

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 23.0°C
Min: 20.0°C
RH: 81%
Rainfall: 1.8mm
Forecast: rain.
Max/Min temp.
23/20 °C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+40,534)	(+456)
93,49,285	1,36,190
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+761)	(+4)
TS: 2,67,665	1,448
(+733)	(+6)
AP: 8,66,438	6,976

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

6,16,26,862
DEATHS
14,43,815
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
218
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Dwadasi till 7.46 am
Star: Ashwini till 12.21 am (Saturday)
Variyam: 7.51 pm to 9.39 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.44 am to 9.28 am; 12.25 pm to 1.09 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HILARI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 11, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.45 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.30 pm
Maghrib: 5.50 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.18 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.32 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 4.15 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.13 AM

COUNTER POINT



Lok Sabha, Assembly, municipal... all polls should be held at the same time so that we don't need to woo voters time and again!

NATION | 4

I am detained, says Mehbooba



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WORLD | 5

Top Iranian nuke scientist assassinated



SPORTS | 6

India wilt under Smith, Finch tons in Oz opener



Vol. 32 No. 176 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | ₹6.00

FARMERS GET PERMISSION FOR DELHI PROTEST

SANJAY KAW AND BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Thousands of farmers on Friday braved batons, teargas and water cannons along the Delhi-Haryana border before the authorities allowed them to march towards the national capital as part of their "Delhi Chalo" protest against the Centre's farm laws. Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh was the first one to welcome the Centre's decision to allow the protesters to enter the city. Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar reiterated that the government would hold talks next week. "We have invited farmers' organisations for another round of talks on December 3. I appeal to them to leave the agitation in view of Covid-19 and winter."

■ Full report on Page 4

REBEL TRINAMUL MINISTER QUILTS AHEAD OF POLLS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 27

Dealing a double blow to the Trinamul Congress ahead of next year's Assembly polls in West Bengal, rebel TMC minister Shubendu Adhikari resigned from chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Cabinet on Friday, while another disgruntled party MLA Mihir Goswami reached New Delhi to join the BJP. Both have distanced themselves from their party, fuelling speculation of their defection to the BJP, which has also kept the door ajar for them. The TMC heavyweight, who was the face of Ms Banerjee's famous land movement in Nandigram was the minister of transport, environment and water resources investigation.

■ Full report on Page 4

AP okays relief for rain victims

Chief Minister to conduct aerial survey today

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The state Cabinet on Friday decided to compensate farmers for crop loss that they incurred on account of devastating Cyclone Nivar and supply seeds at 80 per cent subsidised price. The government would also distribute ₹500 to each evacuee staying at cyclone relief camps.

The cabinet, which met under the leadership of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has also decided to complete enumeration of crop loss during the recent heavy rains by December 15 and compensation would be paid by December 31.

The Chief Minister would conduct an aerial survey of the affected areas on Saturday.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, agriculture minister K. Kannababu said the effect of the cyclone Nivar was thoroughly discussed.

"People staying at the relief camps would be given ₹500 each while returning home, and the crop loss enumeration would be completed by December 15 and compensation would be paid

Cyclone ravages coastal districts

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 27

Before weakening after the landfall, Cyclone Nivar left a trail of destruction to the crops, roads and buildings in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. The cyclone also claimed the lives of two persons in Chittoor district on Friday.

Crop damage in thousands of acres was reported from East Godavari, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool districts.

In Nellore district, inflows into Somasila led to inundation of some habitations on the banks of the Penna river from Somasila to Nellore,

by December 31. There would be an 80 per cent subsidy on seeds to farmers in the affected areas," the minister said.

He further said ex-gratia and compensation for

apart from damaging standing crops, paddy nurseries and horticulture crops in thousands of acres. The Penna water entered the ancient temple of Sri Talpagiri Rangandha Swamy at Nellore.

Causing innumerable problems to the travelling public, traffic on the National Highway No. 16 came to a grinding halt due to breaches to a diversion road close to Adi Sankara Engineering College near Gudur. An alternative road has been laid on war-footing and traffic has been restored by Friday evening.

■ Page 2: NDRF, SDRF rescue 13 strand persons

the loss of human life and damage to property would be paid as per guidelines. He said the Chief Minister directed officials to take care of people at relief camps.

PG 2 | LOW PRESSURE IS LIKELY IN NEXT 24 HOURS

Why shift capital after you spent so much money: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday asked the state government how it could relocate the capital city by setting up an administrative capital in Visakhapatnam even after spending thousands of crores of rupees on the Amaravati capital region.

The court, while hearing a batch of petitions on the decentralisation of administration by setting up three capitals — turning Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool into legislative, administrative and judicial hubs respectively — made critical comments on the state government's decision to relocate the capital city.

The court observed that there was no such precedence anywhere in the country and commented that the act of the state government was tantamount to flouting constitutional provisions. The court observed that it would not tolerate the abuse of public money and would intervene on the issue if warranted.

2 more jawans killed in Pak fire

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 27

The renewed intermittent clashes between the facing armies along the Line of Control (LoC) that began in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district earlier this week spread to neighbouring Rajouri district on Friday, leaving, at least, two more Indian soldiers

dead. The Army said that the Pakistani troops resorted to "unprovoked ceasefire violation" in Suderbani of Rajouri early Friday. "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the LoC in Sunde-rbani sector of district Rajouri," said Lt. Col. Devender Anand.

■ Full report on Page 4

HC lets cops grill Pothineni Ramesh

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday granted a three-day custodial interrogation of Pothineni Ramesh Babu, the managing director of Ramesh Hospital, in the matter relating to the August 9 fire accident at Covid Care Centre at Swarna Palace Hotel in Vijayawada. The interrogation will be conducted from November 30 to December 2.

A single-judge bench headed by Justice Cheekati Manavendranath

Roy directed Ramesh Babu to appear before the additional deputy commissioner, who is the investigation officer for the interrogation.

Accordingly, the court issued guidelines directing the inquiry officer to conduct the inquiry from 10 am to 5 pm and allow an advocate of the respondent to be present all the time. The court said the respondent shouldn't be subjected to any point-less grilling and to any third-degree methods.

■ Page 2: Interrogate with decency, cops told

GDP growth betters in Q2

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Amidst hopes of development of a vaccine for Covid-19 disease, the Indian economy rebounded at a faster-than-expected pace in the July-September quarter, helped by a pick-up in manufacturing. The GDP contracted by 7.5 per cent dur-

ing the quarter, which is lower than economists' projection of 8.5 to 10.5 per cent, signalling a sharp recovery from the plunge of 23.9 per cent in the June quarter.

"India's real GDP fell to 7.5 per cent in the July-September quarter compared to a contraction of 23.9 per cent in the three months ended June. The GDP at constant (2011-12)

prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at ₹33.14 lakh crores, as against ₹35.84 lakh crores in Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.5 per cent," data by the ministry of statistics showed.

Reacting to the data, chief economic adviser K. V. Subramanian said there is an 'upside potential' in the GDP estimates during the current fiscal.

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LOVE LED US TO DISCOVERING WHAT TOGETHERNESS TRULY MEANS

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CAPITAL ISSUE

HC seeks details of CAMPA funds

Vijayawada: The AP High Court directed the additional solicitor general to submit details on usage of funds sanctioned by Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority to the forest department in the state. The court while hearing a petition on improper usage of funds sanctioned by the Centre through CAMPA to the state forest department by the social activist Thota Suresh Babu here on Friday, asked for details on spending of such funds by the state government.

HC: HOW GOVT CAN BUILD HOUSE ON GREYHOUNDS LAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The AP High Court asked the state government as to how it could build a state guest house on a land allotted to the police special forces called greyhounds in Visakhapatnam.

Amaravati JAC leader Gadde Tirupati Rao filed a petition in the court challenging the state government's proposal to build a state guest house on Kapuluppada Hill.

During the hearing in the case here on Friday, the petitioner's counsel Vunnam Muralidhar argued in the court that it was not appropriate to plan to build the state guest house on a land allotted for the greyhounds and he also informed the court that the place was being used for various training programmes to tackle naxalites and terrorists.

The court directed the state government to file its counter in a week's time and asked it to make the Centre as a party in the case. The court also asked the AP government not to fell trees in 30 acres land allotted for guest house construction.

HC QUESTIONS GOVT ON RELOCATION OF CAPITAL CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The AP High Court on Friday asked the state government how it could relocate the capital city by setting up an administrative capital in Visakhapatnam even after spending thousands of crores of rupees on the Amaravati capital region.

The court, while hearing a batch of petitions on the decentralisation of administration by setting up three capitals — turning Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kurnool into legislative, administrative and judicial hubs respectively — made critical comments on the state government's decision to relocate the capital city.

The court observed that there was no such precedence anywhere in the country and commented that the act of the AP government was tantamount to flouting constitutional provisions. The court observed that it would not tolerate the abuse of public money and would intervene on the issue if warranted.

In a separate development, the court expressed its displeasure with the police for implicating the farmers belonging to the SC community fighting for retaining the capital city at Amaravati under the provisions of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The court wondered how the farmers could be jailed for 18 days. The court also observed that if that was the case, it could be considered as the violation of the fundamental rights of the farmers. The court asked the police as to why they could not produce proper reasons for the arrest of the farmers and said that it could be considered as a contempt of court. Finding fault with the police for failing to handle the farmers' case properly, the court advised them to go by law and the Constitution. The court also faulted the police for failing to file their report properly.

LOKESH: YSRC GOVT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ANTI-FARMERS

Vijayawada: Telugu Desam national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Friday alleged that the YSRC government was resorting to 'highhanded behaviour and arm-twisting tactics' to suppress Amaravati farmers' agitation against the arbitrary three Capitals proposal.

The farmers of Krishnapalem, who were recently released, met Lokesh at Undavalli on Friday. He said it as highly condemnable that SC, ST atrocities cases were filed against the Dalit farmers, who staged agitations to continue Amaravati as only capital of AP.

Nivar leaves a trail of destruction

Man dies after his car stuck in floodwaters at Irala, Chittoor district received an average rainfall of 10.4 cm

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 27

Heavy rainfall associated with gale winds under the influence of 'Nivar' cyclone created havoc in Chittoor district. Several water bodies across the district breached causing hardships to the people and halting the traffic movement.

The cyclone destroyed standing crops in thousands of acres resulting in crop loss running into crores of rupees. District administration has directed the field staff to assess the damage on war-footing soon after the rain subsides.

Even as the district administration is grappling to handle the cyclone situation, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Police personnel rescued 13 persons stuck in flood waters in two different incidents at Chittoor district on Friday.

In a laudable rescue operation, which lasted for 20 hours, the SDRF along with fire and Police personnel rescued 6 persons belonging to a family who got stuck in Gargeya river at Akulavaripalle in Pileru mandal of Chittoor district on Friday.

Two SDRF men with the help of locals managed to reach the other side of the river putting their life at risk and tied a rope across the river.

They used a swing chair to rescue the victims including a couple and their children belonging to Doddipalli village located on the outskirts of Pileru town.

Chittoor SP Senthil Kumar rushed to the spot after coming to know about the incident on Thursday night itself and deputed the SDRF team.

Similarly, Tirupati Urban Police rescued 7 members of a family from a marooned house in a mango garden at Kandada village of Yerpedu mandal in Chittoor district on Friday.

According to Urban Superintendent of Police Avula Ramesh Reddy, with the release of water from Sadasiva konda dam the house in which they were residing in the village was inundated with water causing tension to the inmates.

After coming to know about the situation, police jumped into action and saved the family with the help of a speed boat secured from Pileru. They have been shifted to a shelter home later.

Elsewhere, a youth travelling in a car died when



A bus carrying women to an industry in Sri City is stuck in floodwaters in Sathyavedu mandal of Chittoor district on Friday. Locals helped the women to alight from the bus and reach their destination.

the vehicle had capsized in the floodwaters of Irala stream in Chittoor district.

Police traced the body of a farmer Prasad, who washed away in the Rallavagu at on Thursday, in Kummariapallivagu near Yerpedu.

Meanwhile, Chittoor district received an average rainfall of 10.4 cm during the last 24 hours. Gudipala mandal recorded highest rainfall with 25.2 cm and Tirupati rural received 2.8 cm on Friday.

According to collector Dr Narayana Bharath Gupta, 523.8 km of road was damaged due to flooding. In addition to this, 32 culverts were damaged and 44 trees were uprooted.

Fallen trees were immediately removed and the roads were restored for free flow of traffic.

42 water bodies in minor irrigation were damaged due to flooding in the district.

All the reservoirs, water bodies in the district are brimming with the inflow and Swarnamukhi river was flowing in knee deep water at some parts of the district.

As a precautionary measure, the district collector has ordered the officials concerned to open the gates of major reservoirs to release water.

Also, several roads pass through Srikalahasti, Pichatur and K.V.B. Puram mandals were shut down for vehicular traffic due to flowing of floodwater and alternative routes were being operated.

Collector Dr Narayana Bharath Gupta informed that relief operations were continuing on a war-footing in the cyclone-affected areas in the district.

Heavy inflows into Somasila pose threat to habitations downstream

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE/KURNOOL, NOV. 27

Flood situation is grave in SPSR Nellore district following inflows into Somasila reaching dangers level of above 4 lakh cusecs and release of 4 lakh cusecs into Penna river downstream on Friday morning.

District administration sounded high alert and made arrangements to evacuate people from villages on the banks of the river from Somasila to Nellore.

Many habitations are under a sheet of water and floodwater entered the ancient Sri Talpagiri Ranganatha Swamy temple at Nellore.

"Following heavy rainfall

in Rayalaseema district, the Somasila reservoir has been receiving huge inflows and it may increase up to 3-4 lakh cusecs. Penna barrage has been receiving huge inflows from the Somasila and we are shifting the people living in vulnerable areas to safer places," said collector K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu while appealing the people to be on alert.

Elsewhere, NDRF/SDRF teams rescued 120 persons at Devarayapalli in Anantasagaram mandal apart from 100 members stranded in RTC buses which were stuck in the swirling floodwaters at Saidapuram.

Standing crops are damaged in 70,000 hectares of

land in Prakasam district following heavy rains under the influence of Cyclone 'Nivar' as per preliminary reports from field level officials.

Nivar cyclone battered Nandyal division with Chagalamarri receiving 84.4 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. Sirivella, Allagadda, Koilkuntla, Orvakallu, Atmakur worst affected. Maize was damaged due to cyclone. Paddy fields fell to ground. 6500 hectares of crops have been damaged due to the cyclone, the district administration estimated.

Paddy is worst affected as 4500 hectares of crop got damaged. 150 hectares of horticulture crops like banana and papaya were lost.

Reports trigger gold search along seashore in EG

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, NOV. 27

While most people in East Godavari are staying indoors due to chilli winds and heavy rains following Cyclone Nivar, certain fishing families are venturing into the rain to search for gold along the sea coast near the Market Centre in Uppada and Suradapeta of U. Kothapalli mandal.

The search along the coast started following reports that one or two persons had found gold ornaments along the coast. These reports said certain

houses along the coast had been swallowed by the sea and tidal waves may have swept ashore gold ornaments from these houses.

Meanwhile, cyclonic weather continued throughout the day in East and West Godavari districts on Friday too.

A three-year-old boy Nookapeyyi Lucky of Tatapudi village in Kapilesaram mandal died when he fell into a water-filled pit in Ryali village of Atreyapuram mandal. He had come there along with his parents Durga Prasad and Gopi on Wednesday.

More than 55,000 hectares of paddy and other crops over 1,807 hectares have been affected due to Nivar Cyclone till Friday in 602 villages of 59 mandals, according to agriculture officials. Most of the paddy crop was affected in mandals of U. Kothapalli (2,400 hectares), Uppalagupam (2,010 hectares), Amalapuram (1,603), Allavaram (1,150), Katrenikona (1,954), I. Polavaram (1,521), Mamidikuduru (904), Razole (1,495), Prathipadu (1,320), Tuni (1,213), Rowthulapudi (1n423) and other areas.

A temporary road laid between Samalkot and Pithapuram has been badly damaged due to rains.

In the earlier cyclone, an old bridge in the area had collapsed, following which the temporary road had been laid.

East Godavari district registered an average of 87.7 rainfall with the highest rainfall being 149.2 mm at Malkipuram, 135.4 mm in Sakhinipalli, 136 mm in Allavaram, 147.2 mm in Amalapuram, 119.6 mm in Uppalagupam, 115.4 mm in Katrenikona, 60.6 mm in Rajamahendravaram,

114.2 mm in Samalkot, 112 mm in Pithapuram, 102.6 mm in U. Kothapalli, 87 mm in Rajanagaram and 131.6 mm in Kakinada.

West Godavari district reported an average rainfall of 76.7 mm, the highest being at Achanta -147.6 mm, Poduru - 117.6 mm, Bhimavaram - 113.4 mm and Palakollu - 111.2 mm.

Telugu Desam Party Kakinada parliamentary district president Jyothula Naveen Kumar has demanded that the state government pay Rs. 30,000 per acre to farmers who have lost their crop in the present Nivar Cyclone.

STATE AFFAIRS

Govt to directly credit ₹1,227 crore into the farmers' bank accounts on December 15

Cabinet nod for crop insurance, distribution of pattas

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The AP Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, gave its nod to pay crop insurance for 2019-20 Kharif season, whereby ₹1,227.774 crore will be credited into farmers' accounts on December 15 and to distribute house site pattas on Christmas day.

Briefing the media here on Friday, agriculture minister Kurasala Kannababu said the state government has borne the entire premium for crop insurance without even charging one rupee from farmers. He said that between 2016 and 2019 farmers paid a premium of ₹871.26 crore, and for 2019 Kharif, the state government had borne the entire premium of ₹1,030.74 crore. While only 60.84 lakh farmers have availed crop insurance of ₹37,453.79 crore from 2016-19, in just one year, 2019-20, nearly 58.77 lakh farmers were brought under crop insurance, which is to the tune of ₹37,721.57 crore.

Kannababu said that the Cabinet okayed distribution of 30.60 lakh house site pattas on December 25, costing ₹23,000 crore. He stated that construction of the houses will commence the same day, with a target to complete 16 lakh houses in 8,494 layouts under Phase I by June 2022, at a cost of ₹1.80 lakh per unit.

The minister explained, "D Forms" will be given

Govt rules out changes in Polavaram dam height

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

Minister for agriculture Kurasala Kannababu said on Friday that the Cabinet has approved incorporation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Uttarandhra Irrigation Projects Development Corporation limited (UIPDCL) and also another SPV under Andhra Pradesh Palnadu Area Drought Mitigation Projects Corporation limited (AP PADMPCL) duly including Guntur Channel extension scheme and YSR Vedadri lift irrigation scheme under "YSR Palnadu Drought Mitigation Project".

A special purpose vehicle, under Krishna-Kolleru salinity mitigation project corporation limited, in which four regulators will come up on Kolleru and three structures on Krishna River.

Kannababu said that the Cabinet also approved for World Bank-assisted dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP), Phase-2 & 3 by administrative approval for an amount of ₹776.50 crore. They also accorded adminis-



Kurasala Kannababu

trative approval to increase the discharge from 12,000 cusecs to 24,000 cusecs of Somasila-Kandaleru flood flow canal with an amount of ₹918.80 crore.

The Cabinet approved sanction ₹240.53 crore for completion of R&R package in Chitravati balancing reservoir so as to impound 10 TMC of water in the project. It approved extension works of north feeder channel canal of Rallapadu reservoir in Prakasam district at a cost of ₹632 crore.

Speaking on Polavaram project, Kannababu stated that the Cabinet condemned speculations and reports on reducing the dam height and said that there won't be any change in the height of the dam. He said that in addition to these, the Cabinet has approved to change the

ence deed will be given. For this project, the state government pooled 66,518

system of levying property tax from the annual rental value basis (ARV System) to capital Value (CV) system. He said that only ₹50 is levied as property tax for houses of below poverty line (BPL) families.

Kannababu said that the state Cabinet also agreed to clear pending arrears of DA for employees and pensioners.

With regard to employees and pensioners, DA with a hike of 3.144 per cent, which was applicable from July 2018, will be paid from January along with another hike of 3.144 per cent (applicable from January 2019 and will be paid from July 2021). Also the hike of 5.24 per cent, which was applied from July 2019, will be paid from January 2022. In addition to these, salaries and pensions that were deferred for March will be paid in December and the April dues in January.

Also, the Cabinet gave a nod to the proposed incentives for Kopparthi YSR Jagananna Mega Industrial Hub, which was aimed to create employment opportunities for youth.

acres of land across the state including government and private lands.

Further, the state government will also distribute TIDCO houses to the beneficiaries by collecting only one rupee."

Kannababusaid that to empower women and strengthen the dairy sector, the Cabinet approved AP Amul project, which is scheduled for launch on December 2.

He explained that in the first phase, the project will touch 400 villages in Kadapa, Chittoor, and Prakasam districts, where around 9,899 bulk milk chilling Units will be established. He stated that women beneficiaries of Cheyutha and Aasara schemes will be given cattle, goats and sheep on December 10.

Kannababu said that the Chief Minister will launch the resurvey project "YSR Jagananna Shaswatha Bhu hakku mariyu Bhu raksha pathakam" on December 21.

He said that the latest technology would be used for conducting comprehensive survey and survey stones would be given to farmers free of cost.

The survey will start on December 21 and will be held in phases until 2023. The Cabinet has approved ₹927 crore for the project.

The Cabinet agreed to amend the AP Gaming Act 1974 in the ensuing Assembly Session in order to ban online gambling. Besides these, it approved bills regarding the supply, pricing and manufacturing of quality fodder along with the AP Fisheries University Bill.

NDRF and SDRF rescue 13 stranded people in Chittoor

FROM PAGE 1

In Chittoor district, heavy rainfall associated with gale winds under the influence of Nivar cyclone created havoc in the district. Several water bodies across the district breached, causing hardships to the people and halting the traffic movement.

The cyclone destroyed standing crops in thousands of acres, resulting in crop loss running into crores of rupees. The Chittoor district administration has directed the field staff to assess the damage on war-footing soon after the rain subsides. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with police rescued 13 persons stranded in floodwaters.

In East Godavari district,

more than 55,000 hectares of paddy and other crops in 1,807 hectares have been affected due to 'Nivar Cyclone' till Friday.

In an unusual development, some fishermen families in Uppada ventured out in the rain, braving the wind to search for gold on the coast near Market Centre in Uppada and Suradapeta of U.Kothapalli Mandal. There was a rumour about scattered gold ore on the coast, which made several people brave the rain in large numbers.

In Kurnool district, the cyclone battered Nandyal division with Chagalamarri receiving 84.4 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. Sirivella, Allagadda, Koilkuntla, Orvakallu, Atmakur worst affected. Maize and Paddy crop was damaged in 6,500 hectares due to the cyclone.

LOW-PRESSURE AREA OVER SOUTH COASTAL AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 27

The Cyclone Nivar has weakened and lay over a low-pressure area over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on Friday.

"After crossing Puducherry, the cyclone moved northwestward and took a curve and moved northwards and lay as a low-pressure area over south coastal AP and west-central Bay of Bengal," said IMD director for Andhra Pradesh S Stella.

She said under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over

coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema areas during the next 24 hours.

Similarly, a cyclonic circulation lays east equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining south Andaman Sea and extends up to 5.8 km mean sea level. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is very likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours and intensify further. It is likely to move westwards and reach Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on December 2. Under its influence, heavy rainfall is likely from December 1 onwards over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

INTERROGATE WITH DECENCY, COPS TOLD

From Page 1

The court also felt the need to carry out interrogation with all decency strictly adhering to the values of human rights of a citizen.

The inquiry officer will interrogate Ramesh Babu about the fire mishap caused by an electric short-circuit at a Covid Care Centre run by Ramesh Hospital at Swarna Palace hotel on August 9. Ramesh Babu filed a petition in the High Court seeking to quash an FIR registered against him in the case. Subsequently, the court granted a stay on all further proceedings in the case. However, the state government filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court seeking vacation of the stay order. The apex court, however, ordered the hospital MD to cooperate with the police to avoid custodial interrogation.

In a related development, the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the order of the AP High Court revoking the suspension of former additional director of police (intelligence) A.B. Venkateswara Rao in a case related to misconduct in the procurement of security equipment from an Israeli firm. A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice A.M.Khanwilkar and Justice B.R. Gavai gave a ruling in favour of the AP government.

OTHER STORIES

RGUKTCET-2020 POSTPONED DUE TO NIVAR CYCLONE

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) popularly known as IIT, convener D Harinarayana on Friday informed RGUKT CET-2020 has been postponed in view of the impact of severe cyclone in Andhra Pradesh.

The RGUKT CET-2020 scheduled to be held on November 28 was postponed to December 5, 2020 (Saturday).

He said that the students appearing for the test are advised to take note of this change.

Mr Harinarayana said that the test will be held between 11 am to 1 pm on December 5 in the designated centres.

There will be no change in the examination centres or hall tickets allotted to the candidates. The candidates are requested to report at the allocated examination centre two hours before the commencement of the examination along with the hall ticket and any identity proof.

● **THE RGUKT CET-2020** scheduled to be held on November 28 is postponed to December 5, 2020 (Saturday).

● **THERE WILL BE NO** change in the examination centres or hall tickets given to the candidates.



Prof. Ananda Kumar

RAYALASEEMA UNIVERSITY GETS NEW V-C

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL NOV. 27

Bringing a semblance of academic atmosphere in the Rayalaseema University campus and equipping students to be industry ready are his priorities, said Prof. Ananda Kumar who took charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Rayalaseema University, Kurnool on Friday.

He said the 12-year-old University has a promising future and the stress would be on e-learning, engineering education besides research and development.

Vice-Chancellor Rao was an alumni of Silver Jubilee Government College, Kurnool.

Funds crunch affects survey of rivers in AP

Survey is required to develop safe navigational routes

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN
| DC
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

Lack of funds seems to have delayed the bathymetric survey that is required to develop navigation routes on the Godavari and Krishna rivers to enable tourism boats to operate to popular destinations like Papikondalu, Nagarjuna Hill and others in AP.

In the aftermath of a boat mishap on Krishna river in November, 2017, claiming several lives, the state government had initiated a series of measures ranging from total overhaul of boats to issue of licence, to ensure safety for passengers. Another boat mishap on the Godavari river in September 2019 forced the government to implement all safety norms strictly including setting up control rooms at regular intervals along the flood banks to keep tabs on the boats.

Accordingly, the water resources authorities were supposed to carry out bathymetric survey

● **ACCORDING TO** an estimate, it would cost ₹1.8 crore to conduct a bathymetric survey on the Godavari river from Polavaram to Pochavaram covering nearly 70 km so that a navigation route could be developed for tourism boats. This survey has been delayed.

involving private agencies, after calling for bids. According to an estimate, it would cost ₹1.8 crore to conduct a bathymetric survey on the Godavari river from Polavaram to Pochavaram covering nearly 70 km so that a navigation route could be developed for tourism boats. This survey has been delayed.

However, as the mines authorities excavate sand from the river bed, they assured that they would pay ₹80 lakh out of the total cost of the survey. The authorities are looking for other sources to raise the funds to cover the balance.

Godavari river conservator R. Mohan Rao said, "We are able to find some sources of funding and we will call for bids to select the agency for taking up the survey."

Authorities say that it will take three to four months to conduct such a survey once the works begin. Moreover, the survey has to be done once a year after the river experiences floods. The cost of the repeat surveys, however, will be 10 per cent of the first survey.

On the other hand, sources said that with the Polavaram project scheduled to be completed by December 2021, there is no need for such a survey as the river will be having adequate depth, as huge quantum of water will get stored in the reservoir.

On the Krishna river no bathymetric survey has been done, to fix a safe navigation route from the Nagarjunasagar dam to Nagarjuna Hill where Buddhist relics are secured in a museum, cover-

ing a distance of nearly 10 km. Even here, lack of funds is stated to be the reason. Lack of safe navigation routes on both the rivers is having its impact on plying of tourism boats. Ever since the boat mishap in the Krishna, boat operators are unable to operate their high capacity boats on a regular basis for varied reasons resulting in a huge financial loss and service providers have lost their sources of income.

On the other hand, the authorities are coming up with plans to revive boat operations mainly on both the rivers and also at other places in strict compliance with all safety norms.

AP Tourism Development Corporation joint manager (Water Fleet) Ch. Pavan Kumar said, "We are going to run a pilot boat followed by a fleet of tourism boats equipped with high end communication gadgets, carrying tourists to visit tourist places hereafter following the navigation route to ensure more safety for all."

Cops foil murder plan

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

The Tadepalli police foiled murder plan by arresting three persons on Friday.

Guntur urban SP R.N. Ammi Reddy addressing a press meet on Friday said that the Tadepalli police found three persons suspiciously wandering in an auto-rickshaw at Tadepalli in the early hours on Friday hence the police tried to stop them but the trio tried to escape.

The police led by SI D Vinod Kumar caught them and during checks

found two big knives, two small knives and chilli powder packets.

The SP said that Maddikatla Chandrasekhar Rao was a transport vehicles operator-cum-fiancier and used to give auto-rickshaws and cars for rent to drivers.

A native of Penumaka Satish Naidu got ₹20,000 loan through auto-rickshaw driver Muchu Raju. Later, Satish Naidu posed himself as a car travel operator and hypothesized several cars belonging to others claiming them as his cars. Trusting the cars as of Satish Naidu, Chandrasekhar

gave ₹13.50 lakh on several occasions but Naidu failed to pay back the amounts.

Chandrasekhar inquired about the hypothesized cars and found those cars belonged to others and Naidu was operating them on rent basis. Angry over the cheating Chandrasekhar planned to murder Naidu in his with the help of Muchu Raju and another auto driver Boppana Rajkumar. He purchased two big knives, two small knives and chill powder. But their plan foiled with the police checks.

19 women out of jail told to become good citizens

DC CORRESPONDENT
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, NOV. 27

As many as 19 women prisoners were released from Central Jail on Friday as per GOMS.No. 131. The state government issued the GO to release the women prisoners who have completed five years of imprisonment as per their good behaviour on August 15. But, due to the Covid-19, it was delayed in their release.

Today, the relatives of the women prisoners thronged to the Central jail and received them with hugs and experienced happy moments.

According to sources, two women prisoners did Post Graduate and another two prisoners completed their degree courses from the Jail.

Some of the prisoners said that they are leading their life with the blessing of the Gods and Goddesses and some of the prisoners said that they have learned tailoring and other works and they would lead

2 women prisoners freed at Adavivaram

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 27

Two women prisoners G. Kantamma and N. Roja who were undergoing life imprisonment were released from Central Jail at Adavivaram on Friday.

The two were released as per the GO 149 on special remission issued by the state government on the occasion of Independence Day 2020, according to central jail superintendent N. Rahul. He

their life with these professional courses.

SriSriSri Tridandi Chinna Jeer Swamy Trust distributed sewing machines to the prisoners through the Central Jail Superintendent S. Rajarao, Women Jail Superintendent K. Krishna Veni and YSRC leader J. Vijayalakshmi.

said inmates of prison were given training in various trades by the skill development organisation. Women prisoners were given training in tailoring, embroidery and making bakery items. He said the skills will help them earn for their living after release from jail. Kantamma served eight years and two months jail term including remission period and Roja served eight years and four months jail term.

Rajamahendravaram Lok Sabha Constituency MP M. Bharat provided one month's grocery and essential commodities to each prisoner and gave ₹500 each for their travelling expenses.

Mr Rajarao exhorted the prisoners to be good citizens in the society and to do well to others.



Priests perform Radha Damodara Puja as part of the month-long Karthika Masa Deeksha at Vasantha Mandapam in Tirumala on Friday. Processional deities of Sri Malayappa Swamy, Sridevi, Bhudevi were brought to Vasantha Mandapam for the event.

— DC

HRF activist booked under the UAPA Act

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 27

The police filed two FIRs against HRF coordination committee member for AP and Telangana Mr V.S. Krishna and others for influencing Vakapalle rape survivors to depose falsely against the police personnel.

The two FIRs were filed at the Munchingsput police station in Visakhapatnam district and Piduguralla in Guntur district invoking Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Names of functionaries of other rights, literary and Dalit organisations were also included in the two FIRs.

HRF representatives S. Jeevan Kumar and A. Chandrasekhar said this is an atrocious allegation. HRF, along with many Adivasi, womens', and mass organisations were active participants since 2007 seeking justice for the 11 Vakapalli women who were raped by special forces personnel. It is because of the sheer resilience of the women of Vakapalli and the intervention of the High Court in 2012 and the Supreme Court in September 2017 that the trial is continuing in the SC, ST Special Court in Visakhapatnam.

Thirteen accused police personnel are presently on trial. While two of the Vakapalli women had died in the intervening years, the remaining nine came to Visakhapatnam and deposed in court.

HRF along with several other organisations, have

● **HRF, ALONG** with many Adivasi, womens', and mass organisations were active participants since 2007 seeking justice for the 11 Vakapalli women who were raped by special forces personnel. The trial is continuing in the SC, ST Special Court in Visakhapatnam.

provided them with food and shelter to be able to depose in the trial. It is certainly not a crime to provide food and shelter to Adivasi women witnesses who have come from remote areas to depose in a criminal trial mandated by the law.

It is because of this solidarity and sustained rights activism that the police are now seeking to intimidate V.S. Krishna in what HRF believed to be a clear case of vindictiveness. They have gone to the extent of invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act which is draconian legislation that mocks at fundamental freedoms.

The UAPA was invoked against three HRF functionaries, TS HRF vice-president Atram Bhujana Rao, Adilabad district HRF president A. Suguna and HRF Komaram Bheem Asifabad district president Kanaka Venkatesh, in an FIR lodged at the Tadvali police station in Mulugu district of TS on November 2. All three are teachers in government schools.

AP REGISTERS DIP IN NEW COVID CASES, DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

AP has continued its dip in number of new Covid-19 cases and also deaths in the last 24 hours.

Accordingly, the state registered 733 new Covid-19 cases rising tally to 8,66,438 and six deaths taking toll to 6,975.

The authorities released Covid-19 bulletin here on Friday reporting that out of 57,752 samples tested, 733 persons were found infected with the virus. Out of a total of 99,13,068 samples tested so far, 8,47,325 patients were found recovered from the infection of Coronavirus while 12,137 patients are found still active with the virus.

Among daily cases of Covid-19, WG reported the highest of 118 followed by 112 in Guntur, 102 in Krishna, 74 in Chittoor, 73 in Visakhapatnam, 65 in EG, 40 in Anantapur, 33 in Kadapa, 31 in Vizianagaram, 29 in Nellore, 22 in Srikakulam, 21 in Kurnool and 13 in Prakasam.

With regard to cumulative active cases, EG registered the highest of 4,037 followed by 1,671 in Krishna, 1,436 in Guntur, 991 in Visakhapatnam, 951 in WG, 746 in Nellore, 640 in Chittoor, 422 in Prakasam, 349 in Srikakulam, 288 in Anantapur, 234 in Kadapa and 186 each in Kurnool and Vizianagaram.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
Corrigendum-II to e-Tender Call Notice No.EM/CHP-40/2020 for the work "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200 TPH capacity Shiploader at IOB."

The last date of submission & opening of the bid for the above e-tender call notice are hereby extended as follows: 1. Last date & time Bid submission : 10.12.2020 up to 1800 hrs. (2) Opening of Technical Bid : 11.12.2020 at 1030 hrs. All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged. Refer our website for details: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Executive Engineer (M) PPT/PR/326/20-21 Dt-27.11.2020

PEOPLE TOLD TO SHUN TOBACCO USAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 27

Krishna District collector A. Md. Imtiaz appealed to people to shun tobacco usage in all forms to avoid health complications mainly tobacco related cancers.

The collector here on Friday unveiled a campaign undertaken by HCG Cancer Center on 'Lung Cancer Awareness' forming a human chain with messages on creating awareness of lung cancer.

ECONOMIC | GROWTH Stress on need to reduce logistics cost

'AP encouraging inland waterways'

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 27

The AP government is encouraging inland waterways to reduce logistics cost, said R. Karikal Valaven, special chief secretary industries and commerce.

While addressing Confederation of Indian Industry organised the Second edition of logistics conference focusing on "Economic Prosperity through Logistics" through digital platform on Friday, Mr Valaven said the state government has been encouraging to set up multi-modal logistics parks at

Anantapur and Kadapa. He pointed out that AP is endowed with the best road and rail network, and there was a need to focus on inland waterways to reduce logistics cost in the state.

He also stated that the government is focusing on exports and would announce an Export Promotion Policy to provide further impetus to the growth of exports from the state.

To enhance connectivity with Industrial clusters, government is planning to set up coastal shipping berths across the seacoast to leverage the advantage of long

coastline for the state of Andhra Pradesh, he added in his address.

Chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust K. Rama Mohan Rao highlighted various initiatives of the government and said proposed coastal economic zones in the state would drive the growth of AP.

Naresh Penumaka, Chief Commissioner, Central Excise and Customs, Visakhapatnam Zone stated that the Customs department had taken several measures to ensure smooth flow of goods and services in views of Covid-19. He mentioned that the

Department has reduced the paperwork and ensured the timely clearance of various goods. He also said that the government had appointed Nodal Officers to ensure faster clearance of goods at the Ports.

Krishna B. Kotak, chairman, J.M. Baxi Group, in his address said Andhra Pradesh is strategically located and plays a major role in contributing to the overall growth of the country.

D. Ramakrishna, chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh and managing director, Efftronics Systems Pvt. Ltd presided over the inaugural session.

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OBITUARY

Dr. Paravastu Ranga Chari
(S/o Late Paravastu Venkata Ramanuja Swamy)
B.Sc., MS., FRACS., FAMS., FAASC., FICS., FASI., FSSA.
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Prof. Emeritus of Orthopaedics - Osmania Med College, Hyd & Formerly Prof. of Orthopaedics Deccan College of Med Sciences, Hyd

DOB: 06-06-1927 DOD: 27-11-2020

Funeral today, Sat, 28-11-2020, at 12:30 p.m., from resi. to Bansilalpet Shamsaan Vatika, Hyderabad

Inserted by: PS Ramanujam (Srikanth) (Son), Sharmila (Daughter-in-law), MVRN Acharyulu (Son-in-law), Padmaja (Daughter), Bhargav & Kalyan (Grandchildren),PVG Rajan (Brother)

Cell: 93913 71293

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
B-14/A, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016

110016

Public Notice

Caution against fraudulent offers in the name of PFRDA/NPS

It has come to notice that some unscrupulous elements are making phone calls in the name of PFRDA promising to release large sum of money lying with NPS/PFRDA and these unidentifiable callers also provide deceitful explanations to extort money for release of payments.

This is to inform that PFRDA is a statutory body which regulates National Pension System (NPS) and the general public is hereby cautioned not to fall prey to the designs of such unscrupulous elements who are trying to dupe the unsuspecting citizens in the name of NPS/PFRDA

PFRDA NEVER MAKES CALLS TO INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING THEM TO DEPOSIT MONEY FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM NPS/PFRDA. ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION RECEIVED TO DEFRAUD MAY BE INFORMED TO POLICE IMMEDIATELY.

davp 15102/11/0011/2021

IN BRIEF

NAVY'S MIG-29K CRASHES, PILOT MISSING

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Indian Navy's two-seater, trainer aircraft MiG-29K flying over Arabian Sea crashed on Thursday evening.

One of the pilots of the MiG-29K was rescued. However, the second pilot is still missing even more than 24 hours after the accident. The missing pilot has been identified as Cdr Nishant Singh.

Aircraft and ships are involved in searching for the missing pilot.

As a safety mechanism, Indian Navy's pilot flying suit is equipped with vest which inflates and allows them to remain afloat in water during such emergency scenarios. Also there is personal locator in the suit, which when pressed by a pilot in distress, emits emergency radio signal which helps in locating him in such cases.

"We have increased the number of units searching for the missing pilot. Every effort is being made to locate him," said a senior official.

Till the time of filing of this news report there has been no trace of Cdr Singh.

BID TO CAP SURGE PRICING BY CAB AGGREGATORS

New Delhi, Nov. 27: The government on Friday proposed to cap surge pricing charged by cab aggregators like Ola and Uber at 1.5 times of the base fare. The development assumes significance in the backdrop of a long-pending demand of citizens to cap the pricing of ride-hailing services.

"The aggregator shall be permitted to charge a fare 50 per cent lower than the base fare and a maximum surge pricing of 1.5 times the base fare," said the Motor Vehicle Aggregators Guidelines, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

This will enable and promote asset utilisation which has been the fundamental concept of transport aggregation and also substantiate the dynamic pricing principle which is pertinent in ensuring asset utilisation in accordance with the market forces of demand and supply, the ministry said.

The driver of a vehicle integrated with the aggregator shall receive at least 80 per cent of the fare applicable on each ride and the remaining charges for each ride shall be received by the aggregator.

In states where the city taxi fare has not been determined by the state government, an amount of ₹25/30 shall be the base fare for the purpose of fare regulation, the guidelines said.

Similar fare fixation shall be done by the state government of other vehicles integrated by aggregators with the relevant state, the ministry said.

Research firm RedSeer said that the guidelines for cab aggregators which seek to cap surge pricing at 1.5X among other provisions are expected to have mixed impact for the sector that will benefit from improved safety regulations but could have "negative" fallouts for drivers' earnings.

● **THE DEVELOPMENT** assumes significance in the backdrop of a long-pending demand of citizens to cap the pricing of ride-hailing services.

● **THE MOVE** will enable and promote asset utilisation which has been the fundamental concept of transport aggregation and also substantiate the dynamic pricing principle which is pertinent in ensuring asset utilisation in accordance with the market forces of demand and supply.



Protesters pelt stones during the Delhi Chalo march by members of various farmer organisations over the farm reform laws at Singhu border in New Delhi on Friday. - PTI

Farmers brave tear gas, baton charge to reach Delhi

Centre invites farmers for talks on Dec. 3; Amarinder welcomes decision

SANJAY KAW & BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

Thousands of farmers on Friday braved batons, tear gas and water cannons along the Delhi-Haryana border before the authorities allowed them to march towards the national capital as part of their "Delhi Chalo" protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh, accused by his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar of instigating farmers, was the first one to welcome the Centre's decision to allow the protesters to enter the city.

Soon after Capt. Singh urged the Centre to immediately initiate talks to address the farmers' issues, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar reiterated that the government would hold talks next week.

He said, "The government has always been ready to discuss issues with farmers. We have

invited farmers' organisations for another round of talks on December 3. I appeal to them to leave the agitation in view of Covid-19 and winter."

After camping overnight near Delhi, the farmers clashed with the police for the second day at the Tikri border near Delhi-Bahadurgarh highway. Carrying flags and shouting slogans, the farmers had gathered at various entry points into Delhi in a determined bid to push their way through as part of their march while the police blocked them with barricades, teargas shells and baton charges.

Clashes broke out at multiple places and Delhi's borders resembled a virtual warzone with restless crowds of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, milling around and a sea of police personnel keeping them at bay. Drones circled the air and plumes of smoke from teargas shells could be seen from far.

Security was strengthened at the border and sand-laden trucks and

● **CLASHES BROKE** out at multiple places and Delhi's borders resembled a virtual warzone with restless crowds of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, milling around and a sea of police personnel keeping them at bay.

● **HOURS LATER**, the farmers were given permission to enter Delhi and hold a peaceful protest at the Nirankari Samagam Ground.

water cannons were stationed. Barbed wire was also used for fencing at the Singhu border to prevent the protesters from entering the city earlier in the day.

The police resorted to a lathicharge for a brief time to control protesters who broke barricades. Hours later, they were given permission to enter Delhi and hold a peaceful protest at the Nirankari Samagam Ground at Burari in north Delhi. However, there are still thousands of farmers still camping at the bor-

der points, and undecided on whether to go to the identified protest site. It is expected there might be some clarity on this situation on Saturday.

Traffic was also disrupted in many parts of the city due to the protests. The Dhansa and Jharoda Kalan borders were closed for traffic, and commuters had to take an alternative route. There were long queues of vehicles on the Delhi-Hardwar stretch due to the closure of the Delhi-Dehradun highway.

In Baghpat, the protesters blocked traffic on the Sonapat highway using tractors and raised slogans against the new farm laws.

A farmer was killed and two others injured as the tractor-trolley in which they were travelling met with an accident.

The Delhi police, which expressed concern over the pandemic situation, had sought permission from the AAP government to use the city's nine stadiums as temporary jails for farmers arrested or detained, but this was denied. Delhi

health minister Satyendra Jain said every citizen had the right to protest peacefully. In a letter to the home secretary, he said the Centre should accept the demands of farmers, adding that putting farmers in jails was not a solution.

Former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda appealed to the people of the state to extend all possible help, like food and accommodation, to the protesting farmers.

In a scathing attack on the Centre, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said no government in the world can stop the farmers from fighting the "battle of truth".

"The Prime Minister should have remembered that whenever the ego hits the truth, it is defeated. No government in the world can stop the farmers fighting the battle for truth. The Modi government has to accept the demands of the farmers and the black laws have to be withdrawn. This is only the beginning!" Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Key Trinamul Cong minister Adhikari quits

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 27

Dealing a double blow to the Trinamul Congress ahead of next year's Assembly polls in West Bengal, rebel TMC minister Shubhendu Adhikari resigned from chief minister Mamata Banerjee's cabinet on Friday, while another disgruntled party MLA Mihir Goswami reached New Delhi to join the BJP. He joined the party in the evening. Both have distanced themselves from their party, fuelling speculation of their defection to the BJP, which has also kept the door ajar for them.

In his resignation letter on Friday, Mr Adhikari told the CM, "I do hereby tender my resignation from my office as minister. Steps may be taken for its immediate acceptance. I am simultaneously emailing this to His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, for doing the needful at his end. I thank you for giving me opportunity to serve the people of the state, which I did all through with commitment, dedication and sincerity."

The TMC heavyweight, who was the face of Ms Banerjee's famous land movement in Nandigram during Left Front rule and later became an MP twice, was the minister of three key state government departments, transport, environment and water resources investigation/development.

Within hours of Mr Adhikari's resignation, meanwhile, Bishnupur BJP MP Soumitra Khan made a startling revelation, claiming over 58 TMC MLAs, including state panchayat minister and Narada sting accused Subrata Mukherjee, were ready to defect to the saffron party.

Welcoming Mr Adhikari's step, Mr Khan said in North Bengal, "It was bound to happen. I now imagine what Rabi Babu (TMC MLA Rabindranath Ghosh) and Goutam Da (TMC minister Goutam Deb) will do. It is a matter of concern (sic). I feel that after Mr Adhikari, Subrata Mukherjee is next in the line. On January 9 in 2019, when I joined the BJP, Bhaipo (CM nephew Abhishek Banerjee) had said a lot. But today we have 18 Lok Sabha seats here."

Tweeting the resignation letter, governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "Today at 1.05 pm a resignation letter of Mr Suwendu Adhikari from office as minister addressed to the chief minister has been forwarded to me. The issue will be addressed from the constitutional perspective."

Senior TMC MP Sougata Roy, who recently met Mr Adhikari twice to placate him on Ms Banerjee's instructions, said: "He is still an MLA of our party as he has not quit the post. He has also not tendered his resignation from our party's primary membership. He will remain a member of our party as long as he continues to be an MLA."

He added, "Stepping down from the ministership is purely his personal decision. I am feeling sad about. What I had from the conversation with him... I felt he would not quit the party. I am still hopeful. I will try to ensure he remains in our party."

Mr Adhikari's step came a day after he quit the chairmanship of Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners, a state undertaking in the transport department, sending out his first official signal to the TMC of his exit from government.

MP POLICE TO STOP PRACTICE OF PARADING ACCUSED IN PUBLIC

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 27

Madhya Pradesh police has announced to do away with the practice of parading accused, suspects and arrested people in public, thanks to a recent directive in this regard by Gwalior bench of high court.

Additional director general of police (crime investigation department) Kailash Makwana late on Thursday night issued an order asking the IGs of all ranges in the state and district superintendents of police to ensure that the prevailing system of parading the accused, suspects and arrested persons, is put to end in their respective jurisdictions.

The order follows a directive issued by Makwana on November 7 prohibiting disclosure of identity and personal information of accused, suspects, arrested persons and victims in any criminal case and publication of their photographs (faces covered or uncovered) in the media.

The move by MP police comes in the wake of a recent ruling by Gwalior bench of MP high court that sought abandonment of such a practice while holding that parading of the accused amounts to violation of Article 21. A single bench of the court in its ruling on November 2 quashed the clauses of MP Police circular of 2014 related to production of suspects and victims before the media, disclosure of their personal information and circulation of their photographs in media, holding that the measures violated Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

The court's order was in response to a petition filed by a Gwalior-based man who was arrested due to mistaken identity recently. The incident has gone viral in social media. The court held that such actions harmed his reputation. The high court directed the director general of police of MP to ensure that such incidents did not recur. The practice of parading the accused, suspects and history-sheets by police in public was adopted to instill fear in the minds of criminals.

MAHA ATS GETS NOD TO FREEZE PROPERTIES OF DRUG OFFENDERS

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 27

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) got a clearance from Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act (SAFEMA) for freezing the property of accused persons in case involving an operation seizing drugs worth around ₹60 crore.

The raid by the Vikhroli unit of ATS recovered 146.143 kilograms of mephedrone worth ₹58.55 crore, ₹1.55 crore in cash and three vehicles.

The ATS has arrested 13 persons under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the case.

The case pertains to the raids by an ATS unit who recovered 146.143 kilograms of mephedrone worth ₹58.55 crore, ₹1.55 crore in cash and three vehicles.

"The clearance will help us freeze the properties of the accused persons that would make the action against them more stringent," said an officer.

The probe in the case had revealed that the accused had bought properties, including a plot in MIDC Shirala in Sangli district in the name of one Sardar Patil, a flat at Panvel in Raigad valued at ₹35.10 lakh, a plot in Panvel worth ₹12.72 lakh and another piece of land valued at ₹32.93 lakh in the name of Kaisuddin Siddiqui.

Also, Gold and silver ornaments worth ₹41.32 lakh, seven foreign-made wrist watches and foreign currency were recovered from accused Mohammed Tanvir Abdul Aziz Paryani, who has links with fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, the officer said. The freezing order was issued by SAFEMA authorities on the basis of the ATS probe and a demand made by the latter for such action.

BIG | RELIEF Valuer to assess damages caused in order to calculate the compensation amount

Kangana bungalow demolition wrong: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 27

In a relief to actor Kangana Ranaut, the Bombay High Court on Friday quashed and set aside the September 9 order issued by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) directing demolition of alleged alterations carried out at her Bandra office in Mumbai. HC said the demolition action was bad in law and the demolition was carried out on wrongful grounds. A bench of Justices S.J. Kathawalla and R.I. Chagla

was hearing a petition filed by Ranaut, seeking that the partial demolition of her Pali Hill bungalow carried out by the BMC be declared illegal.

Ranaut had sought ₹2 crore as compensation from the BMC. On the issue of compensation, the bench said it was appointing private firm M/S Shetgiri as the valuer to assess the damages caused in order to calculate the compensation amount due to Ranaut. It further said that the valuer would hear the petitioner and the BMC on monetary damages caused to her due

to the demolition and pass appropriate order before March 21. Court also made it clear that the fees of the valuer would be borne by Ranaut.

"The BMC order actuated by legal malice. There is material in pleadings that smacks of malafide and was done to cause substantial losses. We would be perfectly justified to order compensation against respondents," the bench said in its order.

The court also allowed Ranaut to take steps to make her property habitable in accordance with the

approved plan. If an application is made to BMC for approval, it will be decided within 4 weeks, the court order said.

The bench also asked Ranaut to show restraint in her social media posts and noted, "We do not accept allegations made by the petitioner in view of the alleged atmosphere in the state or film industry. The petitioner is suggested to maintain restraint on public platforms. Irresponsible statements made by the citizens are best ignored."

The BMC had denied the allegations of malafide

action against the actor and said that the actor had carried out illegal work at the bungalow and its officials had therefore acted in accordance with the law in carrying out the demolition work.

The bench, however, said that the photographs of the site, BMC's attempts at denying Ranaut's allegation, the comments made by Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and the editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana* following the demolition made it clear that the civic body had acted out of malice. On October 5, the court

had reserved its verdict on the plea after days of extensive arguments from all sides. It had also made Sanjay Raut a party to the case and disapproved his tweets and his interview to a TV news channel threatening to teach Ranaut a lesson for her tweets comparing law and order situation in Mumbai to PoK in a tweet. Welcoming the court's decision, Ms Ranaut tweeted, "When individual stands against the government and wins, it's not the victory of the individual but it's the victory of democracy."

IN BRIEF

4.7 magnitude quake hits Turkey

Ankara: An earthquake with a 4.7 magnitude shook Malatya province in eastern Turkey on Friday, sending people pouring out into the streets in fear. There was however, no immediate report of any damage or casualties. The quake, which was centered in the town of Puturge, struck at 11:27 am (local time), Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate said. It was felt in several neighboring provinces. Malatya's Gov. Aydin Barus told the state-run Anadolu Agency that his office had not received any "negative reports" concerning possible damage or injuries.

Ex-World Bank prez Wolfensohn dies

New York: James Wolfensohn, who served as the president of the World Bank for 10 years and was a guiding force for a couple of the most well-known cultural institutions in the US, has died. He was 86. Wolfensohn died Wednesday at his home in Manhattan according to the Institute for Advanced Study, where he had been a past chair of the board. His son and one of his two daughters also confirmed his death in media reports. Wolfensohn, born in Australia, worked on Wall Street for many years before taking over as the head of the World Bank, a loan-offering global development organisation, in 1995.

Iran envoy goes on trial over bomb plot

Brussels: An Iranian diplomat goes on trial in Belgium on Friday accused of plotting to bomb an opposition rally outside Paris, in a case that has stoked tensions with Tehran. The case shines another uncomfortable light on Iran's international activities just as it hopes to ease tensions with the United States after President Donald Trump tore up the 2015 nuclear deal signed by both countries and other world powers. It also comes a day after a prisoner swap that saw the release of three Iranians jailed over a 2012 bomb plot in Thailand, in exchange for the freeing of an Australian-British lecturer imprisoned by Tehran for alleged spying. In June 2018, Belgian authorities thwarted what they said was an attempt to smuggle explosives to France to attack a meeting of one of Iran's exiled opposition movements. Later that year, the French government accused Iran's intelligence service of being behind the operation, a charge the Islamic republic has furiously denied.

SRI LANKAN MAN RUNS MOBILE LIBRARY FOR KIDS

Colombo, Nov. 27: During his leisure time, Mahinda Dasanayaka packs his motorbike with books and rides his mobile library — across mostly muddy roads running through tea-growing mountain areas — to underprivileged children in backward rural parts of Sri Lanka.

Having witnessed the hardships faced by children whose villages have no library facilities, Dasanayaka was looking for ways to help them. Then he got the idea for his library on wheels. He started his programme, called "Book and Me," three years ago, and it has become very popular among the children.

"There are some kids who hadn't seen even a children's story-book until I went to their villages," he said. Dasanayaka, 32, works as a child protection officer for the government. On his off days — mostly during weekends — he rides his motorbike, which is fixed with a steel box to hold books, to rural villages and distributes the reading material to children free of charge.

"The children are very keen and enthusiastic, they are eagerly waiting for me — always looking for new books," Dasanayaka said by phone. His programme is mainly centred in Kegalle, a mountainous region of the Indian Ocean island nation about 85 kilometres (52 miles) northeast of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, with poor villages scattered among tea plantations.

He visits the villages once or twice a week to distribute the books. His collection includes about 3,000 books on a variety of subjects. "Boys mostly like to read detective stories such as Sherlock Holmes, while girls prefer to read youth novels and biographies," he said.

Iran's top nuclear scientist assassinated

Tehran, Nov. 27: Top ranking Iranian nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was "assassinated" in an ambush near Tehran, the Iranian state television reported on Friday.

Fakhrizadeh was shot and injured in his vehicle in Absard, in Damavand county, a suburb in eastern Tehran, and later succumbed to his injuries, Iran's foreign ministry said on Friday.

Local authorities confirmed Fakhrizadeh's death several hours earlier and also said that several attackers were killed in retaliation. The top scientist and six others were killed in the attack.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, said the attack happened in Absard, a small city just east of the capital, Tehran. It said witnesses heard the sound of an explosion and then machine gun fire. The attack targeted a car that Fakhrizadeh was in, the agency said.

Those wounded, including Fakhrizadeh's bodyguards, were later taken to a local hospital, the agency said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice —



Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

with serious indications of Israeli role — shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators," Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter on Friday.

Fakhrizadeh led Iran's Amad (Hope) programme which Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon in Iran.

"If Iran ever chose to weaponise (enrichment), Fakhrizadeh would be known as the father of the Iranian bomb," one Western diplomat told Reuters in 2014.

News of the killing comes amid fresh concern about the increased amount of enriched uranium that Iran is producing. Enriched uranium is a vital component for both civil nuclear power generation and military nuclear weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency had said that the Amad programme ended in the early 2000s and that its inspectors now monitor Iranian nuclear

sites. Iran's state television on its website later published a photograph of security forces blocking off the road. Photos and video shared online showed a sedan with bullet holes through windshield and blood pooled on the road.

Israel declined from immediately commenting on the killing. It had earlier alleged that Islamic Republic's military nuclear programme was led by Fakhrizadeh.

Fakhrizadeh's name was specifically mentioned in Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's presentation about Iran's nuclear programme in May 2018.

— Agencies

UK asks regulator to approve AstraZeneca

Britain will be the first nation to get vaccine, if approved

London, Nov. 27: The UK government said on Friday that it has formally asked the country's independent medicines regulator to assess the suitability of Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine for temporary supply, as soon as the company submits the necessary safety, quality and efficacy data.

The UK will be one of the first countries in the world to receive the vaccine, if authorised, with pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca expecting to have up to 4 million doses ready for the country by the end of the year and 40 million by the end of March 2021, the government said.

The move to formally seek approval follows the vaccine team declaring its efficacy in trials earlier this week. However, there have been some concerns raised around the way the results were collated. "We have formally asked the regulator to assess the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, to understand the data and determine whether it meets rigorous safety standards. This letter is an important step towards deploying a vaccine as quickly as safely possible," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock, in reference to a formal letter to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA).

The MHRA is the UK's independent regulator and has already been tasked with reviewing data from Pfizer/BioNTech to determine whether its Covid-19 vaccine meets "robust" standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness. — PTI



A physician wearing PPE kit takes a nasal swab for a Covid-19 test, as personnel of the Austrian Armed Forces (Bundesheer) are ready to process it, in Korneuburg, Austria, on Friday.

German Covid-19 tally crosses 1 mn

Berlin, Nov. 27: Germany, once a beacon of hope in Europe's Coronavirus nightmare, logged its one millionth case on Friday, as Russia announced a partnership with India to mass produce its controversial Sputnik vaccine.

Like much of Europe, Germany is battling a resurgence of a pandemic that is filling hospitals and forcing countries to shut down for business while they wait for help from a clutch of vaccines that could start rolling out for use next month.

Some of the excitement about the new jabs dampened when Britain's

pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitted that further research was needed after a mixup in its third-stage trial.

But Russia unexpectedly stepped in with an announcement that an Indian generic drug maker would start producing 100 million doses of its government-backed vaccine in early 2021.

Germany had largely contained the spread when the virus descended on Europe from China at the start of the year after first emerging in December in the Chinese city of Wuhan. — AFP

CHINA IMPOSES ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON OZ WINE

Beijing, Nov. 27: China on Friday said it would impose anti-dumping tariffs on Australian wine, the latest salvo in an increasingly terse standoff between the two that has worsened since Canberra called for an inquiry into the origins of Covid-19.

Beijing has on several occasions used the threat of diminished access to its vast domestic market as a stick to beat Australia and has suspended imports of some products including beef and timber. In the latest blow, China's commerce ministry announced wine importers will be forced to pay deposits of 107-212 percent of the value of their goods at customs.

Will leave if EC confirms Biden's win: Trump

Washington, Nov. 27: US President Donald Trump said for the first time that he will leave the White House if the Electoral College declares Joe Biden as the winner, but made clear he is not prepared to "concede" the election.

Trump, a Republican, has refused to accept defeat in the November 3 presidential election, and told reporters on Thursday that it would be "hard" to concede to Biden, a Democrat.

"Certainly I will, and you know that," Trump said when asked by a reporter about leaving the White House if Biden is declared the winner on December 14. "I will and, you know that." "It's going to be a very hard thing to concede because we know there was massive fraud," Trump said, once again repeating the unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

The 538-member Electoral College is

scheduled to meet on December 14 and is expected to formally declare the 78-year-old former vice president as the 46th US President.

Under the US electoral system, voters do not directly choose the president. Instead, they vote for 538 officials, who are allocated to American states based on their population size. Biden leads Trump 306 votes to 232 under the Electoral College system used to pick US presidents.

Biden's tally is far more than the 270 needed to win the race for the White House, and he also leads the popular vote by more than six million.

In his Thanksgiving Day remarks, Trump, however, said it will be a mistake if the Electoral College were to elect Biden. "It's going to be a very hard thing to concede," Trump told reporters when asked during a press call at the White House what he will do if the Electoral

College elects Biden. "If they do, they made a mistake," he said.

On his plans for his last Thanksgiving in the White House, Trump said, "You can't say what's first or last." It might be the "first one of the second term," Trump, who is continuing his legal efforts to upend his victory. Earlier this week, Trump allowed the official start of Biden's transition to power without conceding defeat. — PTI

PORK | ROASTED

Additive allowed in pork meat from US contentious

Pig guts fly in Taiwan Parliament protest

Taipei, Nov. 27: Opposition lawmakers hurled pig organs inside Taiwan's parliament on Friday to protest the government's decision to ease restrictions on pork imports from the United States.

Taiwan's notoriously rambunctious legislature frequently sees chaotic clashes between rival lawmakers but Friday's scuffles were particularly novel.

Lawmakers from the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party dumped buckets of pork offal on the debating chamber floor and then proceeded to hurl intestines, hearts, liver and other organs at their rivals. Taiwan's gov-

ernment recently announced it would allow imports of US pork-fed with the additive ractopamine from January 1. The supplement improves leanness but is banned in places like the European Union and China.

Officials in Washington have made it clear restrictions on US pork and beef imports are a key stumbling block to the US and Taiwan signing a trade deal.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party, which commands a strong majority in parliament, hope the easing of restrictions will pave the way for an agreement.



Pork intestines and other organs are seen after Taiwan lawmakers threw them at each other in Taipei on Friday.

— AFP

But many in Taiwan are opposed to US pork imports and the KMT have seized on the issue after a series of stinging electoral defeats.

Last weekend they joined tens of thousands in an annual labour rally, where opposition to pork imports was a major theme.

POLICE ACCUSED OF BEATING MUSIC PRODUCER IN FRANCE DETAINED

Paris, Nov. 27: Four French police officers were detained for questioning on Friday after a video showed them beating up a black music producer in Paris, sparking outrage from the government and celebrities, a source close to the case said.

The officers, who have been suspended from duty, were being held at the National Police Inspectorate General (IGPN), and prosecutors opened an investigation into violence by a person in authority and false testimony, the source said. — AFP

'MAKE-OR-BREAK' TIME AS BREXIT TALKS HEAD TO UK

Brussels, Nov. 27: The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will return to London on Friday to pursue face-to-face trade talks, in what he described as the last chance for a deal.

Explaining that he was no longer self-isolating after a Covid-19 case on his team, Barnier confirmed he was returning to meet his British counterpart David Frost for weekend talks.

The UK leaves Europe's trade and customs area in five weeks but talks on a follow-on agreement are still stalled over fishing rights and fair trade rules.

In a tweet, Barnier warned that the "same significant divergences persist" before he briefed a meeting of EU envoys carrying the same downbeat message.

"We are not far from the take it or leave it moment," Barnier told ambassadors from member states, according to a European source familiar with the closed-door meeting. Without a change of heart from London, "reaching a deal will be all but impossible," another diplomat reported Barnier as saying.

In London, Frost — Prime Minister Boris Johnson's lead Brexit negotiator — was similarly cautious about chances for a breakthrough.

"Some people are asking me why we are still talking," he tweeted.

"My answer is that it's my job to do my utmost to see if the conditions for a deal exist. It is late but a deal is still possible, and I will continue to talk until it's clear that it isn't." He added: "But for a deal to be possible it must fully respect UK sovereignty. That is not just a word, it has practical consequences." These conditions, he said, include UK control of its fishing waters and limits on state subsidies for both sides.

Sources said EU ambassadors urged Barnier to update the EU's "no-deal" contingency measures, with scenes of backed up lorries at the UK border points widely expected if talks fail.

In London, Johnson said it was up to the Europeans to make the move and claimed that Britain was quite ready if talks collapsed.

The "likelihood of a deal is very much determined by our friends and partners in the EU," he told reporters. — AFP

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in	
Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/BZA/29/2020 dt. 27-11-2020 For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15-00 hours and the date mentioned against each.	
Sl. No.:- 1, Tender No.:- E-20-Bridges-2020, Details of Work:- Name of work:- Vijayawada Division-Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section: Provision of Lift at Annavaram station Temple side and Kakinada Town station East Booking side (2Nos) of SSE/BR//RJY section of ADEN/BR/ North/ Vijayawada under DEN/ Bridges/Vijayawada Jurisdiction..	Period of completion :- 6 (Six) months, Tender value :- Rs.17,10,502/-, E.M.D.:- Rs.34,200/-, Date of closing:- 07-12-2020,
Sl. No.:- 2, Tender No.:- E-24-East-2020, Details of Work:- Name of work:- Vijayawada-Kondapalli section: Replacement of Bridge No.788 Up (Exg.3x4.66m RCC Box) between Rayanapadu-Vijayawada stations at Km.581/3-1..	Period of completion :- 9 (Nine) months, Tender value :- Rs.3,26,74,042/-, E.M.D.:- Rs.3,13,400/-, Date of closing:- 14-12-2020
Sl. No.:- 3, Tender No.:- E-31-North-2020, Details of Work:- Name of work:- Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section: TBR - 30.569 km at various overdue locations in Sr.DEN/ North/ BZA jurisdiction.	Period of completion :- 6 (Six) months, Tender value :- Rs.91,19,441/-, E.M.D.:- Rs.1,82,400/-, Date of closing:- 22-12-2020,
The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website " www.ireps.gov.in " before the date of tender closing to note any changes / corrigenda for any tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Vijayawada	
No. E.29/C/TRD/SC/11/2020-21 Date: 27.11.2020	
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Traction Distribution, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Single packet system of tendering.	
Sl.No.:- 1, NIT No.:- E.29/C/TRD/SC/11/2020-21 dt.27.11.2020, Name of the work:- Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 kV, 50Hz single phase a.c. traction overhead equipment with 65 sq.mm catenary and 107sq.mm HDG copper contact wire, LT supply transformer stations including modifications to the existing OHE in view of proposed "Krishna yard modification" in Guntakal division of South Central Railway.	Estimate Cost: Rs.95,02,832/-, EMD: Rs.1,90,100,00/-, Document Cost: Online tender document can be downloaded free of cost, Completion period: 12 months, Date of closing: 23.12.2020 at 15:00 hrs
1) For bid document and other details, please login to website http://ireps.gov.in	
2) Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money, only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payment through Demand Draft, Bankers cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc., are not allowed.	
3) Tenderer can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is fifteen days period to closing offer.	
4) Tenderer should watch for any Corrigenda (issued online only) upto the date of commencement of the Tender submission period.	
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Const./TRD A1315 Secunderabad	
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in	

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in	
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	
Chief Medical Superintendent, S. C. Railway, Guntur Division, on behalf of president of India, Invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed diagnostic laboratories within the city fulfilling the required minimum qualifying criteria for services like clinical Investigations including pathology and Radiology, PET, CT and MRI Scan at CGHS/Hyderabad 2014 rate for empanelment with Railways to provide cashless facilities for medical investigations to Railway beneficiaries for a period of 2 years. The application form complete in all aspects should be submitted to the office of Chief Medical Superintendent on or before 29/12/2020. For details related to the minimum eligibility criteria, application forms terms and conditions etc., please visit our Website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in . Applications form can also be obtained in person from the office of Chief Medical Superintendent, Railway Hospital, Guntur on any working day.	
A1310 Chief Medical Superintendent, Guntur	

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in	
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	
Chief Medical Superintendent, South Central Railway Guntur on behalf of the president of India invites (EOI) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for empanelment of private dental hospitals for providing dental treatment at CGHS Non-NABH rates for the Divisional Railway Hospital at Guntur for a period of 01 year. The interested dental centers may download the details from the website of http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in . For further queries contact office of Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Guntur Phone No.: 9701379501	
Time Line 1. Venue - CMS office Railway Hospital, Guntur 2. Last Date of submission of proposal - 29.12.2020 time - 13.00 hrs 3. Date of Opening of the proposal - 29.12.2020 time - 15.30 hrs.	
A1309 Chief Medical Superintendent, Guntur	

SHORT TAKES

Bagan beat Bengal in derby

Vasco, Goa: Fijian striker Roy Krishna continued his prolific goal-scoring form as he helped ATK Mohun Bagan prevail over SC East Bengal 2-0 in the first ever Indian Super League derby here on Friday.

Krishna, who had scored ATKMB's lone goal against Kerala Blasters in their campaign opener, struck in the 49th minute before Manvir Singh killed the contest in the 85th minute with a solo effort.

With two wins on the trot, ATK Mohun Bagan led the table with six points, followed by Northeast United FC.

It was a typical Antonio Lopez Habas' style of play that panned out on the field as ATKMB were slow to get off the blocks before taking control of the game.

Their defence, helmed by Tiri, put up a disciplined show to return with a clean slate for their second successive match in the league. — PTI

Belgium on top in FIFA rankings

Zurich: With Belgium still at No. 1, FIFA released its final rankings list for 2020 on Friday and set the seedings for the European portion of the World Cup qualifying draw.

Defending World Cup champion France is in second place, with Brazil third and England fourth. European champion Portugal rounds out the top five, with Spain in sixth.

FIFA will host the European draw on December 7. The 10 top-seeded teams include Italy, which was seeded second four years ago and failed to qualify for the 2018 tournament in Russia after ending up in a group with Spain.

The Netherlands, ranked 14th, took the last top-seeded place, dropping No. 16 Switzerland into pot 2. — AP

Badminton League off due to Covid-19

New Delhi: The sixth edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL) was on Friday postponed to next year, keeping in mind the health and safety of the players amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

The league, which is one of the highest prize money badminton tournaments in the world, was initially scheduled to take place in the last week of December in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

However, SportzLive, the official license holder of the league under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), decided to postpone the event due to the prevailing conditions. PBL is a sought-after global badminton leagues having six-franchise-based teams, who compete in a home and away format. — PTI

CCOB emerge cricket champs

Hyderabad: City College Old Boys Cricket Association (CCOB CA) beat Emerging Cricketers Developmental Group (EDCG) by 33 runs to win the 4th edition of Teen Premier League Junior Cricket Championship organised by the School Sports & Games Federation (SSGF) at RKS Grounds in Boduppal here.

Batting first in the final, CCOB were all out for 174 in 26 overs. Ansh was the top scorer with 41. In reply EDCG were out for 141 in 24.3 overs.

Brief scores: CCOB Cricket Association 174 in 26 overs (Dharmik 35, Ansh 41, Furkhan 3/24, S. Akash 4/15) bt EDCG 141 in 24.3 overs (Manikanda 36, Sathwik 37, Ansh 3/11, Pruthvi 3/4, Adnan 2/6).

Live on TV

CRICKET

Women's Big Bash League: Final — Melbourne Stars vs Sydney Thunder from 1.40 pm on Sony Six

Lanka Premier League: Kandy vs Dambulla from 3.30 pm; Galle vs Colombo from 8 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Brighton vs Liverpool from 6 pm; Manchester City vs Burnley from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1

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

Italian League: Benevento vs Juventus from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

Regd. No. AP/VJA/41/24/2000.

Printed and published from Vijayawada by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Decan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Decan Chronicle Holdings Press, No. C 3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, VIJAYAWADA. RNI Registration No. 45661/90. Editorial: 2555962. Fax: 2555234. Board: 2555284, 2555287, 2555185. Grams: CHRONICLE. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

SMITH HEREENS

Finch, Smith centuries blow India away in opener

Sydney, Nov. 27: Hardik Pandya's career-best effort wasn't good enough to compensate for a forgettable bowling effort as India slumped to a 66-run defeat against Australia in the first ODI, making a rather unimpressive start to the tour, here on Friday.

Virat Kohli's men started exactly on a note they wouldn't have liked, giving away 374 runs in 50 overs with rival captain Aaron Finch (114 off 124 balls) and his illustrious predecessor Steve Smith (105 off 66 balls) hitting contrasting hundreds.

A pitch that looked docile during the first half suddenly came to life in the second as Josh Hazlewood (3/55) bounced out the Indian top-order, including Kohli and a frightened Shreyas Iyer, who got himself into a tangle.

Pandya's 76-ball 90 and a 128-run stand with senior opener Shikhar Dhawan (74 off 86 balls) delayed the inevitable but it was always a catch-up game after the team was reduced to 101 for 4 inside 14 overs.

Big-hearted leg-spinner Adam Zampa (4/54 in 10 overs) dismissed Shikhar Dhawan and Hardik Pandya in quick succession as India surrendered to scoreboard pressure finishing at 308/8 after 50 overs.

India's eternal nemesis Steven Smith seems ready to torment them a lot in next two months if his 11 fours and four sixes were any indication on Friday.

Not for once was he troubled by the Indian bowlers, who were already under the pump after a 156-run opening stand between Finch and David Warner (69).

As far as Indian innings is concerned, a high percentage of dot balls (148) in the Indian innings also showed how the mighty Australian team dominated the proceedings.

INDIANS JOIN AUSSIES IN ANTI-RACISM MOVE

The Indian cricketers on Friday joined their Australian counterparts in forming a barefoot circle on the ground to support the anti-racism movement and acknowledge the culture of indigenous people of the host country.

The barefoot circle ceremony was held before the start of the opening One-Day International between the two teams here.



Australia's captain Aaron Finch hits a six as India's wicketkeeper K. L. Rahul watches during their One-Day International cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

— AFP



Steve Smith of Australia celebrates after scoring a century against India in their ODI match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

— AP

NUMBERS GAME

● Australia recorded their highest total against India by making 374 for 6 in 50 overs. Their previous best was 359, recorded four times. Overall, it is the third-highest total by any team against India in One-Day Internationals.

● Steven Smith recorded third fastest hundred for Australia by completing 100 runs off 62 balls during his 105-run knock. The quicker ones are Glenn Maxwell's 51-ball century against Sri Lanka at the 2015 World Cup, also at Sydney and James Faulkner's century in 57 balls against India in Bangalore in 2013.

● All five Indian bowlers except Mohammed Shami, conceded 60-plus runs, only the second such instance for India. The first such instance was against West Indies at Guwahati in 2018.

HIGHEST TOTALS AGAINST INDIA IN ODIs

Score	Opponent	Venue	Date	Result
438-4	South Africa	Mumbai	25-10-2015	India lost
411-8	Sri Lanka	Rajkot	15-12-2009	India won
374-6	Australia	Sydney	27-12-2020	India lost
366-8	England	Cuttack	19-01-2017	India won
365-2	South Africa	Ahmedabad	27-02-2010	India lost

FASTEST HUNDREDS FOR AUSTRALIA IN ODIs

Balls (score)	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
51 (102)	Glenn Maxwell	Sri Lanka	Sydney	08-03-2015
57 (116)	James Faulkner	India	Bangalore	02-11-2013
62 (105)	Steven Smith	India	Sydney	27-12-2020
66 (101)	Matthew Hayden	S. Africa	St Kitts	24-03-2007
67 (122)	Adam Gilchrist	Sri Lanka	Brisbane	14-02-2006

FASTEST HUNDREDS AGAINST INDIA IN ODIs

Balls (score)	Batsman	Team	Venue	Date
45 (102)	Shahid Afridi	Pakistan	Kanpur	15-04-2005
57 (116)	James Faulkner	Australia	Bangalore	02-11-2013
57 (119)	AB de Villiers	S. Africa	Mumbai	25-10-2015
58 (102)	AB de Villiers	S. Africa	Ahmedabad	27-02-2010
62 (105)	Steven Smith	Australia	Sydney	27-12-2020

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

Kohli rues first defeat

Sydney, Nov. 27: India skipper Virat Kohli on Friday questioned his team's body language after the opening ODI loss to Australia and said Hardik Pandya not being fit to bowl is affecting the side's balance as he doesn't have enough all-rounders at his disposal.

India made a dismal start to their tour of Australia, losing the first ODI by 66 runs here, chasing a mammoth 375-run target after Aaron Finch and Steve Smith smashed hundreds for the hosts.

"Everyone needs to show the intent in the entire 50 overs. Probably, we played 50 overs after a long time that could have an affect...but having said that we have played so much ODI cricket that it is not something we don't know how to do," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"I think the body language in the field wasn't great after around 25

INJURED ISHANT OUT AS ROHIT WAITS TILL DEC. 11

Sydney, Nov. 27: India's senior-most fast bowler Ishant Sharma has been ruled out of the upcoming Test matches against Australia as he will not be match-fit in time while Rohit Sharma's hamstring will be assessed finally on December 11, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Thursday.

BCCI issued a short injury update of the two senior players after a fiery online media interaction by Virat Kohli, who made his displeasure clear about lack of communication and clarity on the whole issue. While Kohli had raised a question as to why Rohit didn't do his rehabilitation in Australia along with Wriddhiman Saha, Shah in his press note clarified that Rohit had come back to country to attend his ailing father after which he reported to the NCA.

"Rohit Sharma had to come back to Mumbai after the IPL to attend to his ailing father. His father is now recuperating well and that has allowed him to travel to the NCA and start his rehabilitation," Shah said.

— PTI

overs. It was a disappointing part. If you don't take your chances against a top-quality opposition they'll hurt you and that is what happened today,"

the Indian skipper added. Kohli said his bowlers couldn't pick wickets regularly and it allowed the Australians to post a big total in the end.

— PTI

NATARAJAN IN INDIA ODI SIDE AS SAINI COVER

Sydney, Nov. 27: The BCCI on Thursday dded left-arm seamer T. Natarajan to India's ODI squad as half-fit paceman Navdeep Saini's cover.

According to BCCI press release that landed close to midnight, Saini had complained of back spasms which led to the 29-year-old yorker specialist from Tamil Nadu's inclusion in the 50-over format.

Natarajan, who has played 15 List 'A' matches so far, was initially a net bowler accompanying the Indian team and then made it to the T20 squad after Varun Chakravarthy pulled out and now is a part of ODI squad. Natarajan put up a splendid performance with the ball for SRH in the recently concluded IPL that led to his selection.

— PTI

Brazil mourns Diego's demise

Sao Paulo, Nov. 27: Brazil and Argentina are long rivals for football supremacy in South America, and Brazilians naturally think of their own Pele as the best footballer in history. But they are putting aside the argument to mourn the death of Argentine superstar Diego Maradona.

Ex-presidents, author Paulo Coelho and former competitors were among Brazilians paying tribute to Maradona for his influence on the game and charisma off the field. Brazilian newspapers that only put sports in their top headline when the national team wins a World Cup had Maradona's death in that position Thursday.

A mural of Maradona was even painted on a wall in the Vila Cruzeiro favela in Rio de Janeiro, an honor that proud and soccer-crazy Brazilians rarely, if ever, give to foreigners.

"He was an example of persistence and perseverance because he grew in life as a human being," said graffiti artist Angelo Campos, who painted an energetic Maradona in a blue shirt under an inscription with his nickname, "El Pibe de Oro" (the Golden Kid).

The Neo Quimica Arena in Sao Paulo displayed a triumphant Maradona image on a giant screen by its main entrance. That is the same stadium where most Brazilian fans cheered against Argentina in the 2014 World Cup semifinal against Holland.

Argentina won on penalties but lost final to Germany 1-0. All top-tier Brazilian clubs paid tributes, including Santos, where Pele played nearly all of his career. — AFP

POLICE CLASH WITH FANS IN ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires, Nov. 27: Riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in clashes Thursday with football fans near the wake for Argentine football legend Diego Maradona in Buenos Aires.

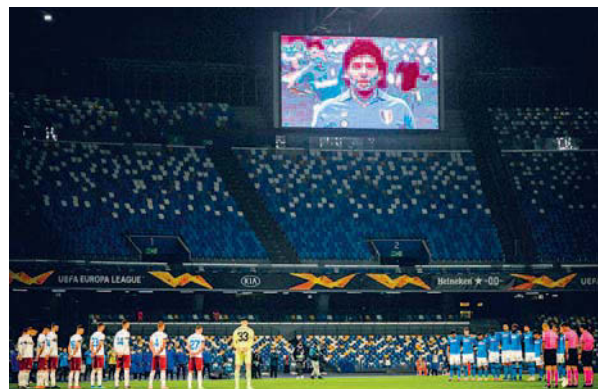
Officials earlier ordered Maradona's coffin to be moved to another room inside the presidential palace after fans took over an inner courtyard and disrupted his lying in state.

The government had early announced a three-hour extension to the wake to allow time for fans to pay their respects.

Tens of thousands of people had queued from early morning to file past the star's coffin, draped in the Argentine flag and the player's No.10 jersey, at the presidential palace. Many of the mourners were in tears, and some wore replicas of the World Cup winner's jersey as they gathered at the Casa Rosada palace to see his coffin.

But as the day wore on, fans queuing outside the palace grew increasingly impatient and some took over a courtyard inside the palace, where they chanted slogans.

At the same time, riot police clashed with stone throwing fans on streets around the palace, and several people were arrested. — AFP



Players of Napoli (in blue) and Rijeka observe a minute's silence in homage to Maradona prior to their Europa League match at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on Thursday as a screen displays a photo of late Argentinian legend, who had played for Napoli in the 1980s.

— AFP

Napoli dedicate win to Maradona

Paris, Nov. 27: Napoli honoured the memory of Diego Maradona with a 2-0 win over Rijeka which allowed them to go top of Europa League Group 'F' in the first match since the death their Argentine icon.

Gennaro Gattuso's side entered the field all wearing the number 10 jersey of Maradona, who won Napoli's only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990 as well as the 1989 UEFA Cup.

"Diego is a legend and will never die," Gattuso said after the match.

"Since yesterday you could see that the city breathed a different atmosphere. We hope to dedicate something important to him and win a trophy," he added.

Napoli are now two points ahead of AZ Alkmaar and Real

Sociedad following their goalless draw in the Netherlands.

Roma made their way into the last 32 with a 2-0 win at Romanian side Cluj, while Hoffenheim joined them after ensuring their respective passages into the next round from L.

Earlier Jame Vardy's last-gasp leveller in a thrilling 3-3 at Braga sent Leicester City through to the knock-out rounds, where they were also joined by Arsenal thanks to their 3-0 win at Molde.

Leicester looked dead and buried when Fransergio put the hosts 3-2 ahead in the first minute of added time, but Vardy stole in at the back post shortly after to tap in the goal that put the Premier League side into the Last 32.

— AFP

STADIUM NEAR BARASAT NAMED AFTER MARADONA

Kolkata, Nov. 27: A stadium near Barasat, where Diego Maradona was last seen in action in India (December 12, 2017), was on Friday named after the football legend.

During his last visit to Kolkata three years ago, Maradona had conducted a football clinic with school children at the Aditya School of Sports in Kadambgachi on the outskirts of Barasat, about 35 kilometres from Kolkata. "The stadium has now been converted into a full-fledged cricket stadium in the size of Eden Gardens and we have named it 'Diego Maradona Aditya School of Sports Cricket Stadium'," chairman of Aditya Group Anirban Aditya said.

"This is the first ever cricket stadium in the Argentine football legend's name. We also have special Maradona memorabilia in the changing room. The seat and the cloth hanger that Maradona used would now be kept reserved with his autographed No.10 jersey," Aditya added.

Anirban Aditya said they had built the stadium in just four months and Maradona was the first sportsperson to step on to it.

— PTI

Kiwis down West Indies in 1st T20

Auckland, Nov. 27: Paceman Lockie Ferguson unleashed a devastating five-wicket barrage as New Zealand downed the West Indies in a roller coaster Twenty20 series opener in Auckland on Friday.

The match — the first international cricket played in New Zealand for almost nine months — produced a nail-biting finale as the Black Caps

reached 179-5 in the final over after being set a target of 176.

Persistent showers meant the innings were reduced to 16 and many players, particularly the tourists, were rusty after only emerging from Covid-19 quarantine on Thursday.

But there were outstanding individual performances on both sides, particularly man of the

match Ferguson and West Indies captain Kieron Pollard's unbeaten 75 from 37 balls.

Ferguson claimed a career-best haul of 5-21 to put the brakes on a flying start from the West Indies, saying the short boundaries at Eden Park helped his cause.

Pollard almost swung momentum back to the West Indies single-handedly, clubbing eight sixes

and four fours to ensure his team set a competitive target.

The tourists were even more brutal against Hamish Bennett, plundering 29 runs from a nightmarish over for the fast bowler.

They were 58 without loss before Ferguson broke through and clean-bowled Fletcher on 34.

The Black Caps' Devon Conway and Jimmy

Neesham were looking dangerous when Pollard broke their 77-run partnership when Conway was caught on 41.

But Neesham, who scored 48 from 24 balls, steered the New Zealanders home. — AFP

Brief Scores: West Indies 180/7 in 16 overs (K. Pollard not out 75, Fletcher 34; Lockie Ferguson 5/21 lost (D/L) to New Zealand 179/5 in 15.2 overs (Neesham 48, Conway 41; O. Thomas 2/23).