

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SATURDAY | 28 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 25.7°C
Min: 19.5°C
RH: 69%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Moderate rains likely.
Max/Min temp. 29/19°C

COVID-19 COUNT

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

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

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

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Dwadasi
till 7.46 am
Star: Ashwini till 12.21 am
(Saturday)
Varjyam: 7.51 pm to 9.39 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.44 am to
9.28 am; 12.25 pm to 1.09 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HUIJI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 11, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.24 am
Zohar: 12.14 pm
Asar: 4.04 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.57 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.28 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 3.46 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 3.47 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKE

Cab's surge price capped 1.5 times

New Delhi: The government on Friday capped surge pricing charged by cab aggregators like Ola and Uber at 1.5 times of the base fare. The development assumes significance in the backdrop of a long-pending demand of citizens to cap the pricing of ride-hailing services. "The aggregator shall be permitted to charge a fare 50 per cent lower than the base fare and a maximum surge pricing of 1.5 times the base fare," said the Motor Vehicle Aggregators Guidelines, 2020 issued by the ministry of road transport and highways.

SAFE | CHEAPER

This procedure expected to bring down testing cost by 50 per cent

CCMB gets dry swab test approval

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

The city-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has secured approval for its dry swab technique to collect samples for the RT-PCR test Covid-19. This procedure is expected to bring down the testing cost by 50 per cent and make it more widely available.

The technique, approved by the ICMR, involves tak-

ing nasal swabs in a dry state and putting them in a tube which can be sent for RT-PCR testing.

Currently, the samples are collected in a liquid called Viral Transport Medium. This requires proper packaging. Despite that, events of spillage, leakage and damage have been noted.

Dry Swab-Direct RT-PCR ensures there is no spillage and fear of spread of infection. It has been found that

the overall concordance is 96.9 per cent and it is low cost and there is a quick turnaround time.

From April 2020, CCMB has been testing Covid samples and this was a major concern. Healthcare workers and laboratory technicians were working with liquids that could spill. With dry collection, the tubes can be directly put in the kit and tested. This will save time and result in quicker results.

CSIR Director General Dr Shekar C. Mande said the technique can be done in existing kits and with the available manpower. "It will help us ramp up the testing capacity in the country quickly," he said.

Multiple premier institutes and hospitals have been a part of this project like Apollo Hospitals in Hyderabad, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnosis, IISER-Berhampur, CSIR-NEERI,

GMCH-Nagpur, and Genepath based in Pune and others.

Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of CCMB, said, "The technology has been developed at CCMB and we are negotiating with private players for the production. This technique will be similar to the present techniques employed in laboratories where the samples are collected in dry tubes for testing for other diseases."

NATION | 4

I am detained, says Mehbooba



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

WORLD | 5

Top Iranian nuke scientist assassinated



SPORTS | 8

India wilt under Smith, Finch tons in Oz opener



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Batons on farmers



A security person baton charges on a farmer as protestors cross Singhu border during Delhi Chalo protest march against the new farm laws, in New Delhi, on Friday. — PTI

FARMERS GET PERMISSION FOR DELHI CHALO STIR

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

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

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

Soon after Capt. Singh urged the Centre to initiate talks to address the farmers' issues.

■ Report on Page 4

2 more jawans killed at Rajouri in Pak firing

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 27

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

The Army said that the Pakistani troops resorted to "unprovoked ceasefire violation" in Suderbani area of Rajouri early Friday. "Pakistan Army

resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the LoC in Sunderbani sector of district Rajouri on November 27," Lt. Col. Devender Anand, the Jammu-based defence spokesman said. He added, "Own troops responded immediately to the enemy fire. In the ensuing fire, two jawans of the Indian Army Naik Prem Bahadur Khatri and Rifleman Sukhbir Singh got critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries."

■ Full report on Page 4

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— LT. COL. DEVENDER ANAND,
Defence spokesman, Jammu

Tiger spotted in Bhadradri

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 27

Forest officials have been surprised over finding pug marks of a tiger in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district at two places in Sarapaka-Sandellapadu-Krishnasagar reserve forest and Mondikunta near Manuguru. The marks were discovered two days ago in Markodu and Gundala forest areas. Forest experts, based on an analysis of the tiger pugs, suspect the big cat is moving towards Aswapuram. The presence of a tiger in Kothagudem forest area has been witnessed after 20 years.

■ Full report on Page 2

Tigress seen drinking water

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, NOV. 27

A "resident tigress" has been sighted drinking water in Peddavagu during broad daylight in Penchikalpet forest range on Thursday afternoon. A youth of the area, Gangadhar, used his mobile to capture a video of its movement on his mobile near Regichetti Madugu. The video has since gone viral on social media. Forest officials identified the tiger as K8, a female from the second litter of Palguna, one of the tigers that migrated to Kagaznagar division.

■ Full report on Page 2

GDP growth betters in Q2

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

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

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

"India's real GDP fell to 7.5 per cent in the July-September quarter compared to a contraction of 23.9 per cent in the three months ended June. The GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is

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

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

■ Full report on Page 7

REBEL TRINAMUL MINISTER QUILTS AHEAD OF POLLS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 27

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

KCR gears up for showdown in Hyd

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

TRS supremo and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has set the stage to show through his public meeting at the LB Stadium on Saturday that the party has a strong grip on Greater Hyderabad.

Apart from targeting the BJP government at the Centre for its alleged anti-people policies, Chandrashekar Rao is expected to highlight that the Opposition parties have created a tense atmosphere in the city with their high-voltage campaign. Several trade unions will express their support by sharing the dais with the Chief Minister on Saturday.

Party leaders are of the opinion that given the communal nature of the



K. Chandrashekar Rao

campaign of some parties, it was inevitable for the Chief Minister to bolster the confidence of the people by reassuring that peace and harmony will prevail and the government would give no scope to hate-mongers.

The party feels that Chandrashekar Rao's public meeting is crucial to the TRS' fortunes and may set the tone for the campaign in the remaining days till the polling day on December 1. They expect

two lakh people to attend the meeting at LB Stadium.

A senior party leader said that Chandrashekar Rao had already turned the people of the Greater Hyderabad area towards the ruling party with his promises of free water supply and extending of ₹10,000 financial aid to flood-affected families. The CM had mentioned that free water supply will benefit 97 per cent of the families in the GHMC limits. Most TRS leaders stated that people will not believe promises of Opposition parties as they are well aware that any party that comes to power in the civic body has to invariably enjoy the support of the state government in which case it is better if the TRS returns to power in the GHMC.

Beginning of end for KCR: Nadda



BJP national president J.P. Nadda with minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy and state BJP president Bandi Sanjay during a roadshow in Hyderabad on Friday for GHMC elections.

Sanjay and minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy.

"Looking at the large number of people who have come today, it seems that the time is coming for the end of the KCR rule and the beginning of BJP rule," Nadda told the crowd that had turned up despite the inclement weather.

He thanked those working under the Modi-led government to end corruption in Telangana state.

Nadda urged the people to vote for the BJP in all divisions.

The BJP president called on the cadre to work 100 per cent in this election and ensure the defeat of the TRS regime.

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IN BRIEF

AGRO RYTHU
KENDRAS TO
HELP FARMERSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

The state government has decided to establish more single window agri centres in order to cover each and every mandal for supply of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. They will be named 'Agro Rythu Seva Kendram'.

K. Ramulu, vice-chairman and managing director of TS Agro Industries Development Corporation, told *Deccan Chronicle* on Friday that Telangana will be the first state to ensure that farmers get all farm requirements in accordance of the farming season.

"We have started 789 such centres and will be branching out soon. Some mandals may have up to three centres, depending on the local demand," Ramulu said. He explained that the endeavour is to supply farm-related material at a cheaper rate and in time so that gullible farmers do not buy spurious or low-quality material, which could damage crops and affect produce.

Ramulu said that they are in discussions with branded companies like UPL, Critical Crop, Indofil, National Seeds Company, Cizent Seeds and Nuzvid Seeds for supplying their products in bulk while the delivery to farmers would be handled by the Seva Kendrams.

He said, "We are hiring agriculture or bio-science graduates for maintenance of these outlets in each mandal. The Kendrams will weed out middlemen and also help regulate prices of seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers in the open market."

KCR, FAMILY
IS LOOTING
TELANGANA: NADDADC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his family were looting Telangana state. MIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi was in an "unholy alliance" with the TRS to loot the state, he said.

Nadda was speaking at a meeting of intellectuals under the slogan 'Change Hyderabad' here after his road show in Kothapet. He alleged that the Chief Minister was getting commission from the Kaleshwaram project construction which he had redesigned and pushed up the cost to ₹1 lakh crore.

Nadda was confident that the BJP would win the GHMC elections. "It's not a galli election, it's an election with 74 lakh voters in Hyderabad covering five Lok Sabha constituencies. The BJP will take the lead and win the election," Nadda said, in response to criticism by minister K.T. Rama Rao to the BJP fielding Union ministers for a civic body election.

Nadda said that the people of the country had supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi and had given him a second term. In the recent Dubbak bypoll, the BJP had performed well and even got 38 per cent of votes in the rural areas. All this pointed to increased BJP support and a win for the party.

BJP IS A DISASTER
FOR THE NATION,
SAYS OWAISIDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said that the Constitution of India apparently looks like a snake to the BJP, which desires that no political party should survive.

Addressing election meetings on Friday, Owaisi said that BJP is parachuting a number of high-profile leaders to campaign in the civic body elections. Giving an international touch, he said Modi went to the US to campaign for US President Donald Trump and raised the slogan 'Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar'. Owaisi said that whoever was extended support by Modi has been unseated. Modi supported Cameron in London and Trump in the US and both of them lost power.

Owaisi asked Modi to initiate a surgical strike against China, which even MIM would support. Owaisi said the poor and middle-class sections were badly hit by policies adopted by the Modi government. People lost their lifetime thrifths due to the unwanted lockdown. The Centre imposed lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 when it was not required and lifted at an inappropriate time. The country experienced 'economic disaster' due to lockdown.

When Customs asked Kohli to 'show' software

F.C. Kohli, father of Indian Software Industry was a tiger, genius, creator, pioneer

SRIRAM KARRI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

In the cold January of 2005, Hyderabad was gearing up to hold a mega IEEE national conference, marked by several other events on the sidelines — talks, paper submissions, panel discussions, industry interactions and awards night. Most industry bodies were participating — Nasscom, Computer Society of India (CSI), Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (HYSEA), STPI, with the largest software company of India, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), being the principal sponsor.

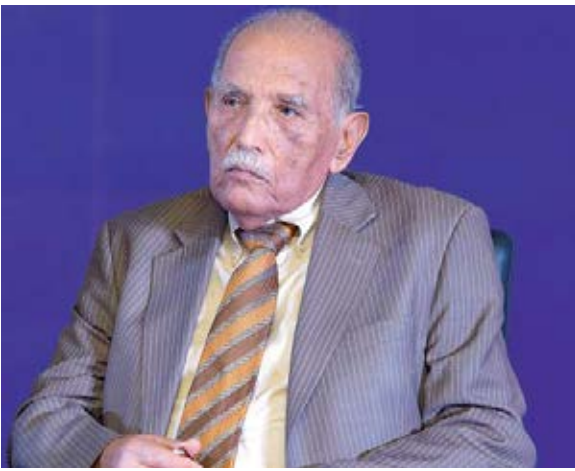
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) event had its global chairman amongst the guests, besides top CEOs of Indian software industry. President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was to link digitally to give the inaugural address.

TCS, which had just

gone public a few quarters prior, had set the Indian tech industry abuzz with excitement with its campaign, "Software put India on the global map, but who put software on India's map?" The answer was obviously TCS, but if the contribution and achievement had to be personified, it was its founding CEO Faqir Chand Kohli (popularly called F.C. Kohli, or even FCK lovingly by colleagues and juniors).

As head of marketing and communications of TCS, Hyderabad region, it was my responsibility to ensure this conference was a success in terms of its marketing, branding and communications. It was a challenge but not as daunting as talk I wished to moderate with F.C. Kohli.

I was warned adequately against it by Rajesh Nambiar, then head of TCS region, my boss (now Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India).



FAQIR CHAND KOHLI: 1924-2020

"Be warned, he is a ferocious tiger. Unpredictable. You may get reduced to a joke in public," Rajesh told me.

I could handle any tiger, I thought, and went ahead.

Employees of the Tata Group pride the number one. Its former Chairman, J.R.D. Tata was India's

first pilot, whose license was number #1. TCS was India's first software company. Its development centre in Hyderabad, deccanpark, had the address #1, Software Technology Parks, Madhapur. F.C. Kohli was the visionary #1 of TCS and India's technology industry. And an

alpha male.

As news spread, not just employees of TCS, but software professionals from other companies began assembling on the lawns of the outdoor amphitheatre by 9.30 am. The security folk were going crazy.

The white tiger arrived. Thousands stood up. I tried to begin my anchoring act, announcing into the mike, "Ladies and gentlemen, the founder of TCS, father of the Indian software industry... may I welcome, and introduce... F.C. Kohli."

Even before reaching the stage, the 82-year-old man, a ramrod straight personality, thundered. "No need to introduce me. I will do it myself. I know more about me than you."

The interaction of over 90 minutes will stay etched in memory forever.

When someone asked him about stock options, he replied, "You (are) an idiot who wasted his parents' money and did an

MBA. You should have remained an engineer and designed great products."

When a lady tried her luck through flattery, asking him to share the secrets of his success, he dismissed it, nonchalantly: "This is the first time in my life anyone has accused me of being successful."

On November 26, 2020, the post-graduate from MIT, the man who joined Tata Power four years of India's independence and was part of the first team in India to instal and manage our first computer system to run a power line between Mumbai-Pune, creator of TCS, one of the world first three to transform a power utility firm to computer-based operations, the man who retired as CEO of TCS at the age of 75 years, passed away. He was 96.

I did have a win in my talk. I asked him if he recalled anything unusual or funny about the start-

ing days of the software industry in India. He recalled one.

In the sixties, he got an unusual call late one night from the customs office over a crate imported into India, worth some \$2,500 odd.

When he rushed there, officials told him, "Sir, because of our respect for you, we called. We would have booked a case if it was anyone else. This document says you have imported hardware and software items. We can see the hardware... but where is the software?"

Bureaucrats could not see, but he saw, clearly, not some invisible-to-the-naked-eye software, but a future. If Steve Jobs created a near trillion dollar worth Apple, FCK created an even bigger Indian software industry.

Let me stop now, enough said. A word more and he might just scream from his grave... what a pathetic obituary you write... I deserve better.

Hyd temp plunges 7°C below
normal due to cyclone: IMD

Meteorological department officials predict non-rain bearing high clouds

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Courtesy of Cyclone Nivar, which made landfall on Thursday, the city will experience a dip in the temperature from Saturday, an official of the Indian Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD) said on Friday.

The rain on Friday deviated from the norm for this time of the year by 1,800 per cent. Besides, the maximum temperature in the city was recorded at 22.4° Celsius, which is 7°C below normal for this time of the year and a drop of about 3°C since Thursday.

The highest rainfall in the city was registered at Hayathnagar followed by Uppal. The rain gauges set up by the Telangana State Development Society (TSDPS) recorded 6.8 mm and 5.3 mm of rainfall respectively.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, IMD-H director Dr K. Nagaratna said: "The day would be sunny from Saturday onwards. There would be fog and mist in the morning so people who are driving vehicles will have to be careful."

While she said that there would be no rain in the city for the next few days, she did say that there would be high clouds in the sky, which aren't rain-bearing.

The temperature would begin to fall during this time, and this would mark the onset of the winter, she said.

KCR's name not on
protocol list of VIPs
to receive ModiDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

The Telangana State government was surprised that the name of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao did not figure in the protocol list of VIPs to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival in the city on Saturday.

The list was received from the Prime Minister's Office on Friday.

As per standard protocol, the Governor, the Chief Minister, Union ministers and senior officers welcome the Prime Minister whenever he visits the state.

In view of the Prime Minister's visit to Hyderabad, the state government on Friday officially communicated to the Prime Minister's Office that the Chief Minister will receive the Prime Minister along with other VIPs at the Hakimpet air base.

According to the state



Motorists protect themselves from the drizzle as a result of Cyclone Nivar that hit the coast of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. — P. SURENDRA

GHMC in auto pilot mode

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

The GHMC has put its response to heavy rain, under the impact of Cyclone Nivar, on auto mode. The Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams and monsoon action teams will deploy in case of an emergency. They will be followed by road repair teams.

GHMC officials are confident that there won't be any emergency from Saturday since the Indian Meteorological Depart-

● **ACCORDING TO officials, the GHMC did not receive any instructions from either the state government or higher authorities since the model code of conduct is in place.**

ment has predicted the possibility of 30-40 per cent rainfall in the next two days, and the stormwater network can cope with this. According to officials, the GHMC did not receive any instruc-

tions from either the state government or higher authorities since the model code of conduct is in place. He said that officials, even those on poll duty, should act in any case of emergency: "Since everyone is deployed on poll duty, it would be at the discretion of junior officials to act in the event of an emergency by deploying additional teams. No official instruction would be given since the mechanism is in place," a senior GHMC official said on the condition of anonymity.

● **WEATHER OFFICIALS said that under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours and intensify further.**

IMD WARNS OF
FORMATION OF
SECOND CYCLONIC
CIRCULATIONDC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 27

Even as Andhra Pradesh is grappling with the aftereffects of Cyclone Nivar, that struck the Tamil Nadu coast on November 26, another cyclonic circulation has developed on the east equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining south Andaman Sea, the Indian Meteorological Department said on Friday.

Weather officials said that under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over south-east Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours and intensify further. It is likely to move westwards and reach Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts on December 2. Under its influence, heavy rainfall is likely from December 1 onwards over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

● **WEATHER OFFICIALS said that under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours and intensify further.**

Forest officials spot
tiger in Bhadradri
dist after 20 yearsRAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KOTHAGUEM, NOV. 27

Forest officials have been surprised over finding pug marks of a tiger in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district at two places in Sarapaka-Sandellapadu-Krishnasagar reserve forest and Mondikunta near Manuguru.

The marks were discovered two days ago in Markodu and Gundala forest areas. Forest experts, based on an analysis of the tiger pugs, suspect the big cat is moving towards Aswapuram.

The presence of a tiger in Kothagudem forest area has been witnessed after 20 years. "A tiger wanders more in nights and can move up to 20 kilometres within one night if situation so demands. It seems the big cat is examining whether or not the area is good enough for it to settle," disclosed Prasada Rao, forest range officer of Kothagudem.

Tigers give top priority to prey, water and availability of dense forest.

Nobody has yet confirmed the area from which the tiger has come.



A forest official examines pug mark of a tiger in Bhadradri-Kothagudem.

Moment of tigers is frequent in erstwhile Karimnagar, Warangal and Adilabad districts; particularly the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary.

Forest officials say the tiger may continue to live in Kothagudem forests if there is enough prey available. Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary had abundant gaur, sambar, mountain goat, and wild boar. A recent study has also found that the number of these animals has increased. In addition, spotted deer are also thriving in the forests of Yellandu and Manuguru divisions.

Kinnerasani sanctuary does have leopards. But the big cat though is a surprise.



Photograph shows 'K8', a resident tigress, at the Peddavagu near Regichettu Madugu in Penchikallpet forest range in Kagaznagar division in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Thursday afternoon.

— By arrangement

‘Resident tigress’
seen drinking waterPILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
KOMARAM BHEEM
ASIFABAD, NOV. 27

A "resident tigress" has been sighted drinking water in Peddavagu during broad daylight in Penchikallpet forest range on Thursday afternoon. A youth of the area, Gangadhar, used his mobile to capture a video of its movement on his mobile near Regichettu Madugu. The video has since gone viral on social media.

Forest officials identified the tiger as K8, a female from the second litter of Palguna, one of the tigers that migrated to Kagaznagar division from the Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve of Maharashtra in 2015.

K8 has continued to move about in the area in which she was born three

● **FOREST OFFICIALS identified the tiger as K8, a female from the second litter of Palguna, one of the tigers that migrated to Kagaznagar division from the Tadoba Andhari tiger reserve of Maharashtra in 2015.**

years ago. Penchikallpet forest range officer Satla Venugopal clarified that the tiger sighted is not the one that killed an Adivasi youth near Digida in Dahagaon mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district a few days ago.

Regichettu Madugu is a place where K8 has been frequently sighted. It is a dense forest with abundant drinking water. The tiger crossed the road upstream of Peddavagu.



TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha speaks during her campaign in Gandhinagar for the TRS candidate in the upcoming GHMC elections, on Friday in Hyderabad.

— By arrangement

● **KAVITHA ALLEGED that the BJP was only focused on dividing society by constantly highlighting the deeply-rooted polarisation in the peacefully co-existing society.**

their concerns, but was concentrating on the upcoming GHMC elections. Responding to the alle-

gation that was being levelled by Opposition parties that the TRS was missing in action, especially during the floods, Kavitha said the party had never been out of touch with its very own people.

She emphasised the need for the people to vote for the TRS in the GHMC elections to ensure peaceful co-existence and sustainable development of the city.

Kavitha challenges BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Friday challenged Opposition parties, particularly the Bharatiya Janata Party, to speak for at least five minutes without taking the name of any religion, and then ask for votes from the people of the city.

Speaking to people at several places during her Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) election campaign in Gandhinagar, Kavitha alleged that the BJP was only focused on dividing society by constantly highlighting the deeply-rooted polarisation in the peacefully co-existing society.

She asked, "What connection do we, the people of Hyderabad, have with Osama bin Laden, Jinnah, Pakistan and Bangladesh? In what way are they connected with the GHMC elections? We want peaceful co-existence without reference to caste, creed and religion."

Kavitha said that the BJP was not focusing on the farmers' agitation against the newly passed agricultural laws and

OTHER STORIES

KAMAREDDY SI ARRESTED IN BRIBERY CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAMAREDDY, NOV. 27

ACB officials arrested Kamareddy police sub-inspector Govind late on Thursday night. Reportedly, the SI had demanded and accepted a bribe of ₹20,000 from an IPL betting gang. In the station bail issue, he demanded bribe from the IPL betting organiser on November 13 and confessed the crime during interrogation. Kamareddy CI I. Jagadish was already arrested by ACB in a ₹5 lakh bribery case. ACB officials said, “The SI is sent to judicial remand.”



MGM attender Srikanth

MGM HOSPITAL ATTENDER IN ACB NET

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, NOV. 27

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sleuths on Friday caught an attendant in the MGM hospital in Warangal, Srikanth, taking a bribe of ₹1,500 for issuing a medical certificate. According to ACB DSP Madhusudan, one Gowda Sammaiah applied for a medical certificate after receiving treatment in the hospital. However, the attender Srikanth demanded a bribe of ₹1,500 to handover the certificate. The ACB officials caught the accused red-handed accepting the bribe at the MGM hospital. The accused will be produced before the court soon.

TS RECORDS 761 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 4 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

There were 761 new cases of Covid-19 and four deaths in the state on Thursday, taking the caseload to 2,67,665 and the toll to 1,448. A total of 42,242 samples were tested during the day, a bulletin of the state health department said. It put the number of active cases at 10,839. The GHMC area recorded 136 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 69 and Ranga Reddy 55. The other parts of the state have fewer numbers. Doctors said that due to the sudden change in the weather, people should follow safety protocols of masks, handwashing and physical distancing. Those who have do not need to must not move out of the house. Checking real-time air quality before stepping out of homes is advised for this vulnerable population.

SPINE SURGERY HELPS MAN TO STAND STRAIGHT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Stiffness of the spine due to ankylosing spondylitis made it difficult for 32-year-old Mohammed Faraz to stand erect. He was suffering from this condition for two decades and had a deformed posture leading to acute pain in the lower back and legs. A resident of Baroda in Gujarat, he was referred to Medicoover Hospitals by a friend. Dr Surya Praskash Rao Voleti, consultant spine surgeon at the hospital, said that bones in the patient's spine were fused and stiff, making it a big challenge for the anesthesiologist to insert the tube for the surgery. Faraz had to be given general anaesthesia and care had to be taken to not stress the viral organs due to the prone position during surgery. It took an eight-hour procedure to rectify the deformity and align the spine. Post operation, the recovery was smooth, the hospital stated. The patient has been discharged and will be able to lead a normal life, it said. ■ **HE WAS** suffering from this condition for two decades and had a deformed posture.



GWMC commissioner Pamela Satpathy speaks to transgender person at the newly inaugurated generic pharmacy in Warangal on Friday. — DC

GWMC ropes in trans people to run pharmacy

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 27

For the first time in the country, a generic pharmacy has been set up and handed over to the transgender community for management in Warangal on Friday. Inaugurating the pharmacy near the Warangal bus station, The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) commissioner Pamela Satpathy said, “The GWMC is keen on gender integration. The initiative aims at financially strengthening the transgender community by providing employment opportunities.” The commissioner said, “Generic drugs are

available at 1/3 price compared to other drugs and will benefit poor patients. Setting up a pharmacy in the commercial area will benefit both the transgender community and poor patients.” According to her, the GWMC is providing employment opportunities to people from the transgender community to ensure gender equality and promote unity in society. People from the transgender community are part of the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), and the Urban Management Centre (UMC) departments, set up Slum Level Federations (SLF), and

Town Level Federations (TLF), along with Self-Help Groups (SHG). In Warangal, the transgender community has been roped in and assigned to maintain community toilets, public toilets and loo cafes (luxury). They are trained by the SHG members in the management of nurseries and will be paid the same wage as others. Social activist E.V. Srinivas, MEPMA supervisor Prasanna Rani, sanitary inspector Kumara Swamy, CO Srilatha, UMC representative Venkataramana, Transgender association president Laila, members Siri, Sneha, Ashwini, Reshma along were present.

13 injured as bus collide



Two buses from Manurugur and Sattupalli depots collided leaving 13 persons injured at Thanikella village under Konigerla mandal on Friday. The buses skidded due to the sudden rains that hit the district due to cyclone Nivar. The injured were shifted to the Khammam hospital for treatment through 108 vehicles. — RAVINDRA SESHU

NO ONE TAKES KCR SERIOUSLY, ANY MORE: BANDI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the party is working for the country and poor people, during election campaigns at Saidabad, IS Sadan Kurma Guda and Singareni Colony on Friday. He ridiculed Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's proposed public meeting on Saturday and said that people of Hyderabad would not him seriously. The senior BJP leader said for sheer lies and histrionics, Chandrasekhar Rao should be given an Oscar. Sanjay was confident that the next Mayor would be from BJP. Wanting to know why Chandrasekhar Rao had not visited Bhainsa where poor Hindus had lost their property, he said the Chief Minister was projecting a Hindu image for himself but people have seen through his lies.

Speed up developmental works, says collector

DC CORRESPONDENT
PEDDAPALLI, NOV. 27

In-charge collector of Peddapalli district, Bharati Holiker on Friday ordered officials of the concerned department, to speed up developmental works taken up by the state government under the Palle Pragathi programme, in all the villages and to complete them by December 15. She inspected the works of the Palle Prakruthi vanams, construction works of Vyunkunta Dham and compost sheds in progress at Bamlanaik thanda and Kannala villages of Palakurthi mandal and Raghavapur and Appannapet villages of Peddapalli mandal. “Establish nurseries, Prakruthi vanams along with providing tankers and dumping yards. Take up construction works of Vyunkunta Dhams and compost sheds in all the villages,” said the collector. The Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) during visits were told to inspect the



In-charge Peddapalli district collector, Bharati Holiker inspects the works of Prakruthi vanams in Palakurthi mandal of Peddapalli district on Friday.

■ **SHE INSPECTED** the works of the Palle Prakruthi vanams, construction works of Vyunkunta Dham and compost sheds.

compost sheds without fail and create awareness about the dumping of dry and wet waste in separate waste boxes given. Priority must be given, towards maintaining sanitation in the villages and teams must be established to inspect the sanitation works. Action must be taken, against those negligent in discharging their duties, she ordered.

Cyclone Nivar halts paddy procurement

Temperatures drop; farmers worried about moisture content

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 27

Because of cyclone Nivar, for the last two days, the procurement of paddy has halted in some parts of undivided Nizamabad district. More than 60 per cent of paddy so far is procured. The remaining paddy is either in the fields or at rice mills. Cyclone Nivar has caused

■ **FARMERS RUSHED** to the field and procurement centres to cover the paddy with tarpaulin. If the moisture content is higher than the permissible limit, the price of paddy will decrease.

temperatures to drop at a few places in Nizamabad and Kamareddy district, leaving farmers worried as this could increase the moisture content in the paddy. If the moisture content is higher than the per-

missible limit, the price of paddy will decrease. Farmers rushed to the field and procurement centres to cover the paddy with tarpaulin. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Srinivas Yadav, a

farmer from Gupanpally village in Nizamabad mandal said that the government should procure the paddy without delay. A few primary agriculture cooperative centres failed to procure the paddy. District agriculture officer, Mekala Govind, asked farmers to be alert, adding that cyclone Nivar will not directly affect the farmers in Nizamabad district.



District collector G. Ravi releases prawn seed into the backwaters of the Yellampalli reservoir at Kotilingala village of Velugutur mandal in Jagtial district on Friday. — DC

Collector: Have least 5 registrations per day in each mandal on Dharani

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC
JAGTIAL, NOV. 27

Jagtial district collector G. Ravi paid a surprise visit to Velugutur mandal and inspected the registration process, of the agricultural lands done at the tahsildar office in Jagtial district on Friday. After handing over the registration and mutation documents to one Uskamalla Ram Gopal, who purchased 2.14 acres of agricultural land in survey number 517/2, the collector said, “Officials must supervise the registration of agricultural lands done through the Dharani portal.” He asked the officials to

create awareness among the people about the purchasing and selling of agricultural lands before they carry out the registration through the Dharani portal. He said, “The purchasers and seller of agricultural lands should not approach middlemen for booking slots, and must not pay more than ₹200 towards the booking of slots. Officials must supervise the registration process regularly so that there is no scope for any irregularities.” If needed, officials must take steps to open Mee-Seva centres in the tahsildars office. People should be encouraged to book slots in the Mee-Seva centres.

At least five registrations should be done per day in each mandal without causing any inconvenience to people, he added. He warned of action, against those indulging in irregularities in the registration process through the Dharani portal. Later, Ravi released 3,09,000 prawn seeds under the Integrated Fisheries Development Scheme for the year 2020-21 with 100 per cent subsidy in the backwaters of the Yellampalli reservoir at Kotilingala village. District fisheries officer, Raj Narasiah, tahsildar Rajeshwar, MPP Lakshmi along with others were present.

PCC TREASURER GUDUR TO JOIN BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 27

Gudur Narayana Reddy, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer and AICC member, may resign from the primary membership of the party. According to reliable sources, Narayana Reddy has decided to leave the Congress

because of personal reasons. He may tender his resignation in a day or two. Narayana Reddy has served Congress at different levels for the last 39 years after starting as a leader of the National Students Union of India before making it to Youth Congress. He became PCC treasurer in 2015.

OBITUARY	
Dr. Paravastu Ranga Chari (S/o Late Paravastu Venkata Ramanuja Swamy) B.Sc., M.S., FRACS, FAMS, FAASC, FICS, FASI, FSSA. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Prof. Emeritus of Orthopaedics - Osmania Med College, Hyd & Formerly Prof. of Orthopaedics Deccan College of Med Sciences, Hyd	
DOB: 06-06-1927 DOD: 27-11-2020	
Funeral today, Sat, 28-11-2020, at 12:30 p.m., from res. to Bansilalpet Shamshaan Vatika, Hyderabad	
Inserted by: PS Ramanujam (Srikanth) (Son), Sharmila (Daughter-in-law), MVRN Acharyulu (Son-in-law), Padmaja (Daughter), Bhargav & Kalyan (Grandchildren), PVG Rajan (Brother)	Cell: 93913 71293

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IN BRIEF

NAVY'S MIG-29K CRASHES, PILOT MISSING

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

BID TO CAP SURGE PRICING BY CAB AGGREGATORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Farmers brave tear gas, baton charge to reach Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key Trinamul Cong minister Adhikari quits

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MP POLICE TO STOP PRACTICE OF PARADING ACCUSED IN PUBLIC

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 27

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

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

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

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

The court's order was in response to a petition filed by a Gwalior-based man who was arrested due to mistaken identity recently. The incident has gone viral in social media. The court held that such actions harmed his reputation.

The high court directed the director general of police of MP to ensure that such incidents did not recur. The practice of parading the accused, suspects and history-sheets by police in public was adopted to instill fear in the minds of criminals.

MAHA ATS GETS NOD TO FREEZE PROPERTIES OF DRUG OFFENDERS

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BIG | RELIEF

Valuer to assess damages caused in order to calculate the compensation amount

Kangana bungalow demolition wrong: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, NOV. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The BMC had denied the allegations of malafide

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

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

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

IN BRIEF

4.7 magnitude quake hits Turkey

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

Ex-World Bank prez Wolfensohn dies

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

Iran envoy goes on trial over bomb plot

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

SRI LANKAN MAN RUNS MOBILE LIBRARY FOR KIDS

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

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

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

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

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

Iran's top nuclear scientist assassinated

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

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

Local authorities confirmed Fakhrizadeh's death several hours earlier and also said that several attackers were killed in retaliation. The top scien-

tist and six others were killed in the attack.

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

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

for the attack.

"Terrorists murdered an eminent Iranian scientist today. This cowardice — with serious indications of Israeli role — shows desperate warmongering of perpetrators," Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter on Friday.

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

"If Iran ever chose to weaponise (enrichment), Fakhrizadeh would be known as the father of the

Iranian bomb," one Western diplomat told *Reuters* in 2014.

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

The International Atomic Energy Agency had said that the Amad programme ended in the early 2000s and that its inspectors now monitor Iranian nuclear sites. Iran's state television on its website later

published a photograph of security forces blocking off the road. Photos and video shared online showed a sedan with bullet holes through windshield and blood pooled on the road.

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

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

— Agencies

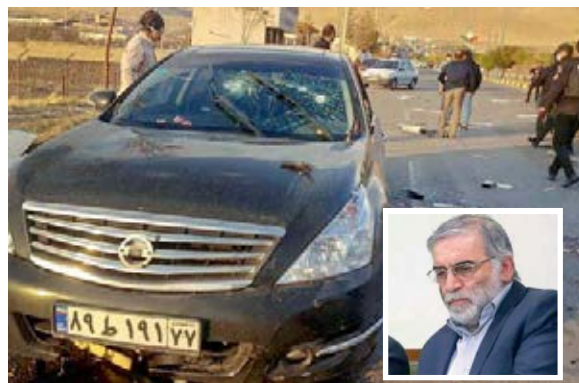


Photo released by the semi-official Fars News Agency shows the scene where Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was killed in Absard, a small city just east of the capital, Tehran, Iran, on Friday. (Inset) Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

— AP

UK asks regulator to approve AstraZeneca

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI



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

— AFP

German virus tally crosses 1 million

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

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

Some of the excitement about the new jabs dampened when Britain's pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca admitted that

● **RUSSIA ANNOUNCES** a partnership with India to mass produce its controversial Sputnik vaccine.

further research was needed after a mixup in its third-stage trial.

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

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

— AFP

CHINA IMPOSES ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON OZ WINE

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

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

Will leave if EC confirms Biden's win: Trump

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

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

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

The 538-member Electoral College is scheduled to meet on December 14 and is expected to formally declare the 78-year-old former vice president as the 46th US President.

Under the US electoral system, voters do not directly choose the president. Instead, they vote for 538 officials, who are allocated to American states based on their population size. Biden leads Trump 306 votes to 232 under the Electoral College system used to pick US presidents. Biden's tally is far more than the 270 needed to win the race for the White House, and he also leads the popular vote by more than six million.

In his Thanksgiving Day remarks, Trump, however,

said it will be a mistake if the Electoral College were to elect Biden. "It's going to be a very hard thing to concede," Trump told reporters when asked during a press call at the White House what he will do if the Electoral College elects Biden. "If they do, they made a mistake," he said.

On his plans for his last Thanksgiving in the White House, Trump said, "You can't say what's first or last." It might be the "first one of the second term," Trump, who is con-

tinuing his legal efforts to upend his victory. Earlier this week, Trump allowed the official start of Biden's transition to power without conceding defeat.

Biden due to be sworn in as president on January 20. However, election officials in key battleground states have declared Biden the winner, giving him an unofficial 306-232 edge in the Electoral College that determines the outcome of US presidential contests.

"This was a massive fraud," Trump said of the election.

— PTI

PORK | ROASTED

Ractopamine additive, allowed in pork meat imported from the US, bone of contention

Pig guts fly in Taiwan Parliament protest

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

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

Lawmakers from the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party dumped buckets of pork offal on the debating chamber floor and then proceeded to hurl intestines, hearts, liver and other organs at

their rivals. Taiwan's government recently announced it would allow imports of US pork-fed with the additive ractopamine from January 1.

The supplement improves leanness but is banned in places like the European Union and China.

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

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party, which commands a strong majority in parliament, hope the easing of

restrictions will pave the way for an agreement.

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

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

Taiwan's powerful domestic pork industry also fears competition from the US.

The DPP campaigned heavily against ractopamine when they were in opposition, and the KMT have accused them of hypocrisy.

The governing party now argues the additive is not a safety threat and that the deal will boost ties with the US, a valuable trading partner and strategic ally against China.

"We're very sorry to throw pig's internal organs in parliament, but this is to highlight the pork issue," opposition lawmaker Lin Wei-chou told reporters.

Lin Chu-yin, a DPP legislator, posted pictures of the discarded offal on her Facebook account. "The opposition party has the right to protest, but they shouldn't be wasting food," she wrote.



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

— AFP

DECCAN Chronicle

28 NOVEMBER 2020

Logistical posers loom as vaccine race nears finish

Humanity's race to come up with a vaccine for Covid-19 has had a chequered history over the last 10 months. Many researchers and pharma companies have made steady and spectacular progresses, kindling the hopes of millions of people for an early end to the miserable life they live under the shadow of threat the microorganism poses to all. The last fortnight saw them on a roller-coaster ride of hope with about five vaccine candidates announcing various degrees of efficiency. The one from Oxford University, being jointly developed by pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca, was leading the race when it announced their inexpensive, easy-to-produce vaccine reported an average efficacy of about 70 per cent.

The good run received a setback now with the manufacturers acknowledging an error in the vaccine dosage received by some participants. As per reports, the manufacturers were silent as to why some study participants did not receive as much vaccine in the first of two shots as expected. It was also

Intellectual property laws could hinder the way of the vaccines to the poor countries and a group of British lawmakers have already demanded a waiver of the rules and authorise generic manufacturers with its production

Scientists who work on the vaccine and the people who look forward to its arrival need not lose their hearts on the temporary setback. Science has designed its procedures in such a way that truth ultimately triumphs; the anomalies that have come out now are part and parcel of the process and there are inbuilt mechanisms to identify and correct them in time. The only impact it will have on the entire project is a delay, perhaps of days or weeks, in the authorisation of the vaccine for public use.

Governments and the public must look at a more serious issue on hand — on the just and equitable distribution of the vaccine. Health experts have already issued warnings against the rich countries reserving the entire stock of early production of about three billion doses of the vaccine, leaving the poor nations and their more vulnerable people at bay. Intellectual property laws could hinder the way of the vaccines to the poor countries and a group of British lawmakers have already demanded a waiver of the rules and authorise generic manufacturers with its production. Some of the vaccines demand cold chains, which are nearly impossible to install in certain climatic conditions. Every single issue will have an impact on all the people and their fight against the pandemic and hence be addressed collectively by all nations. Science has its way of correcting itself; it's harder to accomplish the same in politics.

Bull runs for Oscars

The jury to choose an Indian feature film for the Oscars (April 25, 2021) must be complimented for picking the Malayalam film *Jallikattu*. The title may resonate with the sporting bulls of Tamil Nadu but the theme is startlingly different with the 'protagonist' being a bull that escapes from a butchery in a remote village in Kerala and becomes the subject of a hunt portraying some of the worst aspects of humans who are so prone to violence. It will compete in the 'Best international feature film' category in which Indian movies have not made much headway, with not a single one ever being shortlisted for the prize.

The movie, appreciated at the Toronto international festival where its director Lijo Jose Pelliserry was awarded India's festival, may have edged out 26 others on entertaining themes released in the year of the pandemic that has proved inhibiting for theatrical releases. But if the film has been chosen for its content and its screenplay as an ode to the art of film-making it may fare better than many of the choices made by juries based on their understanding of popular content in the Bollywood tradition to please the masses. This point is well borne out by the short shrift the aesthetic creations of a filmmaker of the calibre of Satyajit Ray received in terms of nominations to the Oscars.

Many films aim to be a metaphor melded from the complexity of human emotions, which *Jallikattu* manages with certain raw quality displaying a freshness of approach. Opinions may vary wildly when it comes to judgments in subjective situations like movie appreciation, just as it has in this case when *The Disciple* lost out. And yet, somehow, the story of a bull must draw empathy considering how man's depredation of the plant has already led to ecological disasters, including the Coronavirus pandemic caused by a pathogen crossing species. The Oscars hinge on many factors, including lobbying, but cinematic excellence is invariably rewarded, much as the South Korean film *Parasite* scored a path-breaking win at the Oscars this year.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Subhani



High hopes over vaccine: Are we being unrealistic?



Shobhaa's Take

I am writing this a day after the anniversary of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks on Mumbai in 2008, that not only shook the metropolis like nothing ever had, but shook the rest of India and the world as well, as shockwaves reverberated across continents at the audacity of the operation. It's been 12 years since that ghastly day when the bone-chilling events were played out live on television channels globally. I guess time has a way of making us forget even the greatest of tragedies. This year, the significant date went by without much notice. The local media in Mumbai gave it scant, passing coverage — if at all. A couple of pictures appeared the next day in a few dailies, featuring police officers paying tributes to their slain colleagues and all the other victims of the terror strike. Only one prominent obituary in a leading daily served as a reminder of what families had endured when their loved ones were brutally gunned down by ruthless criminals from across the border. Not so surprisingly, the pandemic deaths have overtaken and overwhelmed us to such an extent that we neglected to honour the memories of all those we tragically lost more than a decade ago.

While we wait breathlessly for the magic vaccine, here's my prediction for what it is worth: our great Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will be the first, high-profile citizen to take the vaccine today when he visits the Serum Institute in

Pune. He is scheduled to fly into Hyderabad and Ahmedabad on the same day to take stock of vaccine development work at facilities in these three cities. Will he... won't he? Take the shot, I mean? I think he will. This is nothing more than a gut feeling, while figuring out the mind of one of the shrewdest leaders in the political sphere. For one, a bold gesture such as this one will send out a powerful signal to the rest of the world that India has beaten everyone else in the vaccine race. For another, it will be more than a mighty booster shot for his personal ego. Besides, with two key state elections to consider, his party, the BJP, will try and flatten any curve in its path — not just the Covid one. India's global image as a pharma leader will be further bolstered if NaMo goes for it. And frankly — history will be made by this one gesture of this one man! Narendra Modi has both — an uncanny sense of timing, besides an obsession to create personal history. If he indeed does take the vaccine before any other major international political personality, he will be hailed as the "Hero of the Pandemic 2020". Catch him passing up on such an opportunity!

When the scenario is this cynical, it's hard to stay optimistic and believe by this time next year everything will be 'back to normal', or 'back on track'

Nothing is ever going to be the same again — that's a given. But we cannot carry on without investing in hope for a better tomorrow.

The question that is worth asking is this: Are we pinning unrealistic hopes on the vaccine "saving" humanity? People are still dropping like flies, particularly in America... while the Covid-19 statistics in India continue to be alarming. We are expecting miracles once the vaccine gets marketed — and there are still four or five months to go without that happening. Yes, we must place our faith in experts and scientists at this point and pray for deliverance. Will that happen because we desperately want it to? Or will we be dealing with a fresh set of problems? As of now, the world is in need of instant solace and reassurance. We hang on to every tiny scrap of positive news and breakthroughs. We are too close to the pandemic to have sufficient distance to make informed choices about the vaccine. At the moment, I am sitting on the fence, and not committing to taking it as and when it's here. I have zero knowledge about its side effects, zero knowledge about its long-term efficacy, and zero knowledge about its overall behaviour. In that sense, we are all guinea pigs, ready to try whatever it is that appears, because we are scared and numbed by fear. Fear of the unknown. I am asking myself silly questions like: "What if I do take the vaccine and my body revolts against it? What if I avoid contracting Covid but my kidneys fail? Or my liver packs up?" The thing about the pandemic is how it has generated a fear psychosis on an

unprecedented level, as we scramble to grab every little straw that offers relief from the dreaded virus, without thinking about repercussions.

Till then, we have little choice but to go along with the official info, which may or may not be accurate. Rumour mills are in overdrive, about who is making how much selling masks that are substandard, and how easy it is to get licences to import masks if the person puts down ₹45 lakhs — no scrutiny, no testing, no questions asked. When the scenario is this cynical, it is hard to stay optimistic and believe by this time next year everything will be "back to normal", or "back on track". Nothing is ever going to be the same again — that's a given. But we cannot carry on without investing in hope for a better tomorrow. Whether or not schools reopen next year, whether or not our hospitals and health-care systems can cope down the line, whether or not there will be a third, fourth and fifth wave... babies will continue to be born, people will get married, lovers will find a way to celebrate romance. Poets will write moving verse, painters will give expression on canvas, musicians will compose melodies — nothing will stop the creative impulse, least of all a microbe.

Christmas is but a few weeks away. Santa Claus and his reindeers will arrive in a safe bubble and he will greet children with a lusty "hohoho" from behind a sturdy face shield and mask — so be it! The world will continue to spin, and the stars will still shine. 'Tis the season to be jolly — why deprive ourselves?

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

GHMC ELECTIONS

It is appalling to see political parties campaign for the GHMC polls in an accusatory tone (3 dry days, but parties set for high five, DC, Nov. 27). It seems liquor will be the deciding factor. A corporation has to work in cohesion with the state. Corporators have to work for local areas. They must be apolitical personalities. Hence, the government should consider keeping parties out of this poll.

Ramamurthy
Hyderabad

Hyderabadis are already facing the brunt of Covid-19, economic slowdown and floods recently. As if this was not enough, the so-called leaders from Centre are adding to the problem of hate on religious grounds. As a citizen I am also surprised about parties bringing in national leaders to campaign for galli [locality] development in GHMC. They should focus on national issues.

T. Kailash Ditya
Hyderabad

The BJP which promised to give free Covid vaccine to citizens should understand that India, being a welfare state, the Executive is Constitutionally duty bound to save citizens from Covid. The parties construe that voters are gullible and can be induced or influenced by this false propaganda.

P.R. Ravinder
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Attempt on Pope's life

MANILA, Nov. 27
 A Bolivian artist wearing a priest's robe tried to stab Pope Paul VI with a curved Moslem knife today shortly after his arrival at the airport in Manila, but the 73-year-old Pontiff escaped injury.
 Priests and reporters standing a few steps behind the scene of the incident said the attacker in his bid got no closer than three feet to the Pope who was moving down a reception line.
 The man was seized by security men and taken to Metropolitan Command Headquarters where authorities said he would be charged with attempted murder.

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



*"Faith is a wraith
 Promising paradise for the soul
 Hope is the rope
 That lets you climb out of a hole
 Charity should spell clarity ---
 Returning the wealth you stole..."*
 — From *Dhoka Cola* by Bachchoo

My parents first took me to Khajuraho on a cultural holiday trip when I was about eleven years old. We went from Kanpur to Madhya Pradesh and spent some time looking at the display of erotic carvings in the temples. A late beginner, I suppose, I didn't quite appreciate the erotic dimension of the sculptures, though I observed my dad and mum studying them with a distanced, yet acute, curiosity.

Without protesting any form of innocence or naivete, gentle reader, I promise I have never opened the pages of the *Kama Sutra*, even though there have been at one time or other two editions, one pictorially endowed, on my bookshelves in my short and happy life. I know that they are eighth century depictions of sexual possibilities, some in extreme yogic distortions which

promise erotic pleasure, but I have never felt the need to take instruction in these instinctive urges from man, beast or book. One ploughs one's own furrow, so to speak.

Apart from Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, there are at least twelve and perhaps a hundred surviving Hindu temples which include in their sculptural representations acts of human sexual coupling. And some of the central symbols of Hindu cosmic creativity are the lingam of Shiva and the universal Yoni which symbolises birth and perpetuity. Hinduism has, from the Vedas onwards, never been prissy about human love, sex and procreation. The Temple of Surya in Konarak in Odisha has some of the world-famous exemplars of erotic sculpture. In Maharashtra, the Markandeshwar temple and the depiction of love in Ellora are also a glorious part of India's heritage.

Hence it came as an absolute article of bewildered wonder that some idiot, or some misguided organisation, is suing Mira Nair's depiction in the Netflix series adaptation of Vikram Seth's universally acclaimed novel *A Suitable Boy* in a Madhya Pradesh court for a scene

in which two characters kiss near a temple. In the name of Krishna and the gopis, of Shiva and Parvati, of Vishnu and Lakshmi, Ram and Sita — and of the Khajuraho temples of Madhya Pradesh, are these misguided Victorian puritan protesters saying that love and its active manifestations are anything to object to? Are they anti-Hindu-history-and-heritage bigots?

Surely Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his entire Cabinet and the philosophy of his party are dedicated to the upholding of Hindu heritage and India's inherited values and traditions! This absurd puritanism, which objects to a scene in a fictional drama of two characters kissing — not even in an act of fornication so graphically celebrated in revered Hindu temples — is surely some imperial hangover which we can do without?

Hinduism is much more philosophically explorative and wider than the Semitic monotheisms of Judaism, Christianity and some interpretations of Islam. There is no puritan tradition in Hinduism which would forbid the depiction of two lovers kissing outside a Kentucky Fried Chicken shop or a

temple. The people who are attempting to bring this case against Netflix ought to be, Your Honour, sent to re-education classes about the ethics of dharma, etc, in Hindu teachings! (*Don't get carried away, you idiot, this is a column, not an address to the court — Ed. Of course, boss! Sorry — fd*)

I would like to address the people in Netflix who face these absurd charges, but I have no conduit to them. I would say to them have some faith in Indian justice because I have faced similar legally enlisted assaults and have prevailed.

The first was against a film I had commissioned and wrote called *Bandit Queen*. A group of people tried to stop the film being released for several reasons, not all idealistic, but they didn't succeed.

Then there was the case against a film I wrote called *Mangal Pandey, The Rising*.

Some people claimed that they were the descendants of Mangal Pandey and the film had represented him in an unfavourable light. The judge ruled that it was a waste of court time and threw the case out. I am now told that judges have changed, that there has been some

ideological adjustment on the juridical benches. Gentle reader, living in London, so far away from home, I know nothing of this. I feel confident that the barristers who defend this very peripheral right to freedom of depiction, even using the arguments I have posed above, will convince a judge who knows his Hinduism.

Freedom of expression and the right to any, even those considered dissenting, opinions are an absolute requirement of democracy. Regimes in today's Turkey and Iran have suppressed free expression as the right of the state to exclusively disseminate information, both in the name of their exclusive interpretations of Islam. I don't know, but perhaps they censor scenes on Netflix of couples kissing outside mosques.

Of course, the Madhya Pradesh court should treat the case against the kissing next to a *mandir* with the contempt it deserves. And that would be a precedent in universal law pronouncing the freedom of depiction which doesn't transgress decency, tradition or in the case of the kiss outside a temple, explicitly graphic Hindu iconography.

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	44,149.72 -0.25
Nifty 50	12,968.95 -0.14
S&P 500*	3,631.85 0.06
Dollar (₹)	74.03 -0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.84 -0.12
Euro (₹)	88.14 -0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,142.43 0.008
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.04 0.24
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.911 0.039
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.852 -0.026

Core industries' output contracts 2.5% in October

Contracting for the eighth month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 2.5 per cent in October, mainly due to decline in production of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and steel. The production of eight core sectors had contracted 5.5 per cent in Oct. 2019. While coal, fertiliser, cement and electricity recorded positive growth, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products and steel showed negative growth.

Hero MotoCorp appoints Clarke as COO, HR head



Hero MotoCorp said it has appointed global mobility expert Michael Clarke as chief operating officer, with the additional role of chief human resources officer. Clarke will join from January 1 and report to Pawan Munjal, chairman and CEO. "Mike brings considerable global experience and expertise in managing complex operations, international restructuring, organisational and cultural change," Munjal said.

Only BIS-certified helmets to be made and sold

The Centre said only Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-certified helmets would be manufactured and sold in India for two-wheelers. This would help in avoiding sale of low-quality helmets, which would help in protecting the wearers from fatal injuries, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said. The ministry said it has issued the 'Helmet for riders of Two Wheelers Motor Vehicles (Quality Control) Order, 2020'.

Forex reserves rise, cross \$575-bn mark



The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.518 billion to touch a lifetime high of \$575.29 bn in the week ended Nov.20, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended Nov.13, the reserves had surged by \$4.277 bn to \$572.771 bn. Foreign currency assets rose by \$2.835 bn to \$533.103 bn. The gold reserves declined by \$339 million to \$36.015 bn. The special drawing rights with the IMF rose by \$4 mn to \$1.492 bn.

GDP contraction comes down to -7.5% Recovery beats projections in Q2

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, NOV.27

Amidst hopes of development of a corona vaccine, the Indian economy rebounded at a faster-than-expected pace in the July-September quarter, helped by a pick-up in manufacturing. The country's GDP contracted by 7.5 per cent during the quarter, lower than economists' projection of 8.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent contraction and signalling a sharp recovery from the record plunge of 23.9 per cent in the previous June quarter. "India's real gross domestic product (GDP) fell to 7.5 per cent in the July-September quarter compared to a contraction of 23.9 per cent in the three months ended June. The GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 33.14 lakh crores, as against Rs 35.84 lakh crores in Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.5 per cent as compared to 4.4 per cent growth in Q2 of 2019-20," data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday showed. Reacting to the latest GDP data, the government's chief economic adviser K. V. Subramanian said there is an 'upside potential' in the estimates about the economy during the current financial year as recovery is taking the faster pace than expected. "I would say that the given what we have seen in Q1 and Q2 and with the opti-



mism that is being seen in the estimates, I do see upside potential in that estimate given the good recovery that is happening," Subramanian said, adding that food inflation is expected to soften in the third quarter and it is something which has to be tracked closely. Giving a further outlook of the economy in the future course, he added, "We should be cautiously optimistic and the caution is warranted because economic impact is primarily due to the pandemic. Given the uncertainty, it is difficult to predict if positive territory can be hit in the third or fourth quarter of this fiscal." The data further showed that some sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, trade and service segments have shown some encouraging improvement due to removal of lockdown restrictions in a phased manner. "Manufacturing clocked a surprise 0.6 per cent growth in July-September after it had

shrunk by a massive 39 per cent in the preceding quarter... Continuing its good showing, the agriculture sector grew by 3.4 per cent, while the trade and services sector showed lower-than-expected contraction at 15.6 per cent," the government release said. At this rate of recovery from the depths plucked it earlier, economists said the economy will gradually exit its contraction mode in the current quarter or so. "Consumer demand has been observed to be showing signs of revival in recent months. Supply chains, snapped off by Covid curbs, have been restored to a large extent. High-frequency indicators, such as fuel and electricity consumption, apart from rail freight and mobility, have looked up," economists said, adding that festive season sales were buoyant, though much of the shopping could be attributed to a spring back of pent-up demand.

Burger King sets IPO price band at ₹59-60

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 27

US-based Burger King's Indian subsidiary announced an initial public offering (IPO) to raise Rs 810 crore. The public issue, opening on December 2, has been priced in the band of Rs 59-60 per equity share of face value of Rs 10 each. The public offer from the fast food company closes on December 4. The IPO comprises fresh issue of shares worth Rs 450 crore and an offer for sale of 60 million shares by promoter QSR Asia Pte. Ltd. "The size of the fresh issue of up to Rs 600 crore has been reduced by Rs 150 crore pursuant to the pre-IPO placement, and accordingly, the fresh issue size is up to Rs 450 crore," the company said while announcing the IPO. "The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised for setting up of new company-owned Burger King Restaurants and for general corporate purposes," the company said. In the IPO, 75 per cent of the offer is reserved for the qualified institutional investors, 15 per cent for the non-institutional investors or high net worth individuals and 10 per cent for the retail individual investors.

Mid-caps, small-caps seen outperforming near-term

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, NOV. 27



After a bull run in large-cap stocks, analysts estimate a catch-up rally in the broader markets consisting of mid-caps and the small-cap stocks. On Friday, while the benchmark indices closed in the red with Sensex down 110 points, or 0.25 per cent, the BSE Mid-cap Index gained 1.91 per cent and the BSE Small-cap Index gained 2.40 per cent, thus, outperforming the large-cap stocks. The situation in the domestic market is panning out just like for the US broader market benchmark Russel 2000 and European Stoxx 600 that have given a breakout after record bull run in the benchmark indices Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 and Nasdaq indices, analysts said.

The BSE Mid-cap Index has rallied over 74 per cent from its March low of 9711.44 to 16,914.65 but is still far below its all time high of 18,321.37, touched on January 9, 2018. The BSE Small-cap Index at 16,875.15 is also up over 90 per cent from the March low of 8,872.83 but far short of the all-time-high of 20,183.45 it touched on January 15, 2018. "In line with our prog-

nosis, mid-cap and small-cap indices have extended their up move after a higher base formation in September and October. We expect both indices to witness acceleration in upward momentum and outperform the Nifty in coming months," said brokerage ICICI Securities. "Globally, Russell 2000 and Stoxx 600 have also registered multi-year range breakouts. Historical, positive correlation of domestic indices with global peers makes us further confident in our positive stance," it added. "In the coming month, we maintain our overall constructive stance, with incremental shift to broader markets as the Nifty is expected to undergo consolidation amid positive bias in the range of 12800-13200 after a sharp 14 per cent rally in November," ICICI Securities said.

Credit guarantee extended to health sector

New Delhi, Nov. 27: The government on Thursday said it has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to the health sector and 26 other sectors identified by the Kamath Committee. The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) has issued the operational guidelines for implementation of ECLGS 2.0 scheme, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The scheme was announced by the government earlier this month as part of the Rs 2.65-lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package. "Under ECLGS 2.0 entities with outstanding credit above Rs 50 crore and not exceeding Rs 500 crore as on February 29, 2020, which were less than or equal to 30 days past due as on February 29, 2020 are eligible," the statement said. The loans provided under ECLGS 2.0 will have

a five-year tenor, with a 12-month moratorium on repayment of principal, the statement said. "These entities or borrower accounts will be eligible for additional funding up to 20 per cent (which could be fund based or non-fund based or both) of their total outstanding credit (fund based only) as a collateral free Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL), which would be fully guaranteed by NCGTC," it added. — PTI

LVB bond write-off will hurt other banks: Icra

Mumbai, Nov. 27: The write-off of Rs 318-crore tier-II bonds by Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) ahead of its merger with DBS Bank is a precedent set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and will hurt the private sector lender's peers, a report said. During the Yes Bank rescue earlier this year also, there was an over Rs 7,000-crore bond write-off, but that involved a different instrument called additional tier-I bonds. In the case of LVB, which has been merged with DBS in a scheme proposed by the RBI, investments of Rs 318.20 crore in bonds issued by LVB will be written off,



the lender informed the exchanges late Thursday night. "RBI has set a precedence with the proposed write-off as it's the first time a tier-II bond is being written off," ratings agency Icra said in the report on Friday. The agency added that investors should factor in

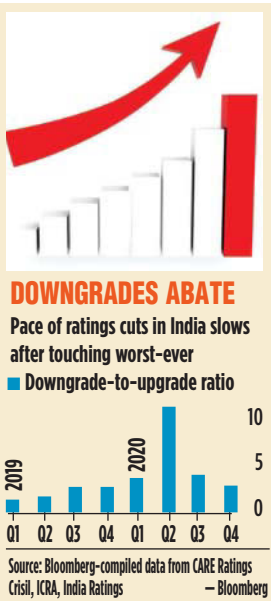
the risk in Basel-III instruments, as these instruments can be completely written off in case the bank gets into trouble. "We expect the risk premiums for such instruments to increase for weaker private banks, given this event," the ratings agency said. In an exchange filing late on Thursday evening, the bank said the RBI has advised it of the need to fully write down the Series VIII, Series IX and Series X Basel-III-complaint tier-II bonds before the amalgamation with DBS Bank comes into effect on Friday. "If the relevant authori-

ties decide to reconstitute the bank or amalgamate the bank with any other bank under the Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, such a bank shall be deemed as non-viable and both the pre-specified trigger and the trigger at the point of the point of non-viability for write-down of bonds shall be activated. "Accordingly, the bonds shall be written off before amalgamation or reconstitution in accordance with applicable rules," according to the terms of the information memorandum of the respective Basel-III Tier-II bonds issued by the bank," LVB said. — PTI

Credit downgrades abate on signs of economic recovery

ANURAG JOSHI NOV. 27

The pace of credit-rating cut for Indian companies has slowed amid signs the local economy is coming out of its worst-ever contraction. There have been about three downgrades for every upgrade of rupee debt since October 1, the lowest since the last three months of 2019, according to data from India's four biggest rating firms compiled by Bloomberg. That compares with a ratio of more than four to one in favour of a cut for the previous quarter, and a record 11 to one in the April-to-June period. Economic data suggests that Asia's third-biggest economy is recovering, albeit unevenly, after it shrank a record 24 per cent in the three months to June 30. A slower pace of downgrades may open the door to funding for weaker borrowers in India. A record Rs 1.38 lakh crore (\$19 billion) of bond obligations from issuers rated AA and below mature in 2021, according to data compiled by



Bloomberg. Last month, the country unveiled measures totalling \$6.6 billion to boost faltering consumer demand and investments, adding to the unprecedented \$277 billion stimulus announced in May to rescue the economy from the impact of the coronavirus. — Bloomberg

DRAFT RULES FOR REGISTERING VINTAGE VEHICLES FRAMED



New Delhi, Nov. 27: The Centre on Friday said it intends to formalise the registration process of the vintage motor vehicles, and has sought public comments for proposed rules regarding this. In a statement, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said it has invited public comments for proposed rules on registering vintage vehicles. "There are no existing rules for regulating the registration process of vehicles of heritage value. These rules are proposed to be inserted as sub-rules 81A, 81B, 81C, 81D, 81E, 81F, 81G in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989," it said. "The draft rules define vintage motor vehicles as all those vehicles that are two-wheelers and four-wheelers (non-commercial and personal use) and are more than 50 years old from the date of their first registration (including imported vehicle). There is a restriction in the definition no substantial overhaul of the vehicle which includes modification in chassis or body shell, and/or engine. "It is proposed that all applications for registration shall be applied on 'Parivahan' portal. "It is further proposed that all states registering authority will appoint a nodal officer who will process all applications for registration of vintage motor vehicles," it said. Further, states will form a committee that will inspect a vehicle and declare whether the vehicle is fit for registration. If approved, a 10-digit alphanumeric number will be assigned to the respective vintage vehicle, valid for 10 years, the statement said. — PTI

COUCH | SHOPPING

Consumers are now able to shop anywhere in the world

‘This is the apocalypse for legacy retail’

HILARY PUNCHARD TORONTO, NOV. 27



Legacy retailers such as Macy's Inc and Hudson's Bay will be left behind by consumers after they neglecting to build a foundation in e-commerce before the pandemic, according to Mark Cohen, a former CEO of Sears Canada. "This trend (of e-commerce) which emerged about 15 or 20 years ago was moving along at an increasingly accelerated clip pre-pandemic and now the pandemic is causing stores to be closed, causing customers to avoid shopping malls and shopping districts from a physical point of view and that trend has accelerated

enormously," Cohen said in an interview. "It's something that was well underway pre-pandemic, it's apocryphal the degree to which consumers have moved in that direction today and I suspect that once Covid is in our rearview mirror, the rate of growth of e-commerce will abate a bit, but it's certainly not going to

reverse the trend that we've been seeing." Cohen, who now serves as director of retail studies at Columbia Business School, explained that the ultimate nail in the coffin for legacy retailers was that many companies neglected to engage with customers online rather than just in-person. "(Hudson's Bay) has been

late to the party as have many legacy retailers in fully expressing themselves online. They did have a website as did Macy's but it's been merely an expression of whatever it is they're putting on sale each week rather than a portal into the customer's presence and expectations," Cohen explained. "I think that when all is said and done the great American, great Canadian department store has seen its day and it's on the way out." Department stores have been dealt blow-after-blow amid Covid-19 with many companies being ordered to close their doors due to pandemic-related lockdowns and solely rely on their e-commerce plat-

forms to attract customers. But, Cohen said with customers no longer being tied to local retailers and with the expansion of e-commerce offerings amid the pandemic, the apocalypse for legacy retail has finally come. "I think that the consumer who was tethered to a local mall whether here in the US or in Canada now has no limitations on where they can consider shopping... They are literally able to shop anywhere in the world," Cohen explained. "This is the apocalypse that was upon us pre-pandemic from a legacy retail point of view, which now is in full view—it's really something to watch." — Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Bagan beat Bengal in derby

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

Krishna, who had scored ATKMB's lone goal against Kerala Blasters in their campaign opener, struck in the 49th minute before Manvir Singh killed the contest in the 85th minute with a solo effort. With two wins on the trot, ATK Mohun Bagan led the table with six points, followed by Northeast United FC. It was a typical Antonio Lopez Habas' style of play that panned out on the field as ATKMB were slow to get off the blocks before taking control of the game. Their defence, helmed by Tiri, put up a disciplined show to return with a clean slate for their second successive match in the league. — PTI

Belgium on top in FIFA rankings

Zurich: With Belgium still at No. 1, FIFA released its final rankings list for 2020 on Friday and set the seedings for the European portion of the World Cup qualifying draw. Defending World Cup champion France is in second place, with Brazil third and England fourth. European champion Portugal rounds out the top five, with Spain in sixth. FIFA will host the European draw on December 7. The 10 top-seeded teams include Italy, which was seeded second four years ago and failed to qualify for the 2018 tournament in Russia after ending up in a group with Spain. The Netherlands, ranked 14th, took the last top-seeded place, dropping No. 16 Switzerland into pot 2. — AP

Badminton League off due to Covid-19

New Delhi: The sixth edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL) was on Friday postponed to next year, keeping in mind the health and safety of the players amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic. The league, which is one of the highest prize money badminton tournaments in the world, was initially scheduled to take place in the last week of December in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune. However, SportzLive, the official license holder of the league under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), decided to postpone the event due to the prevailing conditions. PBL is a sought-after global badminton leagues having six-franchise-based teams, who compete in a home and away format. — PTI

CCOB emerge cricket champs

Hyderabad: City College Old Boys Cricket Association (CCOB CA) beat Emerging Cricketers Developmental Group (ECDG) by 33 runs to win the 4th edition of Teen Premier League Junior Cricket Championship organised by the School Sports & Games Federation (SSGF) at RKS Grounds in Boduppal here. Batting first in the final, CCOB were all out for 174 in 26 overs. Ansh was the top scorer with 41. In reply ECDG were out for 141 in 24.3 overs. **Brief scores:** CCOB Cricket Association 174 in 26 overs (Dharmik 35, Ansh 41, Furkhan 3/24, S. Akash 4/15) bt ECDG 141 in 24.3 overs (Manikanda 36, Sathwik 37, Ansh 3/11, Pruthvi 3/4, Adnan 2/6).

Live on TV

CRICKET
Women's Big Bash League: Final — Melbourne Stars vs Sydney Thunder from 1.40 pm on Sony Six
Lanka Premier League: Kandy vs Dambulla from 3.30 pm; Galle vs Colombo from 8 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL
English Premier League: Brighton vs Liverpool from 6 pm; Manchester City vs Burnley from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1
Indian Super League: Bengaluru vs Hyderabad FC from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3
Italian League: Benevento vs Juventus from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

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SMITH HEREENS

Finch, Smith centuries blow India away in opener

Sydney, Nov. 27: Hardik Pandya's career-best effort wasn't good enough to compensate for a forgettable bowling effort as India slumped to a 66-run defeat against Australia in the first ODI, making a rather unimpressive start to the tour, here on Friday. Virat Kohli's men started exactly on a note they wouldn't have liked, giving away 374 runs in 50 overs with rival captain Aaron Finch (114 off 124 balls) and his illustrious predecessor Steve Smith (105 off 66 balls) hitting contrasting hundreds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

INDIANS JOIN AUSSIES IN ANTI-RACISM MOVE

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

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

— PTI

SCORECARD

Australia: D. Warner c Rahul b Shami 69, A. Finch c Rahul b Bumrah 114, S. Smith b Shami 105, M. Stoinis c Rahul b Chahal 0, G. Maxwell c Jadeja b Shami 45, M. Labuschagne c Dhawan b Saini 2, A. Carey not out 17, P. Cummins not out 1. Extras (B-1, LB-6, NB-2, W-12) 21. Total (for six wickets in 50 overs) 374.

FoW: 1-156, 2-264, 3-271, 4-328, 5-331, 6-372.

Bowling: Shami 10-0-59-3, Bumrah 10-0-73-1, Saini 10-0-83-1, Chahal 10-0-89-1, Jadeja 10-0-63-0.

India: S. Dhawan c Starc b Zampa 74, M. Agarwal c Maxwell b Hazlewood 22, V. Kohli c Finch b Hazlewood 21, S. Iyer c Carey b Hazlewood 2, K.L. Rahul c Smith b Zampa 12, H. Pandya c Starc b Zampa 90, R. Jadeja c Starc b Zampa 25, N. Saini not out 29, M. Shami b Starc 13, J. Bumrah not out 0. Extras (LB-2, NB-3, W-15) 20. Total (for six wickets in 50 overs) 308.

FoW: 1-53, 2-78, 3-80, 4-101, 5-229, 6-247, 7-281, 8-308.

Bowling: Starc 9-0-65-1, Hazlewood 10-0-55-3, Cummins 8-0-52-0, Zampa 10-0-54-4, Stoinis 6-2-0-25-0, Maxwell 6-4-0-55-0.



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

— AFP



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

— AP

Kohli rues first defeat

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

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

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

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

INJURED ISHANT OUT AS ROHIT WAITS TILL DEC. 11

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

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

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

— PTI

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

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

— PTI

NATARAJAN IN INDIA ODI SIDE AS SAINI COVER

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

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

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

— PTI

Brazil mourns Diego's demise

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLICE CLASH WITH FANS IN ARGENTINA

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

— AFP

Napoli dedicate win to Maradona

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

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

"Diego is a legend and will never die," Gattuso said after the match. "Since yesterday you could see that the city breathed a different atmosphere. We hope to dedicate something important to him and win a trophy," he added.

Napoli are now two points ahead of AZ Alkmaar and Real Sociedad following their goalless draw in the Netherlands.

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

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

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

— AFP

STADIUM NEAR BARASAT NAMED AFTER MARADONA

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

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

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

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

— PTI