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HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 4 DECEMBER 2020

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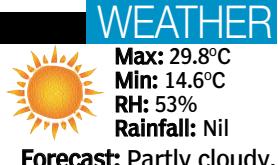
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COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+33,456)	(+475)
95,64,565	1,39,102
covid19india.org	
(+609)	(+3)
TS: 2,71,492	1,465
(+664)	(+11)
AP: 8,70,076	7,014

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

COUNTRIES	CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus	6,52,39,437

ASTROGUIDE

Starvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Bahula Chavithi till 7.59 pm
Star: Punarvasu till 1.35 pm
Variyam: 9.51 pm to 11.30 pm
Durmuhuram: 8.47 am to 9.31 am; 12.28 pm to 1.12 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Aakhir 18, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.27 am
Zohar: 12.16 pm
Asar: 4.05 pm
Maghrub: 5.47 pm
Isha: 8.59 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.32 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 9.08 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9.45 AM

COUNTER POINT



They are blocking roads in support of farmers' agitation!

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 3
Reopen schools for Class 10, says CISCE
NATION... PAGE 5
Karnataka mulls love jihad law

CURTAINS UP

Theatres to begin shows with 50% seat capacity

Showtime: Cinemas open today

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

It's happy news for all the movie buffs: Theatres would be back in action very soon. After the closure of cinema theatres for nine months after Covid-19 spread in the country, select theatres will open on a pilot basis on Friday. The theatres will operate with 50 per cent occupancy, according to

Covid-19 protocols. The first new movie to hit the silver screen is Tenet — an English movie and its dubbed version in Telugu — and a few other movies would be re-released.

While Covid-induced shutdown has affected the film industry hard financially, it has taken a toll on moviegoers, who suffered the most because of their emotional connection with cinema.

On November 23, Chief Minister K. Chandras-

shekar Rao had announced reopening of cinema theatres in the state, if they follow laid-down norms.

As part of Covid-19 safety protocol, moviegoers must wear masks and maintain physical distance in all public areas in theatres.

On its part, the cinema theatre management has to reduce the capacity to 50 per cent.

"From Friday onwards, 20 screens will be opened in four different properties. In

all our properties, we will follow all safety norms and assure our audience that this will be their safest experience of cinema," said Sunil Narang, the managing director of Asian Cinemas.

Single-screen theatres at RTC Crossroads are also set to reopen with safety measures.

"Based on people's response, movies of big heroes would be released in the theatres," said Balgovind Raj Tadla, the owner of Devi theatre.

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Exit polls give GHMC Council to TRS yet again

BJP to win over 20 seats; Congress up to 10

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

EXIT POLLS

CPS	TR	MIM	BJP	Cong
82-96	82-96	32-38	12-20	3-5



People's Pulse

TRS	68-78
MIM	38-42
BJP	25-35
Cong	1-5

AARA

TRS	78 (+/-7)
MIM	41
BJP	28 (+/-7)
Cong	3

NO VICTORY RALLIES TILL SATURDAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Most exit polls conducted by more than half-a-dozen agencies pointed out that the anti-incumbency factor did not significantly impact the city elections. Some agencies, however, indicated a silent wave, which if it works, the BJP's tally could cross over 40 seats. All the agencies predicted a rise in the vote share of BJP in the GHMC elections.

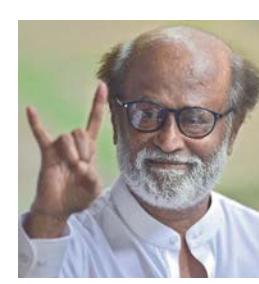
The Centre for Psephology Studies (CPS) projected a landslide victory for the TRS. According to its exit polls, the TRS would get 82-96 seats, MIM 32-38 seats, BJP 12-20 seats and

the Congress just three-five.

Exit polls conducted by Third Vision (Naganna), a Hyderabad-based survey agency, projected a win for the TRS in 95 to 101 seats, MIM 35 to 38 and BJP 5 to 12 seats.

■ Page 2: BJP will be biggest gainer in polls

Rajinikanth will float party in Jan to fight TN polls

G BABU JAYAKUMAR
AND D SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, DEC. 3

Announcing that the time has come to change the fate of Tamil Nadu, actor Rajinikanth announced on Thursday that he would launch his political party in 2021 and make an announcement on that on December 31.

Along with a hashtag 'will change, will change everything, if not now, never' in Tamil, Rajinikanth first announced his decision on Twitter before emerging from his house in the afternoon to meet the media corps waiting for hours.

"I don't mind giving my life," he said, adding "political change is very important. It's a compulsion. I am starting a party."

He said he never went back on his word. If he lost the election it would be the people's loss and if he won it would be the people's victory, he said.

In a tweet, Rajinikanth said he would usher in Tamil Nadu a politics based on honesty, integrity, transparency and spir-

NO REGN OF NON-FARM LAND DEALS TILL DEC. 6

VIJUJINI
VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Telangana High Court on Thursday extended its stay on the collection and updating of Aadhaar and caste details of the owners of non-agricultural properties for Dharani portal in the state till December 8. This order effectively puts on hold all registrations of non-farm properties until December 8.

On Thursday, senior counsel Desai Prakash Reddy put forward his argument challenging the government's insistence on the non-farm property owners submitting their details within a time period.

■ Page 4: No redressal mechanism: Petitioner

98-YEAR-OLD MASALA KING PASSES AWAY

New Delhi, Dec. 3: MDH Masala owner Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, also called India's spice king, died here on Thursday. He was 97.

■ Full report on Page 11

Farmers dig in heels, Centre may offer MSP

Concessions offered on stubble burning, farm law jurisdiction

Punjab CM for an early solution

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The fourth round of talks on Thursday between the farmers' organisations and the Centre on the three farm laws failed to break the impasse and the two sides are expected to meet again on Saturday.

Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar, however, said after the meeting that the government had "no ego" over the issue, and the new laws ensure safety for marginal farmers and the minimum support price will always remain.

The government assured the group of farmers' leaders that "all their valid concerns" would be discussed with an open mind", but the other side flagged several loopholes and deficiencies in the laws, which they said were passed hastily in September.

The farmers said they didn't get any assurance

that Centre to try and resolve the issue at the earliest so that protesting farmers can lift the roadblock along Delhi's entry points.

Talking to the media after his meeting, he said,

"Discussions are on between the farmers and the Centre, there's nothing for me to resolve. I requested him to resolve the issue as it affects the economy of my state and the security of the nation."

BADAL RETURNS PADMA AWARD IN PROTEST

Chandigarh, Dec. 3: Akali Dal stalwart and former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Thursday returned his Padma Vibhushan award in protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

In

SHORT TAKES

GAD TO HAVE NIGHT SHIFTS, TO WORK ON HOLIDAYS TOO

Hyderabad, Dec. 3: In addition to collaborating with other departments in tasks such as disaster management and relief, the General Administration Department (GAD), which manages essential issues such as appointments and procedures, will have a small group of workers working night shifts who will work in two shifts except on vacations.

In a circular issued here on Thursday, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said a small group of employees will work on all working days from 8 pm to 8 am and in two shifts during holidays from 8 am to 8 pm and 8 pm to 8 am. The GAD will assign two section officers along with support employees for this purpose. —INN

HC DENIES INTERIM ORDER ON MAYOR, DY MAYOR POLLS

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Telangana High Court on Thursday refused to give directions to the Telangana State Election Commission, Telangana government and GHMC on not proceeding with the process of electing the next Mayor and deputy Mayor. The court made it clear to the petitioner, who challenged the voting rights to ex officio members like former MPs, MLAs and MLCs, that even in the circumstances of such provisions for enabling voting rights proved invalid and arbitrary, the effect will be the prospective and not the retrospective date.

The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijay sen Reddy, was dealing with a petition filed by former MLA and social activist E. Anil Kumar. He pleaded suspension of the operation of Section 90(1) of the GHMC Act, 1955 on the ground that though this provision of Section in the GHMC Act enables the MPs, MLAs, and MLCs to elect the Mayor and his deputy.

Senior counsel Sarasani Satyam Reddy, appearing for the petitioner, submitted to the court that the ex-officio votes would influence the citizens thought process, which impacted the voter from exercising his adult franchise. He urged the court to restrain Telangana SEC, State government, and GHMC from initiating election to the office of the Mayor, until this matter was resolved.

The court denied passing an interim order in this regard.

'NO REDRESSAL MECHANISM FOR DHARANI'

From Page 1

He submitted that the requirement of enrolling in the Dharani portal was a vague and mammoth exercise, without any legislative backing.

"If any mistakes are done in updating the properties details like spelling mistakes in names, house numbers, and others, who should the victim approach and submit his grievances? Even without mentioning this information on a piece of paper, how can the government give an ultimatum to give his details to the enumerator," Prakash Reddy informed the court.

The counsel further said that "even the government has not defined the position of enumerators and their eligibility. It is supposed that the properties which are not registered on the Dharani portal would become bona vacantia (goods without an apparent owner)."

Mr B.S. Prasad, advocate-general of Telangana, contended that there was no need for a separate law to back the action of the Telangana government to obtain and feed the entire data of the non-agricultural properties into the Dharani portal. "This programme will help citizens in dealing with their properties as it will put an end to mischievous miscreants. The government has come up with this programme with good intentions," the advocate-general said.

The Chief Justice, however, observed that the 'intention' would be considered in only criminal cases, and it was not a matter of the criminal case. Moreover, this issue is related to law and rules.

The court adjourned the batch of PILs and petitions to December 8 for submissions of the advocate-general on behalf of the state government and other counsels for the other petitioners.



Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar reviews security arrangements at Old Malakpet division during GHMC repolling on Thursday. — P. SURENDRA

Peaceful repolling in 69 stations in Old Malakpet**CPI members claim attack from MIM supporters**

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Repolling in 69 polling stations in the Old Malakpet division was completed on Thursday, with 54,655 people, who make up 42.5 per cent of the electorate, exercising their voting right.

Though the repoll was broadly peaceful, CPI candidate's election agent and CPI city executive council member Syed Abid Hussain Naqvi complained that he was attacked by MIM candidates' supporters.

According to Naqvi, Mohammed Ghousie, brother-in-law of MIM candidate Juweria

Fatima, Khalid, Wajihuddin and others attacked him near polling booth number 18 and 19 at Unique School, when he objected to their presence.

The repoll was held after the CPI's contesting candidate Dr Firdaus Fatima complained about erroneous depiction of her party symbol on the ballot paper.

Immediately acting on the complaint, the State Election Commission suspended the polling in the division on Tuesday and ordered a repoll on Thursday.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said senior police officials had visited 15 places last night with GHMC and reviewed

security arrangements for the repolling at the Chaderghat polling station.

Speaking to media persons later, the commissioner said repolling in 69 polling stations in 25 places was peaceful. He said additional commissioner (law and order) D.S. Chauhan, additional commissioner (traffic) Anil Kumar, and DCP East Zone M. Ramesh were monitoring the situation at the repoll.

To review security arrangements for the counting of ballots on Friday, Mr Anjani Kumar said senior police officials had visited 15 places last night with GHMC and reviewed

officials, where the counting of votes will be held. "We made security arrangements in the light of guidelines issued by the State Election Commission.

Only permitted persons will be allowed within 200 metres of the counting centres. After the counting, the victory procession will not be allowed for the next 48 hours."

He also warned people to be cautious while posting content on social media as the social media cell is monitoring inflammatory and objectionable posts on different platforms. He warned that persons who indulge in such activities will be prosecuted.

TOP COP WARNS OF ACTION OVER FAKE NEWS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Hyderabad city police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said that strict action will be taken against those spreading fake news, denying the news reports claiming 92 police personnel were suspended in one day for their alleged bias to local politicians during the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

The news reports had claimed that 72 constables and 20 head constables were facing suspension and salary cuts.

Hyderabad police chief Anjani Kumar took to Twitter stating that a criminal case was being registered against the publication that reported the fake news. "A criminal case is being registered for circulating FAKE NEWS that 92 police officers are suspended in one day. This is WRONG news. Please do not believe it. We are taking legal action against those spreading this FAKE NEWS for vested interest," (sic) he wrote.

Over the last two days, several allegations have been made by political parties, mainly the BJP and the Congress against the Hyderabad police, accusing it of being partial to party workers of the TRS and the AIMIM.



BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar along with party members seen at a meeting over GHMC elections in Hyderabad on Thursday. — R. PAVAN

BJP demands repolling in Ghansi Bazaar, Puranapul

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The BJP on Thursday demanded that a repolling be held in Ward No. 49, Ghansi Bazaar and Ward No. 52 Puranapul. Party leaders including MLC N Ramchander Rao met the State Election Commissioner C. Parthasarathy on the issue.

Ramchander Rao said that the both candidates of the BJP had approached the Telangana High Court

said that the both candidates of the BJP had approached the Telangana High Court and had filed their petitions to consider their representation for a repoll.

and had filed their petitions to consider their representation for a repoll. He stated that the court directed the authority to consider their representation and requested to take decision and order

for repoll where it is necessary.

The Congress also complained about the increasing voting percentage in between 5 pm and 6 pm. Party election committee convener G. Niranjan addressed a letter to the SEC demanding an inquiry in to the last hour polling and compared the voting pattern since morning. He wanted the SEC to verify the signatures of voters on the counterfoils of the ballot papers.

The study was carried out at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhubaneswar from September to October 2020. The results found are similar to randomised trials carried out elsewhere in the world.

Ivermectin has been used as therapeutic treatment in mild-to-moderate cases of Coronavirus. Of the total 904, 670 tested negative while 234 of them turned out to be positive. In other words, use of Ivermectin as prophylactic showed 73 percent reduction in Covid-19 infection.

Senior government doc-

tor Kiran Madhala says, "There have been a total 64 trials of Ivermectin wherein no side-effects have been found. Medical literature shows 600 micrograms per kg per day can be administered safely as a prophylactic. The first trial results from India are encouraging. We are awaiting results of the second trial."

After taking the dosage of Ivermectin, participants also participated in strenuous outdoor activities like jogging and sports. No adverse effects had been noted, it is stated. The dosage was administered to those healthcare workers working closely with patients in Coronavirus wards.

Dr G. Srinivas, senior general physician says, "Till the most-effective vaccine is available, we will have to rely on prophylaxis. However, such studies must be carried out on a larger scale. This will help determine their efficacy in running the healthcare system in a better manner."

COVID | DRUGS Healthcare workers look at prophylactic measures as prevention**Ivermectin trials show positive results**

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

With many doubts being raised over efficacy of vaccines in dealing with Coronavirus pandemic, healthcare personnel are looking more at prophylactic measures as prevention. Towards this, Ivermectin is one of the potential drugs that has shown positive results in one month of its clinical trials.

These trials involved 904 healthcare workers who had been administered

two 300 ug/kg doses of Ivermectin with a gap of 72 hours. There was a follow up of these workers one month after administration of the drug.

Ivermectin has been used as therapeutic treatment in mild-to-moderate cases of Coronavirus. It has also been utilised in preventing symptoms of Covid-19 among healthcare workers post exposure to the virus.

Senior government doc-

BJP will be biggest gainer in GHMC polls

From Page 1

BELLFULL IDEAS SURVEY:

- TRS: 65-75
- MIM: 35-40
- BJP: 20-25
- Cong: 6-10

TRS, 27.9 per cent for the BJP, 14.7 per cent for the Congress, 13.4 per cent for the MIM, and 4.2 per cent for others. In 2016 elections, the TRS had around 44 per cent and the BJP 10 per cent.

The MIM is expected to register its best-ever strike rate among all parties that are in the fray. The agency has also pointed out that in several divisions there were multi-cornered contests which suggests that excitement would run high till the final votes are counted. The multi-cornered contests have also turned to the advantage of the TRS.

The issues that dominated the elections are housing (28 per cent), unemployment (21 per cent), flood relief (16 per cent), traffic (12 per cent), roads (10 per cent), sanitation (9 per cent) and other issues (4 per cent).

of the Hindu vote did not happen, there is a silent vote that has favoured the BJP. If this silent vote is substantial, then the BJP seat share may go up.

The Congress in the Malakpet Lok Sabha constituency appears to have performed well. This, however, could help the ruling party as the anti-government vote split has got among different parties.

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SWARNIM SEWA TO HELP RGIA PASSENGERS

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in collaboration with GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL), on Thursday, launched a unique passenger-centric service - Swarnim Seva, at RGIA. The service was launched jointly by Aditya Mehta, renowned para-cyclist and founder of Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) in the presence of senior officials from CISF and GHIAL.

This service will specially help passengers who are PRM (Passengers with Reduced Mobility); senior or aged passengers travelling alone; pregnant women; women with infants; first-time travellers and children travelling alone; and passengers in distress.

No victory rallies for 48 hrs: Bhagwat

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Victory rallies by winning candidates in GHMC elections have been banned in Hyderabad for the next 48 hours. Police commissioners of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda issued orders to impose prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Indian Penal Code.

"Section 144 order is promulgated. No victory processions will be permitted for 48 hours," said Mahesh Bhagwat, Rachakonda police commissioner. He also appealed to people not to believe in rumours.

"Security has been deployed at the counting centres. No permission will be accorded to any unauthorised person to enter an area which is within a 200-metre radius

of the counting centre," said Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar. He said only the people with passes will be allowed to enter into the counting centre.

Cyberabad commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said the prohibitory order was issued in view of apprehension of breach of public peace and tranquillity.

"Victory procession or rallies conducted by winning candidates without prior permission will result in inconvenience to the public and the possibility of spreading Coronavirus infection is more. These processions/rallies could also lead to breach of peace, and law and order situation," said the official, adding that stringent action would be taken against those who found violating the above prohibitory orders.

Cops designate parking for vote counting agents

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Hyderabad Traffic Police has earmarked vehicle parking for the counting agents and on-duty staff at counting centres. The GHMC elections-2020 voting counting is being held on Friday at 14 locations in the city.

"The parking for counting centres at LB Stadium, Boxing Hall, Gym Hall, Nizam College, and Sports Complex will be at Nizam College grounds, Mahabubia College, Alia College, Public Garden and Tennis Court.

Parking for KV Ranga Reddy Law College and AV PG College will be at AV College Ground and Scouts and Guide grounds, PET College ground and NTR Stadium," said the Traffic officials, adding that parking for Mahaveer Institute of Science and Technology in Bandlaguda will be at Mahaveer Engineering

College and Aurora's Legal Services Academy, Bandlaguda will be at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally and Govt Polytechnic College, Masab Tank will be at Govt Polytechnic Ground and Hockey Ground. Parking for Sultan Uloom Educational Campus, Road No. 2 Banjara Hills will be at the college ground itself and parking for Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Indoor Stadium, Yousufguda will be at the stadium's parking area itself. Officials said parking for Wesley Degree College, PG Road, Begumpet will be in the premises.

Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women, Nampally will be at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally and Govt Polytechnic College, Masab Tank will be at Govt Polytechnic Ground and Hockey Ground.

Parking for Prof G. Ram Reddy Centre for Distance Education, OU will be at Cycling Stadium, OU and Osmania University College of Commerce will be at the parking place beside the management college.

The parking for vehicles of counting agents of

Hyderabad Traffic Police has earmarked vehicle parking for the counting agents and on-duty staff at counting centres. The GHMC elections-2020 voting counting is being held on Friday at 14 locations in the city.

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FLOOD VICTIM'S FAMILY RECEIVE ₹4L EX GRATIA IN SANGAREDDY

Hyderabad, Dec. 3: On Thursday, Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy handed over ₹4 lakh ex gratia to the bereaved family members of Ameenpur resident Ananthula Anand (30), who was washed away in a stream in October.

The MLA has guaranteed that the administration will soon provide Anand's wife with a job. The MLA visited Anand alias Mallikarjun's house along with Ameenpur Municipal Chairman Tumma Panduranga Reddy. Since Hyderabad and its suburbs witnessed heavy

SHORT TAKES

TS REPORTS 609 FRESH COVID CASES, 3 DEATHS

KANIKA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The State reported 609 new Covid-19 positive cases and three deaths in the last 24 hours ending on Thursday evening. The current active cases are at 8,999.

Health officials have advised that the cold weather that is intensifying and laxity of people in following norms can lead to an increase in positive cases. Unless people abide by the protocol, chances of a second wave appear distinct, they said.

Unnecessary travel must be avoided and those who are suffering from respiratory diseases must exercise extra care. Due to the dip in temperatures, pollution levels will rise in the morning. There will be a mix of haze and pollutants and that is a cause of concern as it allows viruses to stay in air for a longer period of time. This can also add to the rise in Covid cases and other respiratory illnesses.

Around 53,686 samples were collected and testing is likely to be increased to 65,000 samples per day.

GHMC limits recorded 114 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 45 and Ranga Reddy 48 cases.

TS TO PREPARE DATABASE OF MEDICAL STAFF

Hyderabad, Dec. 3: Chief Secretary of Telangana Somesh Kumar directed the officials to prepare a database of front line Health workers, Police Personnel and Sanitation workers to cover on priority under Covid-19 vaccination in the State.

The first meeting of the State Level Steering Committee was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary at BRKR Bhavan today. The Committee discussed the preparedness of Covid-19 vaccination in the State.

The Chief Secretary asked the departments to work in a coordinated way and make systematic arrangements for the first phase vaccination of Covid-19. He reviewed the logistical arrangements, transportation, training of Health Staff, Cold chain facilities, IEC campaign, mapping of Health facilities, etc. The Chief Secretary also directed officials to prepare a protocol for the vaccination centres.

Principal Secretary MA&UD Arvind Kumar, Additional DG (L&O) Jitender and other senior officials and representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, attended the meeting. —INN

THE COMMITTEE discussed the preparedness of Covid-19 vaccination in the State.

FARMERS WORRY AS RYTHU BANDHU SOP IS DELAYED

DURGAM SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC 3

Farmers in the state are worried over the delay in payment of ₹ 5,000 under the Rythu Bandhu scheme for the current Rabi season.

Since launching of the scheme in May 2018, the state government had been making payment through direct transfer benefit in accounts of farmers for Kharif in month of May and for Rabi in the month of October. The farmers invest this financial assistance on purchasing of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs required for the farming.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao launched the scheme with ₹ 4,000 per acre and later it was enhanced ₹ 5,000 per acre without reference to the extent of holding by each farmer in the state.

According to the agriculture department, the government is providing financial support to 58.33 lakh farmers across the state for Kharif and Rabi season crops.

Officers of the agriculture department felt that the payment got delayed due to the by-election on Dubbak. Farmers of Dubbak got financial assistance before the notification for the by-election.

The officers attributed the delay to the financial situation of Covid-19 pandemic. They said that they had no clue about the date on which the government released funds for Rythu Bandhu.

ACCORDING TO the agriculture department, the government is providing financial support to 58.33 lakh farmers across the state for Kharif and Rabi season crops.



TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha interacts with individuals and various associations representing the differently-abled at her residence, on the occasion of National Disability Day in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Kavitha hails govt's vision in aiding differently-abled

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's vision was to ensure that people with physical disabilities would lead life with dignity and the state government has been extending support to them since coming to power.

On the occasion of National Disability Day, Kavitha interacted with individuals and various associations representing the differently-abled at her residence.

She reminded that Rao had enhanced job-quota for the differently-abled to four percent to ensure that they would get their due in employment opportunities. Self-employment loans have been provided to ensure that they become entrepreneurs. She said a park for differently-abled persons was also established in Hyderabad.

Kavitha assured them that she would take the organisations concerns to the notice of the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, Telangana Vikalangala Cooperative Corporation (TVCC) organised a programme in Telangana Bhavan on the occasion.

Rajya Sabha member J Santosh Kumar, TVCC Chairman K Vasudeva Reddy, MLAs P Srinivas Reddy and Madireddy Srinivas Reddy participated and interacted with the differently-abled.

Santosh Kumar said that the Chief Minister is pro-

Lockdown hit persons with disabilities hard

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Routine medical care had become difficult for persons with disabilities during the lockdown, stated two out of every five persons with a disability. This was brought to light in a survey conducted by CBM India, an organisation working on disability, inclusive development, in collaboration with IIPH Hyderabad and Humanity and Inclusion, conducted a study on the impact of Covid-19 on persons with disabilities in India.

It was to understand the level of disruption on the living conditions of persons with disability due to Covid-19 and related restrictions, and to generate evidence to be prepared for future pandemics and emergencies.

The study consisted of 60 percent male and 40 percent female. The respondents had different impairments with the following statistics: 51.6 percent with physical impairment, 16.1 percent with visual impairment, 19

percent with intellectual impairment, and 9.2 percent with speech and hearing impairment.

The study was conducted across 14 states, including Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

The cross-sectional sur-

vey was repeated for a second time, six weeks after the first interview on a randomly identified 25 percent sub sample to discern any change in trends over this period.

Prof GVS Murthy, Director, IIPH Hyderabad, said, "People with disability suffered significantly more than the rest of the population in accessing health and rehabilitation care during the lockdown. We need to be adequately prepared so that we do not comprise the health needs of people with disabilities as the country has committed itself to the goal of universal health care as part of SDGs."

ed and interacted with the differently-abled.

Santosh Kumar said that the Chief Minister is pro-

viding the much-needed assistance to differently-abled through Asara scheme.

27-YR-OLD CHAIN SNATCHER DETAINED UNDER PD ACT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD DEC. 3

A 27-year-old man who was arrested for chain snatching was detained under PD Act by the Rachakonda Police on Thursday.

Mucha Vamshi Krishna alias Bablu, a real estate

agent, was part of a gang involved in chain snatching cases, said the police. "The gang was involved in 11 property offences in the last year in the Rachakonda commissionate. The Meerpur Police arrested them on August 29 and remanded to judicial custody by lodging

them in the Central Prison at Cherlapally," police said.

As such, with a view to prevent them from committing such offences, an order of detention under the PD Act was invoked by Mahesh M. Bhagwat, Rachakonda police commissioner against the accused.

Upon further enquiry, the victim stated that about a month ago, she met Venkata Swamy through Instagram and since then, he used to send abusive messages to her mobile phone. Though she blocked his profile on the application, he started making phone calls and threatened her that he would kidnap her mother if she does not go out with him.

The accused was arrested within six hours and was produced before the court for judicial remand.

"We request all par-

ents to concentrate on their children while they are attending online classes and be aware of unknown persons' calls and messages, which were sent through social media platforms, Instagram," appealed the cops.

Disha panel probe to begin from Jan

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD DEC. 3

The three-member commission appointed by the Supreme Court to probe the "encounter" of the four accused in the sensational Disha rape and murder case, is likely to commence its proceedings from January 2021.

It is now close to a year since the four accused — Muhammed Arif, J. Naveen, J. Shiva and Ch. Chennakeshavulu — were gunned down in an early morning "encounter" in Shadnagar, while in police custody on December 6. The Cyberabad police led by its Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjan were hailed as heroes by the public for the "encounter." The police had claimed that the accused snatched the weapons of the policemen and opened fire. All four were killed in retaliatory fire, they had said.

Two petitions were filed in the Supreme court, one by lawyers G.S. Mani and Pradeep Kumar Yadav and the other by advocate M.L. Sharma, seeking independent investigation against the police officers involved in the encounter killing.

"As things stand now, the Commission will commence its proceedings from January 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the work of the Commission. But now, with things slowly getting back on track,

the Commission is getting ready to start proceedings," sources privy to the three member commission told *Deccan Chronicle*.

The three members of the commission — retired Supreme Court Judge Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, who is heading the commission, retired High Court Judge Rekha Sundar Baldotta and retired IPS officer D.R. Karthikeyan — are in regular touch with each other.

The panel is expected to go into the circumstances that led to the death of the four alleged accused and ascertain if any offence has been committed in the course.

A bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices B.R. Gavai and Suryakant said that if any offence appeared to have been committed in the course, the responsibility of erring officials will be fixed.

According to the agriculture department, the government is providing financial support to 58.33 lakh farmers across the state for Kharif and Rabi season crops.

Officers of the agriculture department felt that the payment got delayed due to the by-election on Dubbak.

Farmers of Dubbak got financial assistance before the notification for the by-election.

The officers attributed the delay to the financial situation of Covid-19 pandemic. They said that they had no clue about the date on which the government released funds for Rythu Bandhu.

ACCORDING TO the agriculture department, the government is providing financial support to 58.33 lakh farmers across the state for Kharif and Rabi season crops.

CISCE wants schools to reopen for Classes X, XII

Writes to all CMs citing fast approaching board exams

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Council for Indian School Certification Examinations (CISCE), the non-governmental board of school education that conducts the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education and the Indian School Certificate Examination for Class X and Class XII respectively, has written to the Chief Ministers of all states and Union territories seeking permission to partially reopen schools from January 4, in view of the approaching board examinations.

They said that it was necessary so that students could participate in project works, practical classes, and doubt-clearing sessions.

Health officials stated that orders of the Union Government cannot be implemented as there were no orders from the state government.

The status quo remains as 75 percent of parents have refused to send their children to medical colleges.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The status quo on reopening of medical colleges remains as the state government has not issued any orders to that extent. The central health ministry had sent advisory to state governments to

reopen colleges.

Health officials stated that orders of the Union Government cannot be implemented as there were no orders from the state government.

The status quo remains as 75 percent of parents have refused to send their children to medical colleges.

by the state government on this. "There have been deliberations, the files have been circulated, but the final decision is with the Chief Minister", she said.

CISCE has also asked the dates for the state elections to be held in April-May from the Chief Election Commissioner so that they could finalise the ICSE board exam and ISC board exam dates, the commission said in an official statement.

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However, Director of School Education, Telangana, A. Devasena told *Deccan Chronicle* that no decision has been taken

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It further added that if allowed to reopen, the schools will be urged to abide by all safety guide-

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SHORT TAKES

HC SEEKS STAND ON JOGULAMBA TEMPLE TRUSTEES

DC CORRESPONDENT | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Responding to a complaint petition that all the trust board members of Jogulamba temple in Alampur of Gadwal District were being appointed on the recommendations of an MLA and other public representatives, the Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the commissioner of endowments to explain their stand.

The petitioner stated even the circular mentioned that posts were filled up by the recommendations of the MLA. However, the court asked the petitioner if there is any bar on appointing political leaders as Trust Board Members. Counsel for the petitioner replied that there is no such bar exists, but temples could not become rehabilitation centres for politicians.

RICH HAUL FOR SCR SEC DIV IN GARDEN FESTIVAL

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway (SCR) bagged six prizes in the '6th Garden Festival 2020' conducted by the Department of Horticulture, here on Thursday.

As many as 214 entries were received statewide for the 10 categories. Incidentally, all six entries of SCR won prizes, of which five were first prizes. The top honours were clinched by Hyderabad railway station Vertical Garden, nursery, Sanchalan Bhavan (DRM office Secunderabad), garden, Sanchalan Bhavan, residential garden, DRM bungalow No.1, kitchen garden, DRM bungalow No.1, while the landscape garden at Sanchalan Bhavan finished second.

The annual festival is aimed at encouraging various stakeholders, organisations, institutes and residential colonies to go in for green cover.

The contest was open in ten categories, including landscape gardens maintained by State/Central government institutions, private companies, defence organizations, gardens maintained by government undertakings, corporations, educational institutions, individuals, farm houses and podium gardens.

HC HEARS AP PLEA ON GRAM PANCHAYAT POLL

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 3

AP High Court heard the writ petition filed by the state government against the State Election Commission's move to go ahead and conduct gram panchayat elections and adjourned the case for hearing on Friday.

Division bench comprising justice D.V.S.S. Somayajulu heard the petition here on Thursday. Government pleader C. Suman informed the court that gram panchayat elections should not be conducted as the SEC was planning to hold them in February, 2021 when the number of Covid-19 cases are rising. He also complained about the lack of consultations by the SEC with the state government on conducting elections.

However, SEC counsel N. Ashwani Kumar contended by saying that the question of granting a stay order on conduct of election did not arise as the process for conduct of elections was already started and the courts were advised not to issue a stay order. Moreover, counsel informed the court that a division bench of the High Court had directed the State Election Commission to start the election process while hearing two petitions filed earlier and said that the single judge bench should not pass any order which might be contrary to the order issued by the division bench.

COUNSEL INFORMED the court that a division bench of the High Court had directed the State Election Commission to start the election process while hearing two petitions filed earlier and said that the single judge bench should not pass any order which might be contrary to the order issued by the division bench.

HC stays registration of non-farm lands till Dec 8

Counsel argues insistence on Aadhaar, caste records

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Telangana High Court on Thursday extended its stay on the collection and updating of Aadhaar and caste details of the owners of non-agricultural properties for Dharani portal in the state till December 8. This order effectively puts on hold all registrations of non-agricultural properties until December 8.

On Thursday, senior counsel Desai Prakash Reddy put forward his argument, for three hours challenging and differing with the government's insistence on the non-agricultural

property owners submitting their details within a time period. He submitted that the requirement of enrolling in the Dharani portal was a vague and mammoth exercise, without any legislative backing.

"If any mistakes are done in updating the properties details like spelling mistakes in names, house numbers, and others, who should the victim approach and submit his grievances?"

Advocate-general of Telangana state B.S. Prasad contended that there was no need for a separate law to back the action of the Telangana government to obtain and feed the entire data of the non-agricultural properties into the Dharani portal. "This programme will help citizens in dealing with

court. The counsel further said that "even the government has not defined the position of enumerators and their eligibility. It is supposed that the properties which are not registered on the Dharani portal would become bona vacantia (goods without an apparent owner.)"

Advocate-general of Telangana state B.S. Prasad contended that there was no need for a separate law to back the action of the Telangana government to obtain and feed the entire data of the non-agricultural properties into the Dharani portal. "This programme will help citizens in dealing with

their properties as it will put an end to mischievous miscreants. The government has come up with this programme with good intentions," the advocate-general said.

The Chief Justice, however, observed that the 'intention' would be considered in only criminal cases, and it was not a matter of the criminal case. Moreover, this issue is related to law and rules.

The court adjourned the batch of PILs and petitions to December 8 for submissions of the advocate-general on behalf of the state government and other counsels for the other petitioners.

Nomula condoled



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao attended the funeral of Nagarjunasagar MLA Late Sri Nomula Narasimhaiah at Paalam village, Nalgonda District on Thursday. — R. PAVAN

HARISH RELEASES FISHLINGS INTO RANGANAYAKA SAGAR RESERVOIR

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 3

Hyderabad, Dec 3 : Finance Minister T. Harish Rao said on Thursday that with the release of free fishing to all water bodies in the State of Telangana, families of fishing communities will reap financial benefits.

The Minister said the fisheries department in Siddipet released 3.57 crore fishlings into 1,347 tanks and reservoirs such as Kondapochamma Sagar, Ranganayaka Sagar, Shanigaram Dam, and Inapur Project at a 100 percent subsidy, after releasing fishlings into Ranganayaka Sagar reservoir. In addition to fish, Harish Rao said the department was also releasing shrimps that were in great market demand.

— INN

hearing a petition filed by Rao and his family seeking bail on medical grounds and he be shifted to Nanavati hospital from Taloja jail for medical treatment.

On November 18, the high court had noted that Rao was 81 years old, suffered from neurological ailments and also needed post-Covid-19 care after recovering from the viral infection.

A person was on death bed and in such circumstances the state government cannot say that he should be treated in the jail, the court had said.

Following the court's observations, the Maharashtra government had on November 18 agreed to shift Rao from Taloja prison in Navi Mumbai to the

Nanavati hospital and also to bear the expenses of his treatment.

Rao had been in and out of the state-run JJ hospital in the city and the Taloja prison hospital since his arrest in June 2018.

On July 16 this year he tested positive for coronavirus and was shifted to the Nanavati hospital.

He was discharged on July 30 and sent back to the prison.

His and his wife's petitions claimed that he was suffering from severe ailments.

Rao and a few other left-leaning activists were arrested for alleged links with Naxals following the Elgar Parishad conclave in Pune on December 31, 2017.

Varavara Rao to stay in pvt hosp till Dec. 14

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

Jammikunta police station in Karimnagar inaugurated as a model police station back in 2017, was among the top 10 best police stations selected by the Central government in 2020. The government has short-listed the police stations which performed best in addressing crimes such as property offence, crime against women, crime against weaker sections, missing persons, unidentified dead bodies. The objective was to rank the top 10 police stations out of 16,671 stations in the country through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback.

Speaking about the achievement, Police Commissioner of Karimnagar, V.B.

Kamalasan Reddy said that every day starts with the national anthem at the police station. "The rewarding system at the place, where officials get cash or medals for good work, has brought a change in the attitude as it motivates them to work harder. The crime rate in the area has gone down and

the quality of investigation is also improved a lot. The premises made people friendly and we have renovated the whole place accordingly with a play area for children. On the 10th of every month, feedback is given and the investigating officer informs the status of the investigation to the concerned



Jammikunta police station in Karimnagar

party on time," said the police commissioner, adding that the investigating there is more focused and is finished on time.

The model police station, consisting of 40 personnel, headed by the station house officer Srujan Reddy, was constructed in Jammikunta town in August 2017 with corporate level facilities.

Union minister for home affairs Amit Shah said that a vast majority of police stations were short-listed from the thousands of police stations located in small towns and rural areas in the country. This indicates that availability of resources is important, more important is the dedication and sincerity of the police personnel to prevent and control crime and serve the

SC calls for meeting on road safety steps

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 3

The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety directed the authorities concerned of the Telangana state government to further strengthen measures to bring down the number of road accidents and fatalities in the state.

The committee headed by Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre convened a virtual meeting on road safety today to review the road safety interventions taken up by the state government.

According to chief secretary Somesh Kumar the

committee expressed satisfaction over the presentation made by the state government on road safety.

Somesh Kumar informed the committee members that meeting with all the stakeholders will be convened on December 11 to discuss issues relating to further strengthening road safety measures to minimize the accidents in the state.

Principal secretary (transport) Sunil Sharma, DG (law and order) Jitender, additional principal secretary (home) Ravi Gupta and others attended the meeting.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

We have it for you

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SAD DEMISE



DOB: 08-05-1934 DEO: 30-11-2020

Smt. V.K. LEELAVATHI, B.Sc., B.Ed.

(Retd. Principal, ZPHS(G), Malkajgiri, RR Dist.)

(W/o Late V.N. Arunachalam)

Will always be remembered for the services rendered in her profession and other roles as a loving wife, mother, mother-in-law and grand mother & will always be in our hearts for being the backbone of the family.

Grieved by one and all

Daughters: Late Sandhya M. Murugiah, L.

Sangeeth A.K. Late Ashok Kumar

Sons: Daughters-in-law Dr. Amudha Jayanthi

Anand V.A. Dr. Achi Ashok

Ashok V.A.

Ph: 9680080142 Email: ashokava@gmail.com

(CA-3471)



SRI NANGUNURI AMARNATH

17-12-1968 04-12-2011

You are always remembered.

Hemant Upadhyaya - Prarthana Varun - Swati - Geeta.

(S2021/D00894)

OBITUARY



IVOR VICTOR JOHN (LV.JOHN)

(Retd. Scientific Officer (NFC))

DOB: 15.04.1945 DOD: 01.12.2020

S/o Late Victor John

Nephew of Late Dr. Miss Janet John

Memorial service will be held on 05-12-2020, at St. John's Parish Hall (School Premises), Sec'dad

Inserted By: Jayashri John (Wife)

Daughters, Sons, Sons-in-Law, Grand Children

Ph: 9246576393 / 8074752817

(CA-3470)

THANKS GIVING MEMORIAL SERVICE

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

(2 Tim. 4:7)



Mrs. SCHOLASTICA ALEX

W/o M. Alexander

Ex-Teacher St. Ann's High School, Sec'dad

Funeral will be on 08-12-2020.

For more details contact: 9000156888

Inserted by sorrowful: Husband, Daughter, Family, Relatives and Friends

(S2021/D00895)

THANKS DAY CEREMONY



Sri G.B. MAHENDER YADAV

S/o Late G.M. Balakrishna,

Age: 79 years.

DOB: 20-11-1941 DOD: 30-11-2020

10th Day Ceremony on 04-12-2020, at

Alwal at their house.

(S2021/D00896)

C KUNHI RAMAN NAIR

Retired IDPL Employee

DOB: 14-06-1950 DOD: 19-11-2020

16th day ceremony is observed at our residence address: C-1,

I P D Colony Balangar

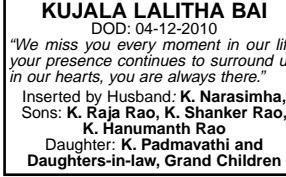
lunch follows from 12 pm onwards.

Vijayalakshmi (wife) Sudheer (son)

and Family Member: ph: 8074480852

(S2021/D00900)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



Mrs. Perumalla Deevana Sunder Rao

(Retd. Nursing Suptt. Niloufer Hospital)

W/o Perumalla Sunder Rao

DOB: 12.12.1941 DOD: 30.11.2020

A Thanksgiving Memorial Service will be held on

4th Dec. 2020 at C.S.I. St Matthew's

SHORT TAKES

ED RAIDS HOUSES OF PFI LEADERS IN KERALA

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 3

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out raids on the residences of five national leaders of Popular Front of India (PFI) across Kerala.

The houses raided included that of PFI national chairman O M A Salam. The raids were reportedly carried out against the backdrop of allegations that the organisation had funded an anti-CAA stir.

Separate ED teams conducted the raids which went on for four to five hours in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. The ED sleuths reportedly seized laptops, pen drives, books, documents and some other material from the houses of PFI leaders.

The PFI leaders alleged that the raids were aimed at diverting the attention of people from the farmers' agitation.

It may be recalled that the ED had earlier sought certain information related to the financial transactions of PFI and its leaders. Apart from Salam, the houses of Kerala state president and national secretary Nasaruddin Elamaram, national vice chairman E M Abdul Rahiman, national executive member P Koya and state president Karamana Ashraf were raided during the operation which got over by noon.

Meanwhile, the PFI leadership accused the Centre of carrying out the raids against their leaders to divert the attention from the ongoing farmers' agitation. They said the ED had sought some details from their organisation many months ago and the same were furnished accordingly.

INDIA, CHINA TO HAVE ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

New Delhi on Thursday said both India and China had "agreed to have another round of Senior Commanders meeting at an appropriate time" for disengagement of troops of both sides from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Ladakh sector, adding — in a strong thinly-veiled message to Beijing — that previous bilateral agreements stipulating that there should not be amassing of troops should be respected and that no unilateral action should be taken to alter the LAC.

In response to another question, India also hinted that ongoing tensions between China and Australia had indeed been discussed during talks between India and Australia.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Thursday said, "I would stress that the core issue remains that both sides need to strictly follow the various bilateral agreements and protocols in their entirety including the 1993 and 1996 agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the border areas which require that there should not be amassing of troops, each side should strictly abide by and respect the LAC and should not take any unilateral action to alter it."

Another cyclone



A tourist spot wears a deserted look in view of Cyclone Burevi in Kanyakumari on Thursday. Heavy rains lashed several parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry starting from Wednesday night as Cyclonic storm is all set to cross south Tamil Nadu coast

- PTI

Recoveries overtake fresh Covid cases

India sees fresh 35,551 cases, 40,726 recoveries

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

to overtake the daily new cases continuously for the past six days.

Till Thursday, India had 95.35 lakh total cases of coronavirus while total deaths are close to 1.39 lakh. In the last 24 hours, 526 new fatalities were recorded.

Director of AIIMS-Delhi Dr Ranjeet Guleria pinned his hopes on the five Covid-19 vaccine candidates which are in advanced stages of clinical trial in India, stating they are logically feasible for distribution in both urban and rural areas. Dr Guleria hoped that by the end of this month or

early next month, at least one of the five vaccines being locally-tested should get emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator to be administered to the public starting with priority groups.

"Hopeful by the end of this month or

early next month we should get emergency use authorisation from Indian regulatory authorities to start giving vaccine to public," Dr Guleria said. He added that there is good data available that the vaccines are safe.

Talking about a case in Chennai where a volunteer has reported adverse affect, Dr Guleria said the Chennai trial case is an incidental finding rather than related to vaccines. "When we vaccinate a large number of people, some of them may have some other disease, which may not be related to vaccines," he added.

"Safety and efficacy of vaccines is not compromised at all.

K'taka mulls love jihad law

Bengaluru, Dec. 3: Karnataka will have a law against "love jihad", and officials have been directed to gather information regarding an ordinance promulgated in Uttar Pradesh in this regard, state Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Thursday.

Uttar Pradesh had recently promulgated an ordinance against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions, which provides for imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of up to Rs 50,000 under different categories.

"Love jihad" is a

coinage used by right wing activists to refer to the alleged campaign of Muslims forcing Hindu girls to convert in the guise of love.

"...when Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh governments started mulling over it (a law), we too started thinking about it, how to do it, how to ensure that there was pressure or force involved (in conversion) — it is the main thing," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters in Udupi, he said, "Uttar Pradesh has recently

promulgated an ordinance in this regard and our officials have been directed to get a copy of it.

"After gathering information from other states also

regarding the measures taken there, in Karnataka too we

will have a law against love jihad for sure. The chief minister has agreed to it..." he added.

Last month, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had said that the government will take strong measures to put an end to religious conversion in the name of love and marriage.

Speaking to reporters in Udupi, he said, "Uttar Pradesh has recently

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kanteel too had asserted that a stringent law against 'Love Jihad' will be enacted in Karnataka.

However, Law and

Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy on Tuesday had said there was no proposal of enacting a law against religious conversion for the sake of marriage before the government for now.

"...Being the scruti-

nity committee chair-

man, I can say that

no such proposal has

come before me yet,"

he added.

"...Being the scruti-

nity committee chair-

man, I can say that

no such proposal has

come before me yet,"

he added.

- PTI

PAWAN BALI | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

At a time of military stand off with China in Eastern Ladakh, government has finally cleared hurdle in the re-organisation of army headquarters by approving creation of all powerful post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy).

It was Doklam stand off of 2017 with China, which had led to Indian Army proposal to set up a new all powerful Deputy Chief of Strategy.

According to sources Centre has issued government sanction letter for the creation of the post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy).

The current DG of Military Operations Lt Gen Paramjit Singh is likely to be the first Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy). This will be the third

Deputy Chief post which is being created in the Indian army headquarters.

The creation of the post was suggested as part of the overall restructuring of the Army Headquarters in 2018.

The new Deputy Chief of Army Staff Strategy will deal with all operational and force planning. As per the plans, he will have DG Military Operations, DG Military Intelligence, Strategic Planning, Operational Logistics branches, as well as the newly created Information Warfare branch under him.

Currently DG (Military Operations) and the DG (Military Intelligence) are reporting to Army Chief or Vice-Chief.

In keeping with the needs of the future battlefields, hybrid warfare and social media reality, the new DG

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh said on Thursday that his force is ready to face "dual-challenge" of Covid-19 and China, even as he pitched for a third aircraft carrier.

The Naval chief said that aircraft carriers are "absolutely necessary" for an aspirational India. He said Navy was moving forward with its plan to have a third aircraft carrier and will place a case for it before

the government after collecting all details.

"We are very clear about the utility of the aircraft carrier. Because the air operations are absolutely integral in naval operations. Air power at sea is absolutely important," he said.

Currently Indian Navy is operating only one aircraft carrier - INS Vikramaditya and the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is under advance stage of construction expected to be fully operational by 2022.

Information Warfare will have under him the ADGs

Strategic Communication and Information Warfare.

SC CONCERNED OVER VIOLATIONS OF COVID-19 NORMS

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The Supreme Court expressed concern over the violations of the Covid-19 guidelines on wearing of face masks at public places, non-adherence of social distancing norms.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan also asked

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to give suggestions on how to strictly implement the guidelines on face masks and distancing.

Water Resources Department
Office of the Joint Director,
Hydrology Directorate, 3rd Floor, Block-B,
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Anisabad, Patna - 800002
National Hydrology Project
IBRD Loan no 8725-IN

IFB No: BR/WRD/HYD-DIR/NHP-SW/IFB/2020-21/ 554
Procurement plan Ref.No: NHP-2018-2019-BRSW-251725_1

Abridged Version
Invitation For Bid
For Procurement of Non-Consultancy Services
(Two Envelope Bidding Process with E-Procurement)

Subject: Conducting River Cross Section Survey of Mahananda River and its Tributaries.

Date of Issue/Publishing	07 th Dec, 2020
Last Date and Time for Uploading of Bid	21 st Jan, 2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	21 st Jan, 2021 AT 15:30 HRS

Interested parties may view and download Invitation For Bid containing the detailed terms and condition free of cost from the website <http://fmis.bih.nic.in> and <http://wrd.bih.nic.in>

Joint Director,
Hydrology Directorate, Patna-800002
Mob:- 07463889165
Email:- jdhydrogypatna@gmail.com

PR. No. 008856 (WRD) 2020-21
नोबल कोरेन के सांचे में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सांख्यिक रेट्व. Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
स्थान-संबंधी छिपी तर की जानकारी अवश्य सुनाव लेवर द्वारा संभाल रखा है।

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue Department District Collector, Siddipet

FORM-VII

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

DECLARATION

Gazette No.54/2020 Date: 14-10-2020
District Collector, Siddipet Date: 14-10-2020
Proc. No. G3/93/2019 Revenues Divisional Officer Date: -09-2020
Revenue Head: Husnabed File No. B/481/2019

District Collector, Siddipet, it is hereby decided to acquire land of area measuring Ac. 1.371/2 gunta, in the villages of Gouravelli, Janagaon, Gandipalli and Ramavaram, Akkannapet Mandal, Siddipet District for public purpose namely for constructions of the diversion to the constructed surely. Section 19(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.

Therefore the declaration is made for acquisition of the following land of total Ac. 1.371/2 gunta required for construction of project in the villages of Gouravelli, Janagaon, Gandipalli and Ramavaram, Akkannapet Mandal, Siddipet District.

SCHEDULE
Village: Janagaon&Ramavaram District:Siddipet Mandal: Akkannapet

Serial Number	Survey No.	Type of Land/Net Nature of Land/Item	Area to be Acquired	Name of Pattadar	Name of Enjoyer	Type of Trees/Number of Trees/Number of Plants	North	South	West	East
1	325	Patta/ Dry	Medaboinya Rajiah s/o Venkatamulu (0.25)	Medaboinya Rajiah s/o Venkatamulu (0.25)						
2	326	Patta/ Dry	Medaboinya Bhumalai s/o Lasmalai (0.08) Medaboinya Venkanna s/o Venkat Mallu (0.22)	Medaboinya Kankalai s/o Lasmalai (0.08) Medaboinya Venkanna s/o Venkat Mallu (0.22)						

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU)

E-TENDER NOTICE

NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. The suppliers need to get enrolled in the E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. However, EMD in the form of DD, drawn in favour of PAY & ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NRB, MUMBAI should be sent by post to our Mumbai Office so as to reach us by the tender opening date. No paper quotation will be accepted.

CORRIGENDUM FOR FOLLOWING TENDER NO.

The Due Date for ONLINE submission of tender is extended as follows :

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Revised due date	
			Last Date of Uploading of the tender	Opening Date of the tender
1.	DPS/NRBPSU/12/N2/300-TPT	Transformer	17/12/2020	17/12/2020
2.	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N1/270-TPT	Compressed Air System	15/12/2020	15/12/2020

Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable)

SHORT TAKES

SC PUTS ON HOLD GUJARAT HC'S ORDER ON COVIDPARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

The Supreme Court on Thursday put in abeyance the Gujarat High Court's order directing that those not wearing mask in public places be made to do community service in Covid-19 care centres as it expressed concern over the implementation of the Centre and the state government's guidelines at the ground level.

A bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah directed the Gujarat government to ensure that the guidelines issued by the Centre under the Disaster Management Act and the one issued by the state government are implemented vigorously and those violating it are punished.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Gujarat government said that the problem of people not wearing masks is serious but the solution prescribed by the High Court is not correct.

"Harm of not wearing masks is much less than sending such persons to Covid centre," he said.

However, Justice Shah said that there were serious gaps in the implementation of the guidelines on wearing masks and maintaining social distancing in public places, social gatherings and malls.

MALEGAON BLAST TRIAL TO START ON DEC. 19SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, DEC. 3

A special NIA court on Thursday directed all the seven accused in 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case to remain present before the court on December 19, as the trial in the case would begin on regular basis from that day. The court passed this order on Thursday, as BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, Lt Col Prasad Purohit and two other accused failed to appear before the court despite an earlier court direction.

Meantime, the Bombay High Court on Thursday clarified that it has not stayed the trial in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, and said the trial must go on.

The lawyers of the absent accused told the special NIA judge P.R. Sitre that their clients were absent due to the Covid-19 situation. Following this the court directed all the accused to be present before it on December 19.

A division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik was hearing a plea filed by Lt Col Prasad Purohit, seeking that charges against him be quashed because prior sanction was not taken to prosecute him.

According to him, section 197 of the CrPC lays down the procedure for prosecution of public servants and mandates that a prior sanction be sought from the government. Purohit said that in the absence of prior sanction, the trial court couldn't have taken cognizance of the charges against him.

AIRLINES TO ALLOW MORE PASSENGERS

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The cap on the number of domestic flights that Indian airlines are permitted to operate was increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent of their pre-Covid levels on Thursday, said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The minister had said on November 11 that the Indian airlines can operate up to 70 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic passenger flights due to the prevailing demand amid the coronavirus situation.

Puri tweeted on Thursday, "Domestic operations recommenced with 30K passengers on 25 May & have now touched a high of 2.52 lakhs on 30 Nov 2020."

"Ministry of Civil Aviation is now allowing domestic carriers to increase their operations from existing 70% to 80% of pre-Covid approved capacity," he stated.

The ministry had resumed scheduled domestic passenger services from May 25, after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus lockdown.

However, the airlines were allowed to operate not more than 33 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

On June 26, this was increased to 45 per cent and on September 2, it was further increased to 60 per cent.



Farmers block a part of the Delhi-Meerut National Highway during their protest march against the new farm laws, in New Delhi on Thursday.

— PTI

Police close key routes connecting Ghaziabad-Delhi

New Delhi, Dec. 3: Police on Thursday closed routes on two national highways connecting Ghaziabad to Delhi as farmers remained adamant on their demand for scrapping of the Centre's agriculture reform laws and stayed put at the national capital's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The protesting farmers had on Wednesday threatened to block other roads of Delhi if their demands were not met.

"The local police have closed the routes on NH-9 and NH-24 from Ghaziabad to Delhi. On NH-1, both sides of the route have been closed near Shanti Mandir," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

The crowd of farmers continued to swell at Ghaziabad, prompting the police to close the Delhi-U.P. border on NH-24.

"The Ghaziabad border on NH-24 is closed for traffic from Ghaziabad towards Delhi due to farmers' protests. People are advised to avoid NH-24 for coming to Delhi and use Apsara/Bhopra/DND instead," the traffic police said.

It said NH-44 is closed on both sides and asked people to take alternate routes via NH-8, Bhopra, Apsara border, and Peripheral expressway. At the Chilla border, one carriageway from Delhi to Noida has been opened for traffic. However, the other carriageway from Noida to Delhi is still closed.

People commuting from Noida to Delhi are advised to avoid Noida link road, the traffic police said.

The Delhi-Haryana border at Jharoda and Jhatikra remained closed for traffic movement. The Badusarai border is open only for two-wheeler traffic.

However, people can travel to Haryana through Dhansa, Daurala, Kapashera, Rajokri, NH-8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera border points, the traffic police have said.

The police also kept the Haryana-Delhi border at Singhu and Tikri closed for traffic for the eighth day on the trot.

"Singhu border is still closed from both sides. Lampur, Auchandi & other small borders also closed. Please take alter-

FARMERS WHO END LIFE ARE COWARDS, SAYS K'TAKA MANTRI

Bengaluru, Dec. 3: Karnataka Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil on Thursday said the farmers who commit suicide are cowards.

"The farmers who commit suicide are cowards. Only a coward who can't take care of his wife and children commits suicide. When we have fallen (in the water), we have to swim and win," Patil said addressing farmers at Ponnampet in Kodagu district of Karnataka.

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"When I enquired with her how her hands were full of gold bangles, You know what she said? She said, This mother earth has given me for my 35 years of toil. Doesn't this please you all after listening to this?" Patil told the gathering. He said when a woman who had depended herself entirely on agriculture and achieved big why other farmers cannot do it.

Reacting to this, Congress Karnataka unit spokesperson V.S. Ugrappa condemned the Minister's statement, saying he has shown disrespect to the farming community.

"It's a disrespect to the farmers. He should apologise for it," Ugrappa said. — PTI

route. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba Chowk & GTK Road," the traffic police tweeted.

"Traffic is very heavy. Please avoid Outer Ring Road from Signature Bridge to Rohini & vice versa, GTK road, NH 44 & Singhu, Auchandi & Lampur borders," it said.

As traffic spilled over to alternate routes, it led to long jams there as well.

The farmers' unions also called for a nationwide protest on Saturday to oppose what they claimed was "corporatisation" of farming.

— PTI

Farm laws: Mamata warns of a nationwide agitation

Mamata to hold party meet today, says Centre must withdraw farm laws

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, DEC. 3

As the farmers' protest against three laws continues, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday demanded that the Centre withdraw the laws immediately. Otherwise, she threatened to launch her agitation nationwide.

The Trinamul Congress supremo's threat came within few days of her support to the farmers' agitation and offer to join them, if invited, as the Left has already hit the streets over the issue in the state ahead of the Assembly election.

In a Facebook post, Banerjee said, "I am very much concerned about the farmers, their lives and livelihood. GOI must withdraw the anti-farmer bills. If they do not do so immediately we will agitate throughout the state and the country.

They echoed, among others, the demands for scrapping the recent farm laws enacted by the Parliament, legal assurance with regard to continuance of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agriculture produce and withdrawal of cases slapped on the agitating leaders. Several farmer organisations under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee gathered at the Lower PMG Square here and tried to march towards the state Assembly.

Clarifying her party's stand, she added, "We have called a meeting of the All India Trinamul Congress on Friday, December 4. We will discuss how the Essential Commodities Act is

ODISHA FARMERS EXTEND SUPPORT TO STIR IN DELHIAKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 3

BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 3

Farmers in Odisha on Thursday extended support to the 'Delhi Chalo' protest by staging demonstrations here in state capital Bhubaneswar.

They echoed, among others, the demands for scrapping the recent farm laws enacted by the Parliament, legal assurance with regard to continuance of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agriculture produce and withdrawal of cases slapped on the agitating leaders. Several farmer organisations under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee gathered at the Lower PMG Square here and tried to march towards the state Assembly.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress Leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that the former convene a short winter session of the House to discuss several issues, including the farmers' agitation and preparation for Covid-19 vaccine.

The letter asked Birla to convene the winter session of the House with all the Covid-19 protocols in place to help the people understand the important

impacting common people and resulting in sky rocketing prices. The central government must withdraw this anti-people

law."

Banerjee also slammed the Centre, alleging "The GOI is selling everything. You cannot sell Railways,

Air India, Coal, BSNL, BHEL, banks, defence, etc.

Withdraw ill-conceived disinvestment & privatisation policy. We must not

allow treasures of our nation to be transformed into Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) personal assets."

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 3

Congress on Thursday demanded a special session of Parliament to discuss the "repeal" of the three recently passed farm laws and the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress Leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that the former convene a short winter session of the House to discuss several issues, including the farmers' agitation and preparation for Covid-19 vaccine.

The letter asked Birla to convene the winter session of the House with all the Covid-19 protocols in place to help the people understand the important

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"There are a number of very important issues that the nation is facing in present times. The most notable among them are the ongoing farmers agitation and the status/preparation of the Covid-19 vaccine," it said.

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SHORT TAKES

FLORIDA COP, 1 OTHER HURT IN SHOOTING

St. Petersburg (Florida), Dec. 3: A Florida police officer and at least one other person were wounded in a shooting Wednesday, authorities said. The shooting occurred Wednesday afternoon, according to a St. Petersburg police Facebook post. The wounded officer was taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, the *Tampa Bay Times* reported.

Officials didn't release details about the other person or how they were wounded. Police haven't released information about what led to the shooting.

A video posted to Facebook appears to capture the shooting. More than a dozen gunshots can be heard.

MAN SHOOTS FLARES, GETS THREE MONTHS

Fort Myers (Florida), Dec. 3: A Florida man has been sentenced to three months in federal prison for shooting distress flares from a boat when there was no real emergency and triggering a US Coast Guard rescue operation.

Justin Patrick Obert, 32, was sentenced Wednesday in Fort Myers federal court. He must also pay \$13,414.78 to cover costs associated with the rescue. He pleaded guilty in August to communicating a false distress message. "Mariners on the water rely and count on Coast Guard assets and personnel to be ready and able to respond when they are in distress," Coast Guard Capt. Matt Thompson said in a statement. "Hoax calls can redirect critical rescue capabilities and put lives at risk in the dangerous maritime domain." Obert was on a vessel in the Gulf of Mexico near Fort Myers Beach in September 2019 when he drunkenly discharged two red flares, according to court documents.

The Coast Guard, Fort Myers Beach Fire Rescue and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission all responded.

KEAYS-BYRNE, STAR OF MAD MAX, DIES

Los Angeles, Dec. 3: Veteran actor Hugh Keays-Byrne, who played villain Immortan Joe in George Miller's cult hit "Mad Max: Fury Road", has died. He was 73.

A representative for the actor told *Deadline* that the actor died peacefully on Tuesday morning. Filmmaker Brian Trenchard-Smith, who worked with Keays-Byrne for 1975 film "The Man from Hong Kong", was the first to break the news of the actor's demise in a Facebook post on Wednesday. "Hugh had a generous heart, offering a helping hand to people in need, or a place to stay to a homeless teenager. He cared about social justice and preserving the environment long before these issues became fashionable."

"His life was governed by his sense of the oneness of humanity. We will miss his example and his friendship. Vale, Hugh," Trenchard-Smith wrote. Born in 1947 in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir to British parents, the actor was very young when his family moved to Britain. Keays-Byrne later moved to Australia where he featured in many Royal Shakespeare Company productions, including "As You Like It", "The Balcony", "Hamlet", "King Lear", "The Man of Mode" and "Much Ado About Nothing". He started his acting career when he was cast in TV series "Bellbird", created by Barbara Vernon.

The actor appeared in a number of series and films, including as Morrie Grossie in Trenchard-Smith's 1975 action flick "The Dragon Flies".

Keays-Byrne's big moment came when he was roped in to play Toecutter in Miller's 1979 movie "Mad Max", which featured Mel Gibson in the lead. More than thirty years later, Miller requested Keays-Byrne return for his another plunge in to the world of "Mad Max" with 2015's "Fury Road", starring Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron.

100 world leaders to speak at UN session on Coronavirus

Will chalk out recovery path from pandemic which has claimed 1.5 mn lives

United Nations, Dec. 3: Nearly 100 world leaders and several dozen ministers are slated to speak at the UN General Assembly's special session starting Thursday on the response to Covid-19 and the best path to recovery from the pandemic which has claimed 1.5 million lives, shattered economies, and left tens of millions of people unemployed in countries rich and poor.

Assembly President Volkan Bozkir said when he took the reins of the 193-member world body in September that it would have been better to hold the high-level meeting in June. Nonetheless, he said Wednesday it "provides a historic moment for us to come together to beat Covid-19."

"With news of multiple vaccines on the cusp of approval, and with trillions of dollars flowing into global recovery efforts, the international community has a unique opportunity to do this right," he said.

"The world is looking to the UN for leadership. This is a test for multilateralism." When financial markets collapsed and the world faced its last great crisis in 2008, major powers worked together to restore the global economy, but the Covid-19 pandemic has been striking for the opposite response: no leader, no united action to stop the pandemic that has circled the globe.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a letter to leaders of the Group of 20, the world's richest nations responsible for 80 percent of the global economy ahead of their summit in late March as Covid-19 was starting its killing spree urging that they adopt a "wartime" plan and cooperate on an international response to suppress the coronavirus.

But there was no response. The two-day special session will not be raising money to finance vaccine immunisations or taking any political action, and there will be no final declaration, just a summary document from Bozkir.

"The real point of this special is to galvanize concrete action to approach our response to Covid-19 in a multilateral and collective way," General Assembly spokesman Brenden Varma said Wednesday.



Local restaurant employees and staff members hold placards during a protest against the restrictions imposed by the authorities after indoor dining was banned following a rise in Covid-19 cases in Karachi on Thursday. — AFP

Not 'game over' in the fight against virus, warns UK PM

London, Dec. 3: Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought to strike a note of caution amid the excitement of the UK becoming the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19, warning that it is not "game over" for the deadly virus just yet.

Johnson hailed the "searchlights of science" fighting back against the world's "invisible enemy" but urged people to not get carried away with over optimism over the course

of the "long and cold months" ahead while the two-dose vaccine starts to be injected into the arms of those at the highest risk of death from the deadly disease.

He urged people to follow the Covid Winter Plan of tiered lockdown which is now in force across England, with a majority of areas still under high alert measures of social distancing.

"It is a fantastic moment, but the worst thing now would be to think that this

is the moment when we can relax our guard and think it's game over in the fight against Covid. It's not. This is not the end," Johnson said, during a briefing at 10 Downing Street on Wednesday evening. "We have been waiting and hoping for the day when the searchlights of science would pick out our invisible enemy and give us the power to stop that enemy from making us ill — and now the scientists have done it," he said.

— PTI

Leaders and ministers from over 140 countries will deliver pre-recorded speeches on Thursday after an in-person opening in the General Assembly including speeches by Bozkir and Guterres. Among the leaders slated to address the session are French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and European Union chief Charles Michel.

The US will be represented by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar. Friday's session will focus on three panels, the first on the UN's response to Covid-19 and the second on vaccines that will include representatives from producers BioNTech and Oxford University-AstraZeneca, and the World Health Organisation's ACT-Accelerator which is working to get vaccines to the world's poorest people. The final panel is on recovery from Covid-19.

— AP

CRONYISM AT CHINESE AGENCY SPREAD COVID

Wuhan, Dec. 3: Secrecy and cronyism at China's top disease control agency led to widespread test shortages and flaws that hampered the early response to the Coronavirus outbreak, an *Associated Press* investigation has found. China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention gave test kit designs and distribution rights exclusively to three then-obscure Shanghai companies — GeneoDx Biotech, Huirui Biotechnology, and BioGerm Medical Technology.

— AP

JuD spokesperson gets 15 years' jail

Lahore, Dec. 3: Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed's spokesperson Yahya Mujahid has been sentenced to another 15 years in jail by a Pakistani anti-terror court in a terror financing case.

Mujahid was last month handed down 32 years jail term by the anti-terrorism court (ATC) in two terror financing cases. Besides Mujahid, the ATC Lahore on Wednesday also handed down 15 years' imprisonment to JuD's senior leader

Zafar Iqbal and six months jail term to Saeed's brother-in-law Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki.

Earlier, the ATC Lahore had sentenced Iqbal for 26 years imprisonment in three such cases. Judge Ijaz Ahmad Butt announced the verdict under different provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. The three convicts were present in the court. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police had registered as many as 41 FIRs against JuD leaders. — PTI

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Panchayat Raj Engineering Department
O/o Regional Officer, PR Regional Office, Adilabad
e^{Procurement} TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 101 to 129/R/2020-21 Dt: 02.12.2020
No. of Works (29) Tenders are invited by the undersigned for taking up C/o Anganwadi centres (26) under PMAY Grant and other works in RGSA, WD&SC and Rural Grants in Adilabad Region. Total Est Cost Rs.437.80 Lakhs. Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between the dates 05.12.2020 to 12.12.2020 and will be available for 9 days from the date of publishing in between above dates. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on www.tender.telangana.gov.in.
R.O.No.754-DPLC-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21
sd/- Regional Officer (FAC)
PR Regional Office, Adilabad

PSPCL **Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
E-Tender Enquiry No.299/P-2/EMPC-W-11765 Dtd: 26.11.2020 & ID: 2020_POWER_56830_1
Scope of Work: Maintenance Of Switchboards And Transformer Yards Areas (22 Acres Approximately) At 2 X 850kw Micro Hydel Project And 4x210 Mw GGSSTP, Roopnagar
EMD:
1) The tenderer shall be required to submit earnest money Rs.90,000/- (Rs. Ninety Thousand) online on website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
2) The co-operative societies were required to submit EMD as per notification no. 76/52/79-C-1(5)/8856, Dated: 04.11.2019 which was valid up to 13.08.2024 issued by Co-operative department, Govt. of Punjab.
Time period: As per NIT
Date & time up to which tender shall be received: 05.01.2021 11:00 AM
Date & time of opening of tender: 12.01.2021 11:30 AM
Tender specification can only be downloaded from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.
Note:
1. In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office or M/s e-procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No. +91-(172)-2972084/63. It is also requested to get their digital signature in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website:- eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-54/2020
RO : I/112393
SE/HQ
GGSSTP, Rupnagar

No.26-16/2017-DD-III
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

CIRCULAR

Appointment of Chairperson, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is a statutory body constituted under Section 3(1) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (hereafter, "the Act"). The Trust has 22 Members and is chaired by the Chairperson.

2. Objectives of the Trust as given in Section 10 of the Act are:

- (i) To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong;
- (ii) To strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families;
- (iii) To extend support to registered organizations to provide need based services during period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;
- (iv) To deal with problems of person with disability, who do not have family support;
- (v) To promote measures for the care and protection with persons with disability in the event of death of their parents or guardians;
- (vi) To evolve procedure for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protections;
- (vii) To facilitate and realization of equal opportunities protection of rights and full participation of person with disability; and
- (viii) To do any other act, which is incidental to the aforesaid objectives.

3. Powers and duties of the Chairperson, National Trust: As per National Trust Rules as amended from time to time.

4. As per Section 32 of the Act, all members, Chief Executive Officer, other officers and employees of the Trust shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any provision of this Act to be public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

5. Term of Appointment as per Section 4 of the Act: Three years, from the date of appointment.

6. Salary and allowances of the Chairperson: Under Rule 4 and 5 of the National Trust Rules 2000, the salary of the Chairperson shall be equivalent to the basic pay of a Secretary to the Government of India. Dearness allowance and other allowance will be paid as per rules applicable to a Secretary to the Government of India. Provided that where the Chairperson is a retired person from the Central Government or a State Government or Union Territory Administration or semi-Government body or Public Sector Undertaking or a recognized research institution or other autonomous or statutory body, the eatery payable together with the pension or pensionary value of the terminable benefits or both received by him/her shall not exceed the basic pay of a Secretary to the Government of India.

7. Age limit: The applicant shall not be older than 62 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

8. Eligibility:

8.1 As per Section 3 (4) (a) of the Act, the Chairperson to be appointed by Central Government, shall be from amongst persons having expertise and experience in the field of autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.

8.2 Educational Qualifications and Experience:

Educational qualification and experience for Chairperson of Board: Any person for being appointed as the Chairperson of the Board shall possess the following educational and other qualifications and experiences, namely:

- (i) Master's degree from a recognized university: Provided that preference shall be given to a person having (a) a postgraduate degree from a recognized University or Institute in one or more area of disability or community based disability rehabilitation, namely, autism, cerebral Palsy, mental retardation, multiple disability or any other equivalent qualification in these fields which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and registered as a personnel or professional with the Rehabilitation Council of India; or (b) a postgraduate degree from a recognized University or Institute in any subject with diploma or degree in one or more area of disability or community based disability rehabilitation, namely, autism, cerebral Palsy, mental retardation, multiple disability or any other equivalent qualification in these fields, which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and registered as a personnel or professional with the Rehabilitation Council of India; or His/her research papers published in any reputed professional journal; and
- (ii) minimum of ten years experience in the disability sector out of which not less than seven years shall be in autism or cerebral palsy or mental retardation or multiple disabilities; and
- (iii) administrative experience of not less than three years as Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson or President or General Secretary of any Non-Governmental Organization which has been serving at least for ten years in the areas of autism cerebral palsy, mental retardation or multiple disabilities.

9. Application procedure:

Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in Pares 7 and 8 above may apply in the prescribed format, together with supporting documents, to Shri Sitaram Yadav, Deputy Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Room No.523, 5th Floor, B-II, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in employment news. Application form may be downloaded from this website: www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in (publication - download form).

Davp 38117/11/0033/2021

Government of India
SERIOUS FRAND INVESTIGATION OFFICE
2nd Floor Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan
B3 Wing, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
No. 02/01/2017-Adm/SFI/O/Vol. III
NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF LAST DATE
The closing date for receipt of applications in respect of following vacancies published in Employment News dated 17-23 October, 2020 to be filled on deputation (ISTC) basis in SFIO has further been extended upto 31.12.2020

Category of post	Tentative no. of vacancies	Tentative Place of Posting	Level in the pay matrix or pay scale
Private Secretary	08 (eight)	Delhi/ Mumbai/ Kolkata/ Chennai/ Hyderabad	Level 07 in pay matrix (Rs. 44900-142400)

The selected candidates will also be eligible for Special Security Allowance (SSA) @ 20% of the basic pay. No deputation allowance shall be admissible along with SSA. All other terms and conditions would remain the same. The particulars of posts, eligibility conditions etc. may be obtained from the website www.sfi.nic.in or www.mca.gov.in

davp 07102/11/0007/2021

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, SECTOR-19, ATAL NAGAR NAWA RAIPUR
Notice Inviting Tender
No. PHQ/Telecom/Purchase/Tender/1620-A/2020 Raipur, Dated:01/12/2020
Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from Original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or Dealer/Distributor authorized by OEM for this tender of the following item.

Sn.	Name of item	Qty.	EMD in Rs.
1.	SMF Battery 12 Volt 100 Ah	300	70,500.00
2.	SMF Battery 12 Volt 17/18 Ah	50	4,500.00
3.	Battery for Digital VHF Manpack Motorola XIR P 8668 Set	1000	45,000.00
4.	Mains Battery Charger 12 Volt 10 Amp.	50	7,500.00
5.	Power Supply 12 Volt 10 Amp.	50	4,500.00
6.	Power Supply 12 Volt 30 Amp.	25	4,500.00

The tender document may be obtained from the following address on payment of Per item Rs. 2000/-

SHORT TAKES
EXPLOSION AT WAREHOUSE IN ENGLAND

London, Dec. 3: UK emergency fire and rescue crews are dealing with what has been described as a large explosion at a warehouse in Avonmouth near Bristol in south-west England on Thursday. South Western Ambulance Service said it was responding to a "serious incident" and a witness reported hearing a "very loud explosion" that "shook buildings".

"South Western Ambulance Service is responding to a serious incident at premises on King's Weston Lane, Avonmouth, Bristol. We have attended with multiple resources alongside fire service and police personnel," the ambulance service statement said. Local media reports said that casualties have been reported but no further details are available on the cause of the "ongoing incident". Photos from the scene showed police cars, fire trucks and a helicopter in attendance and other images appear to show a damaged tank and what looks like smoke rising from behind a mound. Bristol Waste, which runs a nearby Avonmouth recycling centre, tweeted it had closed the site temporarily.

MURAL AT BLACK ARCHIVE VANDALISED

Amsterdam, Dec. 3: Vandals daubed white paint over the faces of Black historical figures on a mural outside a Black cultural archive in Amsterdam in what one of the archive's founders called a racist attack Thursday.

The vandals also stuck stickers on the mural saying in Dutch "soot-smudge Pete is genocide," a reference to the long-running and increasingly polarised debate about the children's holiday season character Black Pete, who is seen by Black activists and others as a racist caricature.

"It's super shocking and worrying. We see it as an attempt at racist intimidation," said Mitchell Esajas, one of the founders of The Black Archives, a collection that documents the history of Black emancipation in the Netherlands. Esajas said that archive staff have filed a criminal complaint with police. Black Pete is a helper of Sinterklaas, the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas, who delivers gifts to children on Dec. 5.

The character is often portrayed by white people in blackface makeup. Amid protests about racism, the character increasingly is portrayed with gray "soot smudges" on his face instead of blackface. Anti-racism activists say that does not go far enough.

INDO-AMERICAN RAO TIME'S 1ST 'KID OF THE YEAR'

New York, Dec. 3: 15-year-old Indian-American Gitanjali Rao, a "brilliant" young scientist and inventor, has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever "Kid of the Year" for her "astonishing work" using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying.

"The world belongs to those who shape it. And however uncertain that world may feel at a given moment, the reassuring reality seems to be that each new generation produces more of what these kids...have already achieved: positive impact, in all sizes," Time said.

Rao was selected from a field of more than 5,000 nominees as TIME's first-ever Kid of the Year. She was interviewed by actor and activist Angelina Jolie for the TIME special.

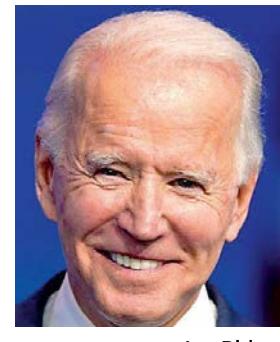
"Observe, brainstorm, research, build and communicate," Rao told about her process during a virtual talk with Jolie from her home in Colorado. She spoke about her "astonishing work using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying, and about her mission to create a global community of young innovators to solve problems the world over."

"Even over video chat, her brilliant mind and generous spirit shone through, along with her inspiring message to other young people; don't try to fix every problem, just focus on one that excites you,"

Time said. "I can do it," she said in the interview, "anybody can do it." Rao said her generation is facing many problems that they have never seen before. "But then at the same time, we're facing old problems that still exist. Like, we're sitting here in the middle of a new global pandemic, and we're also like still facing human-rights issues."

Pressure growing on Biden over defence secretary pick

President-elect being told to appoint an African-American or pick a woman



Joe Biden

Washington, Dec. 3: President-elect Joe Biden is facing escalating pressure from competing factions within his own party as he finalises his choice for secretary of defense. Black leaders have encouraged the incoming president to select an African-American to diversify what has so far been a largely white prospective Cabinet, while others are pushing him to appoint a woman to lead the Department of Defence for the first time.

At the same time, a growing collection of progressive groups is opposing the leading female contender, Michele Flournoy, citing concerns about her record and private-sector associations. A coalition of at least seven progressive groups warned Biden to avoid Flournoy in an open letter to Biden obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press that referenced her record of "ill-advised policy decisions" — particularly in relation to Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Afghanistan — and an "opaque history of private-sector activity".

"Ms. Flournoy's consistent support for military interventions has contributed to devastating crises around the world, including in Yemen," said Jehan Hakim, chairperson of the Yemeni Alliance Committee, which helped organise the letter.

Other contenders are emerging, including retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin and Jeh Johnson, who served as the Pentagon's top lawyer and then as head of the Department of Homeland Security during President Barack Obama's second term.

Both Austin and Johnson are Black. The competing pressures are intensifying less than a month into Biden's urgent push to build an administration while trying to preserve the broad coalition that fuelled his victory over President Donald Trump last month. And facing massive governing challenges once he takes office on Jan. 20, Biden can perhaps least afford to lose the backing of the Democratic Party's fiery progressive base.

Nearly 100 House Democrats belong to the Progressive Caucus, which may wield significant influence over Biden's policy agenda.

— AP

Don: Prepared to accept poll defeat if it's accurate

Washington, Dec. 3: Donald Trump has said that he is prepared to accept any poll result if it is "accurate", even as the US President repeated his unsubstantiated allegations of large-scale voter fraud and electoral malpractice in the presidential election.

Democratic leader Joe Biden has defeated incumbent president Trump, Republican, in the November 3 presidential election. However, Trump has not conceded and has sought legal recourse in challenging the results.

"I don't mind if I lose an election, but I want to lose an election fair and square. What I don't want to do is have it stolen from the American people. That is what we are fighting for, and we have no choice (but) to be doing that," Trump told his supporters at a holiday party gathering at the White House on Wednesday.

A video of the event, which was closed for the press, was posted online on Wednesday.

"We already have the proof, we already have the evidence, and it is very clear," Trump said.

— PTI

DON TO FLEX PARDON POWERS

Washington, Dec. 3: Advocates and lawyers anticipate a flurry of clemency action from President Donald Trump in the coming weeks that could test the limits of presidential pardon power. Trump is said to be considering a slew of pardons and commutations before he leaves office. Trump has made clear that he has no qualms about intervening in the cases of friends and allies whom he believes have been treated unfairly.

— AP

Next House Foreign Affairs Panel chair bats for strong ties with India

Washington, Dec. 3: US Congressman Gregory Meeks, who is set to be the next chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, has said that he supports a stronger relationship with India, as he underlined that most of the Covid-19 vaccines will be coming from India.

Stating that most of the Covid-19 vaccines will be coming from India, Meeks said that the United States needs to work with India with a special relationship. He did not elaborate on the vaccine part.

Wednesday, Meeks said it is important to continue to work with friends like India for a stronger relationship. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi also attended the meeting.

Meeks said he looks forward to going to India again and recalled his earlier visit to the country last year with his elder daughter.

The 67-year-old Democratic lawmaker is slated to be elected on Thursday as the next Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee — which has jurisdiction over bills and investigations related to the foreign affairs of the US. Meeks said he looks forward to going to India again and recalled his earlier visit to the country last year with his elder daughter.

— PTI

California fire rages on



Firefighters battling the Bond Fire haul hose while working to save a home in the Silverado community in Orange County, California, on Thursday.

HK MEDIA TYCOON JIMMY LAI DENIED BAIL

Hong Kong, Dec. 3: Outspoken Hong Kong pro-democracy advocate and media tycoon Jimmy Lai was refused bail on Thursday on a fraud charge amid a growing crackdown on dissent in the semi-autonomous city. Jimmy Lai of Next Digital, which publishes the *Apple Daily* newspaper, was among 10 people arrested on August 10 on what police said was suspicion of violating a national security law and collusion with a foreign country.

Lai, 73, was later released on bail but police raided his company's offices in October and took away documents. On Wednesday, Lai and two Next Digital executives were charged with fraud over accusations that they violated lease terms for Next Digital office space. Lai appeared in court Thursday and was denied bail. His case has been adjourned till April 16.

— AP

HK former lawmaker goes into exile

Copenhagen, Dec. 3: A Hong Kong pro-democracy activist and former lawmaker who is visiting Denmark said Thursday he is going into exile and will soon move to Britain. "I hereby announce that I will go into exile and will withdraw my membership in the Democratic Party of Hong Kong," Ted Hui said. "There is no word to explain my pain and it's hard to hold back tears." Britain has extended residency rights for up to 3 million Hong Kongers.

— AP

Will have good India communication: China on Brahmaputra new dam plan

Beijing, Dec. 3: China on Thursday played down its plan to build a major dam in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra river in Tibet, saying there is no need to have "any anxiety" over the project and Beijing will continue to have "good communication" with lower riparian states — India and Bangladesh.

China's plan to build the dam over Brahmaputra river, reportedly at Medog in Tibet, which borders Arunachal Pradesh, was disclosed by Yan Zhiyong, chairman of the Power Construction Corp of China, at a conference recently. The over 3,800-km-long Brahmaputra, one of the longest rivers in the world passes through China, India and Bangladesh and has several tributaries and sub-tributaries.

Yan said China will "implement hydropower exploitation in the downstream of the Yarlung Zangbo River (the Tibetan name for Brahmaputra)

and the project could serve to maintain water resources and domestic security", the *Global Times* reported on Sunday.

Asked about China's plans to build the dam over the river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Arunachal Pradesh where the Brahmaputra enters India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing on Thursday that the "hydropower development in the lower

reaches of Yarlung Zangbo river is China's legitimate right. When it comes to use and development of cross border rivers, China always acts responsibly."

"We have a policy featuring development and conservation and all projects will go through science-based planning and assessment giving full consideration to impact downstream and accommodating the interests of upstream and downstream regions," Hua said.

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"We have a policy featuring development and conservation and all projects will go through science-based planning and assessment giving full consideration to impact downstream and accommodating the interests of upstream and downstream regions," Hua said.

Probable life on Mars likely lived below the surface

Washington, Dec. 3: If life ever existed on ancient Mars, it would have lived up to several miles below the surface of the Red Planet, likely due to subsurface melting of thick ice sheets fuelled by geothermal heat, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal *Science Advances*, examined various Mars datasets to see if heating via geothermal or underground heat would have been possible 4.1 billion to 3.7 billion years ago or in the Noachian era.

They showed that the conditions needed for subsurface melting would have been ubiquitous on ancient Mars. Even if Mars had a warm and wet climate 4 billion years ago, with the loss of the magnetic field, atmospheric thinning and subsequent drop in global temperatures over time, liquid water may have been stable only at great depths, researchers found.

Like carbon dioxide and water vapour are pumped into the early Martian atmosphere in computer simulations, climate models still struggle to support

EVEN IF Mars had a warm and wet climate 4 billion years ago, with the loss of the magnetic field, atmospheric thinning and subsequent drop in global temperatures over time, liquid water may have been stable only at great depths, researchers found.

long-term warm and wet Mars," said Ojha. "I and my co-authors propose that the faint young sun paradox may be reconciled, at least partly, if Mars had high geothermal heat in its past," he said. The researchers noted that our sun is a massive nuclear fusion reactor that generates energy by fusing hydrogen into helium. Over time, they explained, the Sun has gradually brightened and warmed the surface of planets in our solar system.

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According to the research-

US passes bill to end per nation immigrant cap

US PASSES BILL TO DELIST FRAUD CHINESE FIRMS

Washington, Dec. 3: The US Senate has unanimously passed a bill that eliminates the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrant visas and raises it for family-based visas, a legislation that will hugely benefit hundreds of thousands of Indian professionals in America who have been waiting for years to get their green cards.

The passage of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act by the Senate on Wednesday comes as a big relief to Indian IT professionals who come to the US on H-1B work visas and their current waiting period for Green Card or permanent residency is running into decades.

Originally passed by the US House of Representatives on July 10, 2019 by a bipartisan 365 to 65 votes, the legislation increases the per-country cap on family-based immigrant visas from seven per cent of the total number of such visas available that year to 15 per cent. It was sponsored by Republican Senator Mike Lee from Utah in the Senate.

The legislation eliminates the seven per cent cap for employment-based immigrant visas, a provision that will facilitate removal of the massive backlog of Indian IT professionals in the US. It also removes an offset that reduced the number of visas for individuals from China.

Because of arbitrary per-country caps, the legal status of Indian IT professionals was constantly in jeopardy. In fiscal year 2019, Indian nationals received 9,008 category 1 (EB1), 2,908 category 2 (EB2), and 5,083 category 3 (EB3) Green Cards.

EB1-3 are different categories of employment-based Green Cards. In July, Senator Lee had told the Senate that the backlog

of Indian national

to get permanent residency or Green Card is more than 195 years. The new legislation also establishes transition rules for employment-based visas from FY2020-FY2022, by reserving a percentage of EB-2 (workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability), EB-3 (skilled and other workers), and EB-5 (investors) visas for individuals from the two countries with the largest number of recipients of such visas.

— PTI

UNGA fails to admit violence against Buddhists, Hindus

United Nations, Dec. 3: Calling out the "selectivity" at the United Nations in condemning acts of violence against religions. And as long as such selectivity exists, the world can never truly foster a culture of peace," he said.

Asserting that the UN is not a body which should take sides when it comes to religion, Sharma said if "we are indeed selective", the world will end up proving American political scientist Samuel Huntington's "clash of civilisations". "What we are trying to build here is an 'alliance of civilisations', not set up a clash. I call on the UN Alliance of Civilisation to act likewise and speak for all, not just a select few," he said.

Sharma recalled the shattering of the iconic Bamiyan Buddha by fundamentalists in Afghanistan as well as the terrorist bombing of a gurdwara in the war-torn country in March where 25 Sikh worshippers were killed and the destruction of Hindu and Buddhist temples and minority cleansing of these religions.

— PTI

sun paradox, they said.

On rocky planets like Mars, Earth, Venus and Mercury, heat-producing elements like uranium, thorium and potassium generate heat via radioactive decay. In such a scenario, liquid water can be generated through melting at the bottom of thick ice sheets, even if the Sun was fainter than now. On Earth, for example, geothermal heat forms subglacial lakes in areas of the West Antarctic ice sheet, Greenland and the Canadian Arctic.

— PTI

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	44,632.65	0.03
Nifty 50	13,133.90	0.15
S&P 500*	3,678.77	0.27
Dollar (\$)	73.91	-0.13
Pound Sterling (\$)	99.05	-0.54
Euro (\$)	89.46	-0.57
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	48,887▲481	0.98
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.36	0.11
IN 10-Yr T-bill yield*	5.932	0.011
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.938	-0.008

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Chhattisgarh accepts Centre's GST option

Chhattisgarh has accepted the Centre's borrowing proposal and will get Rs 3,109 crore through the special window to meet GST revenue shortfall. With this, 27 states and three union territories have accepted the Centre's borrowing plan, leaving only Jharkhand which is yet to decide. Govt. of Chhattisgarh has communicated its acceptance of option-1 to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation, MoF said.

UltraTech to spend over ₹5,400 cr on capacity addition



UltraTech Cement, India's largest cement maker, announced a Rs 5,477-crore investment to add 12.8 million tonnes capacity, taking its overall output to over 136 mt per annum. The company said its board in a meeting approved capacity expansion plan with a mix of brown-field and green-field expansion. "The additional capacity will be created in the fast-growing markets of the eastern, central and northern regions," the firm said.

Standard Life Aberdeen sells HDFC Life stake

UK-based Standard Life Aberdeen said it has sold 1.37 per cent stake in HDFC Life Insurance Company for Rs 1,703.2 crore. Standard Life (Mauritius Holdings), a subsidiary of Standard Life Aberdeen, sold 27,772,684 shares of HDFC Life at an average price of Rs 619.14, receiving about Rs 17,032 million (172 million pounds), net of taxes and expenses, the company said in a filing to the London Stock Exchange.

Tata Power arm CGPL repays ₹1,550 cr loans

Tata Power said its subsidiary CGPL, which runs the Mundra ultra mega project, has repaid Rs 1,550 crore of bank loans. Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd (CGPL) repaid the amount on December 2, Tata Power said in a BSE filing. "With this repayment and the earlier repayment of Rs 2,600 crore of bank loans made in October 2020, the entire bank loans of CGPL aggregating Rs 4,150 crore have been fully repaid."

RBI halts card, digital expansion HDFC Bank told to freeze new plans

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, DEC. 3

After several incidents of outages in digital services of HDFC Bank in the last two years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has temporarily barred the lender from new digital banking launches and issuing new credit cards besides asking the bank's board to examine the lapses and fix accountability. The restrictions do not affect the bank's existing customers.

The private lender's managing director and chief executive officer Sashi Jagdishan on Thursday assured clients that "there is no reason to worry" and that they "can continue to transact with the bank without any concern."

The apex bank's order came on Wednesday, days after the last instance of service outage across its digital banking channels, including internet banking, mobile banking and other payments. The outage, which happened on November 21, had severely inconvenienced customers and was the third major outage faced by the country's largest private lender in a span of two years.

"We had two outages, one in Nov. 2018 and second one in Dec. 2019. We have taken help of external expertise, understood what needs to be done further and have substantially implemented the inputs to strengthen our IT infrastructure and systems. Unexpectedly another incident happened on Nov. 21, 2020 and the pri-



informed the stock exchanges in a filing.

HDFC Bank is the largest issuer of credit cards and has 1.49 crore customers as of September this year while it has 3.38 crore debit card-holders.

Started in 2018-19, Digital 2.0 is part of the bank's elaborate strategy to transform itself into a bank of the future. It comprises of improving customer experience, using analytics to power customer interactions and developing new applications; empowering virtual banking offerings and bringing in innovation to shape up customer preferences. Under Digital 2.0 partnerships are planned with technology companies and fintech players to improve the front end digital experience, improve digital origination, straight through processing, next generation of mobile and internet banking, APIs based banking on the edge etc would now be ready and launched post the approval and clearance from the regulator," he added.

HDFC Bank shares plunged to a low of Rs 1,374.25 on the BSE before closing at Rs 1,377.05, down 2.13 per cent. The bank's promoter HDFC Ltd's shares also fell 0.95 per cent to close at Rs 2,253.90. Shares of its main rival, State Bank of India and its subsidiary SBI Cards and Payment Services, gained 3.87 per cent and 5.31 per cent, respectively.

(With inputs from Ravi Ranjan Prasad)

Rabi sowing moving at a buoyant pace

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, DEC. 3

Rabi crop sowing at the end of November is higher than the levels of last year and the average acreage of the past five years. Estimates show total acreage under rabi crop in the current season would be higher than last year's.

Sowing of the winter crop has already covered 348 lakh hectares as of November 27. This is 4 per cent more than the sowing in the previous season till the end of November and 2 per cent above the average of the past five years, finds Crisil Research. In 2019-20, a total of 662 lakh hectares were under rabi



acreage. Hence, rabi sowing for the current season will be up against the high base from last December.

Rabi sowing has been spurred by abundant rains this year. An overall 9 per cent above-normal monsoon has led to high soil moisture and 19 per cent higher reservoir levels compared with the average of the past five years.

Timely kharif harvest has also ensured that rabi sowing started as per schedule. Last year, kharif harvest was delayed and hence Rabi sowing got delayed. The higher acreage till November is supported by the low base of last year. But last year, sow-

ing note," said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

As per the farm ministry data released last week, rabi oilseeds acreage was at 6.16 million hectares, up from 5.87 million hectares, due to higher sowing of groundnut. Further, farmers have sowed mustard over 5.7 million hectares in 2020-21 rabi season, up 6.6 per cent from the previous year. Rabi chana have been sown across 6.94 million hectares, compared to 6.08 million hectares a year ago.

Jeera sowing, too, is expected to be higher in terms of acreage this rabi season.

Overall, a bountiful monsoon has brought cheer to the farmers, with a record output expected in the kharif season. With reservoirs filled to the brim, output is expected to be bountiful in the rabi season as well.

This will increase the purchasing power in the hands of the farmers and increase rural demand.

BMW 2 SERIES GRAN COUPE FOR ₹42.30 LAKH



MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, DEC. 3

BMW on Thursday introduced the BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe in a new limited-run variant that will go on sale from Dec. 7. The car will compete with the yet-to-be-launched Mercedes A-class limousine and the Audi A3.

The locally produced BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe Black Shadow edition is limited to 24 units and priced at Rs 42.30 lakh.

Man who started out with ₹1,500 leaves behind a ₹1,500-cr empire Spice King started his journey in a tonga

New Delhi, Dec. 3: School-dropout Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, famously known as MDH Dadaji for repeated appearance in his spice brand's television ads—who passed away on Thursday morning at the age of 97—started his spices business journey at a nondescript shack in Delhi's Karol Bagh after selling his tonga, and went on, at the age of 94, to become the highest-paid CEO in the country's FMCG sector.

Gulati, also known as the Spice King, was born in Sialkot—now in Pakistan—on March 27, 1923, and moved to India after Partition and set up his business in Delhi.

His father had a spice

shop in Sialkot, called 'Mahashay Di Hatti' (MDH), but the outlet was popularly known as Degg Mirch Wale'.

His family left behind everything during Partition to come and settle in Delhi. Gulati, who dropped out of school in 1933 after class 5, dabbled in many odd jobs, including wood-work and working in soap, fabric and rice factories.

He arrived in Delhi in September 1947 with Rs 1,500 in hand, mentions a bio-sketch of him on MDH's portal.

He used the money to buy a tonga (horse cart) for Rs 650 and drove it from New Delhi Railway Station to Qutab Road and Karol Bagh to Bara Hindu Rao

for a few days.

He sold his carriage in October 1948 to restart his ancestral business, opening a small shop at Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh.

He never looked back.

As the business grew, he himself appeared on television commercials endorsing Degg Mirch, Chat

Masala, and Chana Masala, among the most famous products from the MDH stable, which has over 50 products.

Over the years, the MDH Dadaji, or Mahashay as he was popularly known, became a household name.

His father Mahashay Chunni Lal Gulati founded MDH Spices in 1919, and Dharampal would later turn it into a Rs 1,500-crore empire.

The company was officially established in 1959 when Gulati bought land in Delhi's Kirti Nagar and set up a production unit.

Starting with manually ground spices, MDH soon switched over to automatic machines to meet the fast-growing demand for spices.

Today, huge volumes of spices are manufactured and packed by modern machines and sold throughout India and abroad by the company through a network of over 1,000 stockists and over four lakh retail dealers.

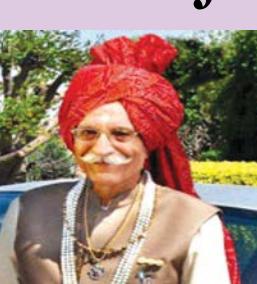
Gulati, who took home Rs 21 crore salary in 2017, was said to donate nearly 90 per cent of it to charity through his Mahashay Chunni Lal Charitable Trust.

The Trust operates a 250-bed hospital in Delhi, along with a mobile hospital for slum-dwellers as well as four schools.

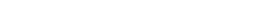
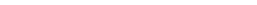
Gulati established more than 20 schools.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2019.

— PTI



Dharampal Gulati



SHORT TAKES

Messi fined for tribute to Diego

Barcelona: Lionel Messi was fined 600 euros (\$720) for taking his jersey off to pay tribute to Diego Maradona, the Spanish football federation said.

The federation's competitions committee fined the Argentine player for his actions after scoring in Barcelona's 4-0 win over Osasuna in the Spanish league on Sunday. After a strike from outside the box, Messi took off Barcelona's blue-and-burgundy to reveal the red-and-black of Maradona's jersey from his stint at Newell's Old Boys. Messi then blew a kiss with both hands to the sky as he looked upward. After the game, Messi posted a photo of his tribute along with an older image of Maradona in the same shirt, adding the message Farewell, Diego in Spanish. Maradona died last week at the age of 60. The federation also refused to void the yellow card that was shown to Messi for taking off his jersey, and fined Barcelona 180 euros (\$216). — AFP

48 NBA players test Covid positive

Los Angeles: The NBA announced Wednesday that 48 players have tested positive for the Covid-19, a dramatic increase over the zero positive tests reported during last season's quarantine bubble in Florida. The league said the positive tests are the result of 546 tests carried out between November 24-30 as the NBA gets set to begin preseasn games in nine days. The zero positive tests were from the beginning of last season's quarantine bubble to the end of the season in mid-October.

One team, the Golden State Warriors, has already delayed the beginning of their individual workouts by a day this week because of players testing positive. This was the initial round of tests for players as they returned to their teams ahead of the start of individual workouts on Tuesday. — AFP

Grosjean's fiery crash to be probed

Paris: An investigation has been opened into Formula One driver Romain Grosjean's horrifying crash at the Bahrain Grand Prix, governing body FIA said Thursday. The FIA said it could take up to eight weeks before the conclusions are made public.

Grosjean was discharged from a military hospital in Bahrain on Wednesday.

"The investigation into the Grosjean incident will look at all areas including competitor safety devices such as the helmet, HANS (a head restraint device), safety harness, protective clothing, survival cell, headrest, in-car extinguisher system and the Halo," the FIA said in a statement. "Analysis will also include chassis integrity and the safety barrier performance," it added. — AFP

Sneha retains one-shot lead

Noida: Amateur Sneha Singh retained a one-shot lead over the field with an even par 72 in the seventh leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Thursday.

Sneha had a roller-coaster front nine with three birdies on first, fourth and eighth and dropped shots on second and sixth, as she turned in one-under 35. On the back nine, she missed a couple of birdie chances, dropped a shot on Par-4 12th and closed with six pars for a round of 72.

One shot behind Sneha is Siddhi Kapoor, whose sole win on the Hero PGWT was in her rookie year in 2016, when she won the 14th leg at the Delhi Golf Club. Siddhi rode on her fine start which saw her get to three-under in the first six holes. — PTI

Live on TV

CRICKET

Australia vs India: First T20 from 1.40 pm on Sony Six, Ten 1, HD

South Africa vs England: First ODI from 4.30 pm on Star Sports 1, HD

WWE

SmackDown: Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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Back to slam-bang!

India look to pose tougher challenge to Aussies in T20s

Canberra, Dec. 3: Short of resources in ODIs, India will have enough options to choose from to pose a stiffer challenge to Australia when the two sides clash in a three-match T20 series beginning here on Friday.

The 1-2 ODI series loss reaffirmed that India have a lot of work to do in the 50-over format but they possess a much more balanced squad in the shortest format.

The presence of Washington Sundar, Deepak Chahar and T Natarajan, who did well on his ODI debut on Wednesday, lends much-needed balance to the bowling department.

With Hardik Pandya not bowling regularly, India had only one specialist all-rounder in Ravindra Jadeja in the one-dayers.

INDIA TOUR OF AUSTRALIA
LIVE ON
SONY SIX
TELUKG
1ST T20I
STARTS TODAY,
12:30 PM
ONWARDS
#CricketKoAstraRang



Virat Kohli (left) shares a light moment with his teammates in this file photo.

NUMBERS GAME

INDIA-AUSTRALIA IN T20 INTERNATIONALS

Team	M	W	L	T	N/R
Success%					
India	134	83	44	3	4
Australia	128	68	55	2	3
					55.07

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS:

India: 202-4 in 19.4 overs at Rajkot in 2013

Australia: 201-7 in 20 overs at Rajkot in 2013

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS:

India: 74 in 17.3 overs at Melbourne in 2008

Australia: 86 in 16.2 overs at Dhaka in 2014

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES:

India: 90* Virat Kohli at Adelaide in 2016

Australia: 124* Shane Watson at Sydney in 2016

BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS:

India: 4-11 Ravichandran Ashwin at Dhaka in 2014

Australia: 4-21 Behrendorff at Guwahati in 2017

FOR THE RECORD:

● In Twenty20 International matches between the two countries it is 11-8 in favour of India although Australia won the previous series 2-0 in India.

● Virat Kohli who has scored 24 fifties in 76 innings needs one more fifty to equal Rohit Sharma's record of the most fifties scored in Twenty20 Internationals. Rohit Sharma has scored four hundreds and 21 fifties in 100 innings.

● Aaron Finch who has smashed 96 sixes in 64 innings needs four more to become the first Australian and sixth batsman overall to complete a century of sixes in Twenty20 internationals.

— S.PERVEZ QASIER

WILLIAMSON GIVES KIWIS A FLYING START

Hamilton, Dec. 3: The West Indies delight at winning the toss on a lush green wicket turned to frustration as New Zealand were rarely troubled in posting 243 for two on day one of the first Test in Hamilton on Thursday.

Kane Williamson, despite being troubled with cramp late in the day, produced a masterful innings to be unbeaten on 97 at stumps with Ross Taylor on 31.

Williamson featured in a 154-run stand with Tom Latham for the second wicket before Latham was bowled for 86.

After the start of play was delayed two hours by rain, the Windies were delighted to win the toss with an emerald wicket that potentially offered untold demons for their pace attack.

But after Gabriel bowled Will Young early for five, the tourists found they did not get the assistance they expected from the wicket.

Chase also saw flaws in the visitors' attack which they failed to rectify.

It appeared to be a case of not doing thorough homework as Latham said the pitch was not unusual for New Zealand.

Williamson, who will resume on Friday requiring just three runs to register his 22nd Test century.

— PTI

BRIEF SCORES

Day 1: New Zealand 243/2
in 78 overs (T. Latham 86, Kane Williamson 97; Kemar Roach 1/53) vs West Indies.

Aussie Cameron in awe of India's 'quality' spin attack

Cape Town, Dec. 3: England one-day captain Eoin Morgan said on Thursday that he would continue to make use of signals from the team balcony.

Television coverage during the third Twenty20 international against South Africa at Newlands in Cape Town on Tuesday captured images of numbers and letters being displayed by video analyst Nathan Leamon.

"There's been no real signals," said Morgan.

"There has always been constant communication, verbal or physical, from the change room to the field to help improve my decisions as captain and Jos Buttler's decisions as vice-captain," the English skipper and the World Cup winner added. — AFP

Ravindra Jadeja ended his debut innings on 21.

"Jadeja is a beautiful bowler who knows exactly what he's trying to do: Spin some away from you and dart one back in."

— CAMERON GREEN
Australian player

Ravindra Jadeja ended his debut innings on 21.

"Jadeja is a beautiful bowler who knows exactly what he's trying to do: Spin some away from you and dart one back in," Green added.

"You can do as much research and watch as much footage as you want to get an understanding how they bowl. But it's a different beast out in the middle. I will take a lot out of it," Green said, referring to Kuldeep Yadav and Co.

"Bowling to Virat you can just see there is a step up in how good of a cricketer they are," Green added.

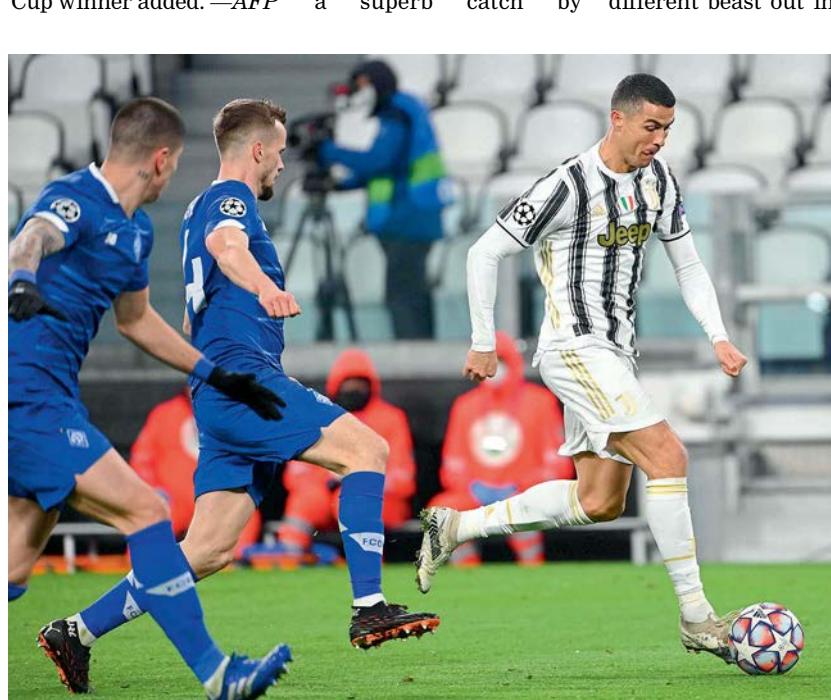
"I tried to bowl a bumper to Virat Kohli and he was onto it so quick," the Australian allrounder added further added.

— PTI

PSG could have been on the brink of elimination from Group 'H' with a defeat at Old Trafford but Neymar put last season's runners-up ahead in the sixth minute and the world's most expensive player sealed their victory in stoppage time.

In between, Marcus Rashford's shot went in off Danilo Pereira to bring United level in the first half but Marquinhos prodded the French champions back in the 69th minute post which Neymar netted another goal to send United packing.

— PTI



Cristiano Ronaldo (right) of Juventus outruns Dynamo Kiev's Tomasz Kedziora (left) and Denys Popov during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' match at the Juventus stadium in Turin on Wednesday. — AFP

BCCI set to add two teams in IPL

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The BCCI will hold its Annual General Meeting on December 24 to discuss the induction of two new IPL franchises besides the appointment of India's ICC representative and three new national selectors.

Also on the agenda is the election of a new vice-president. As per norm, the BCCI has sent a 23-point agenda to all affiliated units 21 days prior to the holding of the AGM.

The most significant point is seeking approval for two new teams to make it a 10-team IPL.

It is understood that the Adani Group and Sanjeev Goenka's RPG (owners of the Rising Pune Supergiants) are interested in owning new teams with one franchise surely from Ahmedabad.

Another important point will be BCCI's representative to the ICC and the Asian Cricket Council. It is expected that secretary Jay Shah will be the BCCI representative in the global committees.

Appointment of three new selectors, along with a chairman of selectors, is also on cards given that Cricket Committees and Standing Committees are part of the agenda.

"Selection committee is a part of cricket committee plus the technical committee also needs to be formed. They are all statutory sub committees," a senior BCCI source said.

The all-important Umpires' sub-committee will also be formed and matters related to the National Cricket Academy will also come up for deliberation.

The agenda also includes discussion on India's

AGM AGENDA

- Election of Vice President
- Election of 2 representatives of General Body in IPL Governing Council
- Adoption of Annual Budget FY 20-21
- Adoption of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer
- Adoption of Cricket Committees and Standing Committees as mentioned in Rules 26 and 25 (Constitution) respectively
- Appointment of Umpires Committee in Rule 27.
- Appointment of representative/representatives in ICC and/or similar committees.
- Approval of two new teams to the IPL.
- Discussion on BCCI's stand on inclusion of cricket in Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028.
- To update ICC Matters
- To update on NCA matters.
- To update on ICC T20 World Cup 2021 to be held in India.
- To update on India's FTP Program.

Future Tours Program for 2021, preparation with regards to organisation of next year's T20 World Cup (includes the ICC tax issue) and inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

On the administrative front, one of the primary points on the agenda is election of new vice-president, a position which has been left vacant after Mahim Verma's resignation.

It is expected that the choice would be unanimous.

Also, two representatives from the governing body will get a seat in the IPL governing council.

— PTI

Krishna dazzles as ATK edge Odisha

BENGALURU, CHENNAIYIN TO RENEW RIVALRY

Bambolim, Dec. 3: Bengaluru FC will look for their first win of the season when they take on southern rivals

Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League match at the GMC Athletic Stadium here on Friday.

Both the teams have played twice so far, with BFC winless following consecutive stalemates, while CFC registering a victory and draw.

The fixture between Chennaiyin and Bengaluru has become a huge rivalry since BFC entered the ISL fold in 2017. The final that season was a closely contested affair that CFC won 3-2 on Bengaluru's turf to lift a second ISL title.

In the head-to-head battle, both the clubs have won three apiece with one draw being played out last season.

It promises to be yet another intense contest, as the likes of Anirudh Thapa, Rafael Crivellaro and Lallianzuwa Chhangte aiming to make it two wins out of three.

— PTI

Ronaldo rocks; PSG, Barca win

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