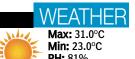
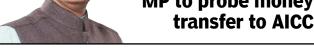
# **DECCAN** nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | WEDNESDAY | 25 NOVEMBER 2020



Rainfall: 1.8mm Forecast: Rain. Max/Min temp. 31/23 ºC





WORLD 5

accepted as winner to miss Oz Test series

SPORTS 6



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# COVID-19

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

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+921)(+4)TS: 2,65,049 1,437

(+8)

6,956

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

(+1,085)

AP: 8,63,843



worldometers.info/

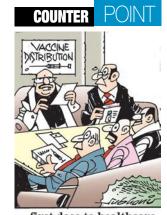
### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana **Tithi:** Kartika Shuddha Ekadasi till 5.10 am (Thursday) Star: Uttarabhadra till 6.20 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 11.40 am to Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm HIJRI CALENDAR Rabbi-ul Akhir 9, 1442 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.45 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm **Asar:** 4.30 pm Maghrib: 5.40 pm Isha: 8.15 pm **SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.16 AM** 

**SUNSET TODAY 5.32 PM** 

**MOONRISE** TODAY 2.30 AM

**MOONSET** TOMORROW 2.50 PM



workers, politiciai leaders and people of the states where elections are due!

### SHORT TAKE

### **CENTRE BLOCKS 43 MORE CHINESE APPS**

Delhi: India on Tuesday blocked 43 more Chinese mobile apps, including Alibaba Group's ecommerce app AliExpress, in a fresh wave of web sanctions amid its border standoff with China. The banned applications, which include a few dating apps, were a and integrity of India", an

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

### **Kerala to cancel** contentious law

Thiruvananthapuram: The CPI-M-led LDF government in Kerala on Tuesday decided to bring out an ordinance to withdraw the controversial amendment to the Kerala Police Act. A special cabinet which met in the afternoon decided to recommend Governor Arif Mohammed Khan to issue an ordinance to repeal Section 118-A which got his assent on Saturday.

# NATION 5 **MP** to probe money



**Biden finally gets | Top bat Rohit Sharma** 



President Ramnath Kovind along with his family members worship at Dwajasthambam

# Cyclone Nivar is likely to batter Rayalaseema today

DC CORRESPONDENTS VISAKHAPATNAM/VIJAYAW ADA/KURNOOL/TIRUPATI,

Cyclone Nivar is very likely to bring widespread rain over south Andhra Pradesh post its landfall as the influence of the tropical system is seen till Tirupati. The gale wind speed could reach 65-75 kmph gusting up to 85kmph on November 26.

Under the influence of the system, Guntur and Prakasam received good rainfall on Tuesday with gale wind blowing over the coastal districts.

Cyclone Nivar may cross Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram as a very severe cyclonic storm during late evening of November 25 or mid-Rayalaseema region will witness widespread rains after the system crosses the coast.

Sea conditions will be very high over Southwest and adjoining West central Bay of Bengal and phenomenal over the same area from noon to night. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. After crossing the coast, the adjacent subdivisions of coastal AP.

CYCLONE NIVAR may cross Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram as a very severe cyclonic storm during November 25 late evening or midnight. Rayalaseema region will witness widespread rains after the system crosses the coast.

SEA CONDITIONS will be very high over Southwest and adjoining West central Bay of Bengal and phenomenal over the same area from noon to night. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas.

Rayalaseema need to be observed for spillover of intense weather activity in some areas. Relief can be expected from marginal weather conditions from

November 27 onwards. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in a review meeting with district collectors through video conference sought protection of crops and informing farmers through RBKs. "Awareness should be created among farmers on protecting the harvested crops and standing crops should not be harvested in the wake of the cyclone," he said.

Nellore and Prakasam district collectors KVN Chakradhara Babu and Pola Bhaskar said that the district administrations are on full alert to face any eventualities. appealed to the public to contact 1077 helpline number, which works round-

centre, for help during emergencies. Nellore collector Chakradhara Babu, who inspect-

emergency

the-clock at the district

operations

ed various cyclone shelters in the district on Tuesday, said that around 100 personnel from NDRF and SDRF have reached the district to handle emergency situations. He said that the district administration is also in constant touch with the Venkatagiri 9th battalion for extra support at vulnerable areas

Pola Bhaskar said they have identified 11 vulnerable mandals that may be impacted by the cyclone He said special officers have been deputed to all 11 mandals, which have 40 revenue villages and 134 habitations under it.

■ Page 2: Interior Seema districts to get 20 cm rain

# Modi seeks unity among states to fight Covid rise

Rules out lockdown; accuses Oppn of playing politics

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, NOV. 24

With the Covid-19 pandemic intensifying across India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday gave an assurance that whenever it becomes available, the vaccine will be accessible to all citizens and the government will ensure it meets the necessary scientific criteria.

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

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

Mr Modi added that the Centre's aim was to bring down the fatality rate, now at 1.7 per cent, to less than one per cent. The PM convened the meeting as India saw 37,975 new Covid infections reported in the past 24 hours, taking the nation's aggregate number of infections to 91.77 lakhs, while recoveries crossed 86 lakhs.

While the national daily virus case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban areas have seen a surge, leading to enforcement of several measures, including curfews, in some



a virtual meeting of eight chief ministers in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

cities. Calling for raising the frequency of RT-PCR tests (considered the most accurate in terms of detecting the coronavirus infection), the Prime Minister also said cold storage facilities for storing the vaccine must be made available on a priority basis. He added efforts were on to make medical colleges and district hospitals self-sufficient in oxygen generation, and said the process for establishing over 160 new oxygen

plants was under way. Attacking his political rivals, Mr Modi said at the meeting that while no one can forecast when the vaccine will come, "some people" were playing politics over it and nobody can

stop them from doing so. Sources said when the Haryana CM started reeling out figures on the number of infections in the state, Mr Modi cut him short and asked about his plan to tackle the infection instead, rather than reeling out figures.

# Jagan seeks action plan for vaccine

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy participated in the Prime Minister's video conference with CMs on Wednesday. It discussed about Covid vaccination, preference to various categories to administer vaccine, distribution

and other issues. Later, Jagan Mohan Reddy conducted a review meeting with officials and directed them to prepare an action plan towards administering the Covid vaccine, preservation, and transportation besides all other logistics.

He underscored the need to focus on storage and distribution of the vaccine. He told officials to give

 JAGAN CONDUCTED a review meeting with officials and directed them to prepare an action plan towards administering the Covid vaccine

importance to infrastructure facilities required for refrigeration of the vaccine. He told them to come up with an action plan for storing the vaccine at optimum temperature, as well as transporting it to remote areas retaining the temperature. He also sought readiness of vaccine distribution. Home minister Mekath-

oti Sucharitha, transportation principal secretary T. Krishnababu and other officials were present in the video conference.

# Jagan to rollout sops for small biz, street vendors

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

including traditional occupations and street

vendors. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will do it on Wednesday and it can benefit nearly 10 lakh

etable vendors applied for Jagananna Thodu, followed by 1,24,735 small Kirana traders, 85,330 tiffin-shop vendors, 26,024 roadside bunk traders, 26,024 small fancy shop traders, and nearly four

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

**FUTURE READY** 

• Come January 1, people need to add '0' before

dialling a mobile number from landline phone.

ment of dialling the prefix lar dated November 20.

calls," DoT said in a circu- should be played whenever

The change in

dialling pattern

will allow the

department of

telecom generate

**254.4 crore** additional

future requirements.

numbering resources for

mobile services to cater to the

announcement

All

landlines

provided

phones.

STD dialling facility

make calls to mobile

to enable them to

'0' for all fixed-to-mobile

will be

 AS MANY as 1,44,486 vegetable vendors applied for Jagananna Thodu, followed by 1,24,735 small kirana traders, 85,330 roadside bunk traders, 26,024 small fancy shop other petty traders and vendors. These 10 lakh applicants will take the Jagananna Thodu scheme on Wednesday.

lakh other petty traders and vendors. These 10 lakh applicants will take the Jagananna Thodu scheme on Wednesday.
Interest-free loan of
₹10,000 would be provided to small and petty vendors

under the scheme. With regard to this, the CM will

the amount will be directly credited into the bank accounts of the beneficia-

The objective of the scheme is to free vendors from paying heavy interest to private parties and fall into debts. The banks will be providing loans to all the eligible members and the government shall pay interest on the loan amount to banks.

The state government had also started a special web portal to coordinate with banks and to implement the scheme giving no scope for corruption. The beneficiaries will also be provided with QR-based smart ID cards and the scheme will be monitored by SERP, MEPMA offi-

# **BRAHMOS WITH LONGER RANGE PASSES TEST**

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

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

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

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

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

India has already deployed a sizeable number of the original BrahMos missiles along the Line of Actual Control.

In the last two-and-half months, India has test fired a number of missiles including an antiradiation missile named Rudram-1 which is planned to be inducted into

service by 2022.

that this change in dialling pattern will generate 2,544 million additional numbering resources for mobile services to cater to the fut-

### Multiple standards defeat The YSR Congress government is to launch yet another welfare scheme with Jagananna Thodu, factory inspection's purpose tiffin-shop vendors, 26,024 which aims to provide financial assistance to small scale businesses, traders, and nearly 4 lakh

Lack of a uniform approach in inspection of industries that handle haz-ardous and explosive substances, as a special drive. seems to be defeating the very purpose of inspection that is aimed at ensuring safety and environmental compliance in the State. In the aftermath of sty-

rene vapour leak from LG Polymers in Visakhap-at-

NUMBER GAME

New Delhi, Nov. 24:

required to add '0' prefix

for making calls from land-

lines to mobile phones in

the country, with the tele-

com department asking

telecom companies to

make necessary arrange-

ments by January 1 to

implement the new system. The department has

accepted sectoral regulator

Trai's recommendation for

having the '0' prefix for

such calls, a move that will

create sufficient number-

ing space for telecom ser-

Department

soon be

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | nam, the AP government constituted a high-power committee and based on its recommendation, a special 90-day drive was ordered from mid-August. The units to be covered for inspection are all the hazardous chemical industries covered under MSIHC Rules, 1989, including all

'red' category units. A district joint committee was constituted with the joint collector in-charge for industries and commerce as its chairman.

Telecom (DoT) in a circu-

lar on 'modification of

dialling pattern from fixed

line numbers to cellular mobile numbers' said in

order to ensure adequate

numbering resources for

fixed line and mobile ser-

vices, Trai's recommenda-

tions dated May 29, 2020

have been accepted by the

mented...Fixed-to-mobile

calls shall be dialled with

prefix '0'. A suitable

announcement may be fed in the fixed line switches to

apprise the fixed line sub-

scribers about the require-

"Following may be imple-

Department.

Sources say out of 1,326 industrial units identified for inspection in the entire state, notices have been served only 300 units following deviations in certain norms to ensure their compliance with safety. For instance, in East Godavari district, 21

industrial units are falling under Major Accident Hazard category out of a total number of 151 units.

■ Page 2: Pressure on officials hinder inspection people in 13 districts. As many as 1,44,486 veg-

### Landline to mobile calls get zero prefix a subscriber dials a fixedto-mobile call without prefixing '0', it said.

"All the fixed line subscribers should be provided with '0' dialling facility, that is, STD dialling facili-

ty," said the circular posted on Department of Telecom's website.

DoT said that time till January 1 is allowed to all telecom service

providers to implement this new system. "Compliance of the same may be intimated," the telecom department said.

 $I\bar{t}$  is pertinent to mention that the Telecom

India (Trai) in May this year had recommended dialling prefix '0' for a call from fixed line number to mobile number. The regulator had, how-

Regulatory Authority of

ever, stated that the introduction of a dialling prefix for a particular type of call is not akin to increasing the number of digits in the telephone number.

Trai had then also stated

### CAPITAL SSUE **ORDER ISSUED TO CHANGE LEVYING OF PROPERTY TAX**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The state government has issued an order to change the system of levying of property tax based on the existing system of Annual Rental Value to Capital Value.

The department of municipal administration and urban development issued GO Ms No. 198 here on Tuesday to issue the 'Rules for Levy and Assessment of Property Tax' in supersession of the earlier rules issued in GO MS No. 438 dated 29-10-1990 and GO Ms No.439 dated 29-101990 applicable to all urban local bodies.

### **APUCF OPPOSES TAXES HIKE PROPOSAL**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

The AP Urban Citizen Forum (APUCF) demanded that the AP government cancel the proposed hike of property, water, drainage and other taxes which would put huge extra financial burden on people who were already disturbed

due to the Corona crisis.

APUCF convener Ch. Babu
Rao said that the state government approved the ordinance proposed to increase taxes on

He said that the government decided to collect ₹10,000 crore through property tax against the normal of ₹1,270 crore hence decided to increase property tax hugely to collect ₹10,000 crore.

Babu Rao said that there was no possibility to collect user charges for garbage collection but the government changed norms and all set to start user charges collection and further decided to collect user charges for underground drainage connections.

He said that the neighbouring Telangana state government reduced property and water taxes but sadly the Andhra Pradesh government was targeting to put more financial burdens on people through tax increases

He demanded cancellation of the tax hike proposal with immediate effect and warned about starting protests if the government stood adamant about the tax increases

### **HC HEARS PETITIONS** ON CAPITAL CITY **AMARAVATI**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** 

The AP High Court held a hearing on a batch of petitions on capital city Amaravati lands here on Tuesday.

Representing the affected farmers from Amaravati region, Supreme Court senior advocate Nidhesh Gupta informed the court that the state government was bound to honour the agreements it had with the farmers who offered their lands under Land Pooling Scheme for developing capital city Amaravati. He stated that the agreements between the state government and the farmers were held based on the CRDA Act and added that as per the provisions of the Act, the farmers were assured to allot plots.

The senior advocate referring to the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, he said that 'A' capital for the new state of Andhra Pradesh meant only a single capital.

### **PETITION FILED IN HC SEEKING CBI PROBE ON MASS SUICIDES**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

A petition was filed in AP High Court seeking CBI probe here on Tuesday, on death of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam along with three of his family members by committing sui-cide in pact, unable to bear police harassment at Nandyal

in Kurnool district recently. Indian Union Muslim League Andhra Pradesh general-secretary Kajavali filed a PIL in the AP High Court asking it to hand over the mass suicide case of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam to the CBI for taking up proper inquiry. He said in his petition that as the police personnel were accused in the case, it would not help to find out the facts in the case if the police were involved to

take up the inquiry. Petitioner's counsel Sravan Kumar sought the High Court to hand over the case to the CBI for taking up a through probe in the case.



President Ram Nath Kovind is welcomed by Governor B.B. Harichandan and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Renigunta Airport on Tuesday.

# Prez offers prayers at Tirumala, Tiruchanoor

# Vedic pundits rendered Vedasirvachanam on the President

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

President Ram Nath Kovind offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara and Goddess Padmavathi Devi at Tirumala and Tiruchanoor temples dur-ing his one-day pilgrimage to Tirupati on Tuesday.

Earlier, the first citizen of the country along with his entourage had reached the Renigunta airport in a special Indian Air Force flight. AP Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and a host of elected representatives and officials received the President at Renigunta airport.

After a brief interaction, the President along with

PRESSURE ON

**INSPECTION** 

From Page 1

**OFFICIALS HINDER** 

However, notices were only sent to six units,

which works to a mere

In Visakhapatnam dis-

trict, 20 industrial units

fall under MAH category

out of a total of 166

have been served on 114

units coming up to 68.6

per cent. With regard to

Krishna district too, out of a total number of 151

industrial units, notices

have been served only on

Sources maintain that

even as the special drive is being taken up from

August 15 following issue of GO No. 156 and

it is to be completed by

inspection teams man-

aged to serve notices

only to around 300 units.

reportedly a lack of uni-

form approach. The JCs

are learnt to have direct-

ed inspection teams

drawn from various

departments, to go by

their respective norms.

Pressure from various quarters are also learnt

to be hindering the pace

A senior official from

Factories department

said, "There is a need to

have a uniform appro-

ach during inspection of

all targeted industrial

units. This will ensure

their total compliance

with safety norms for all deviations, unlike the

present official-oriented

compliance as it varies

Department sources

say that to serve notices on faulty industrial units is a big task and

once they are served, the

inspecting officials and

owners for the reason that in case of any

mishap, both parties will

be held responsible.

One of the rea-

approach. The JCs

are learnt to have

directed inspection

teams, drawn from

various depart-

ments, to go by

their respective

lack of uniform

sons is reportedly a

from person to person."

of inspection.

One of the reasons is

mid-November,

So far, notices

 The first citizen of the country along with his entourage had reached the Renigunta airport near Tirupati in a special Indian Air Force flight.

The President and his family members have offered prayers at Sri Bhu-Varaha Swamy temple, following the customary practice of having darshan of presiding deity here.

his family members reached the Tiruchanoor temple, where he offered pravers to Goddess Padmavathi Devi and then reached Sri Padmavathi guesthouse at Tirumala by

After a brief stay here, the President and his family members have offered prayers at Sri Bhu-Varaha Swamy temple, following the customary practice of having darshan of presiding deity here. Later, they reached the Mahadwaram (main entrance) of Lord Venkateswara temple where they were accorded the traditional 'Isthikaphal' welcome by the temple priests and the TTD officials led by TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy and

Jawahar Reddy. After being led into the sanctum sanctorum, the President and his family

executive officer Dr. K.S.

members offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara for a brief while and the temple priests explained the historical significance of the hill shrine. Later, Vedic pundits rendered Vedasirvachanam on the President and TTD chairman and executive officer offered the temple's prasadams and a picture of Lord Venkateswara. The TTD chairman also

presented a sketch of the first citizen of India and his wife drawn by an artist from Vizianagaram, to the President.
The President was later

given a send-off at the Renigunta airport by the elected representatives, officials of the state government and the TTD on

# Naidu calls upon all sections to wage battle against YSRC govt

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu called upon all sections of people who are allegedly being victimised by the YSRC government to rally together and wage a relentless battle against the ruling party's atrocities and oppression. He alleged that Meuzzin Hanif attempted suicide due to the harassment by the YSRC leaders which Naidu says is showing the continuation of atrocities against the minorities.

Addressing a meeting with the party mandal committee leaders from across the state, Naidu claimed that the ruling party leaders were afraid of being routed in the polls if they were to be held immediately as they fear that the victimised sections of the society would become united and defeat their candidates. He alleged that this Chief Minister would not discourage atrocities but he would encourage miscre-

ants and their atrocities. Mr. Naidu asked what wrong Abdul Salaam family did that they were terrified to the extent of committing joint suicide. He lamented that just for questioning soil digging in Muslims' graveyard, Muezzin Hanif was

# **GOVT FAILED TO ENHANCE PENSIONS: TD**

DC CORRESPONDENT

Telugu Desam's Nellore district general-secretary Ch. Venkateswara Reddy alleged that the ruling YSRC, which assured to enhance pensions at the rate of ₹250 annually to the disabled, widowed senior citizens, has failed to keep up its prom-

Speaking to reporters at Kovur on Tuesday, he said the TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu enhanced the pensions 10 times, while the ruling YSRC had till date enhanced

Naidu claimed that the houses constructed during the previous TD regime were a right of the poor beneficiaries and the YSRC had no right to snatch away these houses from these poor families.

harassed and forced to attempt suicide. He asked if it was a crime to oppose illegal soil digging?

Naidu claimed that the Jagan Mohan Reddy regime was scared of facing a backlash from the BC, SC, ST and Muslim

only 10 per cent. He alleged that the YSRC had assured ₹3,000 of pension to eligible beneficiaries if they come to power but they have failed to keep up their promise.

He noted that women from the SC/ST/BC communities, who crossed 45 years of age are still waiting for Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who assured pensions to them, but did not realise it. He said that the state government, as per its promise, had to enhance the pension by ₹250 from July, but there has been no such increment till now.

minorities which was they were creating hurdles for the local body elections.

He stressed the need for a united effort by all the affected sections to give a tough fight against the oppressive regime. He stated that the responsibility to save AP would now rest upon the shoulders of each and every citizen of the state.

Naidu claimed that the houses constructed during the previous TD regime were a right of the poor beneficiaries and the YSRC had no right to snatch away these houses from these poor families.

### predicted to receive 20 cm rain KURNOOL DIS-**TRICT** administration is on high alert as the

Kurnool district administration is on high alert as the Nivar cyclone is expected to wreak havoc. Control rooms have been set up at Nandyal, Adoni and Kurnool. Farmers in Nandyal division were teetering with fear as their standing crops are in dan-

Parts of Kurnool, Kadapa

and Anantapur districts

are expected to receive 10

From Page 1

to 20 cms of rain.

ger of being washed out.
Distressed people may contact four control rooms, including command control room at Kurnool Collectorate -08518 277305 and each one at three revenue divisions like Kurnool RDO office -83339 89011, Nandyal subcollector office - 08514 221550 and 83339 89013 and Adoni RDO office 83339 89012 have been established. Officials said that at least 10 to 20 centime-

Nivar cyclone is expected to wreak havoc. Control rooms have been set up at Nandyal, Adoni and Kurnool.

**Interior Rayalaseema districts** 

in the district.

Moreover, in view of Tungabhadra Pushkaralu, officials have been asked to closely monitor the situation, said Kurnool district collector G Veera Pandian. The district administration is focused on reducing agriculture losses. Vulnerable low-lying areas are under focus and officials have been asked to be available round-the-clock.

He directed officials to caution the people to be alert as there were chances of the cyclone water entering villages. tres of rainfall is expected The people can contract

flood control rooms at their nearest RDO offices,

He also ordered the officials to alert the people of river bank villagers especially Tungabhadra River where presently the 12-

day rus.... organised. Meanwhile, two trains under East Coast tially cancelled and some diverted due to cyclone

Bhubaneswar on Tuesday was cancelled between Chennai Egmore-Puducherry. The return train leaving Puducherry on Wednesday was can-Puducherry- Chempane Puducherry- express Howrah special express leaving Puducherry on Wednesday was cancelled

# APNGOA object to local body polls, plan to knock court

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Objecting to the decision of the State Election Commission to conduct local body elections in February, the AP NGO Association demanded that the SEC cancel the decision and announced knocking the doors of the Court against elections during Corona time. This was disclosed by APN-GOA leaders during the launch of their association website programme at Vijay Tuesday. APNGOA Vijayawada

APNGOA president Chandrasekhar Reddy said that many government employees died during Corona time due to Covid-19 infection hence the SEC should cancel local body elections to save the lives of government employees and also

the public.

He said the SEC did not conduct elections when there were Corona cases in single digit in AP but now decided to conduct elections despite registering nearly 2,000 Covid-19 positive cases every day He said the SEC would be neid responsible for the lives of employees if it conducts elections and announced that the APN-GOA would knock the doors of the courts for the protection of employees lives objecting to local body elections.

Ramakrishna inaugurated the APN-GOA website. He said chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy aimed to fulfil all the promises given to government employees but it was slightly delayed due to the financial crisis as a result of Corona. He affirmed that Jagan

Mohan Reddy is trying to resolve all issues of the government employees and would fulfil all promises. He said that employees are playing an important role in the govern-ment and stated that the government succeeded to implement majority welfare schemes in the past 17 months due to the coop eration of employees. He sought cooperation of employees for the smooth functioning of the gov-

APNGOA general secretary Bandi Srinivas Rao said that the CM respond-ed positively towards cancellation of Contributory Pension Scheme, sanctioning of one month leave to employees who were infected from Corona and regularisation contract employees. Recalling promise of providing houses to government employees. he hoped about fulfilling the promise by the government providing shelters to their families. Later APNGOA leaders

Adviser to government felicitated Ramakrishna (public affairs) Sajjala Reddy.

### **BJP'S WINNING STREAK IN AP WILL BEGIN WITH WIN IN TIRUPATI: SOMU**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

BJP AP unit president Somu Veerraju said that BJP's winning streak in Andhra Pradesh will begin with a remarkable victory in the Tirupati Lok Sabha byelection.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the BJP state chief said that both the Telugu Desam and the YSRC are trying to credit themselves for the overall development of Tirupati, but the city denizens know that it was the BJP, which fast-tracked the

development of temple city on all fronts by pumping in crores of rupees funds from the Centre under the smart city proj

"The BJP-led Central government has sanctioned nearly ₹1,400 crore for the Tirupati smart city project, under which many development works are being carried out in the temple city today. The Centre has established world-class educational institutions here. To name a few, the IIT, IISER, Indian culinary institute etc", he added.

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### TD ASKS SEC TO PREVENT ATTACKS **ON TD LEADERS**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Telugu Desam AP president K. Atchannaidu on Tuesday made a strong plea to the State Election Commission (SEC) to take stringent measures to prevent the ongoing attacks by the ruling YSRC leaders on the Opposition parties' candidates in the local body elections.

He wrote a letter to SEC Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, alleging that the YSRC candidates and their followers were resorting to intimida-tion tactics and attacks on the TD nominees in Santhamaguluru mandal in Prakasam district. He further alleged that the ruling party was targetting all those who contested the local polls on behalf of the TD.

Stating that the common public were being terrified with murder politics, Atchannaidu demanded that the CBI inquiry be launched into the YSRC attacks on the TD activists. He deplored that the ruling party was indulging in unde-mocratic and unlawful activities all across the

Atchannaidu sought postponement of elections wherever violence and irregularities were reported. He demanded that security be provided to the Opposition candidates with the Central forces. He sought the SEC to begin online nominations in order to give a level-playing field to all the candidates in a democratic manner.

Atchannaidu stressed the need for conducting the elections amid security provided by the Central forces since the YSRC was resorting to widespread violence and

# FAILED | PROJECT | Company failed to implement power project at Krishnapatnam within the time-frame

# APIIC gets nod to recover 840.76 acres from Kintea

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIIC) to take back the 840.76 acres government land allotted to M/s Kintea Power Limited located in Thamminapatnam and Momidi villages of Chillakur mandal in Nellore district as the state government issued permission to cancel land allotment and

resume the land. department of industries and commerce (infra) issued GO MS No. 84 dated 24-11-2020 stating that orders were issued for alienation for 1,847.98

acres of government land in favour of the APIIC at a market value of ₹60,000 per acre for setting up an industrial park. Out of total extent of

1,847.98 acres land, the APIIC allotted 84.0.76 acre land to M/s Kintea Power (P) Limited for setting up a 810 MW initially and later 1,080 MW capacity coast-based coal fired thermal power project Krishnapatnam in Nellore district with an investment of ₹2,997 crore and employment generation to 600 persons on June 4, 2009 and March 30, 2012 respectively. The time frame fixed for implementation

of the project as per agree-

 After noticing violation of certain terms and conditions of Agreement for Sale, the government ordered the APIIC to conduct an inquiry and accordingly, the government observed that the Agreement of Sale executed between the APIIC and M/s KPPL was not having provisions for transfer of allotment of land before or during implementation of the project.

is subject to levying of penalty at the rate of 10 per cent on the land cost at the prevailing rate and no extension of time for more than two hours to be entertained. However, the company

failed to implement the project within the time- Power (P) Limited came

ment of sale is two years frame. As the show cause and any extension of time notices were served, the notices were served, the company replied stating that they were in process of obtaining CRZ clearance and sought permission to include a strategic partner by exempting from them from clause No. 9 (i) of Sale Agreement.

Accordingly, M/s Jindal

into issue stating that they were willing to implement the project of M/s KPPL and requested for exemption from the purview of clause No 27(i) of the APIIC Allotment Regulations, 2012. The APIIC approved it in its board meeting. After noticing violation

of certain terms and conditions of Agreement for Sale, the government ordered the APIIC to conduct an inquiry and accordingly, the government observed that the Agreement of Sale executed between the APIIC and M/s KPPL was not having provisions for transfer of allotment of land before or during implementation of the project. Though the allotment of land was made in 2009, the project could not be completed for the past 11 years. The company also admitted that it could not accomplish financial closure and informed the APIIC that as the land allotted was not contiguous and implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement of the villages falling amidst were pending.

Accordingly, the state government accorded permission to the APIIC to cancel the allotment of use it for industrial devel-

# 24 dated 29.11 (2020)

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# **Demand for wall**



MLA Gadde Rammohan, Nagul Meera other leaders and activists stage novel protest demanding construction of protection wall at - C. NARAYANA RAO Krishanlanka in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

# No water release after Mar. 31

# Polavaram project cofferdam works, laying of pipeline to begin

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 24

Though there is plenty of water in River Godavari, irrigation officials will not be able to supply irrigated water to the agriculture fields after March as Polavaram project officials have made it clear that they will expedite the Polavaram project cofferdam works and laying of pipeline works from April 1.

Project superintendent engineer M. Nagireddy said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has given next year's December as the deadline to complete the project and commencement of project works in April. He also said that the 300metre length of pipes would be laid near the project, which would stop water flows.

Meanwhile, 9,000 cusecs of water can be supplied to the farmers till March The Irrigation Advisory Board meeting

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Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday and was presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Dharmana Krishna Das, also the district in-charge minister. Ministers, MLAs,

Farmers' Union leaders and others from East and West Godavari districts discussed thoroughly about the availability of water and releasing it to fields in Rabi season. Irrigation superinten-

dent engineer N. Siva Ramakrishna said that water can be supplied till March 31 and water may not be flown downstream from Polavaram project. Rajya Sabha member Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose appealed to the irrigation and Polavaram project officials to supply

the water up to April 15 as paddy crops will need water on those days. He also said that in 2008, there was severe water shortage in Godavari and then a plan of action for water management was prepared by the then held

Rajya Sabha member Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose appealed to the irrigation and Polavaram project officials to supply the water up to April 15 as paddy crops will need water on those days.

chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy for supplying water to the entire crop with efficient management. He advised Polavaram

project officials to use sophisticated technology and extend their date up to April 15. However, Nagireddy said that after holding thorough discussions on all possibilities and available technology, March 31 has been fixed as the last date for releasing water to the second crop at Polavaram project site and their works should be completed by June, as the rainy season may stall progress of the project.

cials give another 15 days, it will be enough to save the second crop. Housing minister Ch.

Polavaram project offi-

Sriranganatha Raju said that there is plenty of water but due to the Polavaram project and coffer dam works, the officials say that they can't supply water from April.

He said, "If we leave officials for this season, the project would be completed and then the water problem would be sorted out.'

Agriculture minister Kannababu Kurasala said that every year tailend lands are facing a huge water crisis and officials irrigation should chalk out an action plan to save the

tail-end farmers. Kakinada MP Vanga Gita said that officials should pay attention to the supply of drinking water and to livestock. Otherwise, the people and animals would face Mr Bose said that if the difficulties due to scarci-

Meanwhile, the Telugu Desam MLA of Palakollu, Nimmala Ramanaidu

ty of water.

said that the farmers lost heavily in last year's Rabi and water should be supplied up to April 15. He said that during the Telugu Desam regime, advanced and sophisticated technology had been used for the project works, which fetched them the Guinness Book honours. He suggested the project officials use ultra-modern technology

and save crops. East Godavari district collector D. Muralidhar Reddy and his West Godavari counterpart Revu Muthyala Raju said that agriculture and irrigation officials should encourage farmers to opt for direct sowing method to save time and money. He also suggested the farmers should sow short period varieties. Muthyala Raju said that

an action plan has been

made ready to complete the crop by March 31.

# IN ROAD MISHAP

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Name for the work "Maintenance Contract of Streetlights inside Township area for a period of 03 (Three) years". Estimated cost Rs 1.47,43,295/-, Last Date & time of submission of Bid : Dt.07.12.2020 up to 18:00 Hrs., Refer our Website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/

Executive Engineer (PED-III)

# AP records 1,085 Covid cases, 8 deaths in Chittoor, East Godavari,

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

AP registered 1,085 new Covid-19 cases raising the tally to 8.63.843 and eight deaths taking the toll to 6,956 in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities released Covid-19 bulletin here on Tuesday reporting that out of 65,101 samples tested, 1,085 persons were found infected with Covid-19. Out of a total number of 97,27,321 samples tested so far in the state, 8,43,863 patients were recovered while 13,024 patients are still active with the virus.

East Godavari registered the highest number of total active cases with 4,175 followed by 1,705 in Krishna, 1,552 in Guntur, 1,164 in Visakhapatnam, 1,055 in West Godavari, 885 in Nellore.

Among the daily cases of Covid-19. Krishna topped the state with 224 followed by 142 in Chittoor, 138 in West Godavari, 126 in Guntur, 116 in East 86 ... 57 in 342 Godavari, Visakhapatnam, 57 in Kadapa, 50 in Nellore, 42

Prakasam, 37

Vizianagaram, 26 31 in Srikakulam and 10 in Anantapur.

East Godavari registered the highest number of total active cases with 4,175 followed by 1,705 in Krishna, 1,552 in Guntur, 1,164 in Visakhapatnam, 1,055 in West Godavari, 885 in Nellore, 693 in Chittoor, 497 in Prakasam, 367 in Srikakulam, 326 in Anantapur, 255 in Kadapa, 177 in Vizianagaram and 173 in Kurnool.

With regard to the daily cases of Covid-19 deaths. Krishna reported two followed by one each in

Guntur, Kadapa, Nellore and Visakhapatnam. Among cumulative cases of deaths, Chittoor recorded the highest with 823 followed by 646 in Guntur. 634 in East Godavari, 626 Krishna, 587 Anantapur, Prakasam, 535

Visakhapatnam, 519 in West Godavari, 495 in Nellore, 485 in Kurnool, 449 in Kadapa, 346 in Srikakulam and 234 in Vizianagaram. The state health authori-

ties discharged 1,447 Covid-19 infected patients

# Quail farming catching up in Rayalaseema

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# D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC Quail farming is catch-

ing up in Rayalaseema districts and neighbouring Mahbubnagar. Quail meat is supposedly more delicious than poultry and quail eggs are rich in protein. Prior to the lockdown,

quail meat used to be served in Kurnool and Kadapa restaurants and dhabas. Since normal times are back, patrons of quail meat are demanding the dish, said Siraj, owner of a dhaba on NH 44.

Sai Baba, a resident of Nagarkurnool said quail farming is very lucrative as the bird gets ready for consumption in just seven weeks. When compared to poultry chicken, the maintenance of quail farms is easy and remunerative.



He said each quail lays 280 to 300 eggs in a year and the bird is highly fecund and fertile. Manish Babu, a resi-

dent of Sirivella, said he was rearing quails as a hobby. The bones of the bird are a delicacy in themselves, he said.

However it is alleged that hotels and dhabas have struck a deal with suppliers, who procure wild quail from forests rather than from farms. But forest officials are denying such allega-

Atmakur DFO Kuran said that hunting of any bird is punishable and the culprits could be prosecuted under the Wildlife Act.

Kadapa DFO Ravinder Dama said any eatery serving quail meat found violating rules would be dealt with as per law. He said there were instances of wild pigs being poached in his jurisdiction but not quails. Stern action would be taken against the culprits, Ravinder warned.

Quails, which inhabit densely in Rollapadu sanctuary, have become a hindrance to the endangered Indian Bustard. While quails, harriers and black deer thrive in Rollapadu, the Bustard has almost vanished, said a forest official.

# National park in Anantapur dist

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 24

Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) sought proposals for setting up National Park in existing 1,000 acres of forest land in Penukonda-Somandepalli on NH 44 in the district.

The local organisations represented the Centre to consider National Park in Anantapur district in view of all requirements available for establishing a new

The Penukonda Paryataka Porata Samithi president Prathap Reddy sent a representation to the MoEFCC seeking a mega-park to be established in Anantapur district. The committee observed that there were more than 2,000 acres of forest lands including hillock areas available in between Penukonda Somandepalli mandals located National on Highway 44.

minister Union Prakash Jawadekar reacted positively towards representation and Rameswar Guptha, secretary of Environment of forests and climate change and directed the state forest department to prepare detailed proposals towards establishing a National Park in Anantapur

district along with diverse flora and fauna. At least 120 leopards, 10,000 bears and 30,000 blackbucks and many other species exist in the reserved forests and hillock areas. More than five leopards died in different incidents in the district for the past few months. Several instances of bear attacks on farmers have been reported.

The proposal was to set up a National Park in between Penuknda-Somandepalli would improve tourists from Anantapur district and surrounding Karnataka areas because of many tourist centres, temples and historic places that existed in the district. Penukonda, the summer

capital of Vijaynagar Empire, Lepakshi with world biggest Nandi and sculpture, Puttaprthi International Spiritual cen-World Thimmamma Marrimanu, Hemavathi- only temple of Lord Shiva with the human statue in South India, Veerapuram – migratory birds village are among many locations closer to proposed park.

Further, there would be no water scarcity towards maintaining the National park as Gollapalli and Pandiparthi reservoirs with Krishna waters would meet the necessary needs of the proposed park.

A National park was set up It may be noted that deep reserved forests exist in the capital in Bellary district.

# 2 die in road accident

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 24

Two people died in a road accident in the early hours of Tuesday in Nidumolu on Machilipatnam-Vijayawada Highway under Kuchipudi police station limits in Krishna district.

The accident took place when a car hit a two-wheeler from rear coming from Machilipatnam to Vijayawada. One person died on the spot and another person died on the way to

the hospital and the third person was said to be out of danger. The accident occurred

when the car hit motorcycle at Nidumolu mosque and three persons travelling on the bike hit the pavement. M. Srinu of Kalapatam village died on the spot and Md Imtiaz of Penugudi village died on the way to the hospital. The Kuchipudi police to

the spot and started the investigation by registering

### **WORLD RECORD IN REMOVING BOTTLE CAPS**

DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, NOV. 24

An Indian martial arts expert from Nellore has set a new Guinness World Record by removing the

most number of cooldrink bottle caps with his head in just one minute. The martial arts expert

Prabhakar Reddy has removed 68 bottle caps in a

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# WOMAN,65, DIES PARADIP PORT TRUST

year-old woman died on the spot and another 15 sustained injuries when their jeep in which they were travelling over-turned from a ghat road at Rajmamidi village under Munchingput

Visakhapatnam agency on Tuesday.

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PPT/PR/308/20-21, DT.20.11.2020 PRASAR BHARATI (INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER)

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# **Chronicle**

# Corporate takeover of banks a dangerous idea

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

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

The IWG's recommendation on allowing big companies into the banking sector,

record in the country, it would be difficult to ring-fence their banks from lending to their own group companies, which would put their competitors at a great disadvantage

however, does a somersault on the RBI's past approach. Though the IWG did not lose sight of Given the corporate governance track ecord in the country, would be difficult to sing force their sing force the sing force their sing force the sing force their sing force the also observed that many of such industrial houses have been successfully operating in other financial segments.

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

In India, a large majority of people still trust banks because they are not allowed to fail. In such circumstances, the trust deficit among people towards the banking

sector would lead to the collapse of the banking sector. That is why former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan called the IWG recommendations a bombshell.

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

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

# A builder of modern Assam

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

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

and its leaders, and for other parties and their leaders.

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

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

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# If 'Trumpism' outlives Trump, America loses



cartoon London's free and therefore mass circulation *Evening* Standard shows US President Donald Trump screaming: "This totally discredited, completely fraudulent election ... has been won by me." The searing contradiction of that rant may well reflect the profound conviction of the 68 million fanatical Trump devotees. It is what 78-year-old US President-elect Joseph R. (Joe) Biden must address if the next four years of American history are not lost in bitter political wrangling, interminable legal battles, vicious racial conflict and bloody fighting in the streets.

During the last four years the United States

suffered what former President Barack Obama calls "truth decay". He warns, moreover, that it will take more than one election — meaning Mr Biden's historic victory this month — to undo the Trump presidency. The mix of toxic conspiracy theories, denigration of respected international institutions, intensely narrow nationalism as highlighted by the belligerence of Mr Trump's 'America First" slogan, the spate of sackings to purge the administration, especially the Pentagon, of all but Trump loyalists, and a reckless populism has divided American society from top to bottom has created wounds that are in desperate need of healing.

Abroad, the mix found support only among leaders who share some of Mr Trump's personal and political characteristics Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and our own Mr Narendra Modi among them. At home, Mr Trump's divisive demagoguery enjoyed the back-

ing — apart from influential power brokers who are always in the shad-owy background — of an extreme right-wing fringe, lower income group whites in the so-called "rust belt", and a surprising number of women and Latino voters who also saw Mr Trump as a champion of the underprivileged. India's Sangh Parivar, this coalition, too, was able to single out the enemy within and charge it with doing the majority out of its rights. Similarly, Mr Trump accused, without a shred of evidence, countless anonymous enemies as well as the financier George Soros and voting machines manufactured in Venezuela of cheating

him of his majority. A Biden presidency's real tasks lie at home where it must counter such dangerous fantasies persuade Americans to accept reality. But what it needs to accomplish abroad natuattention in the media outside the United States. India and Britain both offer examples of such expectations. Mr Modi's concern for H-1B visas and Green Cards may not be shared by a Democratic administration, not even by Mr Biden, a friend of India who wrote to President George W.

Bush asking him to

remove the sanctions on

India that President Bill

Clinton had imposed after

the 1998 Pokharan-II nuclear tests, but saying

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

election complaints

the time was not ripe for easing up on Pakistan. At the same time, he warned India not to take advantage of the Afghanistan crisis because, as he put it, the whole world, not just the United States, was looking at the Kashmir problem. This comment provoked Jaswant Singh, who was visiting the US as external affairs minister under Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, to cancel his appointment with

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

Beyond such specific challenges, a Biden presidency must reintegrate the United States into pragmatic global politics. It must forge rational new alliances with leaders of the European Union like Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President France's Emmanuel Macron. It must return to the Paris climate accord and abandon the insensate persecution of Iran in favour of a coordinated strategy to meet Tehran's legitimate

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

of smaller East and Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea as well as China's aggressive militarism in Ladakh. But ranting and raving about the Wuhan virus, drawing facile distinctions between the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, and targeting even the World Health Organisation for apparent subservience to China makes a mockery of diplomatic activism. It is as childish as dubbing North Korea's Kim Jongun "Rocket Man" until the two finally met under Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's aegis in Singapore. Yesterday's enemy was then transformed into today's sweetheart... until they fell out again!

threat perceptions, if any. Above all, Washington

must come to grips with

the challenge of a rising

China. A firm stand is certainly necessary when it comes to China riding

roughshod over the rights

It is a matter of regret to the world and should be a matter of shame to the United States that some 30 of Mr Trump's election complaints have already been rejected by the American courts, and that a number of civil and criminal charges may be levelled against him after January 20, 2021 when his tion lapses. None of this is a good advertisement for democracy in an increasingly undemocratic and authoritarian environment. The world's only superpower enjoys a responsibility to the global community that goes far beyond the demands of domestic party politics. Americans simply must not allow Trumpism to outlive Donald Trump.

> The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

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

# **STAFF MUST UNITE** It is true that the state

employees are not happy with the YSRC government over the delay in releasing 50 per cent of salaries for two months, the issues of PRC and DA, not revoking the old pension scheme (State govt staff up the ante over delay in PRC, DA, DC, Nov. 24). But, as long as there is no unity among the government employees, things can not be improved.

> **Panchakarla Govardhana Rao** Kankipadu

# **WISDOM DAWNS**

Finally, the draconian Police Act was put on hold by the Kerala gov-ernment, and it saved the day of the government (Kerala's dropping law to punish dissent welcome, DC, Nov. 24). The predilection and proclivity for new laws while neglecting the existing ones need to be discouraged and dissuaded. Par for the course is not putting the cart before the horse.

Dr C. Ghanshyam

Visakhapatnam

# WHY THE ABUSE?

Of late, we are seeing YSRC leaders abusing persons holding constitu-tional bodies and the situation has reached its nadir. (War of words in DRC meeting of East Godavari, DC, Nov 24). We have had Chief Ministers like Damodaram Sanjeevaiah whose words oozed honey. We can't find a single leader of that class in the Telugu political arena now. I wonder what is the necessity for the leaders to stoop so low and abuse each other, unless it the public? It's time to rein in the leaders by the top brass in the

> Udatha Rama Chandra Rao Yeleswaram

# YEARS AGO IN hronicle

**Telangana** unchanged NEW DELHI, Nov. 24.
Telangana Regional Committee
Chairman J. Chokka Rao and

**Centre's stand on** 

Pradesh Committee President Narasa Reddy today called on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. While Mr. Chokka Rao urged

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

# Dilip Cherian Dilli Ka Babu



# Who's afraid of Nitin Gadkari?

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

cratic inefficiency in the country.

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

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

of proactive governance.

Now, from hearing it from Mr Gadkari, it appears that in this respect, too, the recalcitrant babus have refused to fall in line with the Modi sarkar's stated culture of direct access, simplifying proceIt is indeed rare for the political executive to haul up the bureaucracy in the manner that Mr Gadkari did, though the present dispensation at the Centre has moved far more decisively against bureaucratic corruption and inefficiency than its predecessors...

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

sion and keep the file moving from

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

But is this the entire picture?

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

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

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

Final journey

SHORT TAKES

### **CONG LEADERS USING WRONG PLATFORM: BAGHEL**

CHOUDHURY | DC

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

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

Baghel's statement comes in the wake of senior Congress leaders like Gulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal going to the media to express their views on the need for restructuring the party to make it more democratic. "Congress party is an ideology and ideology has no structure. Ideology is the 'neev' (foundation)", he tweet-ed. He dared these leaders to work on the ground. "Hit the street carrying the Tricolor and flag of Congress. Then, the realisation that the problem does not lie in foundation nor in structure (of the party), will come", another Twitter post by him said.

### **VETERAN ACTOR BADOLA NO MORE**

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

According to a source close to the family, the actor died at his residence here on Monday night. The veteran also fea tured in several acclaimed including Ashutosh Gowariker's Swades, in which played the role of a village He reunited with Gowariker for the 2008 period drama Jodhaa Akbar.

# **UP okays law against** conversion for marriage

Violators of ordinance get can jail-term for upto 10 years, fine

Lucknow, Nov.24: TheSidharth Nath Singh said.UttarPradeshgovern-HesaidpunishmentmentonTuesdayunder the new law is a jail approved a draft ordinance to deal with religious conversion for the sake of marriage, which could land violators in jail for up to 10 years.

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

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

'The way in which religious conversions are done using deceit, lies, force and dishonesty is heart wrenching, and it was necessary to have a law in this regard, Cabinet minister and UP governspokesperson

term from one and five years, and a fine of ₹15.000.

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

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

after marriage, then he or she can do so.
But the district magistrate has to be informed two months in advance in a prescribed form, and the

wants to change religion

person can convert once permission is granted. He claimed that this will resolve law and order

# HC upholds right to choose partner

**Allahabad, Nov. 24:** Amid a row over love jihad, the Allahabad High Court has ruled that the right to choose a life part-ner irrespective of religion is intrinsic to the right to life and personal liberty. The bench contradicted a high court judgement in September and another in 2014 against marriages performed after alleged conversions, saying that the two rul-

ings were not good in law. Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal made the observations while quashing an FIR lodged by a man against his daughter's husband, whom she married after conversion to Islam. Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the

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

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

RJD fields candidate

for Speaker's post

NAYEAR AZAD | DC

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

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

"Our nominee for the post of Assembly speaker has submitted his nomination paper even before ruling NDA announced its candidate. Chaudhary is a five-time MLA and is aware of the

Assembly proceedings.

The decision to declare

him as the candidate for

the post was taken during a meeting with all grand alliance partners. We feel that he is the fit candidate for the post of the speaker", Yadav said on

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi near the mortal remains of his father and former Assam

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

This is also the first time since the NDA came to power in 2005 that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has staked claim for the post.

During the recently con-cluded Assembly elections, the BJP became the largest in the NDA with 74 seats while its partner JD(U) won 43 seats. Two other NDA part-

ners Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insan Party won four

# **POLICE RESCUE TRANSSEXUAL DOCTOR IN TN**

Madurai, Nov. 24: A young transsexual doctor found in the company of transgenders, beg ging on the streets of this temple town, was rescued by the police who is now helping her open a clinic, to serve the people. The transsexual, who did not want her name to be revealed, hopes to move the Medical Co-uncil of India for make ing appropriate changes in the records, and open the clinic to resume medical practice soon.

graduated from the Madurai Government Medical College in 2018, was ostracised by her family for undergoing sex tran-sformation to became a woman. Her profession almost came to an end when she was sacked from a hospital, where she was working for a

This young doctor who

# Customs arrest Kerala CM's ex-secretary

**GILVESTER ASSARY | DC** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

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

The Customs officials visited Sivasankar in Kak-kanad jail in Ernakulam district where he is currently under judicial custody in a case registered by the Enforcement Direc-

ssed by courts.

mp's defeat, more than

two weeks after Biden was

declared the winner. Taking to Twitter after

Murphy wrote to Biden,

Trump said that he has

asked to begin the transi-

tion process in the best interest of the country.

"...fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless,

in the best interest of our

Country, I am recommend-

ing that Emily and her

team do what needs to be

done with regard to initial

protocols, and have told

allowed to preliminarily

work with the Dems have

to do with continuing to

pursue our various cases

on what will go down as

the most corrupt election

in American political his-

tory? We are moving full speed ahead. Will never

concede to fake ballots &

What does GSA being

my team to do the same.

arrested by the ED in connection with the money trail associated with the gold smuggling case in which he is the fifth accused. The Customs recorded his arrest a day after the special court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases allowed Customs to take Sivasankar into custody.

The Customs while seek ing his custody had claimed that they had received direct incriminating material against the bureaucrat regarding

torate earlier. He was his involvement in gold arrested by the ED in consumggling through diplomatic baggage. The Customs has cited

the statement given by key accused Swapna Suresh in which she alleged that Sivasankar was involved in the gold smuggling con-spiracy. His detailed questioning was essential to probe the different channels involved in gold smuggling.
It may be recalled that

the Customs had earlier arrested 15 persons in connection with the case including Swapna Suresh,

Sarith P.S. and Sandeep Nair in connection with the seizure of 30 kg of gold was smuggled through diplomatic baggage meant for a senior official of UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram. The seizure made by the

customs at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport on July 5 exposed a huge racket involving several people.
The Customs told the

court that it has sufficient information regarding the suspended officer's involvement in the case.

### **TAIWAN TO BUILD DOMESTIC** SUBMARINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

As for the 23 foreigners, 16 of including Bangladeshis and one Malaysian have been repatriated, it said.

# Trump agrees to **Biden transition**

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

### Washington, Nov. 24: US President Donald Trump has finally given a go-ahead to begin the transition Michigan certifies ead to begin the transition Biden poll victory process for president-elect Joe Biden after the state of Michigan certified the Democratic leader's victory in the November 3 pres-

idential election, paving Lansing (US), Nov. 24: the way for a smooth han-Michigan election offidover of power after weeks of delay. cials on Monday certified Democrat Joe Biden's President Trump, a Republican, however, did not formally concede the elec-154.000-vote victory in the state, another setback for President Donald Trump in his futile effort to tion to Biden, saying he would "continue to fight and will prevail." He has launched a slew of lawundermine the results of the Nov. 3 election through baseless legal challenges and unsupported suits in key states, but has not provided any evidence claims of fraud.

The Board of State Canvassers, which has two Republicans and two Democrats, confirmed the to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismi-On Monday, the Administrator of the General results on a 3-0 vote with one abstention. Allies of Services Administration (GSA) Emily Murphy Trump and losing GOP Senate candidate John James had urged the panel informed Biden in a letter that the Trump adminis-tration is ready to begin to delay voting for two weeks to audit votes in the formal transition proheavily Democratic Waycess. The letter from Mune County, home to Detrorphy, a Trump appointee, it. Under Michigan law, is the first step the administration has taken to ack-Biden claims all 16 electoral votes. nowledge President Tru-

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

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

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

n's victory. Time and again, Trump's challenges and base-less allegations of widespread conspiracy and fraud have been met with forward with confirming their results.

### **YELLEN MAY BE TREASURY SECRETARY**

Washington, Nov. 24: US President-elect Joe Biden is planning to nominate former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as his Treasury Secretary to lead his economic response to the raging Coronavirus pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the world's biggest economy

icans to lose their jobs.

and led millions of Amer-

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

— PTI

in a series of tweets. know that I came to my In her letter, Murphy decision independently, based on the law and available facts," Murphy said. speed ahead. Will never concede to fake ballots & "independently" and bas-"Dominion," Trump said ed on the law. "Please



Palestinians, mask-clad due to the Covid-19, wait to cross onto the Egyptian side at the Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, on Tuesday. It was announced that Egypt would reopen the border crossing

# US virus response: Thanksgiving could prove to be make or break

Washington, Nov. 24: In Pennsylvania, if you're having friends over to socialise, you're supposed to wear a mask — and so are your friends. That's the rule, but Barb Chestnut has no intention of following it.

"No one is going to tell me what I can or not do in my own home" said Chestnut, 60, of Shippensburg. "They do not pay my bills and they are not going to tell me what to

As governors and mayors grapple with an out-ofcontrol pandemic, they are ratcheting up mask mandates and imposing restrictions on small indoor gatherings, which have been blamed for accelerating the spread of the coronavirus.

But while such measures carry the weight of law, they are, in practical terms, unenforceable, and officials are banking on voluntary compliance instead. Good luck with that. While many are undoubtedly heeding public health advice it's inevitable that a segment of the population will blow off new state and local restrictions and socialise anyway.

# China FM in Japan for talks on reviving Covid-hit economies

**Tokyo, Nov. 24:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Japan on Tuesday to meet with his Japanese counterpart and discuss ways to revive their pandemic-hit economies as well as regional con-cerns over China's growing influence.

During his two-day visit, Wang and Japanese Fore-ign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi are to discuss res-uming business trips bet-

gramme that would allow visitors to engage in limited business activity during 14-day quarantine periods. Japan recently launched such arrangements with a few less-infected Asian countries.

ween the world's No. 2 and No. 3 economies through a "business track" pro-

Wang's visit comes as Japan is grappling with resurgence of coronavirus infections and the government struggles to balance disease prevention and the economy.

the number of tourists in Japan before the Covid pandemic.

Wang is expected to meet with PM Yoshihide Suga during his Tokyo visit, the first by a top Chinese official since the February visit of Chinese foreign policy chief Yang Jiechi.

# Oz airline boss for vaccine passport

**Sydney, Nov. 24:** The boss of Australia's largest airline said Monday that once a coronavirus vacbecomes widely

Qantas Chief Executive Alan Joyce said he's been talking to his counterparts at other airlines around the world about available, it may require the possibility of a passengers use it "vaccination passport" before they can travel for overseas travellers.

# **U.S. PRISONS TO** Washington, Nov. 24:

The federal prison system will be among the first government agencies to receive the coronavirus vaccine, though initial allotments of the vaccine will be given to staff and not to inmates, even though sickened prisoners vastly outnumber sickened staff.

### **Dada underwent** 22 Covid-19 tests

Mumbai: BCCI president and former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday revealed that he underwent as many as 22 Covid-19 tests in the past four and a half months while trying to navigate his professional commitments amid the raging pandemic

Ganguly was kept busy by the conduct of the Indian Premier League in the UAE from mid-September to early November. "I must tell you I have got tested 22 times in the last four and half months and not been positive even once, I have had cases around me, so that probably

forced me to get tested myself," Ganguly said at a virtual conference where he was brand ambassador of

Livinguard AG "...I stay with elderly parents and I have travelled to Dubai and in the initial part, I was very worried, not just for me but the community, you don't want to spread it to somebody else because people are look ing up to you," he added

Ganguly said he is immensely proud of his BCCI team for pulling off a successful IPL, which he hopes, would be back in India for its next edition. The event was shifted to UAE this year because of the pandemic.

# **Fans set for EPL**

games next week

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

December 2. A maximum of 4,000 fans will initially be allowed into venues in the areas with the lowest Covid-19 infection rates and up to 2,000 in the areas placed in the next tier of restrictions. The highest-risk areas still won't be

allowed fans Plans for the return of spectators in October were put on hold due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

"We are able to get the turnstiles turning sooner than expected," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said on Monday "taking a cautious approach and starting with the lowest risk areas first. I'm confident that sports will take every step to ensure their fans are safe. and fans will play their part and look out for each other until we can safely get everyone back

### **Honda end vear** with double points

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

The unprecedented 2020 MotoGP came to a close in Portugal with a trio of tremendous races across the classes. Conditions were again near

perfect as the sun loomed over the Portimao circuit. Using morning warm up to confirm the final aspects of his setting, Alex was again strong and consistent throughout the 20minute session. The MotoGP rookie ended in seventh but with excellent pace.

Focus was high for Bradl as the last race day of the year began, the German having put in a very impressive performance on Saturday. A fast fall at Turn 9 saw Bradl walk away unharmed, changing his leathers and returning to the track for the

final minutes of warm-up. The crash had no ill effect as Bradl shot forward in the race and immediately began to battle in the top five, giving no quarter. The battle would rage until the end of the race, Bradl earning seventh and achieving his best race finish of the year

# Live on

Women's Big Bash League: Semifinal-1 from 1.40 pm on Sony Six

**FOOTBALL** 

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

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

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

# DOUBLE TROUBLE?

# Rohit, Ishant may miss entire Australia Test series

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

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

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

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

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

Ishant, on the other hand, is recovering from a

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

"So, now if only Cricket Australia can convince the government and allow them to train during quar-

antine," he added.

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

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

Dubai, Nov. 24: The tal-

ismanic Virat Kohli and

Ravichandran Ashwin

were on Tuesday nomi nated for the coveted ICC

Men's Player of the

Decade Award with the

Indian captain featuring in all five men's cate-

gories for his incredible

Kohli and veteran off-

spinner Ashwin are the

two Indians among

seven players nominated

for the most prestigious

Besides the Indian duo,

Joe Root (England),

Kane Williamson (New

Zealand), Steve Smith

(Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa),

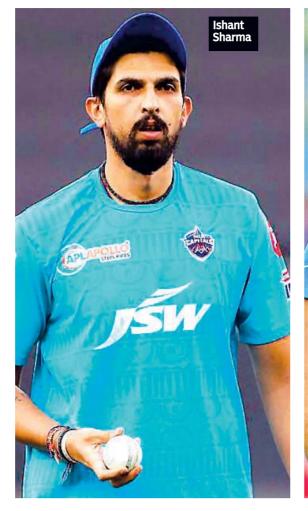
and Kumar Sangakkara

(Sri Lanka) are the other

contenders in this cate-

the Men's ODI

run in the last 10 years.





# Shastri backs 'Fav 5' to rule Oz

Coach Ravi Shastri believes India's pace attack can conquer Australia "in their own den" in the upcoming Test series between the

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

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

Kohli, Ashwin nominated

for Player of Decade award

Ravichandran Ashwin

egory, former India skip-

per Mahendra Singh

Dhoni and run-machine

Rohit Sharma also found

a place alongside Kohli,

Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Mitchell Starc

(Australia), de Villiers

and Sangakkara

Sharma who is receiving treatment India for a muscle tear.

'His absence does make a difference to the fastbowling department, but then we have the capacity among the young bowlers to deliver," Shastri told

Shastri dubbed Mohammed Bumrah, Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Navdeep Saini the "fabu-lous five", adding, "Yadav has the experience. Saini young and Bumrah one of the best You put up runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia in their own den.

RAVI SHASTRI India coach on his team's pace attack

in business. Shami is raring to go. Siraj is an exciting prospect. "You put up runs on the board and watch these fast bowlers

hunt the opposition. They can beat Australia

**CLARKE SAYS** 

**SMOKED 4-0** 

**INDIA COULD BE** 

Sydney, Nov. 24: Former

Clarke has warned that

India could be "smoked 4-0" in the Test series if skipper Virat Kohli does

not set the tone in the

white-ball games before his departure. Kohli will lead the team

in the white-ball series,

comprising three ODIs

and as many T20s, and the opening Test at Adelaide

before heading back

these Twenty20s is where

Virat Kohli can really stand up and lead from the front," Clarke said on

'Sky Sports Radio' on

"If India don't have suc-

cess in the One-dayers

and the T20s, they are in

deep trouble in the Test

matches and they'll get

clinch a much-needed

three points for Burnley,

who climbed out of the

'These One-dayers and

home.

Tuesday.

Virat Kohli

featured in the Men's T20I Player of the Decade category, which

also included Rashid

Tahir

(Australia), Malinga and

Gayle

(Afghanistan),

Aaron Finch

(South

navirus pandemic, but Virat Kohli's men enjoyed a historic first Test series win Down Under on their last tour

Australia last week overtook India at the top

of the inaugural world Test championship when

the scoring system was

amended due to the coro-

Shastri is confident his team can stay focused on and off the pitch during the tour, which requires travel bubbles and isolation because of the pan-

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# Thapa shines in Chennaiyin win

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

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

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

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

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

## MFC LOOK TO **BOUNCE BACK AGAINST GOA**

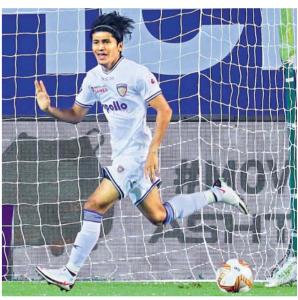
Margao, Nov. Stunned by NorthEast United in their opening match, Mumbai City FC would look to bounce back when they take on FC Goa in an Indian Super League match, which is expected to produce free-flowing football here on Wednesday. For Mumbai City head

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

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

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

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



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

### smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he added. — *PTI* Kohli and Rohit also Player of the Decade cat-**Athletic Bilbao hammer Betis**

Khan

Imran

Chris

Madrid, Nov. 24: Athletic Bilbao comfortably defeated Real Betis 4 0 to move further away from the relegation zone in the Spanish league. Athletic got on the

board with an own goal by Victor Ruiz in the ninth minute, and Ander Capa added to the lead before halftime. Iker Muniain scored in

the 59th and Álex Berenguer sealed the scoring in the 68th.

Betis goalkeeper Claudio Bravo had to make a few good saves to keep the hosts from an even bigger win at San Stadium Mamés Bilbao.

result moved The Athletic to eighth place. They were just two points above the relegation zone entering the match.

Pellegrini's Manuel Betis also are in midtable, though they have played one game more

than Athletic Real Sociedad lead the **LA LIGA** 

**PREMIER LEAGUE** 

THE RESULTS

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

**Crystal Palace** 

Wolves (Neto 75) Southampton (Walcott 58)

Burnley

(Wood 8)

league with 23 points, three more than secondplaced Atlético Madrid, who have two games in

Meanwhile in England, Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Chris Wood sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace, while Southampton missed a chance to go third in their 1-1 draw at Wolves. Burnley had failed to win any of their first

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

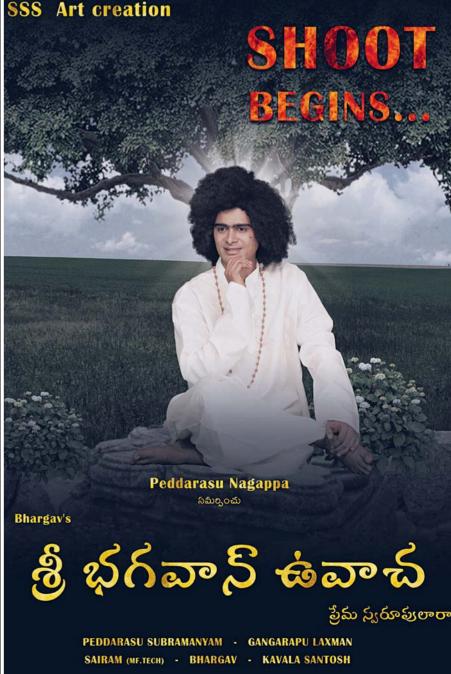
relegation zone at the expense of Fulham. We created two or three golden chances, we take one and it gets a bit nervy because we hadn't

found that first win. To get that one done will do us the world of good," Dyche said. 'We have got a group

that can challenge. We have had a tough start but that has been coming.' Palace were missing

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

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



Thanks to CHIDHGURUGITA