

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 13 NOVEMBER 2020



## NATION | 7

Biden's transition gathers pace



## SPORTS | 9

Team India lands in Australia for series

## TABLOID

Gold glitters on Dhanteras



## WEATHER

Max: 28.4°C  
Min: 20.5°C  
RH: 71%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Mist likely. Max/Min temperature 30/19 QC

## COVID-19 COUNT

| CASES                      | DEATHS   |
|----------------------------|----------|
| (+43,861)                  | (+522)   |
| 87,27,900                  | 1,28,686 |
| covid19india.org           |          |
| STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS |          |
| (+1,015)                   | (+3)     |
| TS: 2,54,666               | 1,393    |
| (+1,728)                   | (+9)     |
| AP: 8,49,705               | 6,837    |

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

| 5,28,89,006                   |
|-------------------------------|
| DEATHS                        |
| 12,95,493                     |
| COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES   |
| 217                           |
| worldometers.info/coronavirus |

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Nija Ashwayu Bahula  
Trayodasi till 5.57 pm  
Star: Chitta till 11.03 pm

Varjyam: 8.56 am to 10.20 am; 3.59 am to 5.23 am (Saturday)

Durmuhurtam: 8.38 am to 9.23 am; 12.22 pm to 1.07 pm

Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 26, 1442 AH

## PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.17 am  
Zohar: 12.10 pm  
Asar: 4.05 pm  
Maghrib: 5.46 pm  
Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.20 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM

MOONSET 4.19 PM

MOONRISE 4.07 AM

## INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 2  
Man-eater tiger is new, find forest officialsCITY... PAGE 3  
Jilted woman objects to man's wedding in church

## FM clears ₹2.65 L-cr job-creation stimulus

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | FC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

Nirmala Sitharaman

In an attempt to bring Covid-hit economy back on track, the Centre on Monday announced yet another stimulus package called Atmanirbhar Bharat, consisting of 12 additional measures worth over ₹2.65 lakh crore.

The stimulus focuses on job creation for the poor, farmer's upliftment, credit support to stressed sectors like housing, real estate as well as construction, and measures to boost exports among others. However, the new steps taken by the government mostly extend the validity of schemes announced under the last two Atmanirbhar Bharat packages or an increase their outlay.

Unveiling the third tranche of measures under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is also launching a scheme to incentivise the creation of new jobs to fuel a rebound of the economy.

"The size of the stimulus as part of the 12 announcements made under Atma Nirbhar

cover EPF members drawing monthly wages of less than ₹15,000, who lost their jobs during Covid-19 pandemic from March 1, 2020, and are employed on or after October 1, 2020," she said.

"Employees contribution (12 per cent of wages) and employer's contribution (12 per cent of wages) totalling 24 per cent of wages would be given to establishments for two years. However, to avail the scheme, operational till June 30, 2021, establishments with up to 50 employees will have to add a minimum of two new employees and those with more than 50 staff, will have to give a minimum of five new jobs," she added.

She said an additional ₹10,000 crore will be provided for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana in the current financial year to boost jobs in rural areas. In the Budget 2020-21, the government had provided ₹61,000 crore for MNREGA and an extra ₹40,000 crore in the first Atmanirbhar package. So far, ₹73,500 crore has been spent. For farmers, the government also extended its support to the agriculture sector by providing ₹65,000 crore for subsidised fertilisers.

## CM to decide on non-agri lands

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV 12

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday is expected to take a decision on the resumption of non-agriculture land registrations is making the state lose a lot of revenue.

They also said that many representations have been received from a cross-section of people for the resumption of the registrations.

The state Cabinet, which is meeting on Friday evening at Pragati Bhavan, is also expected to discuss the issue of inviting tenders for a comprehensive digital land survey across the state.

Page 2: Cabinet to decide on urban projects

### MGB FAILED DUE TO CONG, ADMITS TARIQ

Patna, Nov. 12: Senior Congress leader Tariq Anwar on Thursday came out with the candid admission that his party, on account of its dismal performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, emerged as the weak link preventing the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) from forming its government in the state.

Anwar, an AICC general secretary, came out with a flurry of tweets calling for "urgent and deep introspection" on the debacle of the party, which won 19 seats. — PTI

### KRUNAL DETAINED WITH GOLD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 12

Cricketer Krunal Pandya, who was part of this year's IPL winning team Mumbai Indians, was on Thursday detained at the Mumbai International Airport by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for allegedly being in possession of undisclosed gold and other valuables.

According to reports, Krunal had purchased valuables, including gold, totalling to a huge amount, which was above the permissible limits. After this was brought to his notice, Krunal admitted that he was unaware of the rules, apologised and agreed to pay penalties, a DRI source said.

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### CHINESE MEDIA DENIES REPORTS ON DISENGAGEMENT

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

China's state-owned *Global Times* newspaper on Thursday said that the Indian media reports on a "detailed border disengagement plan" in the Pangong Tso area in eastern Ladakh between India and China are "inaccurate".

It was reported on Thursday that India and China have been moving closer towards an agreement on a disengagement plan at some of the flashpoints, including the most contentious one, Pangong Tso, in eastern Ladakh.

However, the *Global Times* report said India always had "unrealistic" ideas about the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and disregarded history, unilaterally believing that Fingers 4 to 8 (on the northern banks of Pangong Tso) are its patrolling areas, and has sought to gain bargaining chips in talks by fishing for interests in the disputed border area.

The *Global Times* report underlines the challenge of implementing any disengagement plan with China to end the six-month military standoff in eastern Ladakh. This is why India is moving cautiously in dealing with any agreement with the Chinese side.

The court also ordered that the government ensure that the shops selling crackers, which have already been established should be removed and any person resorting to either buying or selling of crackers should be brought to book.

Vijay Sen Reddy while hearing a public interest litigation filed by P. Indra Prakash, an advocate (as a party in person).

The petitioner sought a complete ban on the sale and purchase of crackers during Diwali in the Telangana state as the pollution which emanates

## HC tells TS to ban crackers on Diwali

Court orders silent festival in view of Covid

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the Telangana state government to immediately ban the sale and use of fireworks in the state during the ensuing Diwali festival.

● **THE COURT** ordered the government to clamp down on shops and establishments which are selling fireworks.

● **IT ALSO** directed the government to make an appeal to people of the state through print and electronic media to refrain from bursting crackers to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

● **THE COURT** directed that the government ensure that the shops selling crackers, which have already been established should be removed and any person resorting to either buying or selling of crackers should be brought to book.

Vijay Sen Reddy while hearing a public interest litigation filed by P. Indra Prakash, an advocate (as a party in person).

When the High Court enquired about the decision of Telangana state on this issue, Advocate-General B.S. Prasad replied that so far no specific restrictions were in place in Telangana.

will be hazardous to the health of the people and could lead to a spurt in Coronavirus cases.

According to petitioner-cum-counsel Indra Reddy, "Coronavirus adversely affects the lungs of the patients, besides adversely affecting the other organs of the body. Due to the infection of the lungs, the patients would find it extremely difficult to breathe normally to survive. The firecrackers and fireworks are known to pollute the quality of the air. Since the winter season is setting in, the pollution created by the firecrackers tends to hang in the air, thereby jeopardising the lives of many, especially the patients suffering from Covid-19 pandemic."

The petitioner further informed the court that the Calcutta High Court and the Rajasthan High Court had directed the respective states to ban the sale of crackers.

The court also directed that the government ensure that the shops selling crackers, which have already been established should be removed and any person resorting to either buying or selling of crackers should be brought to book.

The directions were issued by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B.



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## COUNTER POINT



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## SHORT TAKES

## CABINET TO DECIDE ON URBAN PROJECTS

From Page 1

The Cabinet is also likely to discuss the issue of taking up various development projects in Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam in view of their local body elections in early January 2021. The state government had recently indicated that it is ready to go for polls to elect the representatives for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation after January 14, 2021.

The Cabinet will also likely discuss the sanctioning of funds for the Panchayat Raj and Roads and Buildings departments to take up repairs of rural roads and state highways damaged due to recent heavy rains and floods.

The Cabinet may also review relief measures taken up in flood-affected areas in the GHMC area, in view of the complaints about irregularities in the distribution of ₹10,000 to flood-affected families.

STATE REPORTS  
1,015 NEW COVID CASES, 3 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Telangana has recorded 1,015 new Coronavirus cases, apart from three deaths. There are presently 17,323 active cases in the state. Their number is expected to fall further till this month end.

However, this fall does not mean SARS-CoV-2 virus is disappearing. People must still strictly follow the protocols of safety.

Health authorities conducted 40,603 tests during the festive season. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has recorded 172 cases, Ranga Reddy 98 and Medchal-Malkajgiri 97 cases. The number of cases in the districts has reduced.

Authorities are continuing to advocate that masks must be compulsorily and properly worn. However, a large number of people do not seem to be following this order and are neglecting their own safety.

## 5 ARRESTED FOR CATTLE THEFT, CASH SEIZED

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

The Rachakonda police on Thursday arrested five men from two gangs of cattle thieves and recovered cash and seized the vehicles used for the crime from their possession.

In the first case, the Valigona police arrested Mohammed Aslam, 24, and Kunagalla Chandra Mohan, 35, who allegedly stole cattle from the Valigona, Bhongir, Choutuppal and Motakondur police station limits. The duo were involved in several theft cases in and around Valigona, said the police, adding that ₹3.40 lakh worth stolen property was recovered from them.

In the second case, the Mothkut police nabbed Janga Lingamanthulu, 25, Jinukala Upender, 21, and Pashuvula Kiran, 30. "The gang was involved in five cases reported in Mothkut and Gundala police station limits," said the police. Officials seized ₹2.26 lakhs worth property from them. All the five were booked under relevant sections of the IPC and sent to judicial remand by the Rachakonda police.

**IN THE first case, the Valigona police arrested Mohammed Aslam, 24, and Kunagalla Chandra Mohan, 35, who allegedly stole cattle from the Valigona, Bhongir, Choutuppal and Motakondur police station limits.**

# HC order to ban crackers on Diwali dampens festive spirit

Dealers' association decries move, seeks 2-day time to sell firecrackers

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Following the Telangana High Court's decision to ban firecrackers in the city, one could see a very few stalls selling crackers. Some said that they had witnessed a dip in sales from the time they entered the market.

The Fireworks Dealers' Association of Telangana, though, has decried the move.

They demanded that the state government give them two days to sell the stocks and repay the loans that they took to procure crackers. These decisions were taken during a meeting at Sagar Society Grounds in Banjara Hills. "We are not happy with the timing of the High Court's judgement. If it had been given ten days ago, the traders would not have stocked up. Now, there are customers who brought the crackers, what



Kids burst crackers in Hyderabad on Thursday despite the court ordering stopping the sale and use of firecrackers for Diwali this year due to Covid-19.

— P. SURENDRA

will they do with the crackers?" questioned J Maniki Rao of the Fireworks Dealers' Association of Telangana. He added that the dealers were only selling green

crackers, as prescribed. "We are in a confused state of mind right now. We will be approaching the state government asking for some kind of leeway," he said. In a hearing on the

issue on Thursday, the court directed the state government to give wide publicity to the ban.

While the government informed the court that it was following guidelines

by the National Green Tribunal on bursting of firecrackers, the court said that this could contribute to the further spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT CRACKERS BAN



Diwali means spreading joy and light. We should celebrate but we must also be mindful of the prevailing health situation. Comorbid conditions are always there and it is best to not make it more difficult for anyone.

— DR T. SWETHA,

counselling psychologist

From an astronomer's perspective, there are joys that staring at the night sky brings you. Whenever it comes to Diwali, we tend to fill it with artificial lights, which I do not agree with as it plays with your Circadian Rhythm.

— N. Sree Raghunandan, director, Planetary Society



It's 2020, the year of compromise. So this year please try to celebrate in a different way with less pollution.

— PRIYANKA, homoeopathy student from Secunderabad

It's a good thing that the ban has been imposed. Street dogs and pets can be spared of unnecessary anxiety and the horrific way they're treated in the name of fun during festivals. Let's hope people will obey this ban.

— NITHIN RAJ, an advertising professional from Musheerabad



More than enough awareness was spread on the negative impact of firecrackers on environment, but the response from the general public hasn't been that encouraging. In such circumstances the ban is welcome. Diwali is a festival of lights and not noise.

— SRUTI RAJAN, Senior risk analyst at Amazon from Madhapur

Our family stopped bursting crackers on Diwali to avoid scaring our pet. Unable to tolerate the sound of crackers, pets have been known to refuse food out of stress. I hope people follow this ban.

— M. MANJU, Homemaker from Alwal

We are battling a major crisis that humans have ever witnessed, and tough measures are needed. Instead of causing severe damage to ourselves and our neighbours by bursting fire crackers, we can celebrate with lights and sweets. Just when the number of active Coronavirus cases are coming down in the country, our negligence will only reverse the trend.

— DR ANIL KRISHNA G.

Chairman & MD, Medicover Group of hospitals.

The rallies for by-elections didn't spread Covid but bursting crackers who have already stocked up? Why is it announced two days before Diwali? Their losses will now run into lakhs. Shopkeepers should protest.

— TITO GEORGE, Self-employed businessman from Bolarum



I purchased crackers worth ₹3,000 two days back. They should have announced the ban at least a week ago because all of my friends have also stocked up on crackers.

— A. PAVAN, Class X student from Venkatapuram

I was waiting and hoping for this to happen! Several Covid patients with breathing problems would have suffered more due to the air pollution. I hope the ban is carried through other festivals until New Year.

— CHRISTOPHER LEO, a final year engineering student from Sainikpuri

The ban is welcome because this year every precaution taken for safety is a step to help hundreds of people and save them from danger. Children suffering from asthma and elderly persons from chronic lung diseases like are very much prone for exacerbations during Diwali.

— DR RAMANA PRASAD, Consultant Pulmonologist KIMS Hospitals says,

— DR RAMANA PRASAD, Consultant Pulmonologist KIMS Hospitals says,



— S. Surender Reddy

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

In a bid to provide better living conditions, minister for MA&UD K.T. Rama Rao said that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is coming up with a slew of developmental activities.

Speaking at the inauguration of the collection and transfer station at Sanjeevaiah Park he said that the government was committed to providing the people of the city with better services and facilities. He had inaugurated 55 municipal solid waste vehicles, with 350 GWV capacity, at HMDA grounds beside iMax Theatre.

He also recalled that as per the instructions of

stations are located near the 150 wards of GHMC and reducing the present 17 big transfer stations to 10 transfer stations. With strategically located 90 mini transfer stations the distance of shifting of garbage by the Swachh auto marginally reduces and collection of garbage efficiency improves.

Within a month the new fleet of automated compact autos will replace the old autos and with this the garbage collected in autos is automatically unloaded into the static compactors, which will automatically be loaded into sealed containers of MSW vehicles. Further, there is no human interference during the shifting of garbage from auto to heavy vehicles, he added.

Chief Minister K.

tion has increased to 6,000 tonnes from 3,500 tonnes and still more had to be done.

In order to improve garbage collection efficiency, 90 mini transfer

Chandrashekhar Rao, after the distribution of 44 lakh dust bins (dry and wet)

and introduction of 2,000 Swachh autos, the efficiency of garbage collec-

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**HC ISSUES NOTICES ON TWO-KID NORM IN GHMC POLLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

The Telangana High Court on Thursday issued notices on continuation of Section 21 B of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Act, 1955, which disqualifies a person, who has more than two children, from contesting the ensuing GHMC elections.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayes Reddy issued notices to chief secretary; principal secretary, Law and Legislative Affairs, Municipal Administration; commissioner GHMC; and Telangana State Election Commission, directing them to respond by November 19 on the issue. The court was hearing a writ petition filed by Sridhar Babu, Ravi, and Mohammed Taher, who are aggrieved the parties.

# Jilted woman objects to man's wedding in church

Woman also helps police in stopping child marriage

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

In what seems to be a scene from a Bollywood movie climax, a child marriage at a church was averted by a woman who claimed that the groom had duped her in the name of love. She barged into the place with the police just when the pastor asked the crowd if anyone has an objection to the wedding, sources said.

The incident was reported at Wesley Church near Secunderabad Clock Tower on Wednesday, said the police. The Market Police of North Zone, who stopped the wedding, revealed that the groom, identi-

with her and had promised to marry her. Upon learning the new information, the Pastor promptly stopped the wedding and our team picked up the man, along with his parents and the minor girl's parents from the church," said the inspector of Market police, P. Shankar, adding that they were booked for the crime and placed under arrest. Speaking on behalf of the Christian community, Pastor Suman Perumalla said that the Bible commands to follow the law of the land and such mistakes by some pastors throw a bad light on the community.

fied as Anil, a resident of Jangaon who works at the sub-registrar office there, had cheated the woman in the name of love and had promised to marry her. She had informed the cops about the child marriage and took them to the church. "The woman who halted the ceremony informed the pastor that Anil had duped her by claiming to be in love

governing authority and as per the law, one should not get married under the age of 18. Though some religious background oversees that because for them the spiritual law is above the government law, but it's not the same in Christianity. Some pastors do not do their due diligence and because of that carelessness, it throws a light on the community. Normally, we take their ID card copies and also a reference from someone if they are from a different church before the ceremony. The couple has to submit their details before a month. We will definitely look into this issue," he said.

# Reliance Digital's 'Festival of Electronics' in 800 cities

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12.

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customer can avail unbeatable deals and the widest range of electronics and avail cashbacks on debit and credit cards and also opt for

computers from Asus and HP, television sets from Hisense, Toshiba, OnePlus and TCL, while household needs such as refrigerators and washing machines too are available on attractive offers, the company said.

For ease of purchase, consumers can visit any Reliance Digital store or log on to www.reliancedigital.in, which offers fastest delivery from a store near the consumer's address.

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Students are advised to make direct payment to Aptech Limited in the Aptech's bank account, so as to remain eligible for accessing online Arena Animation eCourse materials, quality services and Certificate on completion of the course. Aptech Limited will provide and complete all services to the students.

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The students are advised to take well informed decision before enrolling/dealing with the said terminated centre and those who still do, it shall be at their own risks, costs and consequences and Aptech Limited shall in no way be liable if the students are misled and cheated by the said terminated centre.

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**IN BRIEF**  
**SCR to run Sabari special trains**

**Hyderabad:** SCR have started special festival trains to Sabarimalai between Secunderabad and Trivandrum and back. The services, Train No. 07230, will start from November 29 and continue till January 18, 2021. From Trivandrum to Secunderabad the services will begin on December 1, Train No 07229, and continue till January 20, 2021. The trains will consist of AC 2 Tier AC 3 Tier, Sleeper class and reserved general seating class coaches.

**MIM MLA booked for assault**

**Hyderabad:** The Humayun Nagar police booked cases against All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) legislator and other party workers for allegedly assaulting and abusing Congress workers on Wednesday. According to the police, the case was booked against AIMIM legislator Jaffer Hussain Meraj, from Nampally constituency after a complaint by Masood Ahmed of Congress.

**GNIT prof dies in road accident**

**Hyderabad:** The assistant professor of Guru Nanak Institute of Technology (GNIT) was killed in a road mishap when an RTC bus rammed into his bike on Thursday morning in Ambedkar. The deceased, identified as Mohd Farookh, 34, was an assistant professor at GNIT, said the police. "He was heading towards Ramanthapur from Ambedkar when a TSRTC bus belonging to the Kachiguda bus depot hit his bike from behind, throwing him off the vehicle and gravely injuring his head. He succumbed to his injuries on the spot," said B. Lingam, detective inspector of Ambedkar police.

**HC REFUSES TO HEAR QUASH PLEA OF RAGHUNANDAN**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court refused to hear the Criminal Petition filed by Dubbak MLA M. Raghuandan Rao seeking a direction to quash an FIR registered against the petitioner in 1 Town Police Station, Siddipet, prior to him becoming the MLA.

Before the polling, Raghuandan Rao had filed the petition to quash the FIR. As per the roster, criminal cases relating to the present and former public representatives shall be listed before the Chief Justice Bench. Hence, the Judge directed the Registry to place the criminal petition before the Chief Justice Bench for further action. However, Counsel for the petitioner submitted that on the day the FIR was registered, Raghuandan Rao was not a public representative hence he insisted the court quash the FIR.

**COURT SEEKS REPORT ON DRUGS CASE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the state government to submit a status report on the probe being conducted in the Hyderabad Drugs Case of 2017. That high-profile case had been entrusted to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) by the then Commissioner, Prohibition and Excise.

The 2017 drugs case, which rocked Hyderabad, had names of several celebrities from Tollywood figuring in it. Leading film personalities had one after the other appeared before the Prohibition and Excise department officials investigating the case. But not much was heard about it after a certain time.

The High Court's order came when it was dealing with PILs of the year 2017. In one of them, petitioner Revanth Reddy had sought an order from the HC that either CBI, Enforcement Directorate, or the Narcotics Control Bureau deal with the case, instead of the SIT set up by the Telangana government. The Hyderabad Drugs Case, which had been pending since then, came up before the Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan on Thursday. The court sought a status report.

# Kishan: 293 ginning, spinning mills will start working soon

**Authorities instructed to make available moisture measuring machine**

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday announced that 293 ginning and spinning mills will start functioning across the state after Diwali.

The Minister made this announcement during a review meeting with CCI, NAFED, FCI and state Marketing officers here. He directed the CCI DGM, Amarnath Reddy, to take stern action against officials, who were negligent during procurement of cotton, which he said should benefit farmers. Brokers or private traders should be barred from the process, he said.

Reddy said that CCI is educating farmers on the need to ensure that the moisture content in the cotton brought to the market is low.

"We are using Aadhaar-based cash transfers in cotton procurement and this will be a transparent process," he said.

Kishan Reddy instructed the authorities to make available moisture measuring machine at every collection centre and assured farmers that there would be no



MoS G. Kishan Reddy attends the National Ayurveda Day celebrations on the occasion of Dhanwantri Jayanti, organised by Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and Aarogya Bharati of the RSS at Chinna Jeevar Swami's ashram in Munchital in Ranga Reddy on Thursday.

delay in procurement. Despite lower cotton yields this year, Kishan Reddy assured the farmers that the authorities would buy cotton at a minimum supportive price with due diligence. He urged farmers not to hastily sell cotton to private traders at low prices.

The Union Minister reviewed with officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) regarding paddy crop. He recalled that a large number of farmers in Telangana had cultivated paddy

variety as per the instructions of the state government, which had also promised to collect the entire produce.

Stating that there is no situation to buy the grains at present, he urged the state government to take responsibility for it and render justice to farmers.

He said there was uniform national price structure and there would be no special rules for different states. He also said that there would be no discrepancy in the procurement of

grains for the implementation of the Food Security Act and that the FCI would insist on quality and at a minimum support price. Asking the state government to amass the paddy harvested by the farmers, he urged the Chief Minister to honour his promise of paying bonuses.

Reddy mentioned that the Union Government has been providing funds to many schemes of the State Government through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC),

which has been assisting in purchase of sheep, pisciculture and granting low-interest loans to cooperatives. He assured to discuss with the Union agriculture minister for more funds to schemes.

The Minister has said that the new agricultural laws will increase demand for agricultural products over the next two years. He said that the Centre has already taken steps to promote exports. He said the food processing industry would benefit from the product-based incentive scheme announced recently.

The Minister asserted that the Union Government is taking steps to streamline the country's economy post the Covid-19 crisis and has announced several measures to benefit the people, generating employment to urban and rural youth.

Later, Kishan Reddy attended the 'National Ayurveda Day celebrations' on the occasion of 'Dhanwantri Jayanti', organised by Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad and Aarogya Bharati of the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Chinna Jeevar Swami's ashram in Munchital.

## Uttam wants govt to aid farmers on war footing

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

cropping pattern forcibly imposed by CM KCR has proved disastrous for thousands of farmers, who cultivated superfine varieties of paddy, instead of regular kind. He pointed out that cultivation of "sanna rakala vadlu" not only involved higher investment, their yield turned out to be less than two-third of the regular crop.

As a result, he said, paddy farmers had an average loss over ₹10,000 per acre. He demanded that the state government purchase "sanna vadlu" by paying at least ₹2,500 per quintal. Further, the government must also purchase all other crops at their minimum support price (MSP).

Uttam Kumar Reddy slammed the state government for not enumerating damage caused on an immediate basis.

crops due to heavy rains and floods. He said standing crops spread across 40 lakh acres had been destroyed either fully or partially due to heavy rains and floods. Farmers' organisations have estimated that crops over 20 lakh acres costing ₹5,000 crore have been lost.

He regretted that despite this, the state government has made no efforts to assess the damage and help the affected farmers. It has not written even a single letter to the centre seeking relief for farmers, he maintained.

The TPCC chief also criticised the BJP government at the centre for neglecting farmers of Telangana. He demanded that the centre pay affected farmers the statutory compensations on a war footing.

The TPCC chief maintained that the regulated

## TS needs to repair 2,988.4 km of roads

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Telangana faces, literally, a long road to recovery as it prepares to repair and restore 2,988.4 km of roads – national highways, panchayati raj, and state highways – that have either been badly damaged, washed off in sections, or destroyed over culverts following the heavy rains that lashed the state in October and other spells of rains this year.

As weather improved, officials from the engineering wings of the roads and buildings department, surveyed the damage and sent proposals for carrying out permanent repairs to these roads, including those required for the national highways passing

through the state. While ₹79.27 crore is estimated to be required to repair Panchayati Raj roads, the expected bill to restore state roads and highways would be around ₹506 crore while the central government has already approved Rs 380 crore for repairs to national highways and sanctioned Rs 200 from this amount.

The single largest employer in Telangana, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, will bear the cost of repairing damaged roads in the areas of its operations and the company is ready to spend Rs 300 crore for this purpose.

So far, since it came to power, the TRS government has spent about Rs 4,000 crore on new roads and repairs in the Telangana state.

## HC questions GHMC over its 2016 order on illegal buildings

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijay Sen Reddy was dealing with PILs challenging the BRS, 2016.

At that time, the High Court had stopped GHMC from processing applications under BRS. The court directed the civic body to first undertake field-level inspections and inform it about the number of constructions that did not meet parameters prescribed under

the BRS. Since then, the GHMC has not filed any counter. When the matters came up on Thursday, the bench directed to municipal corporation to file an affidavit explaining what it had done after the earlier order, whether it had passed any information to applicants regarding their applications being considered or rejected.

The High Court has adjourned the matter November 19.

user charges, another ₹770.51 crores are expected to be received as Plan Grants. The rest of the proposed budget will come from assigned revenues, regularization fee, and other revenue sources. Nearly a fourth of the proposed budget, ₹1,226.91 crore, which almost mirrors the ₹1,224.51 crore in expected borrowings for 2021-22, will go towards establishment costs, it has been proposed.

The largest chunk of the budget, ₹1,582.51 crore, was proposed for laying of roads and pavements in the city.

Suzi, the chimp, drink from. "Bbefore the coffee, she brushed her teeth with a toothbrush and toothpaste. Sometimes, she would wait for Sagar to do this," said N Kshitija, the zoo director.

Suzi would then get her bath, with a Pear soap and after drying off sitting in the sun, get a coconut oil massage on her black fur: "She was a joy to be around with. She would gently remove a ring from your finger, and bangles from the hands of women, and then after examining them, return them carefully," Shankaran said.

For Suzi, whose body was cremated in the zoo later in the day, it was a life well lived, if some-

what lonely. "We tried hard to find her a mate," Shobha said, "but we could not."

Her birthday celebrations every July 16, were special events at the zoo.

Cakes, choicest fruits were just some of the stuff she got that day. "She loved chocolate. Sometimes, some of the staff would slip her one of her favourites, a Cadbury Five Star bar or a Cadbury milk chocolate. She would carefully unwrap, enjoy the treat and return the wrapper to the person who gave her the chocolate," Kshitija recalled. "Everyone of us was in tears today," Kshitija said. "We lost a dear member of our family."



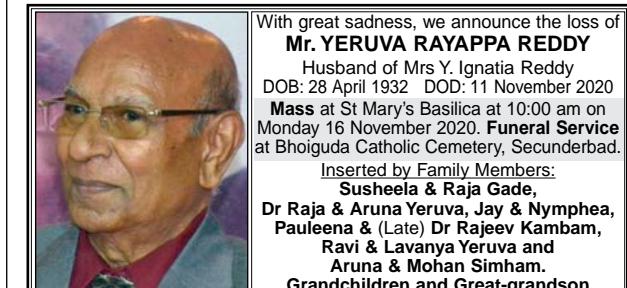
Suzi, the chimp.

Nothing else would do," Shankaran said.

The coffee, and freshly squeezed fruit juices in a mixer that was kept in her night house, while she kept a sharp watch on how they were being made and then given to her in plastic bottles to

what lonely. "We tried hard to find her a mate," Shobha said, "but we could not."

Her birthday celebrations every July 16, were special events at the zoo. Cakes, choicest fruits were just some of the stuff she got that day. "She loved chocolate. Sometimes, some of the staff would slip her one of her favourites, a Cadbury Five Star bar or a Cadbury milk chocolate. She would carefully unwrap, enjoy the treat and return the wrapper to the person who gave her the chocolate," Kshitija recalled. "Everyone of us was in tears today," Kshitija said. "We lost a dear member of our family."



(S/2021/D00820)

OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7



Mrs. ELIZABETH RATNAVATHI PATAIKA

W/o. Late A.K. PATAIKA

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Corptege will be kept at Centenary Baptist Church Secunderabad from 9:30 am today.

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OBITUARY

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of our mother

## SHORT TAKES

## YES BANK SCAM ACCUSED ROSHNI KAPOOR GETS BAIL

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 12

A magistrate court here on Thursday granted bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's daughter Roshni Kapoor, an accused in the Yes Bank fraud case linked to DHFL, after she appeared before the court in response to summons issued to her.

A non-bailable warrant could have been issued had she not appeared before the court on the summons issued to her. The court had issued summons to her last month at the time of taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the Central probe agency CBI. The agency has named her as one of the eight accused.

The CBI had filed charge sheet against Rana Kapoor and others under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC. However, the charges of corruption were dropped by the special CBI court because the prosecution did not obtain the sanction needed to prosecute under the PC Act. As a result the case was transferred to the magistrate court for trial.

## SCORPENE CLASS SUBMARINE LAUNCHED

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

The fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir for the Indian Navy was launched in Mumbai on Thursday.

The submarine will now undergo comprehensive and rigorous tests and trials for more than a year to ensure delivery of a combat worthy submarine, capable of operation in all modes and regimes of deployment.

The crew will also, at some point of time, sail the submarine for "sea acceptance trials" after which the submarine will be delivered to the Navy. The addition of the submarine will be critical for the Indian Navy which is operating at a less than ideal strength given India's vast coastline.

The Vagir submarine has the ability to launch a crippling attack on an enemy with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles whilst underwater or on surface.

Vagir has the ability to carry out multifarious missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, which include anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance. Six Scorpene submarines were to be manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, under programme Project-75 with a \$3 billion contract.

## Flouting Covid-19 norms



A view of crowd at Sadar Bazar due to Diwali shopping in New Delhi on Thursday. Single-day increase of 47,905 infections took the country's Covid-19 caseload to 86,83,916, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease have surged to 80,66,501. The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,28,121 with 550 new fatalities. — PTI

## Have made no claim to CM's post: Nitish

**Nitish likely to meet Guv soon after meeting with NDA partners**

NAYEAR AZAD | DC  
PATNA, NOV. 12

● THE NDA led by Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has won 125 seats, three more than the number required to form the government in Bihar.

● THE JD(U) has been holding Chirag Paswan responsible for the low tally and has been accusing him of 'cutting votes' on most of the seats fielded by the party.

This is the first time in 15 years that the JD(U) has slipped to number three position in the state after the RJD and NDA partner BJP.

The RJD with 75 seats has emerged as the single largest party followed by the BJP which has won 74 seats.

The JD(U) got only 43 seats and two smaller partners Hindustani Awam Morcha and Vikasheel Insaan Party won four seats each.

The JD(U) has been holding Chirag Paswan responsible for the low tally and has been accusing him of 'cutting votes' on most of the seats fielded by the party.

On Wednesday, while talking about his party's performance in the Assembly elections Chirag Paswan had said that it was his party's goal to cause a dent to the JD(U) and make the BJP stronger.

Sources said that the

JD(U) leadership has urged the BJP to initiate action against Chirag Paswan and his party for aggressively campaigning against Nitish Kumar and fielding candidates on most of the seats where JD(U) had fielded its candidates.

As per an assessment, the LJP harmed the JD(U) on 20-30 seats during the polls.

"It's the BJP which has to decide whether any action is to be taken against him (Chirag Paswan) or his party. It's for the BJP to decide whether or the LJP should remain in the NDA," Nitish Kumar said.

Meanwhile, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in his first remark after the Assembly election raised doubts over the electoral process in the state.

He also alleged discrepancies in postal ballot count and demanded recounting in more than 20 seats where the grand alliance candidates lost by a thin margin.

Talking to the media after being declared as the legislative party leader of the Grand Alliance on Thursday, Tejashwi Yadav said, "They have hijacked the people's mandate once again. In 2015 also people's mandate was in favour of the Grand Alliance but it was the BJP which made backdoor entry to gain power."

Chief Electoral Officer H.R. Srinivas, meanwhile, submitted the list of winning candidates in the assembly elections to Governor Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhawan.

Tejashwi Yadav also announced that he would soon take out a "Dhanyawad Yatra" to thank the people of the state for voting in favour of the grand alliance.

He said that "The verdict was in our favour but the results were declared in their favour. I am confident that the grand alliance would have won at least 130 seats if the counting was done in a free and fair manner. We have also decided to demand video footage of the counting process. The grand alliance also wants to know that under whose pressure postal ballots were cancelled".

## 'Paatal Lok' actor Asif Basra ends life

Dharamshala (HP), Nov. 12: Actor Asif Basra, a familiar face in several movies and TV shows including "Jab We Met", "Kai Po Che!" and "Paatal Lok", was found hanging in a private residential complex here on Thursday, police said. He was 53.

He hanged himself around 12.12.30 pm on Thursday. We are investigating the matter. We have sent the body for post-mortem... Prima

facie it is a case of suicide," Kangra Senior Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan told reporters here.

The actor's body was recovered by police officials, he said. Further details are awaited, Ranjan added.

Basra had reportedly leased a property in McLeodganj, Upper Dharamshala, about five-six years ago and visited the place regularly.

The news of the sud-

den death of the character actor, which comes months after Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai on June 14, led to shock in the industry with several of his colleagues expressing their grief.

"What? This is too shocking!! Shot with him just before Lockdown!!! Oh My God!!!" tweeted actor Manoj Bajpayee. — PTI

## ASEAN KEY TO INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY: MODI

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday participated in the 17th Asean-India virtual summit at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Vietnam is the current chair of ASEAN.

"ASEAN-India engagement has evolved over the years into a deep, robust and multi-faceted partnership. Asean and India became summit-level partners in 2002, and strategic partners in 2012. The breadth of our partnership is covered by several dialogue mechanisms cutting across various sectors like defense, cyber security, counter terrorism, commerce, telecommunications, agriculture, energy, environmental issues, tourism, etc," said Riva Ganguly Das, secretary (East) in ministry of external affairs.

The annual Asean-India summits provide the opportunity for India and Asean to engage at the highest level.

The 17th ASEAN-India Summit is the eighth summit attended by Prime Minister. He attended the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok in November last year.

Speaking at the summit, Modi underlined the centrality of Asean in India's Act East Policy and noted that a cohesive, responsive and prosperous Aseans is central to India's Indo-Pacific vision and contributes to security and growth for all in the region.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of strengthening convergence between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific to ensure a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue Department FORM-7

Collector/ Joint Collector/ Special Collector (Land Acquisition) / Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition) (See Sub Rule (1) of Rule-25 and Section - 19(1) of the Act-30/2013) (Right to fair compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013) DECLARATION

G1/2527/2017 Dated: 03-11-2020

No. E1/2923/2013 Dated: 27-10-2020

Whereas it is intended to acquire land is needed 1865 Sq.Yards in the Vemulapalli Village, Vemulapalli Mandal, Nalgonda District for public purpose namely for construction of State Highway Service Roads from Narketipalli to Addanki.

Therefore, declaration is made for acquisition of land needed for construction of said project as shown in the following annexure measuring 1865 Sq.Yards in the Vemulapalli Village, Vemulapalli Mandal, Nalgonda District.

SCHEDULE

Village: Vemulapalli Mandal:Vemulapalli District:Nalgonda

| Sl. No. | Sy. No. | Type of Land | Land Sq. Yards | Details of persons concerned to the land                            |   | Structures  |
|---------|---------|--------------|----------------|---|---|---|
|         |         |              |                | Name of Paddar  | Name of Enjoyer   |   |
| 1       | 496     | Patta        | 5              | Chalabhatia Lakshamma w/o Sidi Reddy                                | Chalabhatia Lakshamma w/o Sidi Reddy                                | Slab House  |
|         |         |              | Total          | 10  |   |   |
| 2       | 485     | Patta        | 110            | On Behalf of Sri Sitarama Chandra Swamy Temple Bandi Yadagiri Reddy | On Behalf of Sri Sitarama Chandra Swamy Temple Bandi Yadagiri Reddy | On Behalf of Sri Sitarama Chandra Swamy Temple Bandi Yadagiri Reddy |
|         |         |              | Total          | 150   |   |   |
| 3       | 253     | Govt.        | 19             | Kaduru Durgaiah s/o Muttaiah  | Kaduru Durgaiah s/o Muttaiah  | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 19             | Kaduru Mattaiah s/o Muttaiah  | Kaduru Mattaiah s/o Muttaiah  | Compound wall. Asbestos Sheet house                                 |
|         |         |              | 86             | Puttala Chinna Yesu s/o Abraham                                     | Puttala Chinna Yesu s/o Abraham                                     | Bath room, compound wall, RCC slab house                            |
|         |         |              | 24             | Dyda Mysamma w/o Danaiah  | Dyda Mysamma w/o Danaiah  | Compound wall   |
|         |         |              | 15             | Puttala Lalitha w/o Sugnani   | Puttala Lalitha w/o Sugnani   | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 8              | Puttala Srinivas s/o Guruvaiyah                                     | Puttala Srinivas s/o Guruvaiyah                                     | Basement  |
|         |         |              | 20             | Puttala Guravaiah s/o Ramaiyah                                      | Puttala Guravaiah s/o Ramaiyah                                      | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 11             | Komppelli Krishnaiyah s/o Bhiksham                                  | Komppelli Krishnaiyah s/o Bhiksham                                  | Asbestos sheets house   |
|         |         |              | Total          | 202   |   |   |
| 5       | 250     | Patta        | 69             | Chittipalli Dasu s/o Hendri   | Chittipalli Dasu s/o Hendri   | Open place  |
|         |         |              | Total          | 69  |   |   |
| 7       | 690     | Govt.        | 536            | Halimunisa Begam w/o Rahim sab                                      | Halimunisa Begam w/o Rahim sab                                      | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 709            | Sheik Ghouse s/o Khasim   | Sheik Ghouse s/o Khasim   | Asbestos sheets Rice Mill   |
|         |         |              | Total          | 1245  |   |   |
|         |         |              | 15             | Jada Narayana s/o Somulu  | Jada Narayana s/o Somulu  | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 28             | Jada Mattaiah s/o Somulu  | Jada Mattaiah s/o Somulu  | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 15             | Chedella Lakshmana murthy s/o Satyanarayana                         | Chedella Lakshmana murthy s/o Satyanarayana                         | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 21             | Chedella Sriramulu s/o Ramaiyah                                     | Chedella Sriramulu s/o Ramaiyah                                     | RCC House   |
|         |         |              | 30             | Chedella Srinivas s/o Sreeramulu                                    | Chedella Srinivas s/o Sreeramulu                                    | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 7              | Nune Venkata Narayana Reddy   | Nune Venkata Narayana Reddy   | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 19             | Puttala Chinna Yesu Alias Bakkaiah s/o Abraham                      | Puttala Chinna Yesu Alias Bakkaiah s/o Abraham                      | Open place  |
|         |         |              | 54             | Puttala Papamma w/o Ramaiyah  | Puttala Papamma w/o Ramaiyah  | Open place  |
|         |         |              | Total          | 189   |   |   |
|         |         |              | Total Extent   | 1865 Sq. yards  |   |   |

The declaration is made after hearing objections on land acquisition under Section 15 (Central Act 30/2013).

If Coal, Iron, Slate and other minerals in the land proposed for land acquisition, available in such lands or part of the land if minerals is useful for constructions they may be accepted otherwise will not be accepted.

A Plan for the land to be acquired may be inspected in the office of Revenue Divisional Officer, Miryalguda on any working day.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Miryalguda DIPR No.819/LA/PP/Agency/2020-21

## Shivraj rules out expansion of his ministry

RABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC  
BHOJPAL, NOV. 12

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday ruled out expansion of his ministry in near future indicating that he was in no hurry to accommodate the 2 former ministers who resigned from his cabinet on October 21 when their 6-month mandatory period to continue in their position as non-MLAs ended.

cabinet on October 21. Both of them were however elected to the Assembly in the November 3 by-elections in the state.

"Ministry expansion is not in my agenda right now", Chouhan told reporters here.

He also refused to commit as to when he was planning to expand his ministry.

Meanwhile, out of the 12 non-MLA ministers in the Shivraj ministry, three have lost the elections, while the rest nine have won the polls.

The three ministers who lost the polls are Imarti Devi, Andel Singh Kansana and Girijai Dandotia.

Meanwhile, Kansana announced his resignation from the ministry immediately after he lost the polls.

The other two ministers who lost the polls were yet to announce their resignation from the ministry.

Accordingly, Silawat and Rajput, who were inducted in the Shivraj cabinet on April 2, resigned from the Shivraj

## BJP SAYS DIDI IS PLAYING 'KHOONI RAJNITI'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed the killing of BJP workers and supporters in TMC-ruled West Bengal and advised the state's ruling party that the "dance of death" will not help in winning a mandate, the BJP on Thursday accused the TMC supremo and chief minister Mamata Banerjee of playing "khooni rajniti."

On a day BJP's state unit and MP Dilip Ghosh's convoy was attacked in Alipurduar allegedly by TMC workers and one of its workers Gokul Jana was "murdered" in East Medinipur, the party claimed that these incidents are a proof that Bihar poll verdict has unsettled Banerjee.

High on the BJP's radar, West Bengal has crucial Assembly polls lined up early next year and former BJP president and Union home minister Amit Shah had recently visited the state to take stock of the party's poll preparedness.

West Bengal is one of the few states where the

# DECCAN Chronicle

13 NOVEMBER 2020

## Digital oversight: Don't try to regulate, censor

The Central government's move to bring the digital space under the purview of the information and broadcasting ministry, with President Ram Nath Kovind approving the Government of India (Allocation of Business) 357th Amendment Rules, 2020, gives it the power to regulate policies and rules for online content, including news and creative material broadcast through over-the-top platforms. This comes soon after the Supreme Court expressed concern over the lack of oversight on OTT content and seeking the government's views on the subject.

At present, most content in India is regulated by statutory or autonomous bodies. The Press Council of India and the Central Board of Film Certification, both statutory bodies, monitor the print media and films respectively, while the News Broadcasters Association represents television news channels and the Advertising Standards Council of India regulates advertising. However, there is no law or body that governs online content, or OTT platforms. The attempt by a group of video streaming services to formulate a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for content on these platforms had failed to take off. In this background, the new rules fill in a lacuna, and thus welcome.

It is learnt that the programme code that governs content on TV and which found an outlet in the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995 may serve as the template for guidelines, and the code lists several don'ts.

While it is necessary that there is a regulatory body which can oversee the content, there are too many apprehensions and challenges that such a body will face. This is basically because of two factors. One, it should work within the limits of Article 19(1) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to speech and expression. Any attempt to muscle information or opinion expressed online will fall foul of the Constitution, and hence untenable. The media is best left to regulate itself, and a statutory regulator should not take on the role of a censor or do the bidding of the government in power. There are laws in our statute book to punish those who break them; and thus it must function solely as an overseer and not as a regulator, in the strict sense of the term. Second is the role that technology plays while trying to regulate online platforms. In the case of the press, television, advertisements or films, the products are made and/or distributed physically within the territory of India but when it comes to online, none of this is applicable, thanks to technology. One can produce content sitting anywhere in the world and make it available in the country, and imposing restrictions on them would be a tough, if not impossible, task. At the same time, those from within the country are easy to be brought under control. It is incumbent on a regulator to ensure that every player gets a level-playing field.

A knowledge society demands an open and free exchange of ideas. Regulators do have a role, but only a very limited one. The government must ensure that the new regulator promotes India's transformation into a knowledge society, and not impedes it.

## A fitting finale for IPL

The smiles on the faces of not only the record winners of the Indian Premier League said it all. There was an immense sense of satisfaction to the event having been held as a glorious tribute to the sporting spirit of mankind with the popular multi-billion IPL 2020 season transplanted in the UAE desert and gone through virtually without a hitch. Five-time champions Mumbai Indians may have pulled one more away from the pack but they were just one great part of a wonderfully uninhibited final in which bright cricket of the enterprising T20 variety was served as entertainment in the face of one of humanity's greatest challenges in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The super hero frame may have frozen prematurely on Marcus Stoinis as Delhi Capitals' opening gambit backfired, but denied by one of the great weapons of the 2020 season — pace attack. Even on Asian pitches there was plenty for quicks like Trent Boult to show the way. A methodical thoroughness may have exemplified the extent to which Mumbai Indians have revolutionised the format but they displayed that long after attacking batsmanship saw the likes of Kagiso Rabada being toyed with. This was not a nail-biting final, but an almost clichetic DC captain had realised that setting a target is as much a way of trying to win in this format. The flow of then attacking game was owed primarily to getting on with it rather than complicating it excessively.

The slow bowlers held their own too, so too did athletic fielders who bring excitement in their new gravity-defying, boundary riding ways even as the batsmen went through the vicissitudes, sometimes run ragged by just the thought of winning when near enough to the threshold. Many of the youth of India embellished the competition in unfolding their unique talents while the experienced often left us marvelling at how they reproduce skills as if from muscle memory. The public, drawn even more into interaction with the Dream XI IPL fantasy games, was laughing too as a great IPL edition went by.

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Sanjivani  
Sahni

## Forum of CMs: An idea 'whose time has come'

An idea whose time has come". This was among the responses following my earlier article in these columns, which proposed the creation of a forum comprising the chief ministers and Leaders of the Opposition in states not governed by the ruling party.

The fulcrum would be to reinforce the federal structure, with national issues getting a collective voice, rather than individual efforts. Over time, it was hoped, with more credibility, a potential challenger would emerge.

The second dominant response was over implementation, which is even normally problematic and would be a challenge.

Let us look at the proposed alternative in these contexts.

First, the establishment of a forum, if it finds acceptance by even a few CMs or LOPs, will help to create an enabling structure as a first step. Not having to negotiate alliances to join a larger collective would be an advantage. Its membership will be limited to CMs and LOPs, and participation voluntary. This would extend to issues as well.

In other words, there need not be a consensus on all issues. There could be a consensus on major national

issues, where the forum will allow the CMs' viewpoints to get wider national acceptance than in their areas of influence. Success could be reinforcing.

The point is that this would be a democratic forum as all members would be representatives chosen on the basis of their success in the electoral process in their states. Collectively, the forum would be representative of 60 per cent of the electorate that had not voted for the ruling party. This is a small attempt to address the lacuna in our first-past-the-post system. The majority vote gets divided and permits even a minority to get majoritarian power. A collective forum for the voice of 60 per cent seems worth exploring.

There is enough expertise available in the system to put a structure together that would incentivise and promote collaboration. At the same time, it will leave scope for dissent. Dissent by abstention from issues isn't acceptable to some.

How could the forum's voice be more effectively disseminated?

The CMs and LOPs will be supported by experts selected by them in multiple domains including but not limited to economics, law, diplomacy and even politics. Ideally, this forum will

have a fair measure of younger people, who not only have the relevant domain knowledge but are also articulate and have acceptability at an individual level, that will be enhanced by their collective credibility. Some names that come to mind include Mahua Moitra, Kanhaiya Kumar, Prashant Kishore, Sachin Pilot, Chetan Bhagat, Priyanka Chaturvedi and Raghav Chadha.

Another key question: It is all very well to find fault with the government's viewpoint but what is the alternative vision. Currently, different state-level politics brings out the relevant issues, but restrictively. Nobody has the mandate to credibly propagate an all-India national vision. Besides policy, the administrative capabilities of the states are only well known where they are in power.

Many states have demonstrated progress in multiple but limited spheres of activity. If this experience is pooled in the forum, the likelihood of national issues gaining acceptance will probably increase exponentially.

The forum could generate shared experience. It could also incentivise a competitive streak. Both of these are positives.

Where the advisory team can be helpful is in focusing and bringing to

the CMs' and LOPs' attention, in a structured way, key issues that should be taken up on a priority basis. Its mandate should be to:

a) Segment — economic, defence/foreign affairs, political, administrative reforms, technology, etc. Identify — key issues in these segments.

b) The effort should be to try and arrive at a consensus on three (illusory) issues in each segment. This would become the core alternative agenda to propose collectively.

This would be a combination of political, managerial and technological prowess. Segmentation and prioritisation would put the focus on what must be done with immediacy across the country. The powerful team of spokespersons using the best technologies, carrying credibility with the bulk of voters, should make an impact.

For clarity, the team will be required to focus on the positives that need to be done. Political parties will be left to fight their battles independently, as is currently the norm.

The intention is to "cut the clutter" and bring forward issues that pass the test of experiential and intellectual rigour, including multi-disciplinary analysis.

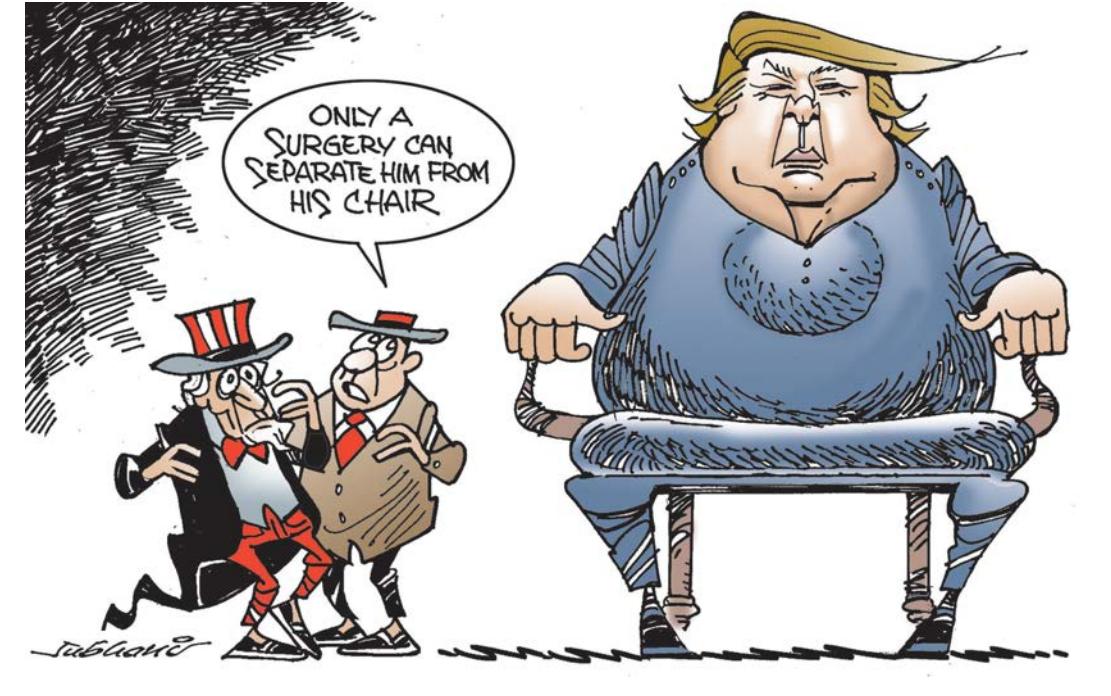
Electorally, in a Utopian world, the 60 per cent of the electorate outside the establishment would be incentivised to vote together. However, in a real world, that is not going to happen. But, it is hoped this proposed forum will enable better communication, understanding on several issues, a collective desire to effectively reinforce the democratic process, the federal structure, as well as formulate policies relevant to alleviate poverty, to ensure India's progress in many respects. To summarise, there is a distinct hope and possibility that at least at the national level, not necessarily at state level, even electoral solidarity will become more visible.

The hope is that we could help create an institution for the voice of 60 per cent of the non-establishment electorate, create a direction for an alternative vision, bring closer multi-party state leaderships and employ multi-media technology to disseminate positive possibilities.

All this will enable an alternative leadership to become more visible across India. From among this leadership, it is hoped a challenger would emerge.

The writer is a management and economic adviser

Subhani



## New insights on Rajiv, but questions remain

Karan Thapar

### As I See It

**B**iographies written by friends can be both revelatory and exasperating. Because the author knows the subject intimately there's a lot you can learn from them which otherwise you might never have found out. But, equally, for the same reason the book is likely to ignore or gloss over incidents that could embarrass the subject. Such books are fascinating but not always satisfying.

That is largely true of Wajahat Habibullah's recent book *My Years with Rajiv*. First, however, a word about their relationship. Habibullah and Indira Gandhi's two sons, Rajiv and Sanjay, studied together at Doon School and earlier at Welham. Their families knew each other and Habibullah's mother even served as a Congress MP. Later, the adult Wajahat served in both Rajiv Gandhi's and his mother's office. As he reveals, Habibullah accompanied Mrs Gandhi "on every tour within India, from Kashmir to the Andamans". Consequently, he got to know and, perhaps, understand the Gandhis better than any other civil servant.

Now, let's come to the book. The new bits suggest that a lot happened when he was Prime Minister of which Rajiv Gandhi knew very little. In fact, he was often kept in the dark. By politicians, by generals and even, it seems, by his close friends. If true — and I'm prepared to accept Habibullah's word — it's hardly a flattering portrait of India's young Prime Minister.

Habibullah reveals that Rajiv was totally clueless when, in February 1986,

the gates of the Babri Masjid were unlocked. "Was Rajiv Gandhi involved in the decisions leading up to this unlocking?" he asks. This is the answer that Rajiv Gandhi gave him: "I had not been informed of this action and have asked Vir Bahadur Singh (then chief minister of Uttar Pradesh) to explain. I suspect it was Arun (Nehru) and Fotedar (Makhan Lal) who were responsible, but I am having this verified. If it is true, I will have to consider action."

Unfortunately, Habibullah does not explain how a Prime Minister could be ignorant of something as important as this, or what that suggests of his leadership and of his control of events. Yet Habibullah does write of himself that he was "completely taken aback". Therefore, it's a mystery why he doesn't dig deeper to find an explanation for Gandhi's ignorance. Or ask how Rajiv's cousin, Arun Nehru, could have placed the Prime Minister in this predicament.

Even more surprising is what Habibullah has to reveal about Operation Brasstacks. In 1986-87, this operation was viewed as unwarrantedly provocative and many feared that it could spark a conflict with Pakistan. Although Habibullah says that it involved "the entire Indian Army", it emerges that Rajiv Gandhi had no idea of its planning or that it was actually happening.

Habibullah reveals he only found out as a result of a casual comment to Lt. Gen. P.N. Hoon, then Western Army commander, at an Army Day reception.

Habibullah's account of Rajiv's conversation with Lt. Gen. Hoon is both

funny and frightening. "When Rajiv saw him, he sauntered up to him and asked cheerfully: 'How is the Western Front?' Lt. Gen. Hoon then started to speak about Operation Brasstacks. 'Rajiv looked taken aback and asked Hoon what he was talking about.' As Habibullah adds, it soon became crystal clear that "the Prime Minister of India had in fact no inkling of an exercise that had brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war".

Once again, Habibullah does not bother to ask the obvious questions. What does Rajiv Gandhi's ignorance of Brasstacks reveal of his relationship with the Army Chief and, more importantly, Arun Singh, the minister of state for defence and Rajiv's closest friend? Indeed, what does this sorry state of affairs reveal of Rajiv Gandhi's hold on the government? Habibullah's silence doesn't mean the questions don't exist or that they can conveniently not be answered.

The third revelation is from Rajiv Gandhi's brief term as Leader of the Opposition. During Operation Desert Storm, launched by a 35-nation coalition led by the United States in 1991, to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's control, Rajiv Gandhi "launched a tirade against the USA focused on refuelling permissions given by India to US planes". Gandhi claimed this was a surrender of Indian sovereignty. However, Habibullah points out that such criticism overlooked the fact "India itself was routinely given such permission by a host of countries".

The author goes a step further to reveal Gandhi's hypocrisy was a lot worse. The third revelation is from Rajiv Gandhi's brief term as Leader of the Opposition. During Operation Desert Storm, launched by a 35-nation coalition led by the United States in 1991, to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's control, Rajiv Gandhi "launched a tirade against the USA focused on refuelling permissions given by India to US planes". Gandhi claimed this was a surrender of Indian sovereignty. However, Habibullah points out that such criticism overlooked the fact "India itself was routinely given such permission by a host of countries".

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## LETTERS

### DEATH OF SOLDIERS

The funerals of Ryada Mahesh and Praveen Kumar Reddy made a very sad reading (*Tearful farewell to jawan Mahesh*, DC Nov. 11). Two more young lives are lost due to our inability to resolve border disputes. Providing cash and offering jobs to a family member is too little when compared to what the families have lost.

M. Saleemuddin  
Hyderabad

### GROWTH BOOSTERS

It is good that the Centre is releasing ₹1.45 lakh crore as Production Linked Incentives (PLI) (*Centre's sops for more production*, DC, Nov. 12). It is indeed the right step to make our country a manufacturing hub. There should be a monitoring cell in the finance department to ensure that these organisations will use these incentives for productive purpose.

G.V.N. Murthy  
Hyderabad

### DUBBAK RESULT

The BJP should not be complacent after the Dubbak bypoll result. At the same time it is for the TRS to introspect what went wrong. It is not fair for the BJP leaders to ask the CM to step down. BJP has lost byolls in some states. Does that mean the concerned CM should step down? TRS must take this defeat seriously and the CM must ask all MLAs to spend time understanding people's pulse.

Lakshmi S.  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### Man becomes woman

TORONTO, Nov. 12  
A 24-year-old Toronto office worker who flew to New York as a man and as a woman said here, "It is like being born again."

**IN BRIEF**  
**7 killed in Sinai helicopter crash**

**Jerusalem:** Israeli and Egyptian officials say a helicopter belonging to an international peacekeeping force has crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing at least seven people, including Americans. The

Israeli official said that five Americans were among the dead in the crash on Thursday in Sinai. The Egyptian official said the crash appeared to be caused by a technical failure.

The helicopter belonged to the multinational force, known as MFO, that monitors the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media on the matter.

**Radio Liberty scribe killed in bombing**

**Kandahar:** An Afghan journalist working for a US-funded radio network was killed in a blast in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, officials said, just days after a former television presenter was murdered in Kabul. Radio Liberty reporter Aliyas Dayee was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car exploded in the city of Lashkar Gah in Helmand province, said Omar Zwik, the spokesman for the province's governor. Targeted killings of prominent figures, including journalists, clerics, politicians and rights activists, have become more common in recent months as violence surges in Afghanistan, despite ongoing peace talks between the government and the Taliban. Dayee, 33, was on his way to the local press club with his brother when the car exploded, Radio Liberty's chief editor Rateb Noori said.

**Democracy bloc set to resign in HK**

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong's legislature opened on Thursday ahead of the planned mass resignation of its pro-democracy bloc, one day after the government ousted four of its members. One of the pro-democracy lawmakers, Lam Cheuk-ting, unfurled a banner from a balcony of the legislative council building saying the city's leader Carrie Lam had brought disaster to Hong Kong and its people. The group had said they would hand in resignation letters on Thursday, but it was not immediately clear when they would do it or even what the proper procedure was. One said the removal of their four colleagues could sound the "death knell" for democracy in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. The resignation of the 15 remaining pro-democracy lawmakers would ratchet up tensions over the future of Hong Kong, a former British colony, regional financial hub and bastion of Western-style civil liberties where China's government has increasingly tightened its control.

**CARDI B SORRY FOR GODDESS DURGA LOOK**

**Los Angeles,** Nov. 12: American rapper Cardi B has apologised for appropriating Goddess Durga's image for a magazine cover shoot. The 28-year-old musician recently appeared on the cover of Footwear News magazine, posing as Goddess Durga with shoes in her hands, while promoting her first line of sneakers with Reebok.

In the magazine's cover photo, Cardi B is seen holding a shoe while multiple arms stretched out around her from her shoulders.

The singer was then slammed on social media with many Indian users claiming that she has insulted the Hindu goddess, while others took offence to her outfit. On Wednesday, Cardi B took to her Instagram story and apologised to her Indian fans.

In a video message, the musician said, "When I did the shoot, the creatives told me I was going to represent a Goddess; that she represents strength, femininity and liberation, and that's something I love and I'm all about."

"And though it was dope, if people think I'm offending their culture or their religion I want to say that was not my intent. I do not like offending anyone's religion; I wouldn't like it if someone did it to my religion," she added.

Cardi B maintained that her intention was not to disrespect anyone's god. "When people dress as Virgin Mary and Jesus, as long as they do it in a beautiful, graceful way it is ok". But I wasn't trying to be disrespectful; maybe I should have done my research. I'm sorry, I can't change the past but I will do more research for the future," she added.

# Biden transition picks up, Klain chief of staff

Long road ahead for duo to fight Covid, heal divided nation

## US military won't be used as political pawn, says Gen Mark

**Washington, Nov. 12:** US President-elect Joe Biden pressed ahead with his transition on Wednesday — despite Donald Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat, naming a seasoned Democratic operative as chief of staff in his first public White House personnel choice.

Biden tapped longtime aide Ron Klain, who previously served as his first chief of staff while vice president, acknowledging the two had a long road ahead in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic as well as healing a deeply divided nation.

"His deep, varied experience and capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely what I need in a White House chief of staff as we confront this moment of crisis and bring our country together again," Biden said.

He made the announce-

ment after visiting the Korean War Memorial in Philadelphia earlier in the day for a solemn wreath-laying ceremony to mark Veterans Day in the US. President Trump attended a separate,

individual." Milley was speaking Wednesday at the dedication of an Army museum in a week that saw President Donald Trump fire Defense Secretary Mark Esper and install three staunch loyalists to senior Pentagon policy positions.

Milley's comments, made as he stood alongside Esper's successor, acting defense chief Christopher Miller, reflected a

view he has long been passionate about: the military's unequivocal duty to protect and defend the Constitution — what he called the "moral north star" for everyone in uniform.

But his message in a time of turmoil — Trump has refused to concede his election loss — was unmistakable: The military exists to defend democracy and is not to be used as a political pawn. —PTI

simultaneous ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, in what should have been a moment of national unity but instead highlighted the Republican's refusal to acknowledge election defeat.

The president made no public remarks during the somber wreath-laying ceremony, his first official appearance since the November 3 vote. —AFP

## Italian hosps near breaking point as virus cases surge

**Milan, Nov. 12:** Dr Luca Cabriti was certain his hospital in the heart of Lombardy's lake district would reach its breaking point caring for 300 Covid-19 patients. So far, virus patients fill 500 beds and counting.

Italy, which shocked the world and itself when hospitals in the wealthy north were overwhelmed with Coronavirus cases last spring, is again facing a systemic crisis, as confirmed positives pass the symbolic threshold of 1 million.

"We are very close to not keeping up. I cannot say when we will reach the limit, but that day is not far off," said Cabriti, who runs the intensive care ward at Varese's Circolo hospital, the largest in the province of 1 million people northwest of Milan.

The hospital expand-

ed its 20-bed ICU ward to 45 beds during Italy's deadly spring peak. It had 38 patients last weekend, and Cabriti was preparing to set up beds in an operating theater this week, "something we would have preferred to avoid."

As dire as Italy's ICU situation is once again, it's not critical care that is most worrying doctors during the pandemic's autumn resurgence.

It's sub-intensive and infectious disease wards caring for less gravely ill patients, who are often younger and sometimes require care for longer periods.

The Italian doctors federation called this week for a nationwide lockdown to forestall a collapse of the medical system, marked by the closure of non-emergency procedures.

The hospital expand-

## UK crosses 50K Covid-19 deaths

**London, Nov. 12:** The UK has become the first country in Europe to cross the grim milestone of 50,000 Covid-19 related deaths as Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "we mourn everybody who's gone". As per the official figures released by the government, 1,256,725 people have tested positive for the virus after 22,950 new cases were recorded this week.

A further 595 fatalities due to the deadly viral infection on Wednesday took the

death toll to 50,365, making the UK the fifth country in the world to cross the 50,000-mark after the US, Brazil, India and Mexico. "We're not out of the woods yet. Every death is a tragedy, we mourn everybody who's gone and our feelings are with their families and friends," Johnson said.

"It is a global pandemic whose effects, whose implications for the economy, all those have been becoming clearer as the months have gone on," he said. —PTI

## China lays out tech roadmap to catch up with US

**Beijing, Nov. 12:** China must apply cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence if it wants to transform its military into a modern fighting force on a par with those of other leading powers, according to new guidelines and comments from President Xi Jinping and other officials.

The statements come from a booklet published this month by the state-run People's Publishing

House, in which senior officials, including President Xi, outlined the latest five-year plan for the country's development.

The military modernisation is being pushed by 67-year-old Xi, who besides heading the ruling Communist Party (CPC) and the Presidency is also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), which is the overall high command for China's 2-million strong military. —PTI

## SHOTS FIRED AT SAUDI EMBASSY IN DUTCH

**The Hague:** Several shots were fired early Thursday at Saudi Arabia's embassy in The Hague, Dutch police said.

Nobody was injured and police were investigating. Spokesman Steven van Santen said police were alerted around 6 am. —AP

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender for and on behalf of the President of India, Pr. CE, Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 invites the following tenders through E-Procurement System:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Tender No. 211-2659-2020-21-NR   | Date on 07.12.2020   |
| Description of item              | Manufacture & supply of:<br>Item No. (1) Nuts & bolts of various Sizes as per approved drawings (with/without washers) as per RDSO drawings as amended up to date.<br>Item No. (2) Fittings for switches (stretcher bars bearing plate and complete fittings) as per RDSO drawings and amended up to date. |
| Tender Value                     | Rs. 17,27,16,511.5   |
| Tender Document Cost             | Rs. Nil  |
| Earnest Money                    | Rs. 20,00,000/-  |
| Completion Period                | 12 Months  |
| Time of Submission of Tender     | Up 07.12.2020 at 14:30 IST   |
| Date & Time of Opening of Tender | On 07.12.2020 at 14:30IST  |
| Validity of Offer                | 180 days   |

Note : The complete information of above E-Procurement tender is available on website [www.irpe.gov.in](http://www.irpe.gov.in) and [www.northernrailway.gov.in](http://www.northernrailway.gov.in). E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 196-S/71/2020-21/TENDER NOTICE/TS Dated : 12.11.2020 2524/2020

#### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### CORIGENDUM NO-01

Corrigendum in E-Tender Notice No.: S&T-Con-DNR-68

Name of work:-Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking System (Indoor & Outdoor) including Telecom work at Patlipatna & Pahlejaghata in connection with doubling work of Patlipatna - Pahlejaghata of Danapur/Sonpur Division of East Central Railway.

Approximate cost - Existing : Rs. 15,58,32,856.36/- Corrigendum : Rs.14,29,44,318.36/-

Earnest Money - Existing : Rs.929200.00 Corrigendum : Rs. 86,47,00/- Cost of Tender document Existing : Nil as per GCC 2020, Corrigendum : Nil

All terms & conditions are remaining same.

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tel. Engineer/Con E.C.Rly, Danapur PR/915/CDNR/S&T/C/20-21/40

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

## Technology Development Board

(Department of Science & Technology)

Government of India

### Invite applications for NATIONAL AWARDS

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY

The National Awards will be presented on the Technology Day on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Cash Award of Rs.25 lakh

To an industrial concern which has successfully developed & commercialized an indigenous technology on or after April 2016. In case, the technology developer / provider and technology commercializer are two different organizations, each one would be eligible for award of Rs. 25 lakh and a trophy.

No. of Awards: One\*

#### Cash Award of Rs.15 lakh

To SMEs which has successfully commercialized a product based on indigenous technology on or after April 2016.

To technology start-ups for promising new technology with potential for commercialization.

No. of Awards: Three\*

\* Committee may change the number of Awards to be given or may defer if the entries are not found suitable.

Separate application should be made for each indigenous technology commercialized / promising new technology with potential for commercialization developed by start-ups. Enterprises desirous of competing for the awards should refer to TDB Website (<http://www.tdb.gov.in>) and register via 'National Award Registration' link. After registration applicant should fill and submit the form online.

Details of the award, terms and conditions are available at the website: <http://www.tdb.gov.in>

\* Awardees of last two (2) years need not apply

Application should be submitted via online mode only on or before

31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 (05.00 PM)

SECRETARY

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

WING-A, GROUND FLOOR, VISHWAKARMA BHAWAN, SHAHEED JEET SINGH MARG,

NEW DELHI – 110 016, Telephone No. 011- 26540100: 26537349: 26535049

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

### PETROLEUM & EXPLOSIVES SAFETY ORGANISATION (PESO)

(Formerly Department of Explosives)

#### WARNING

It is brought to the notice of all Public that Government of India vide Notification No. G.5.R.682 (E), dated 5.10.1999 has prohibited the manufacture, sale or use of Fire Crackers generating noise level exceeding 125 dB (A1) Including Joint fire crackers (Garland). The manufacture, sale or use of such fire crackers is illegal and anyone found violating is liable for necessary action under the Statutory Rules. For Safety during deepavali festival, observe the following precautions:

#### DO's

- ❖ Buy the fireworks, manufactured in compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court directives from the reliable sellers possessing licence.
- ❖ Always an adult should supervise the use of fireworks.
- ❖ Safety precautions marked on the fireworks should be strictly followed. Use a candle or an agarbatti to ignite the fireworks.
- ❖ Always keep a bucket of water at hand to extinguish an incipient fire.
- ❖ Aerial fireworks should be used in a safe landing zone. Dispose off fireworks properly by soaking them in water.

#### DON'Ts

- ❖ Manufacture, Sale or use of fireworks generating noise exceeding 125 dB (A1) or 145 PK at 4 mtr distance from the point of bursting is prohibited. For Individual fire cracker constituting the series (joint crackers) the above-mentioned limit to be reduced by 5 log10 (N) dB where N is equal the number of crackers jointed together.
- ❖ Do not burst sound emitting firecracker between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Never ignite fireworks while holding them. Keep the fireworks at ground level, ignite and walk away.</

## quick BITES

| INDICATORS             | %               |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Sensex                 | 43,357.19 -0.54 |
| Nifty 50               | 12,690.80 -0.46 |
| S&P 500*               | 3,558.67 -0.39  |
| Dollar (₹)             | 74.63 -0.34     |
| Pound Sterling (₹)     | 98.40 0.23      |
| Euro (₹)               | 88.15 -0.52     |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹)       | 50,057.81 0.16  |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)*  | 44.28 0.48      |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield*   | 5.903 0.00      |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 0.916 -0.073    |

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## China's online Singles Day sales exceed \$74 bn

China is gripped by "Singles' Day" online shopping frenzy this month as sales on e-commerce giant Alibaba's e-commerce platform Tmall exceeded \$74.1 bn, a new record for the 12-year-old event. Sales on Tmall exceeded 498.2 bn yuan (\$74.1 bn) between Nov. 1 and Nov. 11, state-run Xinhua news agency said. Another e-commerce giant JD.com, which started promotions from Nov. 1, said it generated \$41 bn since.

## TCS to acquire select assets of Pramerica Ireland



TCS said it has inked an agreement with Prudential Financial, Inc (PFI), under which the Indian firm will acquire over 1,500 employees and select assets of Pramerica Systems Ireland Ltd. The move will help strengthen TCS' delivery capability in Ireland, it said. Pramerica is PFI's subsidiary based in Letterkenny, Ireland. PFI will retain the Pramerica Ireland entity, which will continue to operate from Letterkenny.

## Emirates posts \$3.8 billion in half-year losses

Emirates Group, the owner of the Middle East's biggest carrier, reported it lost \$3.8 billion in the first half of the year, its first net loss in over three decades after the pandemic wiped out air travel. The state-owned company said revenue for its Dubai-based airline, Emirates, had dropped 75 per cent to \$3.2 bn from the same period a year ago, even with this year's 52 per cent reduction in operating costs and rise in cargo traffic.

## Festive kits for Maruti Alto, Celerio, WagonR

Maruti Suzuki India said it has launched festive edition kits for three models—Alto, Celerio and WagonR. The kits, which could only be bought with a new car, are priced at Rs 25,490 for Alto, Rs 25,990 for Celerio and Rs 29,990 for WagonR. The Alto kit comes with features like touch-screen music system, security system, dual tone seat covers, among others. Celerio kit comes with designer mats, double din audio with bluetooth.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/089/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komappally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No. APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

## Measures likely to increase fiscal deficit of central govt Incentives seen costing ₹1.2 L cr

SANDEETHA G  
CHENNAI, NOV. 12

Though the government has estimated that the benefits of Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 will amount to Rs 2.65 lakh crore, the measures are likely to cost the exchequer Rs 1.19 lakh crore to Rs 1.2 lakh crore, find analysts. The measures are likely to increase the fiscal deficit of the Centre.

According to Barclays India, the measures announced on Thursday will cost the exchequer Rs 1.19 lakh crore, or 0.6 per cent of the GDP. Icra said the cost would be around Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

Among the measures announced, the enhancement in the outlay for fertiliser subsidies is Rs 65,000 crore. This will directly raise fiscal spending, says Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icra.

The Rs 1.46 lakh crore production-linked incentive scheme for ten sectors will be spent over a period of five years. If at all it is evenly distributed across five years, the cost will be around Rs 29,000 crore in FY21.

The government also raised allocations for urban affordable housing by Rs 18,000 crore in order to offer some relief for construction and infrastructure companies. The government has also promised an equity injection of Rs 6,000 crore for the National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF) to encourage greater debt financing.

The government has also added an extra Rs 10,000 crore for rural employment assistance, and is looking to provide Rs 10,200 crore for capital equipment spending. It may also release Rs 3,000 crore for the Export-Import Bank of India to boost exports.

However, there is no indication that the borrowing programme will remain unchanged at Rs 12 lakh crore or estimated 6 per cent of GDP, says Barclays.

"While activity indicators are improving, government revenues continue to significantly trail estimates. The finance minister indicated that the new fiscal projections remain a work in progress. But we believe that Thursday's extra spending will raise the deficit. As such, we raise our consolidated deficit forecast to 13 per cent of the GDP for fiscal year 2020-21, from 12.4 per cent previously. Of this, we expect the centre's

fiscal deficit to rise to 7 per cent of GDP, from 6.4 per cent earlier," said Rahul Bajaria, chief India economist, Barclays.

"At present, our forecast for Indian real GDP in FY2021, is of a contraction of 11 per cent. We will revisit this projection in early December 2020, after the data for Q2 FY2021 is released by the NSO. By then, there will be greater clarity on the likelihood of the endurance of the festive season upturn, as well as the pace of new covid-19 infections, domestically and in major trading partners during the colder months," said Nayar.

### ECONOMY SEEING STRONG RECOVERY: FM

New Delhi, Nov. 12: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the Indian economy is witnessing a strong recovery after a long and strict lockdown. Addressing the media, she said macro-economic indicators are pointing towards recovery.

She noted that Covid-19 active cases have declined from over 10 lakh to 4.89 lakh with case fatality rate (CFR) at 1.47 per cent.

Giving out details of recovery, she said composite purchasing managers index (PMI) rose to 58.9 per cent in October versus 54.6 per cent in the previous month, registering strongest increase in output in close to nine years.

Energy consumption



Nirmala Sitharaman

growth trended higher in October at 12 per cent year-on-year, while GST collections have grown 10 per cent to over Rs 1.05 lakh crore. Daily railway freight tonnage grew by an average 20 per cent year-on-year versus 12 per cent, she said adding bank credit has improved 5.1 per cent. Also, FDI inflows in April-August at \$35.37 billion was a 13 per cent year-on-year. —PTI

in a country, which has lost millions of jobs across different income brackets due to the pandemic, the Employees' Provident Fund subsidy might not make a major impact as it will not incentivise struggling companies to hire more.

"The scheme might have a small impact. A company will hire more people if it sees demand for its products and services in the market. It will not hire for Rs 1800 subsidy per person," said Aditya Narayan Misra, director and CEO of CIEL HR Services.

The scheme, known as Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, will benefit workers with wages up to Rs 15,000 who have been employed for the first time by an establishment covered by the EPFO. EPF members drawing a monthly wage of less than Rs 15,000 who made an exit from employment during the pandemic from March 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 and are employed on or after 1 October 2020 will also be a part of the scheme, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The central government will give subsidy for two years for new employment from October 2020-June 2021. It will cover both employers' and employees' contribution towards EPFO, which is 12 per cent

of the IIP, the output of mining and power segments grew by 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

Joseph Thomas, head of research, Emkay Wealth Management, said, "The IIP is almost flat at 0.20 per cent, from a deeply negative number for the period before that there is some economic recovery happening at present, but the price level too is rising. To sustain the early gains in recovery, control of the price level is critical."

As per data, the retail inflation stood at 7.61 per cent in October against 7.27 per cent in September. It was at 4.62 per cent in October 2019.

In October, inflation in meat and fish rose to 18.7 per cent while vegetable prices rose 22.51 per cent.

"This may have an impact on the trajectory of interest rates, and RBI may have to continue to focus on liquidity provision rather than rate action... Persistently high inflation could invite action from the RBI by way of even reducing the free liquidity," Thomas said.

each if the company has up to 1000 employees. For a person with a salary of Rs 15,000, the employee and employer will get a benefit of Rs 1800 each. Establishments with more than 1,000 workers will be entitled to subsidy towards the employer's share only.

"The employee might have a little more disposable income at hand. But Rs 1800 per person is not a big amount that can make a big difference in terms of the country's consumption," said Misra.

According to Sitharaman, about 65 per cent of workers under the formal sector will be covered under the scheme. However, the formal sector accounts for only 10 to 12 per cent of the workers.

The scheme is for entry level jobs and also low level jobs which need less skilled or semi skilled workers, finds Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder and executive VP of TeamLease Services.

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## Industrial output leaves contraction zone in September

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 12

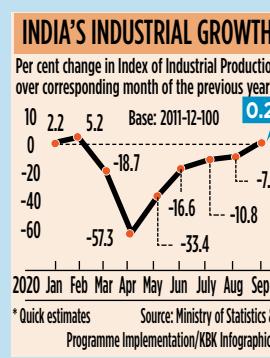
The country's industrial output moved back to positive territory after six months contraction to clock a modest 0.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in September, while retail inflation inched up to 7.61 per cent in October; over elevated food prices, government data released on Thursday showed.

The rise in industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), is significant when contrasted against 8 per cent contraction in August and 4.6 per cent contraction a year ago in September 2019.

"With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in economic activity by varying degrees as well as in data reporting," the government said in a statement, adding that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The September IIP growth was marked by a positive rise in both electricity and mining whilst the key category of manufacturing is still in the negative territory, registering a decline of 0.6 per cent. The speedy recovery is cushioned by a turnaround in the core sector output which shrunk at its slowest pace at 0.8 per cent this fiscal," the release said.

As the core sector output constitutes over 40 per



\*Quick estimates. Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation/KCB Infographics

cent of the IIP, the output of mining and power segments grew by 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**Mother of tennis star Evert dead**

**Deerfield Beach (UK):** Colette Evert, the matriarch of a tennis family that produced five children who were successful in the age-group and professional ranks, including 18-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert, has died. She was 92.

She died last Thursday in Deerfield Beach, Florida, according to a tweet by Chris Evert and an online obituary posted by Fred Hunter's Funeral Home in Fort Lauderdale.

Born Jeanne Colette Thompson on June 15, 1928, in New Rochelle, New York, she went by her middle name and was the youngest of 10 children. In 1952, she married Jimmy Evert, a tennis teaching professional in Florida whom she met at the wedding of a mutual friend in New York.

The couple's five children played tennis collegiately or professionally. —AP

**Foreign players pull out of PSL**

**Karachi:** The efforts of Pakistan Cricket Board to complete the Pakistan Super League have received setbacks due to the unavailability of some more overseas players ahead of the play-offs matches due to Covid 19 related travel restrictions.

The PCB is holding the four remaining play-off matches and the summit clash this weekend and next week in Karachi.

But for the first time since the PSL was launched in 2016, former West Indian captain Darren Sammy, who has one of the leading faces of the league, is not available to play for his franchise. Sammy, who has also captained Zalmi, will not be flying to Karachi because of Covid-19 related travel issues.

New Zealand's Mitchell McClenaghan has also pulled out due to his country's travel guidelines. —PTI

**Nizam Club are cricket champs**

**Hyderabad:** Nizam Cricket Club emerged champions of the Winter Premier League junior cricket championship organised by Emerging Cricketers Development Group (ECDG) in collaboration with School Sports & Games Federation (SSGF) at the SKN Cricket Grounds in Boduppal, Hyderabad.

In the final, they beat Legal Cricket Academy by one wicket. Batting first, Legal cashed in on Vasu's 92 to make 191 for 7 in 35 overs even as Sooraj (3/27) and Ansh Gupta (4/30) were among the wickets. Nizam chased down the target with four balls to spare, riding on a 52-run partnership for the eighth wicket between Dharmik (50) and Aryan Sayeed (34).

**Brief scores:** Legal Cricket Academy 191/7 in 35 overs (Vasu 92, Ashwin Sooraj 3/27, Ansh Gupta 4/30) lost to Nizam Cricket Club 195/9 in 34.2 overs (Dharmik 50, Aryan Sayeed 34, Om Karthik 3/25, Arshdeep 3/29)

**Online chess at the weekend**

**Hyderabad:** The Brilliant Chess Academy is conducting the 17th Brilliant Trophy Open online chess tournament on November 14 and 15. A total of Rs 10,000 will be given away to the top 20 finishers in the Open category. The organisers promise special prizes to the top two places in Juniors category (Under 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 age groups) for boys and girls separately. For further details contact J. Subrahmanyam on phone number 9247399717.

**Live on TV**

**CRICKET**  
**Women's Big Bash League:** Perth Scorchers vs Melbourne Renegades from 6.45 am (Saturday) on Sony Six

**FORMULA ONE**  
**Turkish Grand Prix:** First practice from 1.25 pm, Second practice from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

**GOLF**  
**Augusta Masters:** From 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**WWE**  
**SmackDown:** Bouts from 6.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 1

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

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RNI Registration No. 30/1957.

Editor: Kaushik Mitter

# Finland pip France

**Forss, Onni spoil Thuram's party; Portugal rock Andorra**

**Paris, Nov. 12:** Finland spoiled Marcus Thuram's party on Wednesday after beating France 2-0 on the day the Borussia Moenchengladbach attacker emulated his father Lilian Thuram by making his debut for Les Bleus.

Thuram was picked by Didier Deschamps for the friendly at the Stade de France over 22 years after his dad won the World Cup at the same ground, but despite a strong performance on the left wing could not stop the Finns from coming out on top.

The 23-year-old hit the bar with less than 15 minutes gone and soon after flashed a difficult volley over as he and Lucas Digne caused continual problems down the left flank for the away side.

However, Marcus Forss stunned the hosts when he collected the ball after a Moussa Sissoko mistake and rammed home at Steve Mandanda's near post.

France barely had any time to react before Onni Valakari doubled the away side's lead with a stunning effort after being left to stroll towards goal.

**RONALDO CONTINUES GOAL QUEST**

Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest to snatch the all-time record for most international goals when he struck his 102nd Portugal goal in their 1-0 win over Andorra.

Pulinho netted brace as Pedro, Sanches, Felix scored one goal each to get past Andorra.

France's opponents on Saturday in what could be a Nations League 'A', Group 3 decider strolled post their weak opponents in Lisbon despite not starting a single player from the team that beat Sweden 3-0 last month.

Ronaldo missed that match after testing positive for Coronavirus and was introduced at half-time on Wednesday, but had to wait until there were only five minutes remaining to boost his record bid with a close-range header.

Former Iran striker Ali Daei holds the record on 109 goals.

Italy extended their unbeaten streak to 20 games after a second-string line-up comfortably beat Estonia 4-0. —AFP

Regular starters Kevin De Bruyne, Dries Mertens and Romelu Lukaku were



Belgium's Michy Batshuayi (left) vies for the ball against Switzerland's Loris Benito during an international friendly football match at the King Power stadium in Leuven, Belgium, on Wednesday. Belgium won 2-1. —AP

## Belgians boss over Swiss

**Leuven (Belgium), Nov. 12:** Striker Michy Batshuayi scored twice to help a makeshift Belgium side come from behind to beat Switzerland 2-1 in a friendly game.

Batshuayi showed clinical efficiency to convert Belgium's two best chances in the second half after Switzerland deservedly took the lead with an early goal that rewarded its intense pressing.

Ahead of upcoming Nations League matches against England and Denmark, Belgium coach Roberto Martinez played mostly his backups and handed debuts to youngsters Dodi Lukebakio, Hannes Delcroix and Charles De Ketelaere.

Regular starters Kevin De Bruyne, Dries Mertens and Romelu Lukaku were

| THE RESULTS   |          |   |          |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| <b>Finland</b><br>(Forss 28, Onni 31)   | <b>2</b> | <b>Netherlands</b><br>(Van de Beek 47)                    | <b>1</b> |
| <b>France</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>Spain</b><br>(Canales 19)                              | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Portugal</b><br>(Neto 8, Paulinho 29,<br>61, Sanches 56, Garcia<br>76-og, Ronaldo 85,<br>Felix 88) | <b>7</b> | <b>Germany</b><br>(Waldschmidt 13)                        | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Andorra</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>Czech Republic</b>                                     | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Belgium</b><br>(Batshuayi 49, 70)  | <b>2</b> | <b>Turkey</b><br>(Tosun 23-pen, Turuc<br>41, Under 58)    | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Switzerland</b><br>(Mehmedi 12)  | <b>1</b> | <b>Croatia</b><br>(Budimir 32, Pasalic<br>53, Brekalo 56) | <b>3</b> |

rested. FIFA's top-ranked team was also without Real Madrid star Eden Hazard, who remained quarantined in Spain following a positive Covid-19 test. Switzerland pressed high in the early stages

and took the lead in the 12th minute following a defensive error from Sebastiaan Bornauw, who failed to control a long ball and headed it back into the path of Admir Mehmedi. —AFP

## DUTCH DRAW WITH SPAIN

**Amsterdam, Nov. 12:** Frank de Boer's wait for a first win as Netherlands coach goes on after his team drew 1-1 with Spain in a friendly in Amsterdam on Wednesday. De Boer has now gone four matches without a victory since being appointed in September to succeed Ronald Koeman, who left to take over at Barcelona.

But Donny van de Beek's equaliser shortly after half-time ensured the Dutch at least avoided defeat at the Johan Cruyff Arena after Spain had taken an early lead through Sergio Canales. —AFP

## Shreya, Rishabh tennis toppers

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 12

Rishabh Agarwal and T. Shreya emerged winners in the men's and women's categories respectively at the tennis tournament conducted by the ACE Tennis Academy in Hyderabad.

India No.53 Shreya, who had participated in the World Universities event, defeated last year's Under 18 national champion and India No. 15 Shravnil Rashmika in two tight sets 7-6 (8-6), 7-5.

Rashmika was the top seed in the tournament while Shreya was third.

On the contrary, India No.13 and top seed Rishabh proved too good for Ganta Sai Kartikey Reddy, beating the second seed and India No.13 in straight sets at 6-3, 6-1.

**THE RESULTS**

**Men's final (number in brackets denotes seeding):** Rishabh Agarwal (1) bt Ganta Sai Kartikey Reddy (2) 6-3, 6-1. **Semifinals:** Rishabh Agarwal bt Balaji Snigdha 6-2, 6-4; T. Shreya bt Avishka Gupta (2) 6-3, 6-1.

**Quarterfinals:** Srivalli R bt Sanjana S 6-0, 6-2; Snigdha bt Veda Raju 7-6,

5-7, 10-5; T. Shreya bt Sahitya 6-4, 6-

0; Avishka bt Aarti Reddy 7-5, 3-6,

12-10. **Second round:** Srivalli R bt S.

Kavya 9-1; Sanjana S bt Vaishnavi 9-4/Veda Raju bt Vanishka 9-6;

Snigdha bt Kuma 9-3; Sahitya bt Renee 5-9, 8-7; T. Shreya bt Bipasha 7-6,

2; Aarti Reddy bt Ashwita 9-3;

Avishka bt V. Apurva 9-3. **First round:** Srivalli R bt Sameeksha w/o; S. Kaavya bt Tribhuvani C 9-2; V. Vaishnavi bt Gaddam S 9-5; Sanjana S bt Tanisha R 9-1; Venkithik bt S. S. Arun 9-2; Veda Raju bt Abhaya 9-2; Snigdha bt Thanya 5-3; Renee 9-2; Srivalli R bt Nikita 9-7; T. Shreya bt J. Jeetha 9-0; Ashwita 9-2; Disha 9-3; Aarti Reddy 6-1, 6-1. **Second round:** Rishabh R bt Aayushi 9-4; Raj Bagdi bt Rishabh 9-3; Grahit M bt

N. M. Vineeth 9-4; Raj Bagdi bt Rishabh 9-3; Grahit M bt

N. M. Vineeth 9-4; Raj Bagdi bt Rishabh 9-3; Grahit M bt

N. M. Vineeth 9-4; Raj Bagdi bt Rishabh 9-3; Grahit M bt

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N. M. Vineeth 9-4; Raj Bagdi bt Rishabh 9-3; Grahit M bt

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