTI



Flood woes not subsided



Stagnant flood water is still not cleared from an apartment at Ramanthapur following heavy rains in the city last month, causing health hazards to the residents. Residents are finding it difficult to move on the premises. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

STATE RECORDS
873 NEW COVID INFECTIONSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

The state recorded 873 new Covid-19 cases and four deaths from the disease on Saturday, taking the total so far to 2,63,526 and the fatalities to 1,430.

The highest number of daily cases continued to come from the GHMC area, with the state health department saying on Sunday that 152 fresh cases were found in the urban conglomeration of which Hyderabad city forms major part. The second and third highest number of cases were reported from Medchal-Malkajgiri district, which had 78 cases, and Ranga Reddy district, which had 71, respectively.

According to the health department, the GHMC area, as on Saturday night, had 63 Covid-19 containment zones. Sixteen of these were in Charminar zone, while the Khairatabad zone had 19, Serilingampally 16, Kukatpally 10 and Secunderabad one containment zone.

According to the health department, 1,296 persons were declared recovered from the disease in the 24-hour period ending 8 pm on Saturday. There were 11,643 active Covid-19 cases of whom 9,345 were in isolation either at home or were receiving treatment in hospitals.

Hyderabad, Nov. 22: Immunisation against Covid-19 involves several challenges, including logistics and supply chains for distribution of the vaccine. Till that is done, there cannot be any lowering of guard on Coronavirus prevention measures, an expert has said.

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— PTI



Govt neglect will ruin Unani system: Docs

Allow practitioners to perform surgeries, doctors demand

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
IDC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 22

SHORT TAKES

**BHARTI SINGH,
HUSBAND SENT TO
JUDICIAL CUSTODY**

SAURABH JOSHI | DC
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

A day after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested comedian Bharati Singh, the officials arrested her husband Harsh Limbachiya following his 15-hour long marathon grilling. The NCB produced the couple before the court on Sunday and they were remanded to judicial custody till December 4. The comedian was arrested on Saturday following raids at their Versova residence.

The NCB officials had seized 86.5 gram of cannabis from the couple's residence. The officials took them for questioning at the NCB office where the couple revealed they procured and consumed the banned substance. The agency subsequently arrested Singh stating that her place was searched based on the information given by one of the peddlers who was arrested during the drugs probe.

"The duo was questioned in connection with the ongoing probe. They have been remanded to judicial custody. The magistrate's court would hear the bail pleas on November 23," said an officer.

During the court proceedings, the officials sought Limbachiya's custody but did not seek Singh's as she was questioned by the NCB ahead of the arrest.

**TARUN GOGOI'S
HEALTH CONDITION
REMAINS CRITICAL**

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, NOV. 22

Veteran Congress leader and former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi's health condition continues to remain critical despite minor improvement in his health parameters on Sunday.

The 86-year-old was admitted to Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) on November 2 following breathing problems because of post-Covid-19 complications.

The superintendent of Guwahati Medical College and Hospital Dr Abhijit Sarma on Sunday told reporters that he is on a mechanical ventilator with multi-organ dysfunction (MOD) and is experiencing difficulty in passing urine normally.

"Since Saturday, there has been no deterioration in his health and his laboratory parameters have improved marginally. But his condition is still critical and we will observe him closely for another 48 hours," he said.

"At present, he is passing around 100-120 ml of urine in 24 hours. It would be good if the quantity increases. A large group of specialists from various disciplines are constantly monitoring his health and we are also in touch with experts from AIIMS, Delhi, and they are satisfied with the treatment protocol," he added.

**MERCURY DIPS
IN MOST PARTS
OF NORTH INDIA**

New Delhi, Nov. 22: Minimum temperatures dipped in most parts of north India on Sunday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, while a cold wave swept parts of Delhi which recorded its coldest November morning since 2003.

The national capital's minimum temperature dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius while the air quality remained "poor" and government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

"The Safdarjung Observatory which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius. It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in the month since November 2003, when the city recorded a low of 6.1 degrees Celsius," said Kuldeep Singh Srivastava, the head of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional forecasting centre.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than the normal for two consecutive days.

Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season as the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point across Kashmir region, while the weather department predicted a spell of wet weather in the Valley from Monday.

Central teams visit high Covid risk states

Efforts on to strengthen containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

With Covid-19 caseload in the country crossing the 91 lakh mark, high-level central teams were on Sunday deputed to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to support them in response and management of the virus. These states have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases — those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of Coronavirus infections. Earlier, high-level teams were sent to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

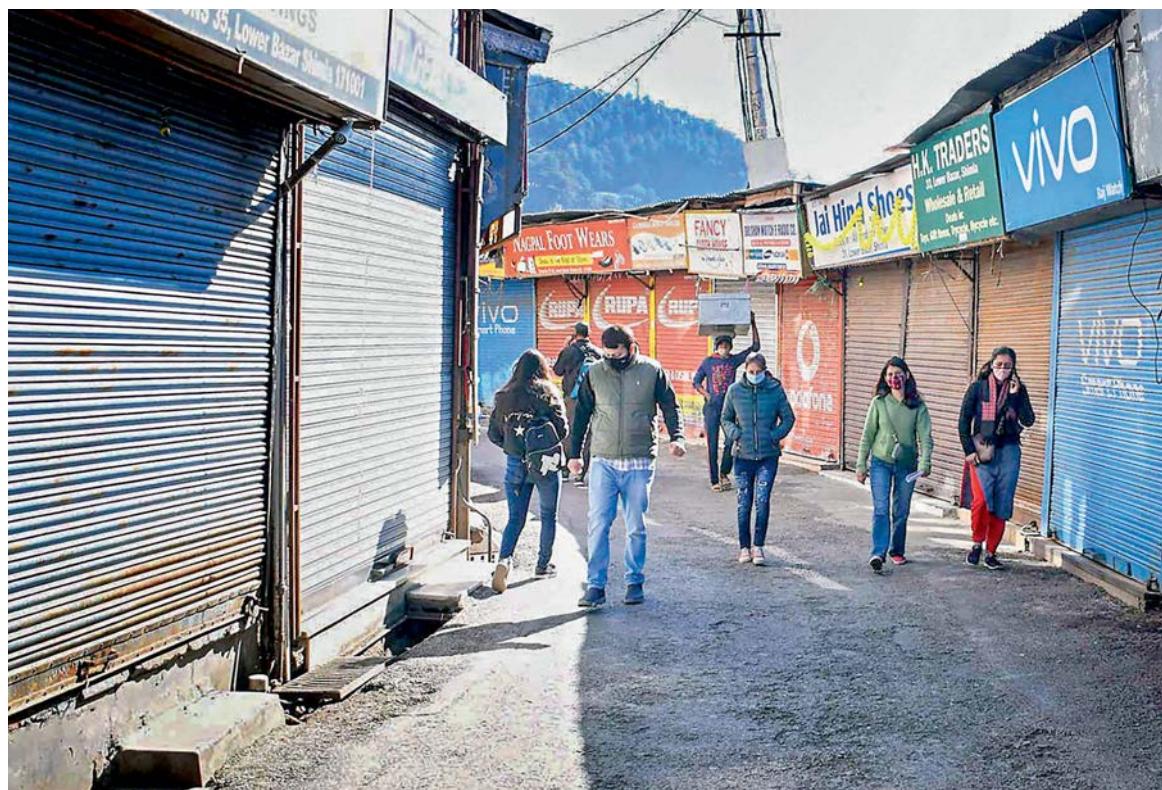
A senior health ministry official said that these three-member teams will visit districts reporting a high number of Covid-19 cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases. He said that the teams will also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow up.

With 45,209 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in the last 24 hours, the infection tally in the country has mounted to 90,95,806. The death toll has also gone up to 1,33,227 with 501 more fatalities. The silver lining is that the total recoveries have surged to 85,21,617, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.69 per cent. Even the Covid-19 case fatality rate has declined to 1.46 per cent.

Of the 501 new fatalities, 111 were reported from Delhi, 62 from Maharashtra, 53 from West Bengal, 25 each from Kerala and Haryana, 24 from Uttar Pradesh, 23 from Punjab, 22 from Chhattisgarh and 20 from Karnataka. Total 1,33,227 deaths reported so far in the country include 46,573 from Maharashtra followed by 11,641 from Karnataka, 11,586 from Tamil Nadu, 8,270 from Delhi, 7,976 from West Bengal, 7,524 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,927 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,595 from Punjab and 3,846 from Gujarat. The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

At 3.2 per cent, Punjab's fatality rate is the maximum among all states and UT. Maharashtra (2.6 per cent), Sikkim (2 per cent), Gujarat (2 per cent), West Bengal (1.8 per cent), Puducherry (1.7 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (1.6 per cent) and Uttarakhand (1.6 per cent) have recorded more deaths per 100 confirmed cases than Delhi.

According to the ICMR, over 13.17 crore samples were tested up to November 22 with 10,75,326 samples being



Visitors walk beside closed shops in Shimla on Sunday after authorities ordered closure of markets due to spike in the Coronavirus cases. — PTI

Don't create scarcity of beds, pvt hosps told

AHMEDABAD, Nov. 22: Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city, the local civic body on Sunday warned private hospitals not to create an artificial shortage of beds for treatment.

Ahmedabad city currently has 2,906 active cases, led by its west zone with 479, and followed by 464 in north-west and 457 in south-west.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said there was no need to panic as 1,500 beds were available and it was in the process of requisitioning another eight to ten hospitals to enhance the numbers further.

It said some private hospitals were admitting Covid-19 patients who did not require hospitalisation in a bid to fill up beds and create "artificial scarcity".

The civic body said it had reached out to private hospitals across the city after a review meeting was chaired by additional chief secretary Rajiv Gupta, who is the special officer for Covid-19 in Ahmedabad city, and directed them to stop any such "unscrupulous and illegal practice".

The AMC said the office-bearers of Ahmedabad hospitals and nursing homes association have been intimated about this issue as well.

The civic body also told providers of 108 ambulance service to ensure, as much as possible, that members of a family are admitted in the same hospital and not different ones. On Saturday, the city witnessed 354 new cases, among the highest single-day additions since the outbreak began in March, and five deaths. — PTI

GEHLOT ACCORDS TOP PRIORITY TO SAVE LIVES

JAIPUR, Nov. 22: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the state and reminded officials of the government's top priority to save lives and ensure strict compliance of anti-pandemic precautions by people.

Holding an extensive meeting to review the #Covid19 situation across the state. Taking stock of the prevailing conditions & ongoing efforts to contain the virus. Our topmost priority is to save lives, provide adequate treatment & encourage people to strictly follow health protocols. Gehlot tweeted.

Reviewing arrangements to contain the infection, ensure compliance of decisions including that of the night curfew & also to make sure that people are not inconvenienced, he said. — PTI

Uddhav warns of 'tsunami' of Covid cases in Maha

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
with agency inputs
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday warned the people of the second wave of Covid-19 in the state. In the wake of the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases in the last five days, the Chief Minister said that the state is staring at "Tsunami of new cases" and told people to strictly follow the safety protocols.

Coronavirus cases across Maharashtra have been rising over the last few days, especially after Diwali. In the last 24 hours, 5,753 fresh Covid-19 cases and 50 fatalities were reported in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said that the lockdown will be decided after taking a review of the situation in the next 8-10 days. He said that a second wave of Covid-19 is expected.

The health department said on Sunday said the state's overall infection count increased to 17,80,208.

A total of 4,060 patients were discharged during the day. With this, as many as 16,51,064 patients have recuperated across the state till date. There are 81,512 active cases in the state at present.

Marathra's recovery rate is now 92.75 per cent, while the fatality rate is 2.62 per cent. Of the 5,753 total cases reported on Sunday, 1,135 were detected in Mumbai alone, which took the city's case count to 2,75,714, while 19 deaths pushed the toll to 10,675.

In Mumbai, as many as 2,51,804 patients have recovered so far. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), which includes Mumbai and its satellite townships, reported 1,753 fresh cases. This took its overall tally to 6,17,474 with 18,504 deaths. Nashik city reported 119 fresh cases, Pune city 323 cases, Pimpri Chinchwad 206 cases and Nagpur city reported 418 cases.

FORMER K'TAKA MINISTER BAIG HELD IN IMA SCAM

VINAY MADHAV | DC
BENGALURU, NOV. 22

Former Karnataka minister R. Roshan Baig, who had resigned as Congress MLA and joined the BJP, which helped Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamul Congress said on Sunday that its government has started "rectifying" its mistakes ahead of the next year's Assembly elections. It however acknowledged that securing the total satisfaction of all the people is difficult for any ruling party, either at the Centre or in the states.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "the BJP or its leader Kailash Vijayvargiya does not have anything to say against the TMC because of the work that has taken place here. But it is difficult for any party in the country, be at the Centre or the state, to make all the people 100 per cent happy. Somewhere, errors and dissent exist. This government is identifying them, working on them and rectifying them."

IMA director Mansoor Ali Khan had started a gold investment scheme and collected over ₹4,000 crore from over 40,000 investors and cheated them.

The state government had handed over the investigation to the CBI, after Khan spilled the names of politicians and bureaucrats, including two IPS officers, as being beneficiaries.

TMC says it is rectifying its mistakes ahead of polls

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 22

Following the BJP's fierce campaign of misrule against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamul Congress said on Sunday that its government has started "rectifying" its mistakes ahead of the next year's Assembly elections. It however acknowledged that securing the total satisfaction of all the people is difficult for any ruling party, either at the Centre or in the states.

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TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh also points out the dynasty politics and nepotism in the BJP.

The dynasty politics and nepotism in the BJP to counter the saffron party's "bhakti" jibe about the CM's nephew Abhishek Banerjee's clout in the TMC.

"I dare Vijayvargiya to publicly take the name of the person he calls bhakti. Otherwise, he should stop character assassination of our youth leader who is a two-time MP. Can't there be another person from a politician's family, be in politics?

The former TMC Rajya Sabha MP also pointed to

Doesn't the BJP have a similar history? They have many family members in the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the Union Cabinet. Who is Akash Vijayvargiya? He is an MLA in Madhya Pradesh who had hit municipal workers with a bat and was arrested in the case. Mukul Roy's son Shubhrangshu Roy (Bijpur MLA) is also in their party," he said.

Training guns on the BJP on corruption charges, Ghosh, a key accused arrested by the CBI in the Saradha chit fund scam earlier, demanded the arrest of Roy in the Narada sting operation case.

"Is the BJP a washing machine? In the Narada case, arrested IPS officer S.M.H. Meerza's statement under Section 161 of CrPC should be considered and Roy must be arrested by the CBI because Meerza spoke about the money he handed over to Roy. I am also ready to face Roy at a joint interrogation in Saradha case," he added.

"There is an urgent need to overhaul the party structure by conducting elections from block to district and state level," Azad said, saying Congress leaders at all levels should "shed five-star culture, at least during elections".

In West Bengal, meanwhile, the Congress, after its disastrous performance in Bihar, is facing

Azad: People, Cong delinked for long

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

There is a huge disconnect between the people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party, veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said Sunday as he called for an overhaul in the party organisation.

Azad was one of the 23 senior leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi seeking major changes in the Congress organisation.

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In West Bengal, meanwhile, the Congress, after its disastrous performance in Bihar, is facing

pressure from its Left alliance partners to become "more realistic" and settle for fewer seats in order to restrict the BJP and the Trinamul Congress in the state.

Differences have also cropped up over the West Bengal Congress' desire to project its chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as the face of the alliance with the CPI(M).

Leaders of the Left are hopeful that the Congress would not place such a demand on the table to protect the alliance.

Describing the Congress as a "big letdown" for the Grand Alliance, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya hoped the party would adopt a "more realistic" approach during its seat-sharing talks with the Left Front in West Bengal.

Bhattacharya said the Congress too would be reviewing its poor show in Bihar and be reasonable while sealing a seat-sharing deal in politically sensitive Bengal, where the BJP is making all efforts to clinch power.

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INDIAN NAVY PARTICIPATES IN SITMEX-20

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

As part of effort to strengthen India's strategic maritime, Indian Navy participated in trilateral maritime exercise SITMEX-20, with Singapore and Thailand on November 21 & 22 in Andaman sea.

The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

This exercise comes soon after multilateral Malabar Naval war game in which Indian, US, Australian and Japan navies conducted complex and exhaustive exercises. Indian Navy (IN) ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the second edition SITMEX.

The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).

RSN is being represented by the "Formidable" Class frigate "Intrepid" and "Endurance" Class Landing Ship Tank "Edeavour" and RTN by the "Chao Phraya" Class frigate "Kraburi" in the exercise.

Child health experts doubt feasibility of Gau Cabinet substituting egg with milk

Milk instead of 'egg' to fight malnutrition in MP

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 22

ing of the Cabinet committee on protection of cattle, christened 'Gau cabinet', Chouhan said milk, instead of egg, would be introduced in the menu to tackle malnutrition.

"Cattle

DECCAN Chronicle

23 NOVEMBER 2020

Avoid partisan approach, apathy to conquer Covid

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was spot on, calling Covid-19 the biggest threat to humanity after World War-II, as nations across the globe stare at the possibility of another wave of the pandemic. India is no exception; several states have started showing signs of a new wave. It is welcome that the Union government, realising the threat, has launched a series of measures to lessen its impact.

The work has started right in the national capital, which is in the throes of a third wave, and the Union and the state government have promised to work in tandem. The Delhi government has no plans to reintroduce a lockdown but will tighten the rules and rigorously enforce them. It has decided to keep a special watch on markets where more people congregate, and will hike the fine for not wearing a mask from ₹500 to ₹2,000. And most importantly, there will be a house-to-house survey for testing.

The Union government has sent expert teams to several states, which are now witnessing a new surge in the number of infections. The government had done so in the past, too, but it faced the allegations that there were political motives behind it. The teams' behaviour in several states ruled by parties opposed to the BJP had given credence to the allegations, too. Hopefully, the government will learn its lessons and would not use the opportunity for politicising this time around. The teams should limit themselves to helping the local administration benefit from their expertise.

We have said in these columns earlier, too, that public health is a matter of concern for the public first, and that a government can do only easy. Festivals, markets, public transport and entertainment avenues have been flooded. Even political leaders, elected representatives and senior bureaucrats appear in the public either with no masks or wearing them in the wrong way. Such callous attitude will undo all the good work done so far. There must be better awareness among all ranks of the people about the need to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour such as maintenance of social distancing, washing of hands and wearing masks.

The best lesson the micro-organism has taught humanity is that it can be stopped only by the joint efforts of all of its victims; a partisan approach helps it thrive. The United States, which is facing another dreaded run of the virus, is an example.

Back home, the Kerala experience tells a similar story. The state, which performed remarkably in the first phase in containing the pandemic, failed the moment partisan politics took over. Onam was not the only culprit; anti-government agitations too contributed to the spread with the result that the state today contributes more than 10 per cent of the country's total daily caseload.

Concerted efforts by all the stakeholders is the need of the hour, for there are no human enemies in this war.

BJP's pointless exertions

In the popularity sweepstakes, the two top honchos of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam, gained nothing from turning up early at the Chennai airport to personally receive the Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday. In fact, they were only trotted for breaking a convention and seen as kowtowing to a Big Brother political ally for no apparent collective common cause. If the two AIADMK leaders had any genuine reason for appeasing the BJP leader by going the extra mile and even hailing him as "Chanakya", they have not yet revealed it to the people of the state.

The people might ask about it when the time comes — perhaps, when they would go to them to seek their votes in 2021. But prior to that, what will be the fallout of the much-hyped visit of Amit Shah, for whom it was an extraordinarily long night with BJP functionaries and other visitors till 2.30 am on Sunday?

The BJP cadre who stayed awake listening to one of their most prominent leaders may have returned home enthused over their party's projected future prospects in the state where their candidates have been generally vying with Noda in the vote count.

But beyond that what did the state BJP gain? In the run-up to the visit, the state leadership had said that the news of Mr Shah coming to town itself was sending shivers down the spines of Opposition leaders. Whatever he meant by that, a "Go Back" hashtag trended on Twitter for a day and even a man was arrested for hurling a placard towards the visiting dignitary from the welcoming crowd.

Nothing, however, interfered with Mr Shah's engagements and nothing helped the BJP's popularity to soar either. For, more than visitors, it's local leaders who need to gain people's confidence, which definitely can't be done by taking out disruptive marches carrying spears, even if they are blunt.

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Kishwar Desai
London Diary

Anti-Semitism is why Meghnad quit; all hope for Christmas shots

Finally — the good news is that a vaccine is coming, hopefully by Christmas! Indeed not just one, but six are running a close race and are likely to touch the finishing tape almost simultaneously. Our own Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was off to an early start but ran into a few problems. The UK has ordered 100 million of them. No one had foreseen Pfizer/BioNTech would get in ahead. So very quickly, we have ordered 40 million of these. The poor health minister has scrambled together enough money to also order five million of the Moderna vaccine. It looks like we may be vaccinating by late December. Maybe we need to be singing, "On the First Day of Christmas My True Love Gave to Me an AstraZeneca vaccine..."

On the personal front, it was quite a tumultuous week for us, as my husband, Meghnad Desai, left the Labour Party after 49 years! It had been a decision he had been mulling over for while as he felt that the anti-Semitism in the

party had not been dealt with and needed to be rooted out. He has fought against this racism his entire life. And when Jeremy Corbyn was recently readmitted to the Party (most of the trouble over anti-Semitism had been during his tenure as the head of the Labour Party) Meghnad felt enough is enough. Of course, it came after discussions and was not a sudden decision — as he has always been a well-respected member of the Labour Party, and has numerous friends within it. But most of them, even if they don't admit it, will know why he felt it was essential to quit. The irony is that Meghnad's autobiography is out this month — and one wishes he had been able to include a chapter on this very important move on his part! But perhaps he can discuss it now at the book launches.

So look out for some interesting revelations as Meghnad talks about his book, *Rebellious Lord*.

One is never sure if lifting the lockdown is good news or bad news. We now hear that

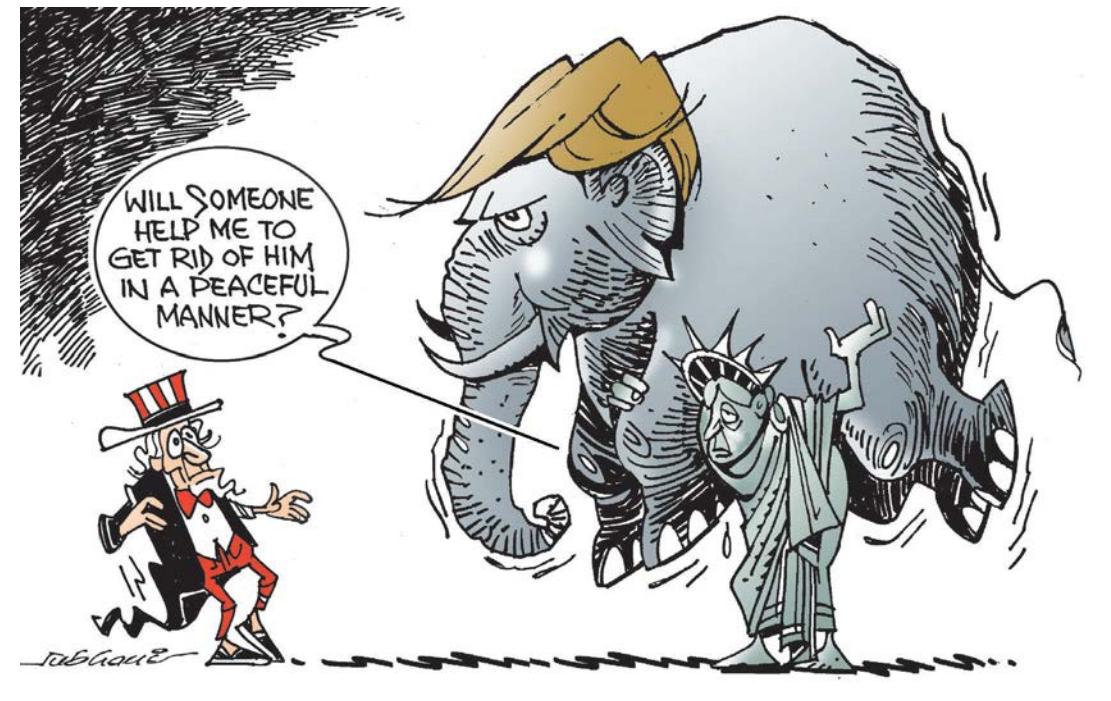
in early December we will go back to a partial lifting of the various restrictions. Everyone is fighting the big fear that it may be a dull winter, with seven days of Christmas celebrated with no more than six people. Since the government has been (as are other governments) befuddled by the virus and does not know what it is doing or can do, we just have to bump along. Even Boris is in isolation because Tory MPs have not learnt about this. When he met a bunch of them, one of them was infected so "test and trace" pinged Boris and told him to isolate. As he already had Covid, he should be immune and not require isolation. But you can never be too careful. He does seem to enjoy his isolation as he can do his parliamentary business from his flat at the top of Number 11.

Last week we went through a perfect storm as one of Boris' closest advisers, Dom Cummings, was asked to leave along with his second in command. Apparently Carrie Symonds, the

Prime Minister's partner, decided it was time for a Christmas cleanup and took over the reins. She is an environmental activist and suddenly Boris was supporting a Green economy. He announced that all petrol and diesel cars would be gone by 2030 and only electric cars will be allowed. This calls for a reality show called the "Kitchen Cabinet Files". Of course, no one knows what the economy will be like in 2030 — and one wonders why we are still talking about private cars — when we should be discussing more and more public transport.

One always has the fond hope that the UK government would be corruption-free. But the pandemic seems to have brought a sleaze virus into the system. We now hear about a host of scams in which cronies have been given millions in fees and contracts to deliver dubious supplies. The latest to come to light is a contract given to a fashion store in Florida which promised to

Subhani



Theatres of the New Cold War



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

What would the new Cold War look like as China attempts to achieve its misconceived tryst with the destiny of becoming the world's pre-eminent power by 2049, completing one hundred years as a modern Communist state albeit with capitalist characters?

Where then would China's push points lie? The first and obvious one — is the Western Pacific. China has been now for decades trying to break out of the first and the second island chains as well as surmount the Malacca dilemma effectively.

What are these island chains and do they serve any strategic purpose today in containing or constraining China? The first one embraces Kuril Islands, main Japanese archipelago, Okinawa, northern part of the Philippine archipelagos, Malay Peninsula and Taiwan. The second one comprises the islands of Japan stretching to Guam and the islands of Micronesia. China has so far succeeded in establishing a robust presence through its grey zone actions in the first island chain only. In the Spratly and Paracel Island chain in the South China Sea, China is growing land to augment its entitlement to the waters of the region. It is landfilling submerged reefs building artificial islands that are being fashioned into outer military bases.

It would be instructive to note that China's shipping imperatives traverse the Taiwan Straits, pass through the South China Sea, and into the Indian Ocean via the Malacca Straits. West of the Indian subcontinent, it splits in two. One track skirts the northern tier of the Arabian Sea and transits through the Hormuz Strait into the Red Sea. From there, it exits through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. The other lane continues on to the Horn of Africa and cones through the Bab al Mandeb Strait into the Red Sea. From there, it exits through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Support Base is operating in these waters.

The next theatre of the Cold War would be Africa where the Chinese have invested resources much before the formal commencement of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's first international acknowledged military facility was established in August 2017 at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Support Base is operating in these waters.

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The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal.

Twitter handle @manish_tewari.

LETTERS

FUEL PRICES

The Centre has been hiking fuel prices for the last three days just because the global prices of crude have started firming up. They have no right to do so as they did not pass on the benefits of reduction to us in the last 10 months. Even as gas prices went down, we are paying more for a gas cylinder. What was PM Cares for? Excise revenue from petroleum products are audited and published but the fund will not be audited.

Lal Melwani

Hyderabad

PENSION PLAN

The TRS poll plank to highlight the condemned contribution defined as the pension scheme for Central government and CPSU employees is the right move (*KCR pension plan to retire BJP early*, DC, Nov. 22). The BJP is following an anti-employee and anti-farmer stance by bringing the new labour code and farm laws.

P.R. Ravinder

Hyderabad

ELECTION DUTY

There were reports that teachers from Central and state government schools will not be assigned GHMC elections duties as they are teaching children online. However, it seems like they were not spared. The SEC should understand that most teachers have children or elderly parents to take care or many of them are over 50 or more.

N. Nagarajan

Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

People warned against cycle-theft

HYDERABAD, November 22 From September there has been 91 cases of cycle-thefts from various localities in the city. A majority of them are committed in busy areas like shopping centres, cinema theatres, hotels, and other places where owners left them unattended and unlocked, the police said. The police arrested several criminals and recovered many cycles from them. The bulletin asked people to co-operate with the police by locking their cycles and not leaving them unattended. In some cases criminals who were caught red-handed are being let off after the lost cycles are returned.



Kishwar Desai
London Diary

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So look out for some interesting revelations as Meghnad talks about his book, *Rebellious Lord*.

One is never sure if lifting the lockdown is good news or bad news. We now hear that

in early December we will go back to a partial lifting of the various restrictions. Everyone is fighting the big fear that it may be a dull winter, with seven days of Christmas celebrated with no more than six people. Since the government has been (as are other governments) befuddled by the virus and does not know what it is doing or can do, we just have to bump along. Even Boris is in isolation because Tory MPs have not learnt about this. When he met a bunch of them, one of them was infected so "test and trace" pinged Boris and told him to isolate. As he already had Covid, he should be immune and not require isolation. But you can never be too careful. He does seem to enjoy his isolation as he can do his parliamentary business from his flat at the top of Number 11.

Last week we went through a perfect storm as one of Boris' closest advisers, Dom Cummings, was asked to leave along with his second in command. Apparently Carrie Symonds, the

Prime Minister's partner, decided it was time for a Christmas cleanup and took over the reins. She is an environmental activist and suddenly Boris was supporting a Green economy. He announced that all petrol and diesel cars would be gone by 2030 and only electric cars will be allowed. This calls for a reality show called the "Kitchen Cabinet Files". Of course, no one knows what the economy will be like in 2030 — and one wonders why we are still talking about private cars — when we should be discussing more and more public transport.

One always has the fond hope that the UK government would be corruption-free. But the pandemic seems to have brought a sleaze virus into the system. We now hear about a host of scams in which cronies have been given millions in fees and contracts to deliver dubious supplies. The latest to come to light is a contract given to a fashion store in Florida which promised to

deliver three truckloads of PPE suits as the health service did not have enough PPE suits in stock. But the appointed contractor got a subcontractor who did not deliver. It was in a court case in Florida between the contractor and his subcontractor that it was revealed the contractor had collected millions in his fee in addition to the money for the supplies. Of course, in the panic over the pandemic many unfortunate decisions were taken the world over — but it seems these cases may have revealed some deeper malaise. I appeal to Carrie Symonds to cast a glance at this. All our hopes rest with her now... I suggest we start writing "Dear Carrie" letters to Downing Street, and action will undoubtedly be taken.

Kishwar Desai is an award-winning author, and playwright. Her latest book, The Longest Kiss: The Life And Times of Devika Rani, will be published shortly.

IN BRIEF
MAN DIES IN SHARK ATTACK IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Nov. 22: A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the country this year.

Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.m. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived.

He died at the scene, police said. Park rangers immediately closed the beach. The man was the eighth to die in a shark attack in Australia this year, the highest toll since 1929 when nine died. The introduction of shark nets at popular beaches in the 1930s led to a significant fall in fatal attacks.

14 PRO-IRAN FIGHTERS IN SYRIA KILLED

Beirut, Nov. 22: At least 14 pro-Iran militia fighters from Iraq and Afghanistan were killed in air strikes in war-torn eastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Sunday.

The strikes on Saturday night in Deir Ezzor province, on the border with Iraq, were likely carried out by Israeli war planes, the Observatory said.

The Israeli army said it doesn't comment on foreign reports. More than 10 strikes hit positions of Iran-backed militias outside the border town of Albu Kamal, according to the war monitor.

The attack killed eight Iraqis and six Afghan fighters, it said.

It also destroyed two bases as well as several military vehicles, the Observatory added.

Iran-backed fighters are heavily deployed in a stretch of territory between the Syrian towns of Albu Kamal and Mayadeen, both former strongholds of the Islamic State group.

Along with Russia, Iran has been a key backer of the Damascus regime in its nine-year-long civil war. Israel has carried out hundreds of air and missile strikes on Syria since the civil war broke out in 2011, targeting Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces.

NINE KILLED IN ISLAMIC STATE AMBUSH IN IRAQ

Samarra, Iraq, Nov. 22: Six Iraqi security personnel and three civilians were killed in an ambush Saturday carried out by the Islamic State group north of Baghdad, police and a local official said.

A police source said a roadside bomb hit a car and that jihadists opened fire on a rescue team of policemen and state-aligned paramilitary forces when they arrived at the scene, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the capital.

Four members of the Hashid al-Shaabi and two policemen died along with three civilians, Mohammed Zidane, the mayor of Zouiya, 50 kilometres from the city of Tikrit, told AFP.

He updated an earlier civilian death toll of two.

There was no immediate word of casualties among the assailants, but Zidane said those killed among the Hashid, a coalition of mainly Shiite forces, were Sunni tribesmen.

Both the mayor and police said the ambush was the work of IS jihadists.

NIGERIA AMBUSH TOLL RISES TO 8, 2 BODIES FOUND

Kano, Nigeria, Nov. 22: The death toll in a jihadist ambush on a military convoy in northeast Nigeria's Borno state on Saturday rose to eight after two more bodies of soldiers were recovered, security sources said. Three security sources had initially told AFP six people, including five soldiers and an allied militiaman, were killed in the attack.

"The death toll from the ambush is now eight. The bodies of two more soldiers were recovered," said one of the sources. "It is now seven soldiers and one militiaman killed," he said. The toll was confirmed by another source.

Islamic State West Africa Province fighters armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades opened fire on a convoy of soldiers and an anti-jihadist militia in Kwayamti village, 60 kilometres (36 miles) north of the regional capital Maiduguri.

The convoy was on its way to the town of Baga as a security detail for the state governor, Babagana Umara Zulum who flew by helicopter earlier in the day.

England plans tougher tiered steps on Covid from Dec. 2

UK media speculates PM will declare week of freedom around Christmas

US surpasses 12 million cases, 2.5 lakh deaths

Washington, Nov. 22: The United States surpassed 12 million Covid-19 cases Saturday, according to the Johns Hopkins University real-time tracker.

"Everyone's efforts during the current national restrictions have helped bring the virus back under control, slowed its spread and eased pressures on the NHS," a Downing Street spokesperson said. "But the Prime Minister and his scientific advisers are clear the virus is still present — and without regional restrictions it could quickly run out of control again before vaccines and mass testing have had an effect."

That would put in jeopardy the progress the country has made, and once again risk intolerance pressure on the NHS," the spokesperson said.

Downing Street also said that the Winter Plan will set out how people will be able to see their loved ones at Christmas, adding that ministers will be warning that this will not be a normal festive period.

There are reports that the 10 PM curfew for bars and restaurants could be extended by an hour. Last orders would still be called at 10 PM, but people would have until 11pm to finish their food and drink.

Johnson faces a rebellion from some MPs from within his own Conservative Party. — AP

an agreement with the devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will involve a UK-wide relaxation of rules, reportedly from December 22 to 28, so that several families can join in one "bubble" to celebrate Christmas on December 25.

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Johnson faces a rebellion from some MPs from within his own Conservative Party. — AP

Tokyo, Nov. 22: The daily tally of confirmed Coronavirus cases in Japan hit a record for the fourth straight day at 2,508, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

Japan has had fewer than 2,000 Coronavirus deaths so far. Opposition legislators and public blamed the government for being too slow in halting its "GoTo" tourism campaign, which encouraged travel and dining with discounts. — AP

Yekaterina Kobzeva, a nurse at a preschool in Russia's Ural Mountains, began having trouble breathing, she called an ambulance. It was four days before she managed to find a free hospital bed.

Russia's health care system, vast yet underfunded, has been under significant strains in recent weeks, as the pandemic surges again.

urged people to stay home for next week's Thanksgiving holiday, when Americans usually travel from coast to coast to be with their families.

New York City has shut down schools for its 1.1 million students, while California began imposing a 10:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew from Saturday.

Chicago — the US' third-largest city — has been under stay-at-home orders since Monday.

On Friday, President Donald Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., announced he had tested positive for Covid-19. — AP

CASES IN JAPAN HIT A RECORD FOR FOURTH DAY

VIRUS: RUSSIA HEALTH SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

Moscow, Nov. 22: When Yekaterina Kobzeva, a nurse at a preschool in Russia's Ural Mountains, began having trouble breathing, she called an ambulance. It was four days before she managed to find a free hospital bed.

Russia's health care system, vast yet underfunded, has been under significant strains in recent weeks, as the pandemic surges again.

— AP



People hold a pig model with "I am a ractopamine pig" written on it during a protest in Taipei, on Sunday. — AP

Thousands take to the streets in Taiwan against US pork imports

Taipei, Nov. 22: Thousands of people marched in Taipei's streets on Sunday demanding the reversal of a decision to allow US pork imports into Taiwan, alleging food safety issues.

President Tsai Ing-wen's administration lifted a long-standing ban on US pork and beef imports in August, in a move seen as one of the first steps toward possibly negotiat-

ing a bilateral trade agreement with the US.

The ban is due to be lifted in January. That decision has met with fierce opposition, both by the opposition Kuomintang party and individual citizens. The new policy allows imports of pork with acceptable residues of ractopamine, a drug added into animal feed that promotes the growth of lean meat that some farmers

use in pigs.

The drug is banned by the European Union, but is legal in the United States. Demonstrators marched in front of the Presidential Office Building as part of an annual labor march. "I came here today to oppose the import of ractopamine," said Kelvin Chen, a 54-year-old computer engineer who was marching.

"I feel these days many

who do business are not ethical. If they mix the US pork with Taiwan pork and then sell it to us average consumers, we as individuals have no way to know the source of the pork."

"I have a child and when we eat things with ractopamine, it's not good for our bodies," said Jacky Tsui, a 37-year-old factory worker. "I hope the government can see that we citizens oppose this." — AP

Masks, screens, empty chairs at virtual Saudi G20 summit

Riyadh, Nov. 21: Mask-clad reporters filed into a Riyadh ballroom-turned-media centre Saturday after mandatory temperature checks, to cover physically a virtual G20 summit originally conceived as a grand coming-out party for host Saudi Arabia.

The media room in the capital's Crown Plaza hotel would have been buzzing with hundreds of international reporters were it not for the Coronavirus pandemic that has reduced the annual gathering of

world leaders into a giant webinar.

As the summit opened, the handful of foreign media present pointed their cameras to a large flickering screen where world leaders popped up in multiple tiny windows — one shuffling papers, another seen calling for technical help and one casually chatting to an aide.

For Saudi Arabia, the first Arab nation to host the summit, the media centre — a cavernous chandelier-studded room

filled with mostly unoccupied work stations — is emblematic of a lost opportunity to showcase its ambitious modernisation drive.

"This is an act of God," said Adel al-Jubeir, the kingdom's minister of state for foreign affairs, referring to the pandemic that made a physical summit impossible.

The austere kingdom has seen a sweeping transformation in the past three years — a driving ban on women has been lifted.

A physical summit

cinemas reopened and social mixing of the genders has become increasingly common as the once-feared religious police were rendered toothless.

"It would have been nice to have thousands of people come to Saudi Arabia, walk the streets, meet Saudi men and women, see the changes that have happened in the country, feel the changes," Jubeir said at a media briefing ahead of the summit.

A physical summit

would also have been an

opportunity to highlight the kingdom's tourism potential — the new "white oil" the petro-state is keen to develop to diversify its revenues.

Saudi Arabia is endowed with stunning landscapes, but tourism remains a hard sell in a country with strict social codes and an absolute ban on alcohol.

Still, the government sought to make the most of the physical media centre.

Adorned with portraits of Saudi destinations, the

centre could be mistaken for a tourism fair.

Liveried waiters offered four different types of Arabic coffee — each from a different corner of the kingdom.

Dressed in loose fitting traditional thobes and clutching daggers, dancers bobbed and swayed amid the ruins.

To highlight other government projects, journalists were offered official interviews and briefings on the sidelines of the summit that were unrelated to G20.

— AFP

Don Pennsylvania lawsuit dismissed

Washington, Nov. 22: Donald Trump presented "strained" legal arguments without merit and "speculative accusations" that were not supported by evidence, a federal judge has ruled as she dismissed the Pennsylvania lawsuit of his campaign, in a major setback to the US president's efforts to challenge the November 3 election results.

US Middle District of Pennsylvania Judge Matthew Brann on Saturday turned down a request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the poll results, which has been won by Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden. Judge Brann, who had a few days ago alleged that she had received harassing phone calls, ruled that the Trump campaign "presented strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations that were unsupported by evidence."

"In the United States of America, this cannot justify the disenfranchisement of a single voter; let alone all the voters of its sixth most populated state. Our people, laws, and institutions demand more," the judge wrote dismissing the lawsuit filed by the Trump campaign earlier this month alleging irregularities in the voting process. In her scathing opinion, Judge Brann said the Trump campaign asked the court to "disenfranchise" almost seven million voters.

"This court has been unable to find any case in which a plaintiff has sought such a drastic remedy in the contest of an election, in terms of the sheer volume of votes asked to be invalidated," she said. "One might expect that when seeking such a startling outcome, a plaintiff would come forward armed with compelling legal arguments and factual proof of rampant corruption, such that this court would have no option but to regrettably grant the proposed injunctive relief despite the impact it would have on such a large group of citizens," the judge said. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election and has filed multiple lawsuits. — PTI

TRUMP CAMPAIGN FOR RECOUNT OF VOTE IN GEORGIA

Washington, Nov. 22: The Trump Campaign has filed a petition for recount of votes in Georgia, days after US President-elect Joe Biden wrested the Republican stronghold by a little over 12,000 votes.

Democrat Biden became the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992 after a hand recount of nearly five million votes, that lasted for several days. Georgia hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992.

In case of a recount, election officials in Georgia will have to re-scan the five million hand-counted and audited legal ballots. "We are focused on ensuring that every aspect of Georgia State Law and the US Constitution are followed so that every legal vote is counted," the Trump campaign said. — PTI

POMPEO MEETS TALIBAN, AFGHAN NEGOTIATORS

Washington, Nov. 22: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has met negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha, amidst signs of progress in their stalled talks and an uptick in violence that threatens to jeopardise the peace push in the war-torn country.

"I think there'll be an opportunity to really work with India to balance the kind of burgeoning influence of China in the region," Sohini Chatterjee, a faculty member at Columbia University who previously served as senior policy advisor in the Obama administration, said in some cases, there will be a "little bit of consistency" as both US President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is an important strategic partner in the region.

But Trump's relation-

ship with India was a bit more short-term and reactive, the Biden administration is likely to have a slightly more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, Chatterjee told PTI.

This was the first meeting of the top American diplomat with the Taliban and the Afghans representatives after the US' recent announcement that it will reduce the number of American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq to 2,500 each by January 15 next year. The US currently has a little over 4,500 troops in Afghanistan.

"Met with both Taliban and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's negotiating teams in Doha," Pompeo said in a tweet. — PTI

Protesters set ablaze part of Guatemala Congress building

Guatemala City, Nov. 22:

Hundreds of protesters broke into Guatemala City against the budget, which protesters say was negotiated and passed by legislators in secret while the Central American country was distracted by the fallout of back-to-back hurricanes and the Covid-19.

The protest came as about 7,000 people were

demonstrating in front of the National Palace in Guatemala City against the budget, which protesters say was negotiated and passed by legislators in secret while the Central American country was distracted by the fallout of back-to-back hurricanes and the Covid-19.

"Anyone who is proven to have participated in the criminal acts will be punished with the full force of the law."

— AP

islative building. According to media reports, security agents fired tear gas at protesters and there were people injured. Giannattasio condemned the fires in his Twitter account Saturday.

"Anyone who is proven to have participated in the criminal acts will be punished with the full force of the law."

— AP

SHORT TAKES
**CHINA TO EXTEND
YANTZEE FISHING
BAN IN 2021**

Shanghai, Nov. 22: China will prohibit all fishing in the Yangtze river estuary from Jan. 1, extending a ban along the length of the river that came into effect at the beginning of this year, the country's agriculture ministry said.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said in a notice published on Friday that it had decided to extend the ban to a designated estuary zone off the coast of Shanghai, and it would no longer issue licenses to catch saury, anchovy, crab and eel in the area. China imposed a 10-year ban on fishing in Asia's longest river at the start of the year in a bid to replenish stocks and allow endangered species to recover.

As a result of overfishing, the catch on some parts of the river had fallen below half of peak levels, and the Yangtze sturgeon is believed to be on the brink of extinction. The ban is set to be extended to large Yangtze tributaries at the start of 2021. The ministry said earlier this year that around 280,000 fishermen in 10 provinces and regions would be affected by the ban.

**HEATWAVES
CAUSED RECORD
DEATHS IN UK**

London, Nov. 22: Heatwaves caused a record 2,556 excess deaths in Britain this summer as the country was struggling to contain the Coronavirus pandemic, according to a government estimate published on Thursday. Increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves are among the deadliest impacts of climate change, mostly hitting elderly people and other vulnerable groups the hardest, scientists say.

"Unless the government takes urgent action to address the climate emergency, the number of excess deaths due to heatwaves is likely to increase year on year," said Sandy Robertson of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, an advocacy group of health professionals. Britain suffered a series of heatwaves here in June, July and August in which many weather stations around the country broke or matched their maximum temperature records.

The estimate of 2,556 excess deaths was the highest since the government launched a plan to manage the health effects of hot temperatures after an estimated 2,234 people died in England during a pan-European heatwave in 2003. Researchers said high temperatures alone could not explain all the deaths, raising questions over whether the pandemic may have served to amplify the impact of the heat. Experts have questioned whether people might have hesitated to seek help for heat-related complaints for fear of catching Covid-19 in hospitals.

**WILDLIFE
DISEASES TO
SPREAD NORTH**

Anchorage, Nov. 22: As the world's climate warms, parasite-carried wildlife diseases will move north, with animals in cold far-north and high-altitude regions expected to suffer the most dramatic increases, warns a study to be published in the journal *Science*.

The study projects increasing spread over the next five decades of wildlife diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses and infectious worms. There are serious implications for humans, said co-author Jason Rohr of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. "We do know that 75% of emerging infectious diseases have a wildlife origin," said Rohr, who runs an ecology and public health lab at Notre Dame.

"We should be concerned for our own health when we see studies suggesting that there could be increases in infectious disease in wildlife." Climate change is already causing a surge in wildlife diseases, the study notes. And people are already being infected with diseases coming from wildlife, including Covid-19, Rohr said.

The study supports the "thermal mismatch" theory of wildlife disease, finding that cold-adapted species are at increased risk when their habitats warm and warm-adapted species are at increased risk when their habitats cool.

It is based on records of 7,346 wildlife populations comprising 1,381 terrestrial and freshwater species, from tiny insects to big mammals across all seven continents. It uses past climate records and varying scenarios for future climate conditions over the next five decades to calculate trends for parasites spreading.

Colombian survivors vow to rebuild from ruins of Iota

Winds, rains have killed 40 people across Central America, Colombia

Bogota, Nov. 22: When Category 5 Hurricane Iota roared over the small Colombian island of Providencia in the early hours of Monday morning, Yeisler Chamorro and his wife hunkered down underneath a mattress in their bedroom.

Nearly all the infrastructure on the island of some 6,000 people, near the coast of Central America, was damaged or destroyed by the storm, which sent rubble raining down on top of Chamorro, 29.

"I was saved by my mattress," Chamorro said, as he showed a Reuters reporter the temporary repairs he has made to the room's roof. "Stuff was falling on us, debris and everything, but thank God we survived. Material things you can get back, the important thing is life."

Iota's winds and heavy rains have killed around 40 people across Central America and Colombia, including at least two in Providencia.

In Nicaragua, it inundated low-lying areas still reeling from the impact two weeks ago of Eta, another major hurricane that killed dozens of people in the region.

"When I got up and looked out, the first impression I had was that the neighbors were dead," air conditioning technician Chamorro said.

"I had to go out to see how my relatives were...when I arrived I found out everyone was alive."

Many residents are still in shock over the destruction, Chamorro said, but the born-and-bred islander is committed to rebuilding.

"We'll fight and get ahead



A man recovers belongings amid mud and debris left by the overflowing of the Chamelecon River following heavy rains caused by Hurricane Iota, in La Lima municipality near San Pedro Sula, Honduras on Saturday. — AFP

Hurricanes: No room in shelters, people take refuge under bridges

San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Nov. 22: Shelters for people whose homes were flooded or damaged by hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras are now so crowded that thousands of victims have taken refuge under highway overpasses or bridges.

The International Red Cross estimates that about 4.2 million people were affected by the back-to-back Category 4 hurricane.

—Reuters

EU denies gas plants a green tag, offers hydrogen loophole

Brussels/London, Nov. 22: The European Commission on Friday proposed that power plants fuelled by natural gas would not be not classed as a sustainable investment in Europe, although plants could possibly gain a green label by burning some hydrogen.

The landmark EU rules, due to be finalised this year, will force providers of financial products to disclose from the end of 2021 which investments meet climate criteria, and can therefore be marketed as "sustainable".

Gaining such a label is likely to help companies tap the growing share of investor cash looking to profit from the region's multi-trillion-euro shift to a net zero emissions economy by 2050.

In its proposal for the rules, the Commission said to be classed as a sustainable investment — one that makes a "substantial" contribution to mitigating climate change — gas power plants must have life-cycle emissions below 100 grams of CO₂ equivalent per kWh (gCO₂e/kWh).

That confirmed draft plans reported by Reuters and comes despite intense lobbying from the energy

IT APPEARS TO
**exclude the global
warming potential of
bringing gas electricity
to the market, by
excluding those
upstream emissions**

**NATHAN FABIAN,
Adviser to the
European Commission**

sector for a more generous threshold. The rules face a four-week consultation, before the Commission drafts the final version. Sean Kidney, CEO of the Climate Bonds Initiative, who along with other experts advised the Commission on the rules, said the decision on gas was "a victory of science over the political economy."

The Commission has held the line," he said.

Europe's most efficient gas plants produce more than three times the proposed emissions limit, and would need to use carbon capture technology to comply. However, some experts said gas plants could potentially earn a sustainable investment badge by burning a share of hydrogen.

That is because investments can also earn a green label by meeting cri-

teria which contribute to "climate adaptation" — building resilience against the impacts of climate change. Those criteria would require gas plants to implement adaptation measures, such as flood defences, and meet a "direct emissions" limit of 270gCO₂e/kWh.

Today's gas plants exceed that limit. But they could meet it by burning roughly 20% hydrogen and 80% fossil gas, according to independent climate think-tank Ember.

Nathan Fabian, an adviser to the Commission on the rules, also noted that this "direct emissions" limit would not cover the emissions produced during the extraction and transport of gas.

"It appears to exclude the global warming potential of bringing gas electricity to the market, by excluding those upstream emissions," said Fabian, chief responsible investment officer at the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment investor group.

The rules also set out the criteria carmakers, industry and agriculture must meet to earn a green investment label.

—Reuters

Arctic, Nov. 22: The Trump administration on Thursday proposed to loosen Obama-era safety regulations for the oil industry in the Arctic after a Shell drilling rig ran aground in the Gulf of Alaska in 2012. The company later abandoned oil exploration in the Arctic and there are no active drilling operations there.

Now, much of the US portion of the Arctic Ocean — the Chukchi Sea and part of the Beaufort Sea — is off-limits to new oil and gas leasing under a 2019 judge's order that overturned President Donald Trump's effort to open vast areas of the Arctic and Atlantic oceans to oil leasing.

Pompeo also said the Trump administration would be taking further measures aimed at "countering" the boycott. Biden has also vowed to ban all new drilling in federal lands and waters once he takes office.

MUCH OF THE US PORTION OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN IS OFF-LIMITS TO NEW OIL AND GAS LEASING UNDER A 2019 JUDGE'S ORDER THAT OVERTURNED PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S EFFORT TO OPEN VAST AREAS OF THE ARCTIC AND ATLANTIC OCEANS TO OIL LEASING.

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to ban all new drilling in federal lands and waters once he takes office. The US Department of Interior, which oversees the government's offshore oil and gas program, said in a Thursday statement that the revisions would "remove unnecessary, burdensome provisions" in the 2016 rules.

It would specifically eliminate a requirement that oil operators submit a detailed operations plan before filing an exploration request, according to a fact sheet published by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

The administration would also roll back a rule requiring operators to demonstrate they can

Mubarak is Qaida's N. African leader

Dakar, Nov. 22: Al-Qaida's North African branch said it has appointed a new leader after confirming the death of its former chief, who was killed in June by French forces, according to SITE Intelligence Group.

The Washington-based group, which monitors jihadist sites, said in a video published Saturday, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, known as AQIM, showed the dead body of its former leader, Abdelmalek Droukdel, for the first time.

AQIM has made millions of dollars abducting foreigners for ransom over the years and has made large swaths of West Africa too dangerous for aid groups to access. Rita Katz, director of the SITE Intelligence Groups, said via Twitter that Yusuf al-Annabi, the new leader.

Droukdel was killed in Mali by French forces who had been hunting him in the Sahel region for years.

Al-Qaida's North African branch also confirmed the death of Swiss mis-

sionary Beatrice Stockley, who had been captured in January 2016 from Mali's northern city of Timbuktu. The group attributed her death to a failed attempt by "French crusaders" to free her, and also held the Swiss government responsible for "delaying the issue and making futile efforts" according to SITE.

AQIM has made millions of dollars abducting foreigners for ransom over the years and has made large swaths of West Africa too dangerous for aid groups to access. Rita Katz, director of the SITE Intelligence Groups, said via Twitter that Yusuf al-Annabi's appointment as the new leader of AQIM is not surprising, given that he has been featured by the group in its propaganda over the past few years.

Al-Qaida's North African branch also confirmed the death of Swiss mis-

PDM holds rally despite govt ban

NAWAZ SHARIF'S MOTHER DIES IN LONDON AT 91

Lahore, Nov. 22: Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's mother Begum Shamim Akhtar died in London on Sunday. She was 91. Begum Akhtar was not well for the last one month or so, according to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party sources.

"On Sunday she breathed her last in London," PML-N deputy secretary-general Attaullah Tarar said.

She had travelled to London in February last and had been living with Nawaz and her grandchildren. Tarar said the body of Begum Akhtar is likely to be brought back to Lahore on Monday and buried next to the grave of her husband Mian Sharif at the Jati Umra Raiwind residence of the Sharif family.

Tarar said an application is being filed with the authorities concerned for the release of Nawaz's younger brother and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif on parole to attend the last rites of his mother. PML-N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif, declared 'absconding' by a Pakistani court, is unlikely to return to the country to attend the last rites. — PTI

went on to say: "We respect the army if it is our defence institution. But if it tries to become a political institution, it will have to tolerate criticism. Then it should not say, 'don't take our name'."

"Even today, we are giving you this deadline; stop supporting them (government), withdraw (your backing) and declare that this is not our government. Raise your voice against this government along with us, we will then be brothers."

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz vice-president Maryam Nawaz left the venue in the middle of the rally after hearing the news of her grandmother's death. — PTI

Proposal will revise Obama-era rules crafted to improve safety

US to relax Arctic Ocean oil drilling safety rules

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MUCH OF THE US PORTION OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN IS OFF-LIMITS TO NEW OIL AND GAS LEASING UNDER A 2019 JUDGE'S ORDER THAT OVERTURNED PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S EFFORT TO OPEN VAST AREAS OF THE ARCTIC AND ATLANTIC OCEANS TO OIL LEASING.

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden has also vowed to ban all new drilling in federal lands and waters once he takes office.

to ban all new drilling in federal lands and waters once he takes office. The US Department of Interior, which oversees the government's offshore oil and gas program, said in a Thursday statement that the revisions would "remove unnecessary, burdensome provisions" in the 2016 rules.

It would specifically eliminate a requirement that oil operators submit a detailed operations plan before filing an exploration request, according to a fact sheet published by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

The administration would also roll back a rule requiring operators to demonstrate they can

quickly deploy containment equipment in case of spills, such as capping stacks or domes.

The changes were welcomed by the top oil industry trade group, which said developing Arctic resources is critical to U.S. national security.

"There simply are no effective means to respond to or clean up an oil spill in the Arctic's harsh and remote conditions," Leah Donahey, legislative director for AWL, said.

Before it can be finalized, the proposal will undergo a 60-day public comment period that will begin once the rules are published in the Federal Register. A spokesman for BSEE could not say when that will happen.

—Reuters

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	43,882.25
Nifty 50	12,859.05
S&P 500*	3,557.54
Dollar (\$)	74.14
Pound Sterling (\$)	98.45
Euro (\$)	87.92
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	49,551.65
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.36
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.877
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.849
* As of Friday/Saturday	-0.702

Govt plans 10% stake sale in Midhani via OFS

The Centre is planning to sell up to 10 per cent stake in defence PSU Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (Midhani) in the current fiscal ending March, an official said. The company got listed on stock exchanges in April 2018 and the government had raised Rs 438 crore by selling 26 per cent stake through an IPO. The official said with the opening of space sector to foreign investment, Midhani shares are expected to attract investors.

CG Power lenders okay Murugappa takeover plan



Lenders to CG Power and Industrial Solutions have agreed to a one-time loan restructuring to pave way for the Chennai-based Murugappa Group taking over the scam-hit equipment maker. CG Power had total debt of Rs 2,161 crore, out of which a consortium of 14 banks have taken a haircut of Rs 1,100 crore and restructured the remaining. In August, TIL had agreed to invest Rs 700 crore in CG Power for a 56.61 per cent stake.

Byju's raising \$200 mn from BlackRock, Rowe

Edu-tech major Byju's is raising about \$200 million (about Rs 1,483 crore) in fresh funding from investors, including BlackRock and T Rowe Price, according to sources. The development comes about two months after Byju's had raised about \$500 million (about Rs 3,672 crore) in a round that valued the company at \$10.8 billion. According to sources, Byju's has raised \$200 million in a fresh round of funding.

Petrol, diesel prices raised for third straight day

Petrol price was hiked by 8 paise per litre and diesel by 19 paise on Sunday, the third straight day of increase in rates as the firming international oil rates broke a nearly two-month-long hiatus in price revision. Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 81.46 per litre from Rs 81.38, according to a notification from oil marketing companies. Diesel rates went up from Rs 70.88 to Rs 71.07 per litre.

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■ Goods, services worth only ₹47,044 cr bought CPSE procurement down 62% this year

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

Four more months left for the fiscal to end, the procurement of products and services by central public sector units is 62 per cent lower than last year's.

Central PSUs have made total procurement of products and services valued at Rs 47,044 crore, as per the latest update by government portal MSME Sambandham. This data is based on inputs provided by 109 central public sector enterprises. Comparatively, CPSEs made total procurement of Rs 1,24,021 crore in the last fiscal.

Procurement was down even in the last fiscal. Against Rs 1,53,144 crore worth goods and services procured in 2018-19, last year's procurement was close to 20 per cent down.

This year, the target pro-



curement by CPSEs itself is lower than last year's. As many as 114 CPSEs have set an annual target of procuring products and services worth Rs 1,10,732 crore for FY21.

As per the mandate set by the government, the CPSEs and government departments have to procure 25 per cent of their annual goods and services

from micro, small and medium enterprises. Of the total procurement reported till now, CPSEs have achieved this target. They have procured Rs 15,630 crore worth goods and services from MSMEs, which is 33 per cent of their total procurement. However, compared with last year, the procurement till now lags behind by Rs

38,386 crore, or 59 per cent. Of their procurement, goods and services worth Rs 685 crore came from MSMEs owned by SC/ST entrepreneurs and Rs 390 crore from women entrepreneurs.

But the central PSUs have achieved only 32 per cent of their capex target in the first half of the fiscal, as per the data released earlier. They have a capital expenditure target of Rs 11,934 crore for the fiscal 2020-21. Till the first half of the year, they have achieved only 32 per cent, or Rs 37,423 crore, of the target.

This is 13 per cent lower than the capital expenditure made in the first half of last fiscal. In H1 FY20, CPSEs had spent Rs 43,097 crore even when the total target was Rs 1,11,672 crore.

—PTI

RBI has a million Twitter followers

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

With one million Twitter followers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has become the world's first central bank to achieve this milestone overtaking the US Federal Reserve, and the European Central Bank (ECB).

The US Federal Reserve has 6.77 lakh Twitter followers and the Frankfurt headquartered ECB, the second most populous pow-

erful monetary authority in the world, has 5.91 lakh followers, Bank of England has 3.17 lakh followers and Bank of Canada has 1.8 lakh followers on its official Twitter handle.

The 85-year-old RBI comparatively has been a late entrant on Twitter, present since January 2012. In comparison, the US Fed joined Twitter in March 2009.

The number of followers on RBI's Twitter handle, @RBI increased from 9,66 lakh on September 27, 2020

to 10 lakh on Sunday. In the current financial year, as many as 2.5 lakh new followers joined RBI's handle.

However experts did not see it as an achievement. A senior banker said, "Obviously with India being the world's second most populous country and a huge number of them being active on social media, the RBI has got more followers on social media."

An analyst said, "Regulators are also becoming more active on

social media platforms. FIIs, Indian investors and other market participants too may also be following the RBI."

RBI governor Shakti Kanta Das shared the news on Twitter and congratulated his colleagues. Das wrote, "RBI Twitter account reaches one million followers today. A new milestone. Congratulations to all my colleagues in RBI." Das has a separate Twitter handle with 1.35 lakh followers.

—PTI

Economy improving, growth to turn positive in Q3: Goyal

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

India's macroeconomic situation is improving fast and the country's GDP growth will turn positive in the third and fourth quarters of the current financial year, eminent economist Ashima Goyal said on Sunday.

Goyal in an interview to PTI said the management of the Covid-19 pandemic and gradual unlock series announced by the government have helped in avoiding multiple Covid-19 peaks.

The growth estimates by different agencies are being continuously revised, she said.

"We are seeing the consensus negative forecasts shrinking below double digits now. Since unlock 4 in September that prevents states from restricting inter-state movements we are seeing supply chain disruptions easing and rapid pick-up in



Ashima Goyal

activity. Growth will turn positive in Q3 and Q4."

Goyal, who has been appointed as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, said there is progress on many reforms and that will make higher long-run growth sustainable.

"India's diversity as well as the benefits of surplus liquidity becoming available after a period of severe liquidity shortage are contributing to the turnaround," she said while stressing that she was speaking in her personal

capacity. Replying to a question on high retail inflation, Goyal noted that it is due to transient supply-side factors such as unseasonal rains and supply-chain disruptions that are unlikely to persist. "Moreover, there are long-term changes that are likely to reduce inflation," she said.

Stating that while the repo rate as well as communication on targets and inflation paths anchors inflation expectations, she said liquidity and counter-cyclical macroprudential regulations can be used to stimulate growth.

"The RBI has implemented a number of excellent measures that are also reversed in time, without adverse effects such as the moratorium," Goyal, also a professor of economics of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, said.

—PTI

NPA resolution worth ₹18,000 cr likely: IOB

New Delhi, Nov. 22: State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) expects resolution of about Rs 18,000 crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) under the insolvency and bankruptcy process during the second half of the current fiscal, a move that will boost its bottom line.

Besides, the Chennai-based bank is hoping to come out of the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework of the Reserve Bank of India next fiscal.

"We are hoping resolution of NPA cases worth about Rs 18,000 crore pending before NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) in the second half...In the last quarter, resolution of some big account at NCLT will further strengthen the balance sheet," IOB managing director P. P. Sengupta told PTI.

On the back of resolution and pick up in advances, the bank aims to bring down gross NPAs below the 10 per cent mark by March.

During the second quarter, the bank registered a substantial improvement in asset quality as gross NPAs plunged to 13.04 per cent of gross advances from 20 per cent at the end of September 2019.

In value terms, gross NPAs fell to Rs 17,659.63 crore as against Rs 28,673.95 crore a year ago. Net NPAs reduced to 4.30 per cent (Rs 5,290.60 crore) from 9.84 per cent (Rs 12,507.97 crore) a year ago.

On the PCA, Sengupta said, "After March quarter results probably we may think of approaching RBI for considering removal of the bank from the PCA framework."

According to official data, the country imports about 56 million tonnes (mt) of coking coal worth around Rs 72,000 crore. Out of this, about 45 mt is imported from Australia.

"We have imported some coking coal from Russia. The east coast of Russia is a good source," Narendran told PTI.

The CEO said this while replying to a question related to the company's contribution to the steel ministry's ongoing efforts to reduce India's dependence on select countries for sourcing of coking coal.

Earlier, the ministry asked the steel makers to get coking coal from Russia and test the raw material at their plants and update on the result.

Coking coal is a key raw material used for making steel using blast furnace route, besides iron ore.

"We support the government's initiative to look at Russia as a source of coking coal. It is a good option for us to have, otherwise we are overdependent on Australia," he said.

He added that Australia also often has cyclone and weather issues. "For many reasons, it is good for us to have more than one option. We have explored and tried out some material."

Tata Steel produces steel using blast furnace at its 11-Mtpa (million tonnes per annum) plant at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand

and 3-Mtpa plant at Kalinganagar in Odisha. When contacted Tata Steel for details about the experiment, a company spokesperson said, "There is no information available at the moment."

Prestige Estates has started construction work on two housing projects in Bengaluru in joint development with land owners.

The first one 'Prestige Primrose Hills' at Kanakpura Road is an affordable housing project, which is spread over 15.5 acres having 1,680 units. The project cost is pegged at around Rs 475 crore.

The second project in Bengaluru is located at Whitefield named 'Prestige Waterford'. The company is constructing 689 units in this nearly 17-acre project at a cost of around Rs 575 crore.

Market risks rising as DIIs remain net sellers

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Mutual fund investors have taken advantage of the sharp rise in stock prices in the equity market in November and booked profit by redeeming their investment.

As per November data, mutual funds have sold equity investments worth Rs 15,907.86 crore as of October-end, while state-wise Maharashtra remained the biggest contributor to the assets base, industry body Amfi said.

B30 (beyond top 30 cities) accounted for 16 per cent of the total industry average assets under management (AAUM) in October this year, and the balance was contributed by T30 cities, or the top 30 locations in India, the Association of Mutual Fund Industry (Amfi) said.

Assets from B30 locations increased to Rs 4,61 lakh crore as of October-end from Rs 4,47 lakh crore at September-end, a 3 per cent growth.

SMALL TOWNS ACCOUNT FOR 16% OF MUTUAL FUND ASSET BASE

"There has been a constant increase in investments from B30 locations. They have close to 27 per cent share in the overall equity assets held by individual and it is growing at a reasonable rate," said Harshad Chetanwala of MyWealthGrowth.com.

"This is encouraging as investors across country should get the benefit of investing in instrument like mutual funds," he added.

B30 locations tend towards equity schemes as 65 per cent of assets are from equity schemes, while same is 35 per cent for Top 30's cities.

About 15 per cent of the retail investors chose to invest directly, while 24 per cent of HNI assets were invested directly. Besides, 47 per cent of the assets of the MF industry came directly," Amfi noted.

—PTI

revisits the world map in the coming months.

In September mutual funds had sold equities worth Rs 4,134.37 crore after high redemptions in August of Rs 9,213.44 crore, and in July of Rs 9,195.04 crore.

Considering that mutual fund investors had sold equities worth only Rs 501.50 crore in June, their current selling look quite high, and risks rising if FPIs stop investing due to any change in global situation.

'Car market growth uncertain but Maruti's pole position certain'

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, NOV. 22

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, which saw green shoots in sales during this festive season, says the outlook for the auto industry, the third largest employer in the country, was uncertain amid a Covid pandemic resurgence in Asia's third largest economy.

However, the maker of popular Vitara Brezza and Swift models, continued to maintain pole position with over 50 per cent market share in the last three years and 51 per cent last month despite new rival entrants like Kia Motors eating into its segmental share.

Significantly, Maruti held on to market leadership with only petrol and CNG cars. It discontinued diesel cars from April 2020, because the BS-VI emission norms widened the price difference with petrol-run vehicles by about Rs 1.5 lakh. Also, the average price difference between petrol and diesel

fuel became less than Rs 2, fuelling demand for petrol-driven vehicles.

The South Korean car maker Kia has emerged the fourth largest automaker within a year of entering the fiercely competitive car market, about 70 per cent of which is controlled by Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motors.

The passenger vehicle market is now heavily dependent on which direction the Covid-19 deadly virus containment and the GDP growth would move.

"The festive sales from Navratri on Oct. 16 to Diwali on Nov. 16 was marginally better than last year due to pent-up

—PTI

PRESTIGE TO INVEST ₹2,000 CR IN FOUR HOUSING PROJECTS



SHORT TAKES
Herrmann parts ways with AFI

New Delhi: Athletics Federation of India's High Performance Director Volker Herrmann, whose contract was extended by the Sports Ministry till the end of 2024 Olympics, has relinquished the post, saying he "could no longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role." An AFI source said that Herrmann resigned a few weeks ago but he did not give any "specific reason". The German was appointed in June 2019 for a term till the end of the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

In September, the ministry extended his contract till the end of 2024 Olympics but AFI sources said he did not sign the new contract. "After one-and-a-half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high-performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," Herrmann wrote on his Facebook page.

— PTI

It's Medvedev vs Thiem in final

London: Instead of No 1 Novak Djokovic vs No 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No 3 Dominic Thiem against No 4 Daniil Medvedev. Nadal had won 71 matches in a row when grabbing the opening set, and he served for the victory in Saturday's semifinals when leading 5-4 in the second set. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6 6-(4) 6-3. That came after Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was "tight and nervous" during a second-set tiebreaker. Thiem gathered himself and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 4-0 in the last tiebreaker, winning 7-5 6-7(10) 7-6(5). — AFP

Afridi to lead Galle Gladiators

Karachi: Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead Galle Gladiators franchise in the coronavirus-hit inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) Twenty20 tournament to be played in Hambantota, Sri Lanka from November 26 to December 16. Afridi was on Saturday named captain of the Galle Gladiators team, which has been brought by Pakistani businessman, Nadeem Omar who also owns the popular Quetta Gladiators franchise in the Pakistan Super League. Initially, Omar had announced Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain of Galle Gladiators but he had to alter his decision after the wicket-keeper batsman was named in the Pakistan squad for the tour of New Zealand. The inaugural LPL has been in trouble as several leading players withdrew from the event. — PTI

Ronaldo scoring streak continues

Milan, Nov. 22: Cristiano Ronaldo continued his scoring streak with another two goals as Juventus won 2-0 against Cagliari to move second in Serie A. Ronaldo has now scored eight goals in his last five matches. "When you have a champion like Ronaldo you can achieve any result, he is an example for everyone and he only has to continue like this," Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said. Juventus moved a point below league leader AC Milan, which visits Napoli on Sunday. Third-place Sassuolo is a point further back ahead of its match against Hellas Verona. Atalanta and Lazio are among four clubs on 14 points, three fewer than Milan. Lazio won 2-0 at Crotone earlier on Saturday and Atalanta was surprisingly held 0-0 at Spezia. — AP

Live on TV
FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Odisha FC vs Hyderabad FC from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

English Premier League: Burnley vs Crystal Palace from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

WWE

Raw: Bouts from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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Giovanni Lo Celso (right) celebrates his goal with fellow goalscorer Son Heung-min during their EPL game against Manchester City. — Twitter

RED-HOT SPURS

Tottenham sink City, top EPL table

Manchester, Nov. 22: Pep Guardiola admitted Manchester City played perfectly into Tottenham's hands as Spurs shot to the top of the table with a 2-0 win thanks to goals on the counter-attack from Son Heung-min and Giovani Lo Celso.

Spurs have not won an English top-flight title in 60 years, but showed their title credentials with a defensive resilience to frustrate City's domination of possession and ruthlessly take their chances as they scored with their only two shots on target.

Defeat leaves City already eight points off the leaders, albeit with a game in hand, down in 10th with just three wins from their opening eight games.

The writing was on the wall for the visitors after just five minutes when one simple ball over the top from Tangay Ndombobe caught Joao Cancelo sleeping and Son had the pace and precise finish under

RESULTS

Fulham 2
(Bobby Reid 15, Ruben Loftus-Cheek 70)

Everton 3
(Dominic Calvert-Lewin 1, 29; Abdoulaye Doucoure 35)

Tottenham 2
(Son Heung-min 5, Giovani Lo Celso 65)

Man. City 0

Man. United 1
(Bruno Fernandes 56' P)

West Brom 0

the day on top of the table for the first time in six years. Jose Mourinho's men move two points ahead of Chelsea, who they face next weekend at Stamford Bridge.

Guardiola ended speculation over his future by committing to a new contract as City boss until 2023 this week.

The Catalan has won eight league titles at Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City, but Guardiola now faces a challenge he has never had before in rebuilding a second title-winning side at the same club.

For the sixth consecutive league game City failed to score more than once with little sign of Guardiola's men rediscovering the cutting edge of the free-scoring sides that won back-to-back titles in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Tottenham's title challenge will be fully tested with Arsenal, Liverpool and Leicester also to come before Christmas.

— AFP

16-YEAR-OLD MOUKOKO SETS RECORD

Berlin, Nov. 22: Erling Haaland scored four goals and Youssoufa Moukoko became the youngest player in Bundesliga history as Borussia Dortmund beat Hertha Berlin 5-2 to move second.

The buildup had been all about Moukoko, who was eligible for his debut after turning 16 on Friday. But Haaland stole the show on a cold night in Berlin on Saturday before making way for the youngster's debut in the 85th minute. Haaland got ahead of Omar Alderete and rounded the goalkeeper to complete his hat trick. Raphael Guerreiro scored Dortmund's fourth in the 70th post which Haaland scored his fourth goal.

Meanwhile, Bayern played 1-1 stalemate with Werder Bremen. — AP

Atletico edge past Barcelona

Madrid, Nov. 22: Atlético Madrid delivered a major boost to their hopes of winning La Liga on Saturday by beating Barcelona 1-0 and consigning their opponents to their worst start to a league season in 29 years.

Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc-André ter Stegen left the goal gaping but Barca, and a below-par Lionel Messi, failed to respond at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Instead, Atletico recorded their first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, which puts them three points ahead of Madrid, with a game in hand, and second in the table, level on points with early leaders Real Sociedad.

It also leaves their opponents languishing in 10th, with Barcelona's 11

Like any coach, I am responsible. We know we have to improve the results.

— RONALD KOEMAN
Barcelona coach

points from their first eight games their worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season.

Real Madrid had earlier been held to a 1-1 draw by in-form Villarreal, another slip-up for the reigning champions to enforce the sense that this could be Atletico's year.

And beating Barcelona in La Liga for the first time since 2010 will do wonders for the team's belief and extends what is now a considerable advantage in the table.

It also extends Atletico's unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches.

— AFP

Angulo on the double, inspires Goa comeback

Goa, Nov. 22: Clever substitutions did the trick for FC Goa as the Gaurs rescued a hard-fought point after an entertaining 2-2 draw against Bengaluru FC in match four of the ISL 7 at the Fatorda Stadium here on Sunday. Cleiton Silva (27') and Juanan Gonzalez (57') put Bengaluru ahead before Goa hit back through a brace from Igor Angulo (66', 69').

Goa dominated possession early on, with Bengaluru happy to sit back and maintain their defensive shape.

Bengaluru registered their first shot on goal in

the 11th minute when Ashique Kurunjiyan cut inside from the left, beating three men, before switching onto his weaker right foot. However, his tame attempt on goal was well collected by Goa custodian Mohammad Nawaz.

Three minutes before the half-hour mark, the visitors got their lead in unusual fashion, a throw-in creating confusion in the Goa box. Harmanjot Khabra's throw from the left was flicked on towards the face of goal after Jorge Ortiz Mendoza's clearance. Silveira was the first to react and headed

— Agencies

Rohit open for any slot in Test

New Delhi, Nov. 22: He has enjoyed and revelled in his new role as a Test opener but Rohit Sharma is ready to be flexible about his batting position in the eagerly-anticipated Test series against Australia as per the demands of the team management.

The senior batsman is expected to play a big role alongside Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara when skipper Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child.

"I am sure the guys



Rohit Sharma

team wants me to but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," Rohit said.

"I will tell you the same thing that I have told every one all this while. I will be happy to bat wherever the

team wants me to but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," Rohit said.

He believes that the team management will have figured out his role in the batting order by the time he would reach Australia after

completing the strength and conditioning work at an National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He had picked up a minor hamstring injury during the IPL.

"I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what are options when Virat leaves and who are the guys who will open the innings," Rohit said.

Kohli is chilled out guy: Zampa

Zampa is chilled out guy: Zampa

Virat Kohli's on-field image might be that of a combatative batting superstar but Australia leg-spinner Adam Zampa says the India captain came across as a

"chilled out guy" during their interactions in the recent Indian Premier League.

Zampa said on his first day in this year's Indian Premier League, a WhatsApp message popped up on his phone from a number he did not recognise. It later turned out to be Kohli. "It was the first day I arrived (and) he WhatsApped me 'Zamps, here's the \$ 15 off voucher at a vegan restaurant from Deliveroo. It's a really good restaurant'. I didn't have his number. He made it as if we've known each other forever," Zampa told the Sydney Morning Herald. — PTI

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