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Moderate rains likely.  
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**COVID-19  
COUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+4,117)	(+518)
92,64,820	1,35,245
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+993)	(+4)
TS: 2,66,042	1,441
(+831)	(+6)
AP: 8,64,674	6,962

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

6,04,74,214	
DEATHS	
14,22,172	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	218
worldometers.info/ coronavirus	

**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Dwadasi full day  
Star: Revati till 9.20 pm  
Varjyanam: 7.50 am to 9.38 am  
Durmuhurtam: 10.12 am to 10.57 am; 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm  
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm  
HJRI CALENDAR  
Rabbi-ul Akhir 10, 1442 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.23 am  
Zohar: 12.13 pm  
Asar: 4.03 pm  
Maghrab: 5.45 pm  
Isha: 6.56 pm  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM  
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM  
MOONSET TOMORROW 2.59 AM  
MOONRISE TODAY 3.13 PM

**COUNTER POINT**
**SHORT TAKE**  
Trade unions on  
strike today

**Hyderabad:** Central trade unions, banks, insurance, transport workers and labour unions have called for an all-India strike on Thursday. A public protest will be organised against anti-labour policies and privatisation strategies of the central government at Anjaneya Bhavan, following by a march from RTC Crossroads in the afternoon.

Report on Page 2

**Jallikattu India's  
Oscar nomination**

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

Report on Page 8



BJP Mahila Morcha president Geeta Murthy presents Union minister for textiles Smriti Irani with a saree at the party office in Hyderabad after she addressed the media over the GHMC elections on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Smriti: Why not deport Rohingya?

**IRREDDY SRINIVAS  
REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The BJP gave further momentum to its highly successful and surcharged narrative setting campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, with a steady featuring of national leaders.

Union minister for textiles Smriti Irani on Wednesday further kept the pot boiling on the issue of illegal immigration in the Old City, sternly castigating the ruling combine of the TRS and the MIM over the 'hospitality' to the Rohingyas and

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. On her visit to Hyderabad for the GHMC campaign, while addressing a press conference at the state party headquarters, Smriti Irani alleged that the TRS and MIM sarkar had maintained an unholy alliance, which showed in the manner in which the MIM created safe havens for the illegal stay of Rohingyas, in which the TRS government abetted them.

She claimed that more than 75,000 Rohingya refugees were residing in Hyderabad with the fullest support from the AIMIM and the ruling TRS. She reiterated that BJP's stand has been consistent about

any action against them. Instead they make baseless allegations against the nationalist BJP, the minister said. She wondered why the TRS government doesn't write a letter to the Union government about deporting illegal immigrants from Telangana. She stated since the law and order was a state subject, the Centre cannot act without a complaint from the state government.

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deporting illegal immigration.

"The Narendra Modi-led Centre has always taken decisions to protect the rights of every Indian citizen. It is our responsibility to ensure taxpayers' money is spent for fellow Indian citizens, not illegal immigrants," she said.

Reminding people that thousands of people have sacrificed their lives for the cause of a separate Telangana state, she said she was deeply saddened by the family rule of Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao.

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## TRS downfall has begun, KCR frustrated: Revanth

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25


TPCC working president Revanth Reddy campaigns for the Congress in Malkajgiri constituency on Thursday.

the largest Parliamentary constituency in Asia so that I could become a thorn and fight against this corrupt government.

"I appeal to all of you people to give me strength by voting for Congress party and giving us a minimum of 30 seats in the GHMC. Then, we will show our

work in greater Hyderabad also."

He urged the people of Hyderabad to make local MLAs do sit-ups and squats as punishment for their failure to honour their previous promises.

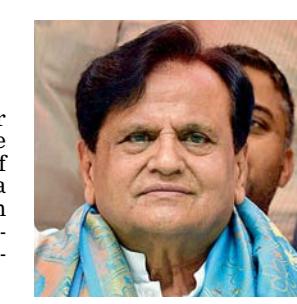
Page 4: BJP, MIM stirring trouble for votes: Revanth

Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy said on Wednesday that youth and women are eagerly welcoming the BJP across all divisions of the city and BJP will fulfil their demands in coming days after winning the GHMC.

He accused K.T. Rama Rao for trying to steal credit by projecting Basti Dawkhana as state project and reminded people that it was sanctioned by the Central government. He challenged K.T. Rama Rao and his father Chandrasekhar Rao to come for an open debate on the 169 Basti Dawkhana in the city. He said the TRS will be forced to provide a boat for each house if they win the elections.

Full report on Page 4

## Cong strategist Ahmed no more

**ASHHAR KHAN | DC  
with agency inputs**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25


Ahmed Patel

Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who was the chief troubleshooter of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, passed away in the early hours of Wednesday at a private hospital in Gurgaon, Haryana.

"AP" or "Ahmed Bhai", as he was known in political circles, had contracted Coronavirus in early October. He died due to complications arising out of the infection. He was 71.

His son Faisal Patel tweeted at 4 am, announcing the passing away of the Congress veteran.

"With profound grief and sorrow, I regret to announce the sad and untimely demise of my father, Mr Ahmed Patel at 25/11/2020, 03:30 am. After testing positive for Covid-19 around a month back, his health worsened further due to multiple organ failures. May Allah grant him Jannah firdaus, inshallah," he said in his tweet.

Ahmed Patel's death stunned the Congress with tributes pouring in from all quarters. Mrs Gandhi called him a "great friend" and added that the passing away of Mr Patel is an "irreparable loss" to the Congress.

Full report on Page 4

## SC STAYS APHC GAG ORDER ON PUBLISHING AMARAVATI FIR

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC**  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

The Supreme Court on Wednesday vacated the AP High Court's order gagging the media from reporting an FIR filed in Amaravati land case allegedly involving the state's former advocate general Dammalapati Srinivas.

While lifting the HC order restraining the media from reporting the FIR registered on September 15, 2020, Justice Ashok Bhushan, heading a bench also comprising Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah, however, did not interfere with the HC order against any coercive action against the former law officer of the State and stalling the investigation into the FIR. The High Court by its September 15, 2020 order had said, "It is further directed that the news about registration of FIR or in the context of said FIR shall not be made public in any electronic, print or social media, to foist the office of a former Advocate General and also with respect to the other alleged accused persons."

Page 5: HC told not to give final order on plea

## HC: IS IT MUST TO ENLIST ASSETS ON DHARANI?

**VUJINI  
VAMSIDHARA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The registration of non-agricultural land and properties through Dharni portal would be delayed as the Telangana High Court on Wednesday refused to vacate its interim stay order which directed the TS government not to insist on the details of the property owners for the Dharni portal.

There are four ambulances at the door of the residence. They have summoned family members to come. It is serious," the TyC Sports channel reported.

The life of the divine footballing talent that was Diego Armando Maradona was marked by wild highs and lows, with Argentina and with club sides Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli.

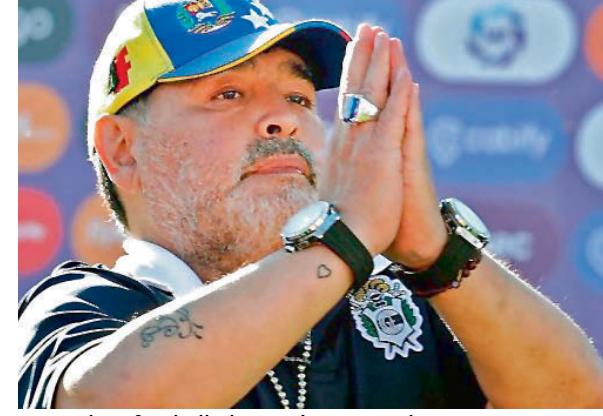
The former player underwent surgery earlier this month to remove a clot lodged between his brain and skull.

— AFP

More reports on Page 12

Full report on Page 3

## 'Hand of God' Diego Maradona dead



Legendary football player Diego Maradona

Buenos Aires, Nov. 25: Diego Maradona, one of the greatest footballers of all time, died on Wednesday at the age of 60, plunging his sport and his native Argentina into mourning. Renowned along with Pele as one of the greatest players ever to play the game, the Argentine World Cup-winning captain died of a heart attack, having undergone brain surgery earlier this month, a member of his entourage said. Maradona will forever be known for his "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final in Mexico,

when he appeared to use his hand to push the ball into the net before later swerving through the English defenders for a memorable second goal that sealed victory. Pele said Maradona had been a "dear friend" and said he hoped they would "play together in the sky" one day. Gary Lineker, who was in the England team defeated in 1986, tweeted that Maradona was "arguably the greatest of all time" but made a reference to that infamous goal by adding: "After a blessed but troubled life, hopefully he'll

finally find some comfort in the hands of God. #RipDiego" Lionel Messi, the Argentine, considered one of the world's greatest modern-day players, said Maradona was "eternal". Argentine President Alberto Fernandez immediately announced three days of national mourning in the South American country. Shortly before the announcement that shocked the world, Argentine media reported Maradona had suffered a serious health setback on Wednesday and was being treated at his home north of Buenos Aires.

More reports on Page 12

Full report on Page 3

## SHORT TAKES

**TS IS TOP PERFORMER IN PM SVANIDHI**

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Telangana government has been lauded for being the top-most performer in implementation of Prime Minister Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

Ministry of housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shankar Mishra has informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Telangana has stood first in identification, disbursement and providing of bank loans to street vendors.

The PM had on Wednesday held a PRAGATI video conference with chief secretaries of all states to review the progress achieved in rural housing, public grievance redressal, various infrastructure projects and PM SVANidhi.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was informed that 5,88,099 street vendors had been identified in Telangana and 4,29,250 loan applications uploaded, which is 72 per cent of the total identified vendors in the state. 3,07,279 loans have been sanctioned and 1,76,628 of them already disbursed in the state.

A mobile application has been developed with which all street vendors can be surveyed within three months' time. A quick survey conducted found that there has been a 602.91 percent increase in the number of street vendors.

Chief secretary Somesh Kumar explained during the meeting that the state government has also tied up with digital payment aggregators like Phone Pe, Bharath Pe, Paytm, Airtel Payment Bank, Pay Swift and so on for generation of UPI IDs and issue of QR code to street vendors. Principal secretary (Municipal Administration and Urban Development) Arvind Kumar, Principal secretary (Finance) K. Ramakrishna Rao, principal secretary (Industries) Jayesh Ranjan, secretary (Agriculture) Janardhan Reddy, secretary (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Sandeep Kumar Sultana and other senior officers participated in the conference.

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## REFUND FOR HAJ-2019 BEGINS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Telangana state Haj Committee chairman Mohammed Masiullah Khan, Chairman on Wednesday informed that the refund process has started for the Haj-2019. The excess amount for Haj and airport taxes are being reimbursed by the Government of Saudi Arabia. Pilgrims who performed the Haj in 2019 will receive the refund amount in their account within 15 working days.

More information can be had on [www.hajcommittee.gov.in](http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in) or on 040-23298793.

## CASE FILED AGAINST DHARMAPURI

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The Banjara Hills police booked cases against the Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind and some BJP workers for allegedly damaging TRS posters in Banjara Hills earlier this week.

The TRS workers lodged a complaint with the police stating that they have put up the promotional poster after obtaining due permission from the election authorities concerned. "The MP and a few BJP workers damaged the posters and removed the flexi displaying the picture of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao," claimed the TRS workers in their complaint.

A case has been registered and an investigation is going on, said S. Kalinga Rao, police inspector of Banjara Hills.

# Quota fails to attract women

**Despite 50 p.c. quota for women in polls, 581 men, 541 women in race**

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Despite reservation of 50 per cent seats for women in upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, there are more males than women on the list of candidates released by the Telangana State Election Commission (TSEC).

## TUS, BANKS, TRANSPORT STRIKE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Central trade unions, banks, insurance, transport workers and labour unions have called for an all-India strike on Thursday.

A public protest will be organised against anti-labour policies and privatisation strategies of the central government at Anjanah Bhavan, following by a march from RTC Crossroads in the afternoon.

The trade unions are demanding abolition of anti-labour laws and anti-farmers Bill, no privatisation of railways, insurance, defence and space sectors; universal social protection for all workers, and comprehensive legislation for domestic workers.

## Covid norms go for a toss during election campaign

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

In Delhi, anyone found in public places not wearing a face mask, are being fined ₹2,000 for the offence.

However, the story in Hyderabad is pathetically one of the other extremes. With the city engulfed in the December 1 elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), one can witness massive gatherings in lanes and by-lanes for the street-corner speeches and roadshows of politicians and contestants. A majority is without masks while social distancing has been tossed out, quite literally.

It is not that the authorities here have not announced penalties for Covid-19 protocol violations. A fine of Rs 1,000 is supposed to be slapped on those moving around without masks. However, the authorities are turning a blind eye for the past few days as the violators include ministers, MPs, MLAs, and politicians of every hue, who are on the roads as part of electioneering.

Ironically, none other

In fact, just a single glance of the full list of candidates published by the TSEC shows that there are 581 men and 541 women in race for capturing the 150 divisions within the GHMC limits.

In unreserved divisions, parties seem to have allotted more seats to male instead of women.

Moreover, the number of independent women is far lower than men.

Women candidates contesting is far lower than men - 172 women against 208 men.

Even in case of women,

who are in the race, the show in most cases is being run by male family members. It is TRS that maintains that it has fielded more women candidates than any other party - 84, against Congress' 75 and BJP's 73 women candidates.

Last month, the State Legislative Assembly amended the 1955 municipal Act to facilitate 50 per-

cent reservation of seats for women in the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Further, reservation of seats for scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, backward class, and women would forthwith be fixed for two consecutive terms, rather than changing reserved seats on a rotation basis for every election.

## Poll preparations



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar leads the flag march of mounted horses to spread election awareness in Charminar, Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

— GANDHI

## I WISH...

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

### ...FITNESS CENTRES ARE SET UP



The GHMC has become a rescue operation service and we see it mostly during calamities and doing sanitization work. But it is also supposed to create an environment in which youth can build strong mental and physical personalities. Most GHMC areas lack GHMC fitness centres and libraries. The new Council should take this into consideration.

— EDWARD ARVIN, Fitness guru

### ...SAROORNAGAR LAKE IS CLEANED

Pollution is very high in Lingoijuda division and lakes in the area have turned into septic tanks. All the drainage lines lead into the lakes. Netas have promised to resolve the issue. A clean up of the Saroornagar lake is the need of the hour and drainage lines leading into it are choked and overflowing. The stench from the lake is unbearable, and something needs to be done about it.

— ANJAIAH, President, Federation of Associations of Colonies and Apartments

### ...MODERN WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM



The new GHMC Council should revamp the garbage disposal system and adopt modern technologies for dumping and disposal of waste. Old garbage transport vehicles should be taken off the roads and all garbage carrying vehicles must be covered. It should also allot land for graveyards for all communities on the outskirts. Hope that basic civic amenities and electricity will be provided free of cost to places of worship.

— AFFAN QUADRI, Businessman

### ...FOR A HEALTHY CITY



I wish we get more lung space in and around Hyderabad and the authorities ensure this as the pollution levels are increasing each year. We need more than the greenery projects initiated in and around Hyderabad. As a Hyderabadi, I wish and hope our city becomes a healthy city and we too can make it by doing our bit — each one planting a sapling.

— PRANEETH YADAV, Financial markets analyst

# Decline in voter turnout worries elders in Old City

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

**IN 2014** general elections Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency recorded only 53% polling, while in 2009 the poll percentage was 52.47%. In 2004, the poll percentage was 55.73. In all these, Old City was lower than the average poll percentage of the state. Meanwhile in earlier times it was a contrast. In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections 69.15% electors had voted.

**MUSLIM GROUPS** have now started a campaign highlighting the importance of the vote and implications of escaping from this constitutional right. Many religious and social groups have started a drive to convince the community voters to realise the power of the vote.

age in Hyderabad constituency was mere 39.49%.

In 2014 general elections Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency recorded only 53% polling, while in 2009 the poll percentage was 52.47%. In 2004, the poll percentage was 55.73. In all these, Old City was lower than the average poll percentage of the state. Meanwhile in earlier times it was a contrast. In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections 69.15% electors had voted.

Likewise, in 1998 elections it was 73.16%, in 1996 elections 63.37% and in 1991 elections 71.12%.

It is pertinent to mention that in 2003 by-elections to Karwan constituency, a wafra from an Islamic seminary 'Jamia Nizamia' was circulated by a certain group of youth, which declared impersonation and bogus voting is haram in Islam because when a man/woman uses vote of others, then he/she has to not only change his name but he has to admit a stranger as his/her father or husband.

Muslim groups have now started a campaign highlighting the importance of the vote and implications of escaping from this constitutional right. Many religious and social groups have started a drive to convince the

community voters to realize the power of the vote. Sermonisers at masjids were asked to sensitise the worshippers about it. Many groups and individuals are posting on social media to encourage the voters to cast their vote.

Moulana Sayeed Quadri of Quadria International said this time GHMC poll falls at a moment which is considered as the peak wedding season and the families engage in purchasing and planning the wedding.

He said people in the Old City have come to the assumption that nothing much can change with their votes. Advocate M.A. Mujeeb said voting is the cornerstone of a democracy but sadly far too few people vote.

"We have to understand that voting matters both to the health of the political system and to the people," he said adding that elected representatives know who votes. "If your lanes are turning out well below other neighbourhoods, an elected representative will pay less attention to your civic problems."

Some wonder what has civic elections got to do with terrorism, illegal immigration, crime, and law and order in the city.

Beyniz Edulji, a gardening enthusiast, says, "I will vote for good governance. What is the contingency plan for disasters like the recent Hyderabad floods?

Talks of surgical strikes hold no water with people like me, who are concerned about ground reality."

"Why is no one addressing the issue of recent floods? Did the central government give flood relief money to the state?"

Will BJP central leaders campaigning for votes in GHMC elections go around lake areas and see the situation of people there? Is any leader willing to address the issue of encroachment of lakes and rivers under the TRS rule?

Some argue that if the GHMC elections are about good civic governance, why the contentious issue of illegal immigrants was being made a part of it.

illegal immigrants, but it has been wrongly worded," said several people critical of the phrase.

Rushab Shah, an event manager, said, "The intent behind the statement was well-placed as there is a need to reduce the number of illegal immigrants in India. However, the term surgical strike is not right. Maybe if they use the right words to make their point, it will help them gain confidence of more people."

Questions, counter-questions, arguments and counter-arguments, with underlying emotions of livid anger and disapproval, or ecstasy and excitement is palpable across living rooms to public places, as people continue to discuss it on open social media like Facebook or closed ones like WhatsApp.

Some argue that if the GHMC elections are about good civic governance, why the contentious issue of illegal immigrants was being made a part of it.

The phrase, 'surgical strikes', has set off a debate laced with sarcasm and brimming with anger in one section of the people, particularly the Muslim community.

On the other side, people are delighted because they feel it is high time this issue was brought to the fore and discussed openly, and an end be put to the stay of illegal immigrants from the Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, especially in the Old City.

The phrase was used by BJP state president and Member of Lok Sabha, Bandi Sanjay, when he said that if the saffron party won the GHMC elections and has its mayor, they would conduct a 'surgical strike' against the illegal immigrants.

"Use of a phrase like surgical strike is not right as Hyderabad is a multicultural and harmonious city. The intent was towards

## 30 men, women over 60 yrs are contesting polls

# Many elders in fray despite govt's Covid safety advisory

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

These guidelines are to be strictly followed. ...elders above 60 years of age are advised to avoid going outdoors unless mandatory. They are advised to stay indoors: The Telangana Health Department;

Persons above 65 years of age advised to stay at home, except for meeting essential requirements and for health purposes:

Government of India.

These are pleas that the state as well as Central governments have been making every day for eight months to everyone in society on how to keep elders safe from Covid-19, with people falling in this age group being particularly vulnerable to fall prey to the disease.

Thirty. That is the number of men and women, over the age of 60, who

have apparently chosen to throw the Covid-19 cautions and guidelines in the trash bin and chose to contest for the December 1 GHMC Council elections. And most of these are out campaigning every day.

Four. That is the number of political parties, which too decided to throw caution to the wind and chose to field between them 20 as their candidates for these elections. The ruling TRS party in Telangana state, and the BJP in power at the Centre, are among these four. The other two parties which fielded candidates aged 60 and above, according to the Telangana state health department, "vulnerable" individuals in the fray.

The TD has an equal number while the BJP and the Congress each fielded three elder candidates. In addition, there are eight independents who are either 60 or older.

As per the final list of GHMC Council poll candidates released by the State Election Commission, the oldest among the six TRS candidates is the 75-year-old Kaja Suryanarayana contesting from Jubilee Hills (Div. 95), followed by the 70-year-old Koppula Vitthal Reddy contesting from Mansoorabad (Div. 12). The oldest BJP candidate is the 64-year-old R. Visheshwaraiah from Bhalakpur (Div. 88), while the TD has two 66-year-old candidates, Kurra Dhanya Laxmi from Hafeezpet (Ward 109), and Urmila Devi from Mangalhat (Ward 63). The oldest Congress candidate is 64-year-old C.L. Yadagiri from Macha Bolaram (Ward 133), while the oldest among the independent candidates is the 71-year-old Koppu Rajiah from Malkajgiri (Ward 104).

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"Use of a phrase like surgical strike is not right as Hyderabad is a multicultural and harmonious city. The intent was towards

illegal immigrants, but it has been wrongly worded," said several people critical of the phrase.

Rush



## SHORT TAKES



**SWAMY GOUD QUILTS TRS, JOINS BJP**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

As expected, senior TRS leader and former Legislative Council chairman Swamy Goud joined BJP in the presence of party National president JP Nadda in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Member of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh CM Ramesh and MLC Ramachander Rao were present on the occasion.

Later, speaking to the media, Goud said that joining BJP was akin to homecoming for him. He said that did not join BJP for any position. He alleged that several leaders, including Ministers in KCR Cabinet, did not fight for Telangana but managed to land up with key positions.

"I hope KCR respects my decision. I have been trying to meet him for two years. I was not given an audience. I left TRS and joined BJP only for self-respect. The next Mayor will be from BJP", Swamy Goud said.

**HATE SPEECHES DISTURBING PEACE: TAGORE**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

AICC in-charge for Telangana Congress affairs Manickam Tagore has accused BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar of disturbing peace with the latter's hate speeches to create problems between religious communities. Addressing reporters over social media on Wednesday, he also slammed ruling TRS of giving money as commission to buy votes for winning GHMC elections. The AICC leader charged TRS of indulging in corruption when executing every project and questioned BJP why it did not order probes against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and municipal minister K. T. Rama Rao.

He wanted Union home minister Amit Shah to order a CBI enquiry against TS CM and also take action against TS BJP party president Bandi Sanjay over his hate speeches. Manickam Tagore asked Union minister Prakash Jayadev why the latter has not complained to ED, CBI, and other investigating agencies about corruption issues against the state government. He alleged minister KTR and his associates are indulging in corrupt activities.

**TRS THREATENING BJP WORKERS, SAYS IRANI**

FROM PAGE 1

Union minister for textiles Smriti Irani said, "The TRS is trying to threaten BJP leaders and workers by using police force to arrest their leaders and filing false cases, which clearly shows how frustrated Chief Minister KCR is."

The minister clarified that the centre had so far allocated ₹1,900 crore for development of the textile industry, which is leading to creation of thousands of jobs. She accused the TRS government for not submitting a detailed report on the flood damage till date, a classic example of the incompetence of the TRS.



TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy during campaign for the GHMC elections at Moosapet on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Uttam: 'Outsider' Bandi threat to peace in Hyd

**BJP leader's communal speeches vitiating atmosphere: Cong**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has on Wednesday strongly condemned the controversial remarks of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay, saying "the comment were clearly aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony of Hyderabad".

Addressing a press conference here, Uttam Kumar Reddy called Bandi Sanjay an "outsider", who knows nothing about Hyderabad or its history.

Reddy said "Bandi Sanjay lacks political maturity and doesn't

even understand the meaning or implications of his highly objectionable communal remarks", adding, "Sanjay was a 'chillar corporator' of Karimnagar who incidentally got elected as MP and then got elevated to the post of BJP state president".

Later, in the day Uttam Kumar Reddy addressed road shows in Kukatpally, Moosapet and Old Bowenpally divisions.

"I was born in the Charminar hospital and I know and love everything about my Hyderabad, including its rich history, culture, heritage, people, customs, religion, its cosmopolitan nature and

every other aspect. People of this city have been living peacefully for over 400 years. But some outsiders like Bandi Sanjay are trying to vitiate the atmosphere of Hyderabad through their communal speeches. I appeal to people of Hyderabad to reject communal parties like the BJP and the MIM, and corrupt parties like TRS and vote in favour of Congress candidates," he said, while addressing the road shows.

The TPCC chief said the Congress party, if voted to power in the GHMC elections, would give ₹50,000 to every flood-affected family and ₹5 lakh and ₹2.5 lakh to those whose

houses were fully and partially destroyed or damaged. He also said that an ex-Gratia of ₹25 lakh would be given to families of those, who had lost their member due to floods.

He said that every eligible beneficiary would be given a double-bedroom house, ₹8 lakh would be given to families who have a plot to construct a house. If they have a single-bedroom house, ₹4 lakh would be given to construct an additional room.

All beneficiaries will be paid ₹60,000 to compensate for rent being paid starting from 2020 till the date of completion and handing over, he said.

## BJP will control floods in the city, says Kishan

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy said on Wednesday that the TRS will be forced to provide a boat for each house if they win in the GHMC elections. "We won Durbukka because the youth are with our party, the situation is the same in greater Hyderabad too," he said.

Mr Reddy participated in road shows at Nampally, Asifnagar, M. H. D. I. P. A. T. N. A. M., Gudimalkapur, Jubilee Hills, Kharibatbad and Banjara Hills.

He said that youth and women are eagerly welcoming the BJP across all divisions of the city and BJP will fulfil their demands in coming days after winning the GHMC.

Kishan Reddy said that the BJP will deliver a non-corrupt, honest administration and effective governance in GHMC, adding that if BJP gets its mayor, they will give importance to single scheme in Telangana without the support of the Centre.

Assuring that they will establish an effective drainage system for flood control setup and allot space for pedestrians at footpath,

Union minister G. Kishan Reddy and state BJP president Bandi Sanjay during an election meeting on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

without encroachments, he castigated the TRS flexies and banners pasted on public toilets, saying these toilets are being maintained, but are being used as advertisements.

He said that a BJP-led GHMC council will control floods, adding that people should remember that the state government could not implement a single scheme in Telangana without the support of the Centre.

Accusing K.T. Rama Rao for trying to steal credit by projecting Basti Dawakhans as a state project, he

reminded people that it was sanctioned by the Central government. He challenged K.T. Rama Rao and his father Chandrasekhar Rao to come for an open debate on the 169 Basti Dawakhans in the city.

Kishan Reddy said that the mid-day meal scheme being run by Prime Minister Narendra Modi across the GHMC was ensuring nutrition and protein-rich food to more than two lakh students,

apart from providing employment opportunities to more than 2,000 people in the region.

## BJP and MIM stirring trouble for some votes, says Revanth

From Page 1

Leaders from the BJP and the MIM were trying to create communal disputes for grabbing votes, alleged Revanth. He said that while one leader made provoking comments about demolishing the PV Gnanam Bhoomi and NTR Memorial, another fellow said we will conduct surgical strikes. "It is a completely scripted drama to divert the attention of people from crucial

issues of urban infrastructure and governance." He said that BJP was trying to create communal divisions between Hindus and Muslims to gain a few seats in Hyderabad whereas the Congress party is geared to serve the public. "Only the Congress party is eligible to ask votes from Hyderabad people," he said.

Local BJP leader Chandra Shekar joined the Congress in the presence of Revanth Reddy.

## Akbar sparks fresh row, says raze PV, NTR memorials

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

MIM Floor leader in the Legislative Assembly Akbaruddin Owaisi stirred a hornet's nest controversy by demanding demolition of Samadhis of former prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao near Hussainsagar instead of Maqta Madar Sahab habitat Tuesday night.

He criticized the government for allegedly targeting

the underprivileged while handling encroachments around water bodies and dared the party to demolish PV Ghat and NTR Ghat which are encroachments on Hussainsagar. "If we question them, they say the Maqta Madar Sahab habitat came up illegally," he said.

Owaisi claimed that when Hussainsagar was created, it was at an area of 4,700 acres. Today the area has been reduced to 700 acres. He wondered what had happened to the remaining 4,000 acres and whether the space was converted to Necklack Road and samadhis of Narasimha Rao and NTR. It may be mentioned that the TRS government is conducting centenary birthday celebrations of Narasimha Rao and had also

demanded the installation of his statue in Parliament.

He said that the government is making false promises to appease voters. The government's 'Intensive Household Survey' says that 6.10 lakh families were found eligible for two bedroom flats. Now they are claiming that one lakh houses are ready. Five years have lapsed but the government did not provide them shelter, he pointed out. He said thousands of youth lost their jobs during the lockdown. After the lockdown 24 lakh youth applied for jobs in Telangana Public Service Commission.

The TRS party is making tall promises for the poor this time also. He said now it promises to provide free drinking water up to 20 thousand litres.

### WILL DEMOLISH MIM OFFICE, BANDI HITS OUT AT AKBARUDDIN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar strongly condemned the despicable comments of MIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi about demolishing memorial ghats of former prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, N.T. Rama Rao.

Bandi countered the comment, saying that if MIM demolishes the two memorials, he would demolish the MIM office, Darussalam, within two hours.

He was participating in several road shows across the city including at Fathenagar, Balkampet and other divisions.

He reassured people saying he will pay floral tributes to both PV Narasimha Rao and NT Rama Rao, adding that he was capable of protecting memorials.

He criticised the TRS for claiming it was a 'gully party', saying it was a 'gadila' (donkey's) party. He responded to comments of minister K.T. Rama about BJP being a Delhi party, saying the BJP was in power in more than 15 states in the country because it is a people's party.

Bandi said that every rupee spent on development works taking place in Telangana was given by the Centre. He claimed that all roads, lights, drains, water supply, rice, community halls and burial gardens funds were being sanctioned from Central funds.

He accused Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for lying and claiming it was state government funds that enabled development but it was funds released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government fund. Yet, the CM did not place a photo of Modi ji in any of these programs, the senior party leader said.

Sanjay Bandi announced that BJP will break the hold of gadilis (donkeys) of TRS and host the BJP flag on GHMC office soon. He said that people of Hyderabad have voted for BJP and the Durbakka verdict will repeat in the state capital.

### 1st Death Anniversary

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints Psalms 116:15



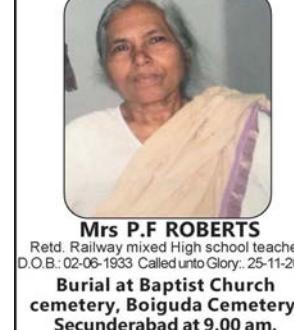
**MARIAMMA MATHEW (JOLLY)**

DOB : 01-03-1968 DOD : 26-11-2019

Inserted by : P.C. Mathew (Husband)

Aneena Mathew (Daughter) & Anila Mathew (Daughter)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints Psalms 116:15



**LAKKAKULA AMARNATH**

TSRRC-RETired ADC HAKIMPET

DOB : 15-08-1952 DOD : 16-11-2020

We pray god to your holy soul rest in peace

Inserted by : Wife, LAKKAKULA SHOBHA

Daughter in Law : LDHANNI (Son), Daughter : BHARGAVI

Son in Law : RAVI KIRAN

Grand Daughter : ARADHANA NEAR & DEAR

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D/O : 01-09-1984 Son : Smt & Sri Rishilesh Raj Saxena

Wife : Smt & Sri Arunesh Raj Saxena & Smt & Sri Vishesh Raj Saxena

Daughter : RANI RAO, LADDU & FAMILY

(S/2021/D00870)

### 1st ANNIVERSARY

Memories are precious, so are the ones we love.

It's been 9 years that you disappeared from our sight but not from our hearts.

Fondly Remembered By:

FAMILY MEMBERS

Ph: 9848012870 / 09901334477

With Love from

YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

The Memory of the Just is Blessed.

23rd ANNIVERSARY

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FAMILY MEMBERS

Ph: 9100822069

With Love from

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## SHORT TAKES

## 33-YEAR-OLD MAN HELD FOR RAPE, MURDER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

A 33-year-old man was arrested by the Medchal police for allegedly raping and murdering a woman earlier this month.

Lyagala Kumar was arrested for murdering Tallamandla Laxmi, 30, a daily wage labourer after getting her drunk on November 12, police said.

"They met during daily wage work a few months back and got acquainted. After hatching a plan to sexually assault her, he made her visit his friend's place in Medchal where they got drunk and he raped her. After the assault, he took her to an isolated place nearby and throttled her to death and fled the place with silver ornaments and a mobile phone," the police added.

After verifying the CC footage from 20 locations, the Cyberabad police officials apprehended the accused on Wednesday and sent him to judicial remand.

## HC TOLD NOT TO GIVE FINAL ORDER ON EX-AG'S PLEA

From Page 1

The top court asked the High Court not to finally decide the petition filed by Dammalapati Srinivas against the registration of the FIR as it directed the listing of the matter in the week commencing from January 25, 2021.

While not issuing a notice to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as the High Court too had not issued a notice to him, the top court issued notice to the head of the state police, Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau and the head of the state intelligence department. Dammalapati Srinivas, who had filed a caveat, was represented by senior counsels Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi.

Assailing the interim order of the High Court directing no coercive action against former advocate-general Srinivas stalling of the investigation into the FIR and gagging media from reporting the FIR, senior counsel Rajeev Dhawan told the court that investigation into the FIR could not have been blocked.

On the gag order, Dhawan cited the top court's constitution bench judgment in the Sahara case where it was held that reporting of the proceedings in criminal matters could only be postponed and not barred.

He said that the petition by Srinivas was filed on September 15 and that very day at 5.30 pm, the High Court heard the matter and passed the interim order.

Describing as unprecedented "the manner in which the High Court had passed the order", Dhawan said that the High Court could not have passed such an interim order at all.

Meeting the arguments, senior counsel Harish Salve contended that the entire action of the AP government against the former advocate-general Srinivas was mala fide and was a case of "regime revenge" as the former advocate general had appeared against Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy in a number of criminal matters. The apex court was informed that Jagan Mohan Reddy is facing 25 cases.

## Tamilians want GHMC Council to hand over pending house pattas

SANJAY SAMUEL  
PAUL | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Hyderabad has a strong presence of Tamilians, who have been staying here much before Independence. Forefathers of most of them have army backgrounds from the British era. After struggling in the initial years after migrating here, they settled in select localities and areas like Jawaharnagar, Yaprak, Tirmulgherry, Lothkunta, Rama Krishna Puram, Ammuguda, Valluvar Nagar, Venkatapuram, Kharkhana, Kaka Guda, Central Battery, Lal Bazaar, Mud Fort, Bowpem, Kandiguda, and Kamala Nagar.

The Kari Maryan temple at Ammuguda Bazaar is a complete Tamil temple that was established in 1726. The

community has its set of problems and they wish that the next GHMC Council will solve them.

Retired army officer Jagannathan Muthuswamy, a resident of Ramakrishnapuram, belongs to a family of four generations of army men and his sons have followed suit.

He said "we have a history in this land. Just consider the history of Kari Maryan temple at Ammuguda Bazaar, which dates back to 1726. This is an indication that Tamil families are living here much before that. Families of most residents of these arrears served in the British army."

Our appeal to the government is considering us for employment and education. Tamil literature should be introduced. Earlier there were Tamil

schools. Most of the youth are engaged in small jobs. If the government looks into this and provides us job reservation in the government sector that would be of immense help to the community that has contributed so much to the city."

P. Jayaraman Pooswamy, resident of Jai Jawahar Nagar Colony, Yaprak, said, "In 1954, 21 acres of land was bought by the Tamil families, which formed a society. That land was given to the government in which, with the help of the government, houses were constructed. Till now, those land pattas have not been handed over to Tamil families. Now the government claims that the land belongs to them. We request the new GHMC body to settle this matter in our favour."

He added that Jai Jawahar Nagar Colony was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru.

P. Franklin, a marketing manager, said "Candidates from all the political parties are campaigning in our areas, to attract the Tamil Voter. Unfortunately, none has done anything for us after elections."

P. Dharmendar. Who resides in Ammuguda, points out that the area has a rich football tradition and Tamilians were the top players of the country. "In the 1960 Rome Olympics, seven players from Hyderabad represented India. It is a matter of immense joy that of them three are from Ammuguda".

His brother P. Rajendran, who retired from the army, is in the forefront of promoting the beautiful game.

## If BJP wins, we will be in trouble: GHMC

Officials of bankrupt civic body fear a new Council might put pressure for funds

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are a worried lot, pondering a scenario where three parties do well in the elections and have substantial seats in the municipal council – the TRS, MIM and BJP.

Fearing that they would get sandwiched if the TRS, the BJP and the MIM win seats in good numbers as is being sensed by them, they say that though the civic body is already bankrupt, the state government has been coming to their

rescue to pay salaries during the last week of every month.

However, without the state government's guarantee, no project launched in the city would take off and officials would be put under tremendous pressure to release ward development funds pertaining to developmental activities to be taken up.

According to highly placed sources in the GHMC, the most drastically affected people would be civic body officials, if the people did not give an absolute majority to ruling TRS in the ensuing

elections. Officials fear they would be caught between the devil and deep sea, with pressure being put on them by the newly elected GHMC council.

Sources said that if BJP wins over 30 seats, which they fear might happen as per current trends, officials would face heat from them but since the civic body was already bankrupt and has been relying on the state government for salaries of employees, they might not get the same support on payroll.

Once opposition becomes strong, it would be very difficult to handle the

MIM and the BJP corporators in council meetings. The government has already informed the civic body to raise loans for developmental activities, with the government providing a guarantee.

A senior GHMC official said that till date, no corporator in the city has "created any problems" pertaining to developmental activities due to a clear verdict. He said, however, if the verdict changes, corporators would become more responsible and raise several questions about developmental activities in their respective wards.

Wards committee members, with their own political interests, would demand good quality work contractors who has been executing works in their ward or threaten to halt works. This could disturb the delicate balance between the corporation and contractors, he said.

Another official informed that ever since the poll notification was announced, cutting across party lines, no corporator had visited the civic body office requesting to complete any pending works in their wards. However, all

this might change in February, especially if the opposition gains ground.

The official further admitted that given the GHMC's bankruptcy, the corporation would not be able to give salaries to newly elected corporators without the support of the TRS government.

Likewise, he said, in order to showcase their political presence after GHMC polls, the city would witness several dharnas and protests for release of ward development funds, which the current council cannot handle.

## MEDICAL COLLEGES IN TS NOT TO REOPEN FROM DEC. 1

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

Medical colleges in Telangana are not going to open from December 1, going by the response Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) has received from parents of students.

Seventy-five percent of parents have refused to send their children to medical colleges, pointing out that in view of the impending second wave of Coronavirus, they cannot risk lives of their children.

Polling was carried out during the second week of November to know the response of parents when discussions started about reopening colleges and universities.

Osmania Medical College principal Dr. Shashikala Reddy says, "Vice-chancellor of KNRUHS wanted the opinion of parents to be taken before starting of colleges. Their response has not been positive. Parents want to wait till the vaccine is available. Only after that they will send their children to medical colleges," she underlined.

Following this, reopening of medical colleges is not being scheduled. Further, the notification sent by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to start colleges from December 1 was only an advisory.

NMC had only recommended that medical colleges could reopen if respective states and union territories have sufficient numbers of non-Covid-19 beds available for training of medical students in teaching hospitals. The commission had pointed out that safety protocols will have to be followed if any college is going to be reopened.

As parents are not willing to send their children, college officials say that there is little that can be done by them.

**THE COMMISSION** had pointed out that safety protocols will have to be followed if any college is going to be reopened.

## Damaged sheds



The space allocated for hawkers and Metro Rail users at Miyapur was found to be in a pitiable condition on Wednesday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Political parties field 72 candidates with criminal records

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

As many as 64 men and eight women corporators contesting for the upcoming Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Council polls have criminal records, sources from police revealed.

Political parties including the TRS, TD, Congress, BJP, AIMIM, MBT and others have fielded 72 corporator aspirants with crimi-

nal backgrounds in 51 divisions of total 150, said the police.

"While the TRS has fielded 14 corporators with pending cases, TD has 13, Congress 13, AIMIM has 11, BJP has 4, MBT has 2, and independents 11," they revealed.

The city is witnessing its second municipal elections after the formation of Telangana state, scheduled to be held on December 1. A total of 1,122 candidates are in the fray.

The Hyderabad-based NGO, Forum for Good Governance (FGG), released an analysed report stating that there are 49 candidates with pending police cases contesting from the four major political parties in the upcoming elections, including that of cheating, theft, criminal intimidation, forgery and fraud.

According to their analysis, half of the 150 wards are reserved for women corporators and six

women candidates contesting the polls have criminal history. The candidates with pending cases booked for offences like trespassing, damaging public property and land encroachment are campaigning for the elections, says FGG secretary M. Padmanabha Reddy.

The NGO has done an independent analysis which revealed that the BJP has the highest number of contesting candidates with criminal

antecedents, followed by the ruling TRS with 17 and 13 contestants respectively. While the Congress party has 13 candidates with a criminal history, Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM has given tickets to seven persons who were previously booked for a crime.

Forty-one wards have candidates with criminal records fielded by political parties. For example, all candidates fielded by major parties in

Malkajgiri ward have a criminal record, their release said.

Speaking about the elections, Reddy said that Hyderabad should set an example by reject criminals. "I appeal to the voters to judge judicially before they cast their votes to a candidate or a party. We need to rejuvenate the city and we are in dire need of a good Council in the GHMC represented by good corporators," he said.

## Career Chronicle

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# DECCAN Chronicle

26 NOVEMBER 2020

## Biden signals US on way back to good governance

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

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

The damage Mr Trump has wrought by casting doubts freely in people's minds on the legitimacy of what has emerged as one of the cleanest elections in American history might have repercussions for the rest of the world. Authoritarian leaders in his mould would only be further encouraged to ignore the popular will even as the US election process and its presidential system of governance takes an

image hit as a role model for democracies. The election is the very fount of democracy even if the US presidential poll hinges on the transfer of Electoral College votes and not on the popular vote as we saw also in Mr Trump's victory in 2016.

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

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

## UP law violates basic rights

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

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

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

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

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**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325  
**Cochin:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagam, Cochin - 641 009, Ph: 0422 221235  
**Gram:** CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College

Subhani



## Use Tibet links, counter China in the Himalayas

Claude Arpi

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

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

But the kinship of shared values and common history between India and Tibet have remained; unfortunately, this never translated into a coherent policy for Tibetan refugees as well as the populations of the border areas.

Though the Indian government never wanted to be politically involved with Tibet, the age-old ties between the Land of Snows and India's Himalayas has remained alive (as we have seen since the start of the present crisis in Ladakh); but now it needs to be revitalised by the government.

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

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

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

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

At the outset, instead of a new policy for Tibet alone, it would be better to have a common policy for the Himalayan belt and Tibet, which have shared countless cultural, spiritual, strategic and economic similarities. I would therefore propose the creation of a Department of Himalayan and Tibetan Affairs (DHTA), to function under the Prime Minister's Office

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

Some general principles should dictate this new policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS GHMC ELECTIONS

Voters may opt for ruling corporators only if they published the work done by them over five years with cost of each work in newspapers and also publish it in their wards so that voters can verify the authenticity of the claim and decide. Mere publicity and meetings won't help. They are a waste of money and time.

S. Vishnu  
Secunderabad

Elections may come and go. But one should not forget that the leaders are "public servants" elected by people to represent their problems. How many of them have fulfilled their promises in the previous elections? When the grievances of people remain unsolved, leaders occupying seats in a government have no moral right to contest again in the elections.

Syed Amjad Ali  
Secunderabad

## CORPORATE BANKING

Allowing corporate business houses to enter the banking sector will be disastrous. The RBI has earned the trust of stakeholders over many years by being proactive. Corporates by entering the banking sector will not only lead to concentration of economic power but also divert funds, launder money, lead to uncontrolled credit growth and unhealthy competition and consequently NPA which the RBI may not be able to uncover.

B.K. Mohanty  
Hyderabad

## 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

### Lok Sabha panel for lowering voting age

NEW DELHI, Nov. 25. The Committee of Petitions of the Lok Sabha has recommended the lowering of voting age in India from 21 to 18 years.

It says in its ninth report presented to the House today that although there are strong arguments against this proposal, such as immaturity of youth at that age and financial implications involved in handling a vastly increased electorate, it strongly feels that there are no valid reasons for denying the right of vote to persons above the age of 18 when, for all other purposes of law, they are treated as majors.

The Committee has, therefore, recommended that Article 326 of the Constitution should be amended for this purpose.

Abhijit

Bhattacharya

## RECP: Why India must be firm on staying out



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



National Democratic Alliance candidate Vijay Kumar Sinha arrives at the Bihar Assembly during the winter session in Patna on Wednesday. — PTI

## 'Lalu trying to topple Bihar govt'

Sushil Modi tweets mobile no. Lalu used to call NDA MLAs

NAYEER AZAD | DC  
PATNA, NOV. 25

Senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday accused RJD chief Lalu Yadav of making strategies to topple the government. He also asked me to abstain from voting during the newly elected NDA government led by Nitish Kumar in Bihar.

In a tweet, he also released a mobile number alleging that Lalu Yadav used it to call NDA MLAs ahead of Bihar Assembly Speaker's election.

"Lalu Yadav has been making calls from Ranchi to NDA MLAs and promising ministerial berths. When I telephoned on the number, he picked the call. I asked him not to play dirty tricks as he will not succeed", BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said in a tweet.

Modi's sensational charge against the jailed RJD leader raised the political temperature in Bihar. While a section in the NDA demanded "a high-level probe" and action against Lalu Yadav, RJD leaders denied the allegation calling it "baseless".

BJP leaders also demanded shifting Lalu Yadav to Tihar Jail from Ranchi where he is in judicial custody after being convicted in the fodder scam case.

The RJD chief, who is serving his jail term after being sentenced by a special CBI court in several fodder scam cases, is currently admitted to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi. He has been shifted to the hospital director's official bungalow due to Coronavirus pandemic.

BJP MLA Lalan Paswan who had received the call from Lalu Yadav on

## MP readies bill to curb 'love jihad'

RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC  
Bhopal, Nov. 25

Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday cleared the draft bill of the proposed 'Dharma Swatantra Vidheyak' (Freedom of Religion Bill) 2020, providing a 10-year-jail term for those found guilty of forcing girls into interfaith marriages for the purpose of changing their religion.

The draft bill is set to be placed before the state cabinet, scheduled to meet here on Thursday, for its nod before being tabled in the upcoming winter session of the Assembly, commencing on December 28.

The draft bill provides a 5-year-jail term for the religious leaders of various faiths who perform marriages of the interfaith couples if the latter fail to inform the district magistrate of their decision to change their religion.

According to the draft bill, the victim of forced marriages for religious conversions or her kin can lodge a complaint in the police station in this regard. The forced marriages for religious conversion will be treated as cognisable and non-bailable offences. Such marriages will be declared null and void. The licenses of the registered social organisation found promoting 'love jihad' will be withdrawn.

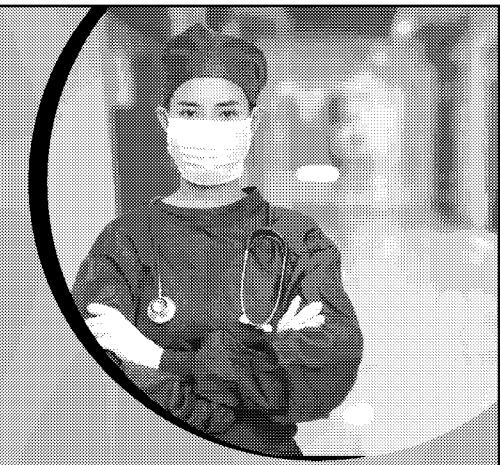
The revised draft bill comes in the wake of Uttar Pradesh cabinet approving a draft ordinance to deal with religious conversion for the sake of marriage, providing a 10-year-jail term for the offenders, on

## Modi likely to lay foundation stone for new Parl bldg in Dec.



**Northern Railway conducts a Walk-in-interview for engagement of CMPs for COVID Isolation ward of Northern Railway Central Hospital on contract basis**

## An opportunity to give medical service to India's lifeline



No. 752E/Contract/COVID/NRCH/2020 Dated : 24/11/2020  
Sub : Walk-in-interview for engagement of Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs) for COVID Isolation Ward in Northern Railway Central Hospital New Delhi on contract basis for a duration up to 31.12.2020 & further extendable as per requirement as shown below and to prepare a wait-list for vacancies that may arise in future. One CMP for Casualty department for one year:

ITEM NO.	CATEGORY	SPECIALTY	NO. OF POSTS	PLACE OF POSTING
01.	CMP	(Specialists Medicine/Anesthesia/Pediatrics/Critical Care/ENT)	Ten (10)	NRCH, New Delhi
02.	CMP	(Specialist) Microbiologist	Three (03)	NRCH, New Delhi
03.	CMP	(General Duty Medical Officer)	Ten (10)	NRCH, New Delhi
04.	CMP	GDMO for Casualty department for one year	(One) (01)	NRCH, New Delhi

Note: - 1. Depending on administrative exigencies, Railway Administration have reserved the right to modify number of vacancies and place of posting. In case sufficient Specialists are not available, posts will be filled by GDMOs.

2. Term/period of the contract is further extendable as per requirement for each category of staff if such directions are received from Railway Board.

### Reservation will be as under:

ITEM NO.	CATEGORY	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	TOTAL
01	CMP Specialist	01	Nil	02	01	06	10
02	CMP (GDMO)	01	Nil	02	01	06	10
03	GDMO (Casualty)	-	-	-	-	01	01
04	CMP Specialist (Microbiologist)	-	-	-	-	03	03

Note :- In case reserved candidates are not available, reserved posts will be filled by UR candidates because the appointment is to be done in Emergency for COVID-19

The reservation will apply as per rules in vogue. The actual reservation of vacancies would depend upon the prevailing sanctioned strength at the time of engagement. In case required number of reserved slots are not filled in, it will be open to fill the seats with unreserved candidate in terms of Rly Bd's directives issued vide No. 77 E (SCT) 15/18 date 22.7.1977 in view of emergency.

### Date, Time & Venue of Document verification, walk-in Interview & Medical Examination:-

The interested candidates can appear in online/Walk-in-interview followed by Medical Examination at the following venue:-

Date	Time	Categories	Venue
03.12.2020	10:00 Hrs. to 17:00.	CMPs	Auditorium, Northern Railway Central Hospital, Basant Lane, New Delhi

Medical Examination of suitable candidates will be held after Walk-in-Interview.

Note :- Candidates should submit their application in duplicate on prescribed proforma enclosed herewith latest by 09:00 AM at above mentioned venue on the dates of Documents Verification and walk-in-interviews.

In case, it is not possible to interview all candidates on nominated day, they will be interviewed on next working day/days. Thus, the candidates should make their own arrangement for stay and come prepared accordingly.

### Remuneration:-

S. NO.	CATEGORY	SALARY PER MONTH
1	CMP (Specialists)	Rs. 95000/-
2	CMP (GDMOs)	Rs. 75000/-

a) For Category 1, 2, 3 & 4: Consolidated remuneration at the rate of Rs. 75,000/- for General Duty Doctor and Rs. 95,000/- for Specialist Doctors per month will be admissible, if Govt. accommodation is not provided. If Govt. accommodation is provided, an amount equivalent to House Rent Allowance payable to a fresh entrant to Group 'A' Jr. Scale and License fee of Railway accommodation so provided shall be deducted from the monthly remuneration payable to the CMP.

### Age Limit

Candidate should not have completed more than 53 years for Item No. 1, 2, 3 & 4, age as on 01.12.2020. However, age relaxation of 05 years for SC/ST and 03 years for OBC candidates is admissible.

### Terms and Conditions:-

Engagement of Doctors would be on contract basis initially for a period up to 31.12.2020, further extendable as per administrative requirement & on the basis of assessment of performance of CMPs as well as the situation of COVID-19 Pandemic if such observations are received from Railway Board. However, services of these doctors can be terminated even before 31.12.2020 giving 15 days notice on either side. Railway Administration reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time during the contract by giving 15 days notice or payment of 15 days remuneration without assigning any reason whatsoever. The services rendered as contractual staff is a stop gap arrangement and & will not confer upon them any right for regularization or permanent absorption in the Railway. The engagement shall be purely on contract basis for a period upto 31.12.2020 or extended term as may be required.

Period of 01 CMP (Casualty) is one year.

### Essential Educational Qualification

(i) For General Duty Doctors: MBBS degree (with completion of internship) from any University/Institution recognized by Indian medical Council.

(ii) For Specialist Doctors: MBBS degree and Post Graduate Medical Degree/Diploma in subject concerned from any University/Institution recognized by Indian medical Council.

### (iii) For CMP Specialist (Microbiologist) Educational Qualification:-

(A) A recognized MBBS degree Qualification included in the first Schedule or second schedule of Part II of the Third Schedule (Other than licentiate qualifications) to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) holders of Educational Qualifications included in Part II of the third schedule should also fulfill the conditions specified in sub Section (3) of section 13 of the Indian medical Council.

(B) Post graduate degree in the concerned specialty of superspecialty mentioned in section A of schedule VI from recognized institute i.e. Doctor of Medicine (Microbiology) with doctor of Philosophy (Medical microbiology/Virology)

### (C) Experience

Preferably with minimum 6 months experience of working in molecular virology/molecular methods/molecular lab.

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation stone for a new Parliament building in the first half of December, sources said.

The sources said that around five statues, including that of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhimrao Ambedkar,

in the Parliament complex are also likely to be relocated temporarily due to the construction work and they will be reinstalled at prominent places within the new complex once the project is completed.

The new building will be constructed close to the

existing one under the Central Vista redevelopment project and it is expected to be completed in 21 months from the start of construction work. The redevelopment project — the nation's power corridor — envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a com-

mon central secretariat and revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate. Although the proposed date of laying the foundation stone is around Dec. 10, the final date would depend on the availability of the PM, the sources said. — PTI

## An opportunity to give

## medical service to India's lifeline

### Experience

(D) For specialist Medical Practitioners, three year experience is essential for General Duty Doctors, the candidate with experience will be given preference Contract is liable to be terminated, if the Contract Medical Practitioner is found to be mentally or physically incapacitated.

### Note:-

- (i) Candidate should bring their Application form along with original and attested copies of all certificates & mark-sheets. No TA/DA is admissible.
- (ii) The offer of engagement to selected candidates shall be issued subject to availability of vacancy as per requirement in Northern Railway Central Hospital located at New Delhi on "as is where basis is". Administration reserves the right to change the posting as per administrative needs. The CMP Specialist Doctors so selected shall also have to carry out general duties as and when required by Railway Administration in addition to their specialty work.
- (iii) If posts of specialists not filled up the vacancies may be filled up by General Duty Medical Practitioners temporarily.
- (iv) The number of notified vacancies may be changed as per requirement of the administration.
- (v) The notification can be downloaded from Northern Railway's websites [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) and [www.nr.railnet.gov.in/dept/personnel/pnew.html](http://www.nr.railnet.gov.in/dept/personnel/pnew.html).

Suitable candidates will be intimated through speed-post, Telephone calls and e-mail/ SMS to report at Northern Railway's Central Hospital New Delhi for posting. The candidates who do not report at the assigned date and time will forfeit their chance of contract engagement and vacancies may be filled up from the next empanelled candidate.

### Enclosed : As above.

### Application format for Walk-in-interview for Retired Railway / Central / State Govt. Doctors and other than Retired Railway/Central/State Govt. Doctors

### APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF SPECIALIST DOCTORS OR GENERAL DUTY DOCTORS

(Kindly indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Whether applicant is Ex Railway/Central/State Govt. Doctors/Ex SM (Kindly indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

Specialist Doctors may indicate if he/she wants to be empanelled as a General Duty Doctors also Willing/Not willing (Kindly indicate)

The Chief Medical Director,

Northern Railway Central Hospital

Basant Lane

New Delhi.

1. Name (in block letters): .....

2. Father's/Husband's name (in block letters): .....

3. Permanent Address : .....

4. Postal Address : .....

5. Email address in very clear words : .....

6. Mobile No. & DOT (with STD code) : Mobile No. .... DOT No. (With STD code) : .....

7. Date of Birth : .....

Age as on 01.12.2020 (      ) Years (      ) Months Days)

8. Category to which belongs : .....

SC/ST/OBC/EWS/UR/

Ex-Serviceman (Please write)

9. Nationality : .....

10. Have you worked in Railways as a CMP? : .....

yes; give details

11. Educational/Professional Qualifications :

EXAMINATION	YEAR OF PASSING	MEDICAL COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY	NO. OF ATTEMPTS	PERCENTAGE



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## SHORT TAKES

## HC ALLOWS REPUBLIC TV TO AMEND THEIR PLEA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday allowed ARG Outlier (parent company of Republic TV) to amend their plea to challenge the charge sheet filed by the Mumbai Police on Tuesday in an allegedly fake TRP scam uncovered by the Mumbai Police. The original plea only sought quashing of the First Information Report (FIR) against Republic and its employees including Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and an order transferring the investigation proceedings from the Crime Branch Mumbai Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

On Wednesday, Republic TV counsellor Abad Ponda urged the court to amend the petition because a charge sheet has been filed in this case and he also wants to quash the charge sheet.

Subsequently, the Bombay High Court has refused to pass any orders to restrain reporting on ongoing Television Rating Points rigging scam. Court refusal has come when the Maharashtra government urged the Bombay High Court to issue orders directing news channels especially Republic TV from running a parallel investigation and trial into the scam.

## SENA MLA GOES IN QUARANTINE, WILL NOT JOIN ED PROBE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Following summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear for questioning in connection with the raids carried out by the agency, Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik quarantined himself informing the officials that he will appear before them after the 14-day period.

The sources said that Sarnaik was in Goa when the ED raided his residence and office. He has also informed the probe agency that his daughter-in-law has been hospitalised due to hypertension after Tuesday's ED raids and therefore he and his son Vihang cannot appear before the ED before next week.

"The summons were sent to both of them to appear for questioning and we were informed about the reason why they would not be available for questioning," said an officer.

The ED officials, meanwhile, are scanning through the seized documents in connection with the alleged laundering of funds pertaining to the security agency run by them. On Tuesday, the ED raided 10 locations in Mumbai and Thane, including premises of a security agency. The searches also included premises of promoters of a security company, some of whom are politicians.

## IMARTI DEVI WHO LOST MP POLLS QUILTS AS MANTRI

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, NOV. 25

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

While state women and child development minister Imarti Devi resigned on Wednesday, 2 other defeated ministers, Giriraj Dandotia and Andel Singh Kansana, resigned from the ministry over the last couple of days.

"I have tendered my resignation. It is up to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to accept or reject it", Devi who had made former chief minister Kamal Nath her sole target during her campaigning in the by-elections in her Assembly constituency of Dabra for calling her an 'item', told reporters on Wednesday.

Devi lost to her Congress rival Suresh Raj by over 7,000 votes. Devi had earlier sought to continue in the ministry till January 2 when her 6-month period, a non-MLA minister is allowed to continue in ministry before being elected to the house, ended.

However, all the three defeated ministers were under pressure to resign from the ministry to enable the Chief Minister to expand his ministry as soon as possible.

"The CM may go for expansion of his ministry shortly following the development", a senior BJP leader said.

## Farm Bills stir reaches Delhi



Police stop members of various farmer organisations during a protest march against the Centre's three new farm laws in Haryana on Wednesday. The farmers, who are protesting against the Centre's three new farm laws, will reach Delhi on Nov. 26 through five highways connecting the national capital as part of the 'Delhi Chalo' march call.

## PDP leader held for links with accused cop

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, NOV. 25

After two days of grilling by National Investigation Agency (NIA), People's Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader Waheed Ur Rehman Parra was on Wednesday formally arrested by the premier anti-terror agency for his alleged links with tainted J&K police officer Davinder Singh.

Singh who last served as Deputy Superintendent of Police at the Anti-Hijacking Squad at the Srinagar International Airport is facing charges under various anti-terror laws for helping separatist militants back home. The case is being investigated by the NIA which had in July filed a chargesheet against him and five others for their alleged terror activities in the country.

A spokesman of the NIA said that Parra was arrested "in connection with the Naveed Babu Davinder Singh case for supporting Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in conspiracy with the other accused persons."

The police officer who was soon placed under suspension and the militant duo were travelling in a Hyundai i20 car along the highway connecting J&K's twin capitals — Srinagar and Jammu — and were reportedly on their way to Chandigarh.

The investigations done by the J&K police had reportedly revealed that Singh had accompanied militants or helped them in relocating to various parts of the country on different occasions in lieu of money and other considerations. However, the Centre later asked the NIA to probe the case.

Special Cell of Delhi Police which also probed the police officer's alleged terror links and subsequently filed a case in a Delhi court, told that Naveed Babu and others were planning to execute terror attacks in Delhi and other parts of the country.

## DIDI DARES BJP TO ARREST HER, VOWS TO WIN FROM JAIL

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, NOV. 25

Dubbing the BJP as a "garbage of lies" and "biggest curse to the nation", Trinamul Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday challenged the saffron party that she, even if arrested, would ensure her party's victory from jail in the Assembly elections.

"BJP is a garbage of lies. It is the biggest curse to the nation. Ahead of election, they threaten the TMC so that some of its leaders defect to them. They are asking all either to live in fear or stay in jail. If you (BJP) have the guts, arrest me and put me behind bars. Staying in jail, I will ensure our victory in Bengal. This is my challenge," Banerjee told a party rally in Bankura while kick-starting her poll campaign from the Jangalmahal district, visited by Union home minister Amit Shah earlier this month.

Mocking senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, visiting the state, as "Dilli Ka Laddu," she said, "They abuse TMC so much daily as if TMC has become their eyesore. In future, only TMC will remain in power, uprooting BJP, CPI(M) and Congress from the state."

The Trinamul Congress chief also belittled the Bharatiya Janata Party's success in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly elections.

## 'Jallikattu' is India's official Oscar entry

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

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

Pellissery, who has previously made critically acclaimed features like *Angamaly Diaries* and *Ea Ma Yau*, said he is "extremely happy" that his movie has been selected for 2021 Oscars.

"Extremely happy to know that *Jallikattu*

gained entry in the Oscar. This is a moment of happiness for all those who 'raced' for the film," the filmmaker said.

The film, which derives its name from the popular yet-controversial bull-taming event from the South, is based on a short story by Hareesh. It features actors Antony Varghese, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sabumon Abdusamad and Santhy Balachandran.

Asked if the film was a "unanimous choice", filmmaker Rahul Rawail, Chairman, Jury Board, The Film Federation of India (FFI) said *Jallikattu* was a favourite. "It is a film that really brings out the raw problems which are there in human beings, that is we are worse than animals," Rawail told reporters in an online press conference.

— PTI

## New guidelines give states a free hand to curb Coronavirus

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

The MHA said that the main focus of the guidelines is "to consolidate the substantial gains that have been achieved in the steady decline in the number of active cases in the country."

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

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) which will be effective from December 1 and will remain in force till December 31, give a free hand to the states and UT to impose lockdowns and movement restrictions if needed to contain the spread of the virus. However, state/ UT governments cannot impose any local lockdown (at state/ district/ sub-division/city level), outside the containment zones, without the prior consultation with the Central government.

Also, there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under treaties with neighbouring countries.

No separate permission/approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements.

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

In a single day, 481 deaths have been reported taking the total fatalities to close to 1.35 lakh.

Within the demarcated containment zones, only essential activities shall be allowed and there shall be strict perimeter control to ensure that there is no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services.

The list of containment zones will be notified on the websites by the respective district collectors and by the states/ UTs.

Containment measures are strictly followed and state/ UT governments shall ensure the accountability of the officers concerned in this regard.

In order to enforce the core requirement of wearing of face masks, states and UTs may consider administrative actions, including imposition of appropriate fines, on persons not wearing face masks in public and work spaces.

For observance of social

distancing in crowded places, especially in markets, weekly bazaars and public transport, MoHFW will issue SOP, which shall be strictly enforced by the states and UTs.

Listing of contacts shall be carried out in respect of all persons found positive, along with their tracking, identification, quarantine and follow up of contacts for 14 days (80 per cent of contacts to be traced in 72 hours).

Quick isolation of Covid-19 patients shall be ensured in treatment facilities/ home (subject to fulfilling the home isolation guidelines). Clinical interventions, as prescribed, shall be administered.

Surveillance for ILI/ SARI cases shall be carried out in health facilities or outreach mobile units or through fever clinics in buffer zones.

Awareness shall be created in communities on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed

Containment measures are strictly followed and state/ UT governments shall ensure the accountability of the officers concerned in this regard.

Containment measures are strictly followed and state/ UT governments shall ensure the accountability of the officers concerned in this regard.

In cities, where the weekly case positivity rate is in more than 10 per cent, states and UTs concerned shall consider implementing staggered office timings and other suitable measures, with a view to reduce the number of employees attending office at the same time, thereby ensuring social distancing.

States and UTs also need to enforce social distancing in offices.

However, based on their assessment of the situation, state/ UT governments may reduce the ceiling to 100 persons or less, in closed spaces.

States and UTs also need to enforce social distancing in offices.

In cities, where the weekly case positivity rate is in more than 10 per cent, states and UTs concerned shall consider implementing staggered office timings and other suitable measures, with a view to reduce the number of employees attending office at the same time, thereby ensuring social distancing.

For observance of social

## Patel could be creative in solving problems and was combative in defence of his party's interest A trusted aide, but political force in his own right also

ANAND K. SAHAY

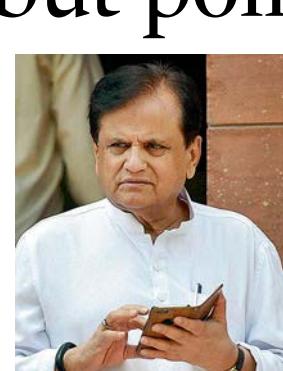
Ahmed Patel, who died at the relatively early age of 71 in the small hours of Wednesday, was much of the time a creative political force in his own right, although all his actions were in the name of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, currently in defence of her party's interim president.

He was no apparatchik - an expression of Russian Communist Party lineage given a derogatory connotation in English usage to denote a faceless, nameless, mindless, party bureaucrat. Patel was none of those things, although in careless hands

and in careless speech he has sometimes been spoken of in those inaccurate and regrettable terms.

He was instead an indispensable personal aide to the Congress president who could be creative in solving problems, unobtrusively combative in defence of his party's and leadership's interest, and was respected among politicians across the aisle though he held no high public office and was just one among many MPs.

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



Ahmed Patel

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

Inclusion was on terms that were acceptable to the top Congress leadership since the Sena had been seen as a communal party and Rahul Gandhi appeared to have reservations

that were being sought to be exploited by the NCP. The Congress being inserted into the ruling scheme was achieved through skilful negotiations conducted by Patel. In these negotiations, he acted as the instrument and the principal since he commanded the implicit trust of Mrs Gandhi and didn't have to look over his shoulder or to await instructions at any stage. In her homage on the passing of an invaluable colleague, Mrs Gandhi has been respectful, calling her late colleague an "irreplaceable comrade" and "friend". Such expressions denote parity and trust.

Patel was quiet. He didn't discuss or run down the vilest political opponents even in private. He seldom declined to see a journalist one on one and on those occasions could be frank in his assessment of a situation even if it was to his party's disadvantage.

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



**IN BRIEF**  
**KIWI SOLDIER CHARGED WITH SPYING**

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

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

**CAR HITS GATE OUTSIDE MERKEL GERMAN OFFICE**

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

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

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

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

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

The metal gate to the chancellery appeared slightly bent.

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

**AZERBAIJANI ARMY OCCUPIES EX-ARMENIA AREA**

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

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

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

**BOAT OVERTURNS NEAR SPAIN, 7 MIGRANTS DIE**

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

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

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



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

## First Coronavirus vaccinations possible by Christmas, says EU

### Christmas bubble: Boris offers days off from lockdown

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

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

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

### RUSSIA SEES RECORD VIRUS DEATHS AGAIN

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

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

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

— AP

### Email row: Sanford Health CEO ousted

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

Sanford Health said in a release on Tuesday that it has "mutually agreed to part ways" with longtime CEO Kelby Krabbenhoff, who took over in 1996 and helped expand the organisation from a community hospital into what is billed as the largest rural non-profit health system in the country. Krabbenhoff left the executive position after telling employees in an email that he believes he's now immune to Covid-19 for "at least seven months and perhaps years to come" and that he isn't a threat to transmit it to anyone. He said wearing a mask would be merely for show. Dr Kathy Anderson, president of the North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said it was "an especially dangerous message to be sending right now in North Dakota." — AP

## Pak hosts UN proscribed ultras: India

### PAK CABINET GIVES NOD TO CHEMICAL CASTRATION, HANGING OF RAPISTS

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

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

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

group, the Popular Revolutionary Organisation-Oriental 33. She was arrested on one of the group's premises she was helping to guard. She was stripped naked as soon as she arrived at the barracks.

Like other leftist opponents of the regime, Amoros, Menendez, Brenda Sosa, Ivonne Klingler and Anatih Aharonian were all in their 20s when they were imprisoned and tortured. AFP reporters have collected their testimonies since 2019. Amoros was a member of an armed anarchist

## Biden: US ready to lead the world

Prez-elect: Country to sit at head of table

### Harris: End hurdles for global leadership

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

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

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

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

## China opposes India's ban on 43 more apps

### Japan protests island infiltration

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

The banned applications, which include a few dating apps, were a threat to the "sovereignty and integrity of India", an official statement said in New Delhi.

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

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

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

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

### CHINESE CONSTRUCTION ALONG INDIA BORDER WORRIES U.S. LAWMAKER

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

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

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

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

## Raped by regime, women demand justice in Uruguay

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

Nine years after first filing a criminal complaint before Uruguay's courts,

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

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

Women's bodies were, and still are, the spoils of war," said Amoros now 72. Considered one of South America's most progressive countries, Uruguay remains conflicted about its military past. Torture, killings, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations were committed during the nearly 12-year dictatorship. "Women's stories are only recently emerging. There is a masculine narrative, a very masculine narrative," said

former political prisoner Luz Menendez, 66. Menendez was arrested and held in La Tablada, an estate outside Montevideo used to torture leftist suspects. She said her torturer

had told her: "Girl, don't worry, you will leave here alive... but since you are a Communist, you will beg God to let you die, because we are going to drive you to the brink of madness."

Like other leftist opponents of the regime, Amoros, Menendez, Brenda Sosa, Ivonne Klingler and Anatih Aharonian were all in their 20s when they were imprisoned and tortured. AFP reporters have collected their testimonies since 2019. Amoros was a member of an armed anarchist

group, the Popular Revolutionary Organisation-Oriental 33. She was arrested on one of the group's premises she was helping to guard. She was stripped naked as soon as she arrived at the barracks.

"They hit you with a riding crop that they used to hit horses with, they hit you all over your body. I was blindfolded, but I knew that there were a lot of men." She remembers Colonel Gilberto Vazquez. He gave her a coffee and a cigarette, but when she

refused to answer his questions, "he got angry," said Amoros in a whisper. "That was the first time he raped me. I always thought if that happened, I'd bite him! Scratch him! I thought I would kick him in the genitals! I thought I would defend myself. But I did nothing. Nothing." Vazquez is currently under house arrest for dictatorship-era crimes.

Many of the women have been unable to speak to their families about their trauma. — AFP

**IN BRIEF**  
WINDS SWEEP  
THROUGH  
ARLINGTON

Texas, Nov. 25: Authorities in Arlington, Texas were responding to reports of collapsed buildings and flying debris after strong winds swept through the southern US state on Tuesday night.

"Our units are currently assessing the structures, triaging potential patients, and moving to other reported locations," the city's fire department said, while the police were determining the extent of damages.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Earlier, the National Weather service had issued a severe thunderstorm warning for parts of Texas, along with Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma. Tornado warnings were in place for areas in Dallas, Tarrant, Denton and Arlington but have since been lifted.

**KNIFE ATTACK:  
SWISS PROBE  
TERROR ANGLE**

Geneva, Nov. 25: Swiss authorities are investigating as a possible terror attack the stabbing of two women in a department store in the southern city of Lugano, for which a suspect has been arrested. Police said the women's injuries were not life-threatening.

Swiss Federal Police said on their Twitter feed that an attack "presumably of terrorist motivation" took place in Lugano on Tuesday afternoon, and federal prosecutors were investigating. The federal prosecutors' office said "an alleged terrorist attack against several people in a department store" had taken place.

Police in the southern Ticino region said a 28-year-old Swiss citizen living in the Lugano area had allegedly attacked two women, wounding one person in the neck with a sharp weapon. In a statement, the Ticino police said one of the victims sustained serious but not life-threatening injuries, while the other sustained minor injuries.

**ICE STORM IN  
RUSSIA: NO  
HEATING, POWER**

Moscow, Nov. 25: Thousands of people in Russia's Far East region of Primorye remained without heating or electricity on Wednesday, as local authorities and emergency services wrestled with the consequences of an unprecedented ice storm that hit the region last week. According to Russia's Energy Ministry, 5,800 Primorye residents as of Wednesday were still cut off from power, and 3,300 people in the city of Vladivostok, the region's capital, still had no heating, the ministry said.

The region was hit by freezing rain on Nov. 18, and thousands of its residents woke up in dark, cold apartments the next day. Thick layers of ice covered trees, cars, roads and power lines, many of which broke under the weight.

The region hasn't seen weather like this in 30 years, Primorye Gov. Oleg Kozhemyako said on his Instagram page. The ice storm continued for several days. On Saturday, nearly 180,000 people in the region had no electricity, heating or water, according to the regional government's website.

The authorities have been working on restoring power supplies in the region for a week. Shelters and hot meals for those affected were organized. The government allocated 700 million rubles (\$9 million) of assistance to the region, where a state of emergency was declared Friday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the ice storm was rather severe and "inflicted colossal damage onto the urban infrastructure" and pointed out that while authorities were taking measures to deal with the situation, the consequences from the force of nature couldn't be eliminated quickly.

# Hope Biden unravels Don's Iran policies, says Rouhani

**Under Trump, tensions pushed the US and Iran to the brink of war**

**IRAN STATE TV** says Tehran has released detained British-Australian academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert in exchange for three Iranians held abroad. The state TV report offered no further details. Wednesday, Moore-Gilbert was a Melbourne University lecturer on Middle Eastern studies when she was sent to Tehran's Evin Prison in September 2018 and sentenced to 10 years.

drawing from the nuclear accord in 2018, which had limited Iran's uranium enrichment in exchange for lifting economic sanctions. Trump has since piled punishing sanctions on Iran that have devastated the country's economy and crashed its currency.

Rouhani called on Biden to "explicitly condemn" Trump's maximum pressure campaign as well as "compensate for wrong policies pursued over the past four years," a possib-

le reference to the massive financial losses Iran suffered as a result of Trump's sanctions campaign. In an effort to pressure Europe to find a way around the sanctions, Iran has gradually abandoned the limits of the nuclear deal. Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, which would have been under 300 kilograms in the deal, now stands at over 2,440 kilograms, according to the latest report by UN inspectors.

—AP



Pro-democracy protesters occupy one side of a road during an anti-government rally outside the headquarters of the Siam Commercial Bank in Bangkok on Wednesday. — AFP

## Royal defamation law revived by Thai cops ahead of protest

Bangkok, Nov. 25: Thai authorities have escalated their legal battle against the students leading pro-democracy protests, charging 12 of them with violating a harsh law against defaming the monarch.

News of the charges comes as the Thai capital Bangkok girded for another rally Wednesday as the students push their demands that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and his government step down, the

Constitution be amended to make it more democratic, and the monarchy reformed to be made more accountable.

Police on Tuesday issued summonses for 12 protest leaders to answer charges of lese majeste, defaming or insulting key members of the royal family. The offence is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment.

The law is controversial, because anyone—not just royals or authorities—can lodge a com-

plaint, so it had in the past been used as a weapon in political vendettas. But it has not been employed for the past three years, after King Maha Vajiralongkorn informed the government that he did not wish to see its use.

The king has not publicly commented on the law since then. According to the legal aid group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, the 12 suspects include top protest leaders known for their pub-

lic criticism of the monarchy. Many in the student-led protest movement believe the monarchy holds too much power for a constitutional monarchy.

But their challenge is fiercely opposed by royalists, who consider the royal institution an untouchable bedrock of national identity.

The protest movement late Tuesday night announced a change of venue for their latest rally. —AP

## Indian-origin MP in NZ takes oath in Sanskrit

Melbourne, Nov. 25: Dr Gaurav Sharma, one of the youngest and newly elected MPs in New Zealand, on Wednesday took oath of office in Sanskrit in the country's Parliament.

Sharma, 33, hailing from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur, was recently elected as the Member of Parliament from the Labour Party for Hamilton West in New Zealand. India's High Commissioner to New Zealand and Samoa, Muktesh Pardeshi said on Twitter that Sharma

took oath first in "New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, followed by India's classical language — Sanskrit, showing deep respect for cultural traditions of both India and New Zealand."

Sharma, who did his MBBS from Auckland and MBA from Washington, is working as a General Practitioner (GP) in Newton, Hamilton. He has previously been involved in public health, policy, medicine and consulting in New Zealand, Spain, the US, Nepal, Vietnam,

and Mongolia, Switzerland and India. Replying to a Twitter user who asked why he didn't take oath in Hindi, Sharma said it is hard to keep everyone happy so he decided Sanskrit as it pays homage to all the Indian languages. "To be honest I did think of that, but then there was the question of doing it in Pahari (my first language) or Punjabi. Hard to keep everyone happy. Sanskrit made sense as it pays homage to all the Indian languages," he said in a tweet. —PTI

Brussels, Nov. 25: The European Union on Wednesday committed to be "creative" in the final stages of the Brexit trade negotiations but warned that whatever deal emerges, the United Kingdom will be reduced to "just a valued partner" far removed from its former membership status. EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said "genuine progress" had been made on several issues "with an outline of a final text", more than a month before UK's transition period as an ex-EU member runs out. —AP

**EU WILLING TO BE 'CREATIVE' FOR BREXIT DEAL**

The Trump administration is lobbying European and other allies to avoid Huawei and other Chinese vendors as they upgrade telecom networks.

Washington says Huawei, China's first global tech brand, is a security risk, which the company denies. "Without any evidence, the British side has repeatedly cooperated with the United States to discriminate against and suppress Chinese companies under the pretext of unfounded

risks," said a ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian. Britain is "blatantly violating the principles of market economy and free trade, seriously damaging the normal operations of Chinese companies" and hurting trust between the two governments, Zhao said.

Huawei is at the centre of US-Chinese tension over technology and security. The administration of incumbent President Donald Trump is trying to limit US market access to Chinese companies it says

might collect too much information about users or pose other risks. They include video app TikTok, video surveillance provider HikVision and messaging service WeChat.

—AP

The law proposed on Tuesday would formalise British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's July order that blocks Huawei from a planned fifth-generation, or 5G, network. Britain earlier gave Huawei a limited role but reversed that under US pressure.

—AP

and fine violators.

The foreign ministry gave no indication whether Beijing might retaliate if the law proposed on Tuesday is approved. It would tighten security requirements for next-generation wireless and optical fiber networks

without any evidence, the British side has repeatedly cooperated with the United States to discriminate against and suppress Chinese companies under the pretext of unfounded risks. Britain is blatantly violating the principles of market economy and free trade.

ZHAO LIJIAN,  
Chinese foreign ministry spokesman

## Jaishankar condoles Bahrain PM's death

Manama, Nov. 25: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa here on Wednesday and conveyed to him condolences on behalf of the government and people of India on the demise of his father and Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Prince Khalifa, one of the world's longest serving prime ministers, died on November 11 at the age of 84 in the US where he was undergoing treatment for age-related ailment. He was buried on November 13.

"Called on DPM HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Conveyed to him and his family our sincere condolences on the passing away of his father HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa," Jaishankar tweeted.

The uncle of King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Prince Khalifa had served

as prime minister of Bahrain from 1970 until his death, having taken office over a year before Bahrain's independence in 1971.

On a two-day visit to Bahrain from November 24 to 25, Jaishankar earlier held talks on bilateral issues as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. During the meeting, the external affairs minister also conveyed condolences on the demise of Prince Khalifa.

"Started Bahrain visit with a warm meeting with FM Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. Conveyed sincere condolences on the passing away of former PM HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa," Jaishankar tweeted.

The uncle of King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Prince Khalifa had served

—PTI

## IRAN DIPLOMAT ON TRIAL OVER PLOT TO BOMB OPPONENTS IN FRANCE

Brussels, Nov. 25: The bomb was meant to explode in a Paris suburb during a huge rally being held by an exiled Iranian opposition group. It could have caused carnage.

Instead, the explosion ripped apart the robot that army specialists were using to defuse the bomb after it was found in the car of a couple arrested in a Brussels suburb. More than two years after the last-minute, cross-border operation that thwarted the planned attack, the couple go on trial Friday alongside two Iranian citizens, including a diplomat believed to be the plot's mastermind.

The court case in the city of Antwerp has the potential to embarrass Iran.

According to legal documents from the two-year investigation obtained by *The Associated Press*, Belgium's intelligence and security agency (VSSE) says the diplomat, Assadollah Assadi, operated on orders of Iran's authorities and brought the explosives to Europe himself. In a note to Belgium's federal prosecutor, the agency argued that "the planned attack was conceived in the name of Iran and at its instigation." The prosecutor's office did not comment on the case because the trial had yet to start.

—AP

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

### E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 45 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU

Online (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

Tender No.16-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 :

Name of Work with its location:

Rebuilding of ORN-N Bridge in ARA -SSM section in DDU Division. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 22639130.00 Earnest Money: ₹ 263200.00, Date & time for submission of e-tender : 10.12.2020, Up-to 12.00 hrs. Website particulars of e-tendering: www.reps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/987/DDU/Engg/T/20-21/40

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

### E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE

सं. ई-टेंडर/सी-एनो/कॉ-1/दल्लू, दी. इन्सीटिएट/वार्षा/48-20-21, दिनांक 24-11-2020

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. - ECR-C-A-C-N-E-TN-48-20-21

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK

S.N. Name of work with its location : Provision of crated boulder apron on toe of embankment, boulder pitching on side slopes and slope drain on side slopes of embankment in East and West Approach of Koshi Bridge between Km. 1.23 to Km. 18.700 in Nirmal-Saraigarh (Koshi Bridge) section in Samastipur Division of East Central Railway, 2. Approx

cost of the work of : Rs. 36,69,99,477.67.3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 19,85,000/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 18.12.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. http://www.reps.gov.in Note: In case of any descrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.reps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this tender.

CAO/Con/North E.C.Rly., Mahendraghat, Patna PR/983/CONN/ENGG/T/20-21/64

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UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

### Roads & Buildings Department

"e" Procurement Notice

\*e\*-NIT No.30/Coronet/Plan work/End(SRAC/CPWD(R)/EECRN)/DEF-10/AEE/5/2020-21 Dt: 24-11-2020, 1. Online tenders are invited under e-tendering platform for one Bridge (1) work in Karimnagar District under Plan, vide E-in-CR8B, SR&CRN, e-NIT No.30/Coronet/Plan work /E&C (SR&CRN) / DCR(E) / EEC(RN) / DEF10 / AEE/5 / 2020-21, Dt: 24-11-2020. 2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from e-market place i.e. Procurement market place at www.eprocurement.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 05-12-2020 Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads & CRN. DIPR No.: 734-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Divisional Railway Manager, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/982/DDU/ENG/T/20-21/44

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

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Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS

## quick BITES

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

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## GST: Kerala, West Bengal accept Centre's option

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

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



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

## UP export policy aims at doubling farmer income

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

## Mahindra's new Thar gets 4-star safety rating

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

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

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Customers of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will be able to operate their accounts from DBS Bank India Ltd from Friday, the central bank announced on Wednesday.

The announcement came within hours of the Union Cabinet clearing the Scheme of Amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India. Consequently, all branches of LVB will function as branches of DBS Bank India effective Friday and the moratorium imposed on the ailing bank would be lifted on the same day, the central bank said.

This will lead to removal of all restrictions placed on the lender earlier this month by the RBI, including the Rs 25,000 cap on withdrawal of deposits.

"The amalgamation will come into force on the appointed date i.e. November 27, 2020. All the branches of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will function as branches of DBS Bank India Ltd with effect from this date. Customers, including depositors of the LVB will be able to operate their accounts as customers of DBS Bank India Ltd. with effect from November 27, 2020. Consequently, the moratorium on the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd will cease to be operative from that date. DBS Bank India Ltd is making necessary arrangements to ensure that service, as usual, is provided to the customers of the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd," the Reserve Bank of India



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

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

(RBI) said in a statement.

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

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

allowed things to deteriorate to such an extent?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Import hurdles hit Apple, Xiaomi devices from China

SANKALP PHARTIYAL &  
ADITYA KALRA  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

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



the two sources said.

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

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

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

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

Electronics, and from Hangzhou Hikvision, the data showed.

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

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

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

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

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

—Reuters

## Twitter to bring back 'blue tick'

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Twitter will relaunch its account verification process early next year, whereby active and authentic user accounts can sport the blue verified badge.

Twitter had paused its public verification programme three years ago, after getting feedback that it felt arbitrary and confusing to many people.

"A year later, we de-prioritised this work further to focus on protecting the integrity of the public conversation around critical moments like the 2020 US election," Twitter said in a blog post.

The microblogging platform is now restarting the process and has asked the public to share feedback

Twitter noted.

The six types of accounts that have been identified include government, companies, brands and non-profit organisations; news; entertainment; sports; activists; organisers, and other influential individuals.

Twitter said it intends to expand the categories and criteria for verification over the next year.

The social media giant said there is also a proposed criteria to automatically remove verification from an account, if the account is inactive or if the profile is incomplete.

Twitter can also deny or remove verification from accounts that are in repeated violation of its rules.

—PTI

## S.Korea unveils AI chip to keep semiconductor lead

SAM KIM  
NOV. 25

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

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



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

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

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

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

—Bloomberg

## Market turns volatile ahead of F&O expiry

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

The Nifty-50, which also touched a new high of 13,458.85, plunged to a low of 12,833.65 before some recovery.

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



### STOCK RALLY TO CONTINUE IN 2021: POLL

INDRADIP GHOSH &  
RAHUL KARUNAKAR  
BENGALURU, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

L'Oreal to train a million against street harassment



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Sachin Tendulkar, batting great



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

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



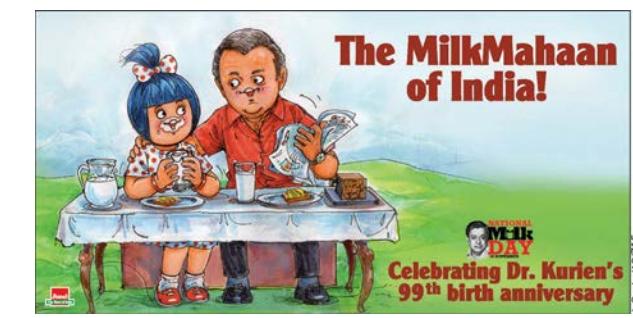
**"One of the greatest icons of the game – Diego Maradona passes away, a very sad day for World sports. Condolences to his family, friends and well-wishers."**

VVS Laxman, former India batsman



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

Virender Sehwag, former Indian hockey captain.



# Diego takes hand of God

## Argentine football legend Maradona dies of heart attack aged 60

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1. In this June 13, 1982 photo, Diego Maradona is attacked by Belgium's Guy Vandermeren during the opening match of the Fifa World Cup in Barcelona. 2. Maradona holds up his team's trophy after Argentina's 3-2 victory over West Germany at the 1986 World Cup final. 3. Maradona arrives in Roma from Barcelona, before being transferred to Naples. 4. Maradona celebrates a goal on his last official game with Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires, Argentina. 5. Maradona flashes victory signs to fans below at the Casa Rosada government house after meeting with Argentine President last year. 6. Maradona poses with his doctor after a brain surgery earlier this month.

— AP, AFP

### The 'Goal of the Century'

The solo goal against which all solo goals will be judged. Named the "Goal of the Century" by FIFA in 2002, his high-speed slalom in Mexico in 1986 ended England's World Cup and cemented Maradona's position as the world's best footballer.

The goal trumps others of its type not just because of its impact, the stage, the spectre of the Falklands War and the fact that it came just minutes after his notorious "Hand of God" goal, but for the efficiency of its execution.

Maradona barely deviates from his path towards goal the moment he spins free in midfield, with a few drops of the shoulder enough to embarrass England for the second time in the space of five minutes. "Diego assures me that he meant to pass to me several times but there was always some

### TOP THREE

obstacle that forced him to change plans. Just as well," striker Jorge Valdano, who followed Maradona up the field, said later.

#### Free-kick that conquered Naples

Innominated the "divine free-kick" in Italy, Maradona's iconic winning goal for Napoli in the November 1985 home clash with Michel Platini's Juventus – reigning European champions – was the one that created the Argentine's legend in Naples.

Standing over an indirect free-kick well inside the penalty area, legend has it that Maradona

asked midfieler Eraldo Pecci to roll him the ball for a shot despite the closeness of the Juventus wall. A quick touch from Pecci was all he needed to flick a stupendous effort over a group of Juve players who were practically on his toes as he hit the ball and past a bamboozled Stefano Tacconi in the Juve goal.

#### 'El Pibe' volleys Verona

There were more crucial goals among Maradona's 115 for Napoli, but few matched the sheer nonchalance of his outrageous lob in a 5-0 hammering of reigning Italian champions Hellas Verona in October 1985.

Collecting a long pass with his back to goal on the left flank, with the ball still bouncing, Maradona took a step and clipped a looping shot towards goal that gently faded off the left post.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MARADONA IN HIS OWN WORDS

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

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

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

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

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

### ON PELE



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

### ON THE HAND OF GOD

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

### ON LIONEL MESSI

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

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

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## Diego in the words of others

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

— Lionel Messi

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

— Argentina teammate Jorge Valdano

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

— Carlos Tevez

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

— Michel Platini, French great

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

— Ruud Gullit, Dutch legend

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

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

