

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 21 NOVEMBER 2020



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**RBI lets bizmen own more stake in banks**



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## TABLOID

**Arjun Mathur bags an Emmy nomination**



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**WEATHER**

Max: 32.2°C  
Min: 19.4°C  
RH: 36%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Haze, mist likely.  
Max/Min temp. 31/18 °C

**COVID-19 COUNT**

CASES	DEATHS
(+45,564)	(+549)
90,49,609	1,32,750

covid19india.org

**STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS**

(+894)	(+4)
TS: 2,61,728	1,423
(+1,221)	(+10)
AP: 8,59,932	6,920

**CASES AROUND THE WORLD**

5,76,27,674

**DEATHS**

13,72,099

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

217

worldometers.info/coronavirus

**ASTROGUIDE**

Sarvari; Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Kartika Suddha Saptami till 9.52 pm  
Star: Shravanam till 9.55 am  
Varjyam: 2.08 pm to 3.49 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 6.28 am to 7.57 am  
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

**ILIRI CALENDAR**

Rabbi-ul Akhir 5, 1442 AH

**PRAYERS**

Fajar: 5.21 am  
Zohar: 12.12 pm  
Asar: 4.04 pm  
Maghrib: 5.46 pm  
Isha: 6.56 pm

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.24 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 11.42 PM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.09 PM**

**COUNTER POINT**

How can you recover the money you spent on ticket, votes, campaign...?

**SHORT TAKE**

**India's tax loss is ₹75,000 cr**

**New Delhi:** India is losing over \$10.3 billion (about ₹75,000 crore) in taxes every year owing to global tax abuse by MNCs and evasion by private individuals, a report said on Friday. Of this, the State of Tax Justice report said over \$10 billion is lost to tax abuse by multinational corporations (MNCs) and \$200 million to tax evasion committed by private individuals. The social impact of the lost tax is equivalent to 44.70 per cent of the health budget and 10.68 per cent of education spending. It also equals paying yearly salaries of over 42.30 lakh nurses. — PTI

**RIL-Future deal gets CCI nod**

**New Delhi:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Reliance's proposed acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses of Future Group. The ₹24,713 crore deal that would boost Reliance Industries' fast growing retail business was announced in August. Deals beyond a certain threshold require approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors. Etail major Amazon has opposed the deal between Future Group and Reliance Industries.

# Modi reviews security after intel warns of terror attack

**DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 20**

A day after security personnel killed four Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists and seized huge quantities of arms in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted the security forces have thwarted their efforts to wreak “major havoc and destruction” in the country.

The Prime Minister had chaired a review meeting on Friday with top security officials as well as home minister Amit Shah and national security adviser Ajit Doval in the wake of the killing of Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists in

Neutralising of four terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of a large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted.

— NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota. Specific intelligence inputs had revealed some Pakistani terrorists had infiltrated into the country with the specific purpose of carrying out a major terror attack just

before the District Development Council local elections to be held in eight phases between November 28 and December 19 in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Government sources said the terrorists were planning “something big” on the 12th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack next week. After the meeting, Mr Modi said in a tweet: “Our security forces have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism. Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target grassroots level democratic exercises in J&K.”

In another tweet, he added: “Neutralising of

four terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of a large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted.”

The four suspected Jaish terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed after a four-hour-long encounter early Thursday with the security forces on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Nagrota. In the gunfight, two J&K police officials were also injured, while the driver and cleaner of the truck managed to escape.

## Sun festival



A woman, standing in the waters of the Hussainsagar, prays to the sun during Chhath Puja in Hyderabad on Friday. People from Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and parts of Nepal who live in the city celebrated the festival amid Covid precautions. ■ Report on Page 2

— R. PAVAN

## AUTOS, CABS, TRUCKS TO JOIN NOV. 26 BANDH

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 20**

Auto rickshaws, cabs, trucks and lorries, and other private transportations in Telangana will join to support the nation-wide bandh against the BJP government at the Centre. The bandh call poster was released on Friday by members of the joint action committee, comprising several trade unions including AITUC, CITU, IFIU, INTUC, TRSKV and TNTUC for a strike on November 26.

A. Satish Reddy, general secretary, Telangana Auto Union Samaikya, said they have come up with nine demands, including the abolition of the Motor Vehicle Act, 2019, formation of a transportation workers' board, waiving off of transportation tax for the lockdown and Covid period starting March till December 31.

Other demands include stopping “extortion of usurious interests” by private financiers for the duration of the Coronavirus impact and lockdown, besides a payment of ₹10,000 per month to auto and cab drivers for the same period when they had no work, besides exemption from paying EMIs till March 31, 2021. He also demanded that the TRS government provide all cab drivers with 2BHK flats.

# TS offices to junk branded water for Bhagiratha units

**DURGAM SRINIVAS | DC HYDERABAD, NOV. 20**

The Telangana state government has decided to replace Bisleri water with water from Mission Bhagiratha in government offices. After studying the per capita consumption of bottled water in various government offices, the Telangana Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department has taken a decision to supply Bhagiratha water to all government offices.

RWSS department engineer-in-chief Krupakar Reddy said that the gov-

ernment has taken up Mission Bhagiratha with an aim to supply safe drinking water to people.

He said, “Thousands of households are receiving safe drinking water under the project. Now, we have decided that the same water would be used by government officials and stop spending public money on purchase of bottled waters like Bisleri and Kinley.”

He further said, “we have noticed that government offices are purchasing 200 to 250 bottles of 250 ML each day, at a cost of ₹6 apiece. We have decided to start supplying

Bhagiratha water in bottles as a pilot project for our office. We can later extend it to other wings of government.”

He explained that initially the department will set up small bottling units, which would cost around ₹2 lakh, for bottling water into 250 ML bottles. The pilot project will begin in next two months.

Explaining the future plans, the engineer-in-chief said that the pilot bottling unit would be set up at Singur reservoir. He said RWSS has a plan to sell water bottles in commercial market.

### WEDDING | WAR

**Rajasthan CM sees ploy to create environment for adults to be at mercy of state**

# ‘Love jihad’ BJP term to create panic: Gehlot

**Jaipur, Nov. 20:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said “love jihad” is a term “manufactured” by the BJP to disturb communal harmony, provoking a sharp reaction from Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

In a tweet, Gehlot said marriage is a matter of personal liberty and bringing a law to curb it is unconstitutional. Hitting back, Shekhawat asked if marriage is a matter of personal liberty “why are the women not free to use their

maiden name or religion”. BJP leaders use the term “love jihad” while alleging that Hindu women face harassment and forced conversion in the name of love and marriage. BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have said they are considering enactment of laws to curb such marriages.

Gehlot, however, said such a law will not stand scrutiny in any court.

“Love jihad is a word manufactured by the BJP to divide the nation and

Jihad has no place in love... Marriage is a personal decision and they are putting curbs on it, which is like snatching away personal liberty

— ASHOK GEHLOT, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

disturb communal harmony,” the Congress leader tweeted. “Jihad has no place in love. They are creating an environment in the nation where consenting adults would be at the

If it is a matter of personal liberty, then why are the women not free to keep their maiden name or religion? Isn't religion a matter of personal liberty?

— GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, Union Jal Shakti Minister

mercy of state power. Marriage is a personal decision and they are putting curbs on it, which is like snatching away personal liberty,” said the Rajasthan Chief Minister.

“It seems a ploy to disrupt communal harmony, fuel social conflict and disregard constitutional provisions like the state not discriminating against citizens on any ground,” he added.

Union Jal Shakti minister and prominent BJP leader from Rajasthan Gajendra Singh Shekhawat reacted strongly. “Dear Ashok ji, Love Jihad is a trap that has thousands of young women believing marriage is a personal affair, where later it turns out it isn't. Also, if

it is a matter of personal liberty, then why are the women not free to keep their maiden name or religion?” he asked.

“Why are families of girls too forced to accept the other religion? Isn't religion a matter of personal liberty?” he tweeted.

Shekhawat asked if supporting this in the guise of personal freedom was the “new communal agenda” of the Congress.

He charged that “manufacturing terms, riots and hatred is a Congress prerogative”. — PTI



A man at a flex polythene sheet printing unit is busy processing banners of political parties in Hyderabad on Friday, ahead of the elections for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. — P. SURENDRA

# KCR: Central job tests must be held in state languages

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, NOV. 20**

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Friday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to provide equal and fair opportunity to students from all states of India, by permitting them to take all competitive exams in regional languages, in addition to English and Hindi languages.

He also wrote a letter to President Ramnath Kovind, requesting him to release a commemorative stamp on the occasion of former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's birth centenary, during the latter's south India sojourn at Hyderabad.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Chandrashekar Rao said that all competitive exams for recruitment to posts in the Central government, Central PSUs, railways, defence services and nationalised banks are held only in two languages — Hindi and English.

He said, “students who do not come from English medium or those not from Hindi-speaking states face a serious disadvantage in such competitive examinations.”

Rao urged Modi to

Students who do not come from English medium or those not from Hindi-speaking states face a serious disadvantage in such competitive examinations.

— K. CHANDRASHEKAR RAO, Chief Minister

ensure the Centre to conduct all competitive exams for recruitments in regional languages.

In his letter to Kovind, Chief Minister Rao said if the President releases the commemorative stamp, it will be a fitting tribute to the former prime minister.

He brought to the notice of the President that the government of Telangana state was celebrating the birth centenary of Narasimha Rao, who was born on June 28, 1921, at Vangara village in Karimnagar district.

The Chief Minister said that Narasimha Rao was not only a reformer who initiated seminal economic reforms, but was a multi-faceted leader, who made substantial contributions to human resources development, international relations, rural development, technology, arts, culture and literature, among others.



## IN BRIEF

## BJP FINAL LIST HAS 52 CANDIDATES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

The BJP on Friday released its final list for the GHMC polls with 52 names.

**Kapra:** Vinod  
**AS Rao Nagar:** M. Chandrika  
**Cherlapally:** Surender Goud  
**Meerpet HB Colony:** Bangi Jayalaxmi  
**Mallapur:** Mallikarjun Goud  
**Nacharam:** Anitha Padmareddy  
**Chilkanaagar:** Shailaja Srikanth  
**Habsiguda:** Chetana Harish  
**Ramanthapur:** Bandari Sreevani  
**Uppal:** Dr Shilpareddy  
**Vanasthalipuram:** Venkateswara Reddy  
**Hastinapuram:** Sujatha  
**Moosarambagh:** Bhagyalaxmi Bakka  
**Old Malakpet:** Kanakaboina Renuka  
**Chawni:** Erukala Abhishek Goud  
**Talab Chanchalam:** Kothapally Renuka  
**Santoshnagar:** Yeshwanth Jaiswal  
**Barkas:** Y. Vijayalaxmi  
**Falakuma:** Gaguloth Mahender  
**Nawab Sahab Kunta:** Prajwala Goud  
**Jahanuma:** A. Srihari  
**Kishanbagh:** Bandari Naveen kumar  
**Rajendranagar:** Archana  
**Attapur:** Sangeetha  
**Vengal Rao Nagar:** Kilari Manohar  
**Erragadda:** Prasanna  
**Bharatinagar:** Godavari Anjireddy  
**Ramachandrapuram:** G. Sathyanarayana  
**Patancheru:** Ashish Goud  
**KPHB Colony:** Preetham Reddy  
**Balajinagar:** Aritakula Charumathi  
**Allapaur:** Puligolla Laxmi Yadav  
**Moosapet:** K. Mahender Kamhari  
**Fathenagar:** Krishna Goud  
**Old Bowenpally:** Tirupathi Yadav  
**Balanagar:** Narsi Reddy  
**Kukatpally:** Nayini Pavan Velama  
**Gajularamaram:** Sridhar Verma  
**Jagadgirigutta:** Mahesh Yadav  
**Rangareddy Nagar:** Nandanam Divakar  
**Chintal:** Pathi Shruthi  
**Suraram:** Bakka Shankar Reddy  
**Subashnagar:** Malathi Reddy  
**Quthbullapur:** Ukkanti Swathi  
**Jeetimetla:** Tara Chandrareddy  
**Machabollaram:** Sarve Naresh Alwal: K. Veena Goud  
**Venkatapuram:** G. Shiva Abhishek  
**Neredmet:** Prasanna  
**Vinayaknagar:** C. Rajyalaxmi Kapu  
**Moula Ali:** Sunitha Shekar Yadav  
**East Anandbagh:** Bakka Nagaraj  
**Malakajiri:** V. Shravan Brahmin  
**Gowthamnagar:** Santoshi Srinivas Mudiraj  
**Bansilalpet:** Spandana

## CHANGE IN SPECIAL TRAINS TIMINGS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

South Central Railway on Friday announced the running of special trains between Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram and New Delhi with revised timings and stoppages, from November 30.

These trains will pass through Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh. Trains 02269/02270 MGR Chennai Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin-MGR Chennai Central, a Duroto bi-weekly, will run on Mondays and Fridays, and on Tuesday and Saturdays in the reverse direction. Trains 02615/02616 MGR Chennai Central-New Delhi-MGR Chennai Central will leave Chennai at 6.50 pm and New Delhi at 4.10 pm starting November 30.

Train 02625/02626 Trivandrum-New Delhi-Trivandrum daily superfast will leave Trivandrum at 12.20 pm from November 30 and New Delhi at 8.10 pm daily.

## Risky ride



Three youths on a triple ride and talking over cellphone pose grave danger to themselves and to other commuters, on Mehdiapatnam road on Friday.

— R. PAVAN

## Flood victims lose IDs, may not be able to vote

Many families rue their documents got damaged

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Polling percentages in the upcoming GHMC elections may decline in areas that were badly affected by floods where several families seem to have lost their identity documents, including the Election Commission of India issued voter identity cards.

Due to the devastating floods that recently hit Hyderabad, several low-lying areas like Tolichowki, Shaikpet, Hafiz Baba Nagar, Al-Jubail Colony, Ganga Nagar and Madina Colony have been severely affected. Houses were inundated by more than 10 feet deep water. Educational certificates, property and other mandatory documents like the Aadhaar card, voter identity card and driving license etc., were damaged.

As per EC rules, 13 documents, including passport, driving licence, ration card and photo identity card issued by a government authority is acceptable as an alternative to

the voter identity cards for the purpose of casting a vote. But many families complained that during rains, their documents, including voter identity cards, were damaged and they could not yet get duplicate copies.

Take the case of Mohammed Asif, a resident of B Block, Hafiz Baba Nagar. He said he had kept property documents in his car along with other documents like educational certificates. His car got washed away in the rains. Other identity proofs of his entire family have been damaged as rainwater entered their home.

He complained that when he approached governmental offices for obtaining certified duplicate copies of documents, he was asked to apply along with an FIR issued by the police station concerned. The Kanchan Bagh police is reluctant to issue an FIR immediately.

“Until I finish the cumbersome and complicated formalities, I will not be able to obtain duplicate copies of my original doc-

uments,” he said. “Without documents, how can we prove our identity enough to cast a vote? The government should make an alternative to resolve this problem to ensure every citizen gets to franchise his or her vote.”

In the Al-Jubail Colony, one of the worst hit amongst all areas, Mohammed Aslam Khan, a resident, said, “my voter ID card and passport have all gotten washed away in flood waters. We did not have enough time to make a new one. To vote in the GHMC elections, we only have our Aadhar card. If they allow us to vote with Aadhar, then only we will be able to. Else, we can’t. We want to vote because we are the worst affected.”

Another resident of C-block, Baba Nagar, Mohammed Ahsan Ali JD, said, “I am worried that our family members may not be able to exercise our right to vote in the GHMC elections as our voter identity cards and other valid documents were damaged.”

While these widespread concerns remain, there is

a major concern also about use of fake voter identity cards by some, taking advantage of the floods. Asif Hussain Sohail, an activist, claimed that he has personally seen flood victims who have lost all their documents.

“Flood victims have complained that their documents were lost or damaged. This is a serious issue. It is not correct to deprive a section of people from exercising their right to vote. But we can’t deny the possibilities of using fake voter documents to prove identity by some,” Mr Sohail said.

The State Election Commission has neither announced an alternative for such voters who lost their documents in the floods nor has it provided them with a fresh voter ID card.

“The SEC has not spoken about how it will prevent impersonation,” he said, adding that the body should monitor voting in flood impacted areas carefully to ensure there are no discrepancies or ill-practices.

## I WISH

DC speaks to voters to find out the one thing they want their new corporator to do, setting the agenda for the incoming GHMC Council.

## MAYORS DECIDE QUICKLY



I hope that the mayor has a stronger voice and can take decisions very quickly. In India, mayors are treated like rubber stamps. If the mayor can implement a change without having to follow the party’s instructions, I would appreciate that. It would be good to have a mayor elected directly by the people. If this were to be the case, he or she will be directly answerable to the people.

— ABHJEEET MATTHEWS  
AS Rao Nagar

## TRASH EVERYWHERE, REMOVE IT



Trash is what one finds wherever one looks in old Bowenpally. There is garbage on the streets, at intersections, all around the trash bins, in open plots, in the lakes/tanks and everywhere else. Residents are also to blame as they dump garbage everywhere despite household waste collection being in place. Garbage collection vans are irregular, sometimes they don’t come for months. The GHMC and citizens should take

responsibility for cleanliness and be held accountable.

— MERCY ELGIVA  
IT professional, Bowenpally

## SPEED-BREAKER NEAR SCHOOL



A simple request for a speed-breaker outside our school has been pending for years. The basti around our school has been neglected. Garbage is piled around and no one comes to pick it up. GHMC cleaning is carried out only on roads where VVIPs travel, it is a task to get the cleaning done in other areas regularly. They come once in a while, do the job, take pictures and go away.

— FARHANA KHAN  
Owner, Millat Model School, Musheerabad

## CLEAR GARBAGE THAT IS ALL OVER



The city is reeling under waste and garbage mismanagement. I visit the Melkote park at Vittalwadi and the lane opposite Reddy College, Narayanguda. I see garbage thrown in the open. I have once or twice requested people to throw the garbage into the bins. While a few did, others said that the bins were too dirty to go near them. The need is to educate people, as well as for the authorities, to solve

this menace.

— RACHANA,  
Graphic designer, Narayanguda

## GHMC battle turns into a troll war as poll nears

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Since the announcement of the GHMC elections, social media networks have lit up. Followers of political parties and their leaders are busy round-the-clock taking pot-shots at one another and tearing down each other’s arguments, even reputations.

From digging up unpaid traffic challans to commenting on the religious faith, everything appears to be grist for the online troll mill.

Perturbed by some attempts that have been seen as borderline trouble-making, or with potential to create some level of unrest, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar took to Twitter to warn everyone to behave.

In a reference to TS BJP president Bandi Sanjay’s plant to visit a temple at Charminar on Friday, Kumar said, “some people were trying to spread incorrect and false news

in social and electronic media”.

Not mincing words, the city police chief tweeted: “They are warned that action will be taken against them. Hyd Police is not stopping any person from going to any place of worship. Keep away from such propaganda and rumours.”

Others on Twitter, including local TRS leaders, chose to highlight the faith Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao places on religion. In an oblique reference to Sanjay’s temple visit, they said the CM was “not a leader who seeks a vote because he is a Hindu,” and tweeted a professionally created montage of the CM’s visits to temples and performing pujas.

The fondness towards social media and turning this into a battle front has good reason, says M. Surya Narayana Reddy, MD, Progment Software Technologies.

“Online reputation and social media management

is playing a crucial role in capturing neutral voters, which can make all the difference in the final lap. Capturing potential voters and turning them into actual voters is challenging,” he said.

G. Pratyusha, a school teacher, who is contesting the election Gowlipura as an independent, said she relies on social media to take her voice to the people as she cannot afford to spend a lot of money on physical campaigning.

“I want to bring development in my division. Since we lack funds for the campaign to match what political parties spend, we opted to reach voters through Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram.”

Padmavathi Kotamraju, a working woman, said, “Twitter and Facebook have become weapons to shoot at political opponents. Politicians say they want to get rid society of dirt but have no qualms in slinging mud at each other.”

## TECHIE-TURNED DRUG PEDDLER ARRESTED

NAVEEN KUMAR I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

A techie-turned-drug peddler was caught with 1.2 kilos of marijuana and 830 grams of hashish oil by the Excise Enforcement on Friday. The accused used to formerly work at a social media firm in the junk removal department, after doing his Masters of Science in Canada.

The accused, Motilal Narsing Balaji Singh, 35, was himself addicted to narcotics, due to which he had to quit his job. After remaining unemployed for over four years, he worked as a delivery boy for a popular food delivery conglomerate, said N. Anji Reddy, assistant prohibition and excise superintendent (enforcement). He started selling marijuana packets, each weighing 15 grams, at prices ranging from ₹500 to ₹600. Sateesh Singh alias Gidda Sateesh and Raj Chander of Dhooplet sold him ganja to sell in the city.

## Devotees hold Chhath prayers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Many people of Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, who are residing in the city, gathered at lakes to venerate the sun god for Chhath Puja on Friday.

“This festival is taken up to revere the sun. On this day, women perform the puja by standing in a water body — with the water coming up to their waists,” said Parmanand Sharma, chairman of the Chhath Puja Committee.

Explaining the celebrations, he said: “We wear new clothes and fast for about 8-12 hours. Then we offer a prayer to the sun god and eat sweets like kheer. An evening offering to the sun. For most part of the day, we rest and begin making sweetmeats at home. In the evening, we gather at the banks of a water body to perform the puja.”

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and principal secretary Arvind Kumar performed Chhath Puja at Sanjeevaiah Park.

## 31-YR-OLD MAN STABBED TO DEATH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

A 31-year-old-man was allegedly stabbed to death in a drunken brawl with his friend late on Thursday night in Balapur.

The deceased, Anam Khan, 31, of Delhi, was

staying at Wadi-e-Saleheen in Balapur. The accused was Imran Khan, 44, and the two had quarrelled frequently over the past week. Anam used to allegedly abuse Hyderabad women and had also spoken about Imran’s family using foul language, police said.

## POWER | PLAY

‘Moles’, ‘shadows’ get down to work; snooping to increase as polling day approaches; money, booze may flow bigtime

## Police starts spying ops to track down illegal poll cash

VIKRAM SHARMA I DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Shadow parties have been assigned their targets while moles have planted themselves comfortably around certain leaders, specific candidates and their cash cows to give regular updates about the goings-on in Opposition camps.

Monitoring of phones is said to be at its peak even as hush-hush conversations among the smarter politicos

goes on endlessly over Signal — the app which ensures that “top secrets” remain off the grid as many are wary about Whatsapp calls and chats.

As the political slugfest is on in the high-stakes GHMC polls, those in the state police entrusted with the task of spying are working overtime, sniffing around to get leads which could lead them to either cash meant for distribution among voters by the

Opposition parties or at least give them a whiff of what is cooking.

Enquiries by *Deccan Chronicle* revealed that spying on the Opposition camps will be at its peak for the next 10 days even as political attacks and counter attacks, strategies and last-minute plans keep the politicos busy.

Amid inputs suggesting that money and liquor could flow big time and coupons could be distributed to woo

the voters, the foot soldiers of the Telangana police are racing against time while all other forms of monitoring conversations and chats is at an all-time high.

This could perhaps be the first time that these “operations” are underway for a GHMC poll.

“Post the Dubbak poll results, the stakes are obviously high in the GHMC polls, which will set the tone for the 2023 Assembly elections,” said one official.

When it comes to cash seizures, there are two types of interceptions — one random and the other input-based.

The sleuths mostly act on input-based interception which comes through shadow parties — sources around the candidates — which sometimes can include disgruntled elements within the party who are cultivated well in advance. Random interceptions leading to cash

seizures during elections are rare.

However, as the lower rung policemen who do a major chunk of the spying continue with their tasks for the ensuing polls, IPS officers are in a fix this time around as the Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) is said to be keeping track of officers who might try to favour the ruling party. The MHA is the cadre controlling authority of the IPS officers.

## ILLEGAL MONEY SEIZED DURING LOK SABHA POLLS LAST YEAR

● DURING THE Lok Sabha elections in April 2019, the TS police seized ₹8 crore belonging to the BJP, though the party eventually got a clean chit from the income-tax department. Besides, cash linked directly or indirectly to Congress leaders Uttam Kumar Reddy (₹2.4 crore), A. Revanth Reddy (₹23 lakh and ₹34 lakh in two cases), K. Jana Reddy (₹1 crore) while a close aide of Konda Vishweshwar Reddy was caught distributing ₹15 crore among the voters.



## SHORT TAKES

KAVITHA POSITIVE  
ANTI-BJP FRONT  
WILL TAKE OFFDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

There has been a tremendous positive response to TRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao's announcement to convene a meeting of non-BJP parties in Hyderabad in the second week of December, said his daughter and newly elected MLC K. Kavitha in an informal chat with reporters on Friday.

The serious efforts to bring non-BJP parties on to a single dais to fight against BJP's policies, which she described as "anti-people, anti-farmer and anti-worker", Ms Kavitha said not only political parties but leaders of farmers' organisations and trade unions have also offered to join in the anti-BJP front.

When asked if Congress leaders too would be invited, Kavitha said the TRS president will take a call on the issue, but added that heads of various political parties were constantly in contact with him about this.

KCR TO ADDRESS  
PUBLIC MEETING  
ON NOVEMBER 28DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will address a public meeting at LB Stadium on November 28, ahead of the December 1 GHMC elections.

The party has handed over a list of star campaigners of TRS to the State Election Commission which includes the CM, working president K.T. Rama Rao and ministers T. Harish Rao, Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Etala Rajendar, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Koppula Eashwar, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Puvvada Ajay Kumar and Satyavathi Rathod.

Rama Rao said that with only a week left, arrangements are being made on a war-footing for the Chief Minister's meeting. Rama Rao will hit the campaign trail on Saturday.

₹62L SEIZED BY  
FLYING SQUADS,  
OTHER AGENCIESDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

About ₹62 lakh in cash being illegally transported possible distribution to voters in the upcoming GHMC elections, has been seized by the authorities in the last three days and 11 FIRs filed.

These seizures, according to the State Election Commission, were part of the crackdown on violations of the Model Code of Conduct that is now in force in the GHMC limits for the December 1 elections.

Of the cash seized, ₹60,31,800 was caught by flying squads while the rest, ₹1.9 lakh, was caught by other agencies.

As many as 1,899 licenced arms have been deposited with the police since November 18 till Friday, while 2,393 persons with criminal records, rowdy sheets, and records of indulging in anti-social activities in the GHMC limits, have been bound over.

As part of removing political banners, flexis, and posters, the GHMC's Enforcement Directorate has removed 11,758 pieces of offending material. These include advertisement banners on bus stops and public toilets that were put up by the state government and the GHMC advertising various development activities.

KTR accounts for ₹67K cr,  
tells TRS to 'score a ton'S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday challenged BJP leaders to get a ₹1 lakh crore package from the Centre for Hyderabad to prove their commitment to the city and its people.

He was addressing TRS candidates at Telangana Bhavan after releasing the GHMC progress report at Telangana Bhavan. He told the candidates to use the report to explain to the people the work done by the TRS government to develop Hyderabad.

"It is our best weapon against our opponents," he said. "We must

explain to the people how our visionary Chief Minister overcame several hurdles and ensured that the city was on the growth path." Urging them to hit the century mark, he told TRS candidates to meet the aspirants who had competed for the party tickets and together hit the campaign trail.

Rama Rao lashed out at the BJP leaders for attempting to spread communal hatred. "Whenever there are elections, the BJP rakes up Hindu-Muslim communal hatred and India-Pakistan border issues. Don't they have issues of public welfare and development to speak about," he asked.

Referring to the assurance of BJP leaders they would waive traffic challans, he said the BJP leaders had become a laughing stock with their statements. He asked know if the BJP government in Gujarat was paying the challans of traffic rule violators. In the progress report, Rama Rao gave a break up of the 67,000 crore spending. The report said ₹17,290 crore had been spent on Metro Rail, ₹8,410 crore on the Strategic Road Development Project, ₹313 crore on Hyderabad Road Development Corporation, ₹709.49 crore on the Comprehensive Road Management Project,

₹866.19 through the roads and buildings department and ₹3,309 crore on the Outer Ring Road.

Another ₹14,175 crore was spent on water supply and sewerage management, ₹2,374 crore on uninterrupted power, ₹564 crore for energy conservation, ₹1,940 crore for law and order, ₹9,700 crore on two-bedroom houses, ₹1,716 crore for Swachh Hyderabad, ₹332 crore on Green Hyderabad, and ₹2,215 crore for the IT and industries incentives under Brand Hyderabad.

The government said that it had attracted ₹2 lakh crore investments in six years.

## GHMC in election mode



Ahead of GHMC elections, a flexi hoarding comes up at a bus stop asking people to vote for the TRS, on Friday in Hyderabad.

— DC

TRS wants SEC to take action  
against Bandi for attack on CMDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

The TRS on Friday requested the State Election Commission (SEC) to initiate immediate criminal action against BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, arrest and bar him from making hate speeches during campaigning in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls.

TRS general secretary and MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and general secretary Soma Bharat Kumar lodged a complaint that the BJP chief termed Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao a "desha drohi" and anti-Hindu. The TRS contended that the BJP state chief deliberately violated the model code. His utterances are not only indecent and criminal, but also constitute serious offences under the Representation of People's Act, Indian Penal Code and GHMC Act.

The TRS said that the BJP chief had made extremely disagreeable, communal, anti-Const-

itutional, and hate statements that incite communal hatred. There are in clear violation of several laws and model code of conduct.

The TRS said describing Chandrasekhar Rao as anti-national and anti-Hindu was intentionally done to demean the party president in the eyes of the public with the specific purpose of generating electoral gains in the GHMC elections. Attaching the video of Sanjay's press meet as evidence, the TRS said that he took the names of people who have no connection with voters.

TRS quoted Sanjay as saying: "TRS and MIM candidates are coming to you asking for votes as inheritors of Osama Bin Laden, Afzal Guru, Yakub Memon, Aurangzeb, Babar and Akbar."

Maintaining that this was against the code of conduct, the TRS said a very objectionable, insinuating and offending statement was "Desha bhaktulaku desha drohulaku jarugutunna yudham". (The election is a war between nationalists and anti-nationals).

TRS: KCR gave  
75% seats to BCsDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

The TRS on Friday claimed that party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had ensured social justice by allocating 75 per cent of the seats in the GHMC elections to candidates from the Backward Classes, 13 seats to those from the Scheduled Castes three to Scheduled Tribes nominees and 17 belonging to the minorities.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rytu Bandhu Samithi chief Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Chief Whip Bodakuntla Venkateswarlu, MLCs Baswaraju Saraiah and M. Srinivas Reddy said though 50 per cent reservation were given to women, the Chief Minister had given them 85 seats. This again proved that the CM is biased towards women, they said.

● TRS LEADERS said eight seats were given to people from AP. Even settlers from Tamil Nadu and Maratha were given tickets, they said.

They said, "all sections of society have welcomed the way in which the TRS has allocated seats. The TRS provided representation to all the weaker sections like never before. The TRS had given eight seats to people who have settled here from Andhra Pradesh. Even settlers from Tamil Nadu and Maratha were given tickets."

They condemned the comments of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar terming CM K. Chandrashekar Rao anti-national. The TRS leaders objected to the way BJP MPs were bad-mouthing the TRS leadership, throwing all the basic courtesies to the wind.

TOTAL OF 2,602  
NOMINATIONS  
FILED FOR POLLSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

As many as 1,932 candidates have thrown their hats into the ring for the 150-seat GHMC Council by Friday, last date for filing of nominations for the December 1 elections.

While 1,937 nominations were filed on Friday, the total nominations received were 2,602, according to data from the State Election Commission. In a reflection of the contest that is emerging, the TRS and the BJP parties had nearly similar number of nominations filed. While BJP candidates filed 571 nominations, TRS candidates filed 557, with the Congress in the third place with 372.

The highest number of nominations were from independents at 650 nominations. Two hundred and six nominations were filed for the TD, 78 for the AIMIM, 22 for the CPI(M), 21 for CPI, while other registered parties had 115 nominations filed between themselves.

The highest number of nominations, 155, were filed in Goshamahall circle and the fewest, 42, in Karwan circle. Goshamahall had the highest number of candidates, 118, while Amberpet and Alwal circles had the fewest at 34 each.

BANDI GETS  
WARNING OF  
LEGAL ACTIONDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Warning BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar of legal action for terming Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao "anti-national," energy minister G. Jagadish Reddy asked: "If the BJP considers AIMIM an extremist organisation, why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet Asaduddin Owaisi?"

He pointed out to BJP leaders that the TRS was contesting the elections in all 150 wards though the BJP had claimed the ruling party was in league with the MIM.

He said the fact was that the BJP had entered into an agreement with the Congress against TRS, the same as in Dubbak.

Shouting matches  
by party cadres  
mark filing papersDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

With temperatures slowly rising ahead of the December 1 elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Council, Friday, the last day of nominations, saw some impromptu 'vocal battles' between different political parties as their candidates went to file their nominations.

At the office of the returning officer for Dabeerpura ward, followers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) candidates, Akheel Ahmed and Mohammed Saber, came face to face.

Both sides began shouting slogans in favour of their respective parties before dispersing peacefully, having made their point that the battle lines have been drawn for the December 1 fight.

A similar incident was wit-

● WHEN CANDIDATES of rival parties happened to be at the returning officer's office at the same time, their cadres indulged in loud slogan shouting as if to show off their prowess.

nessed at the Narqi Phool Bagh office of the returning officer when supporters of AIMIM candidate Shabana Begum, who was in the office filing her nomination, saw the arrival of BJP's Chandrayangutta candidate Naveen Yadav with his supporters.

Apparently deciding that this was a good time to make themselves heard loud and clear, the AIMIM workers began shouting slogans in support of their party and the candidate.

Not to be outdone, BJP workers responded with equal gusto. Both sides left the spot after their candidates finished filing their nominations.

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Date: 21.11.2020

Principal

## POLITICAL | WARFARE

## MLC says Congress has failed to provide an alternative to the BJP

## Kavitha mocks Cong for Tagore remark

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

TRS MLC K. Kavitha on Friday that the Congress was no more a national party. "It has been reduced to Indian National Congress," she said. In an informal chat with reporters, she said the Congress had failed to provide an alternative to the BJP.

While TRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao and working president K.T. Rama Rao are targeting the BJP, Kavitha is training her guns on the Congress. She had cautioned the AICC Telangana state in-

charge Manickam Tagore on Twitter for his 'Any Time Modi' remarks against Chandrashekar Rao.

On the strategy behind taking on the Congress, Kavitha said the AICC leader has to be more responsible while making remarks against a democratically elected leader. Taking exception to Tagore terming Chandrashekar Rao a Modi supporter, Kavitha pointed out that the TRS MPs opposed the farm Bills in the Lok Sabha, forcing the Congress MPs too to support them.

She asserted, "the Congr-

● ON THE strategy behind taking on the Congress, Kavitha said the AICC leader has to be more responsible while making remarks against a democratically elected leader.

ess does not own sole rights to fight on national issues. Every political party, organisation and even an individual can do so." She said that the Congress had failed the nation and its own cadre and was dying a natural death. Stating that Tagore had crossed the line in targeting TRS chief, she pointed

ed out that the TRS had extended issue-based support to the Centre in the past with no political motive or agenda attached to it.

Kavitha said that TRS MPs never supported the divisive ideology of the BJP and opposed several Bills in Parliament.

On the Chief Minister's move to have a meeting in the second week of December with non-BJP parties, Kavitha said the Chief Minister and his party's fight against the Centre was above politics; it was against its anti-people, anti-labour and disin-

vestment policies.

Exuding confidence of a comfortable win of the TRS in the GHMC elections, she said that the party's strength had increased manifold and its welfare and development measures will outweigh the anti-incumbency factor being publicised by the Opposition.

On TRS Rajya Sabha member D. Srinivas challenging the party to take action against him, Kavitha said that taking no action was also an action. "There is no need to talk about a disgruntled leader," she added.





## SHORT TAKES

CONG PUTS  
UP FINAL LIST  
FOR POLLSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

The Congress on Friday released its final list of candidates for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections with as many as 35 names.

It is expected that the party may pick some party leaders who may have filed the nominations without the B Form to make up the numbers.

The candidates are:

**Cherlapally:** G. Yadagiri  
**Meerpet HB Colony:** P. Anjaiah  
**Chilakanagar:** Ch Latha  
**Sarooranagar:** Chikkulla Jayamma  
**Kothapet:** Mogulla Raji Reddy  
**Chaityanapur:** K Shashidhar Reddy  
**Rein Bazaar:** Mohammed Ali  
**Kurmaguda:** Saleha Begum  
**Doodhbowli:** Mohammed Abdul Jaleel  
**Jahanuma:** Khaja Ghayasuddin  
**Ramnastpura:** Mohammed Yousuf Danish  
**Shahastripuram:** Mohammed Tajuddin  
**Jambagh:** C.K. Murthy  
**Gunfoundry:** P. Sangeetha Yadav  
**Madhapur:** Devawath Suresh  
**Hafeezpet:** Janmala Renuka  
**Chandangar:** Askari Begum  
**Ramachandrapuram:** Jonnada Naveen Goud  
**Balajinagar:** Beeram Indira  
**Fatehnagar:** Raju Mudiraj  
**Vivekanandanagar Colony:** B. Nagamani  
**Hydernagar:** Bollepalii Seetaramarju  
**Allyn Colony:** Marella Srinivasa Rao  
**Vinayakanagar:** Safhia Momin  
**East Anandbagh:** K. Umesh Singh  
**Mehdipatnam:** Menega Uma Maheswar  
**Asifnagar:** Gokikar Manisha  
**Ahmadnagar:** Humer Ahmed  
**Red Hills:** Ayesha Farheen  
**Malleshpet:** Zakiya Anjum  
**Ameerpet:** Y. Alekha  
**Sanathnagar:** Tanveer  
**Bansilalpet:** Lakshmi Dilary  
**Ramgopalpet:** Seelam Kavitha Prabhakar  
**Monda Market:** C. Varalakshmi Yadav

Mayoral aspirants ignored,  
Bonthu, 27 corporators out

Cantonment MLA's daughter stands a chance, mayor from SCs likely

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has dumped 28 corporators and given tickets to new faces. The daughters-in-law of ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Talasani Srinivas Yadav and the daughter of C. Malla Reddy — said to be lobbying for the post of Mayor — did not find their names in the final list which was released on Friday.

Mayor Bonthu Rammohan's wife B. Sridevi, also a mayoral hopeful, got the ticket

from Cherlapally but he was dropped. In the third list, the TRS denied tickets to 17 corporators including the mayor, the others were replaced in the earlier lists. The Mayor's seat is reserved for a woman in the general category, but there are speculations that Chandrashekar Rao is likely to pick a mayoral candidate from the SC or BC communities.

Several names are rounding in the rounds, and the name of Cantonment MLA G. Sayanna's daughter is said to stand a good chance.

## FINAL LIST OF TRS CANDIDATES

**AS Rao Nagar:** Pavani Reddy  
**Cherlapally:** Bonthu Sridevi Yadav  
**Meerpet HB Colony:** Prabhudas Jeeripothula  
**Nacharam:** Saijan Shekar  
**Chilakanagar:** Bannala Praveen Mudiraj  
**Habsiguda:** Bethi Swapna Reddy  
**Uppal:** Aaratikayala Bhaskar  
**Attapur:** Madhavi Amarender  
**Kacheguda:** Dr Sirisha Yadav  
**Nallakunta:** Gariganti Sridevi  
**Amberpet:** Vijay Kumar Goud  
**Adikmet:** Hemalatha Reddy  
**Musheerabad:** Edla

**Bhagyalakshmi Yadav**  
**Kavadiguda:** Lasya Nanditha  
**Yousufguda:** Raj Kumar Patel  
**Vengal Rao Nagar:** Dedeepya Rao  
**Rahamathnagar:** C.N. Reddy  
**Neredmet:** Meena Upender Reddy  
**East Anandbagh:** Y. Prem Kumar  
**Gouthamnagar:** Mekala Sunitha  
**Ramu Yadav**  
**Golnaka:** Doosari Lavanya  
**Chandanagar:** Manjula  
**Raghunath Reddy**  
**Hydernagar:** Srinivas Rao  
**Tarnaka:** Mothe Sripatha  
**Moula Ali:** Mumtaz Fatima



State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar offers prayers at Bhagyalakshmi temple in Charminar on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

Sanjay claims KCR skipped  
debate at Lakshmi templeDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

In keeping with his announcement, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay visited the Bhagyalakshmi temple in Charminar on Friday.

After offering prayers, he 'waited' for Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to speak about the fake let-

ters controversy and halting of flood relief fund distribution.

The BJP leader reached the temple at 12 noon and waited for an hour. There was tension at the BJP office and in Charminar in view of the Friday prayers at mosques. The city police deployed Rapid Action Force and armed police at both places.

Later, speaking to the media, Sanjay demanded that the Chief Minister inquire into the episode and arrest the culprits.

He said that both the Chief Minister and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao were worried because the latest survey report was favouring a BJP win in the GHMC elections. Sanjay accused

Chandrashekar Rao of promising money to the voters on poll-eve and subsequently cheating them. He appealed to the people not to believe the Chief Minister's words as he would take them for a ride.

The BJP leader said that he will wait for the Chief Minister apology for the allegations against him.

## Many trains to be privatised

HARLEEN MINOCHA |  
DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Trains to Mumbai, Tirupati, Bengaluru and Visakhapatnam among others are likely to be privatised, after the railways evaluated the response to its 'Request for Qualifications (RFQ)' for public private partnership in passenger train operations project.

The Railways had in July, invited the RFQ for private participation in operation of passenger train services over 12

clusters comprising more than 150 origin-destination pairs of routes through 151 modern trains.

The railways said that out of 120 applications, 102 had been found eligible to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.

From Secunderabad, nine applicants qualified for the RFP stage: Cube Highways and Infrastructure III, a consortium of Gateway Rail Freight Ltd, a consortium of Gateway Distriparks Ltd, GMR Highways Ltd, IRCTC

Ltd, IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd, L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Ltd, a consortium of Malempati Power Pvt. Ltd, a consortium of Techno Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd and Welspun Enterprises Ltd.

Selected companies will be given the hospitality aspects of the trains while the operations will stay with the Indian Railway. Some private trains have already started their operations

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The General Public are hereby informed that my client Badri Vishal Soni S/o. Bal Mukund Soni R/o. H.No.4-7-24, Station Road, Vikarabad has entered into agreement of sale on 04.05.2015 with Jamuna Bai W/o. Mahesh Chand & her sons Deep Chand, Ramesh Chand, Gopi Chand & daughter Mrs. Anupama Chand R/o.H.No.7-1-95/2, Ameerpet, Hyderabad agreeing to purchase the agricultural land adm. Ac.95.15 gts. comprising Sy.Nos. 52, 75 to 78, 84 & 85 situated at Shivareddypet Village, Vikarabad Mandal & District, Telangana State belonging to them and paid substantial sale consideration. Thereafter under a settlement arrived at before Lok Adalath in PLC No.47 of 2019 dt. 29.08.2019 the sale consideration was enhanced as per mutual agreement. The said agreement of sale is subsisting and my client is the lawful purchaser of the said land and the same is fortified by Lok Adalath Award. While so, my client has reliably learnt that the above referred Vendors of my client suppressing the above sale transaction and Lok Adalath Award, with malafide intentions, are making hectic efforts to alienate the above mentioned lands to third parties without any right or competency. Therefore, the General Public are hereby cautioned not to enter into any kind of deal or transaction/s with the above named vendors of my client in respect of the above mentioned land or any part thereof in any manner. In spite of this Caution Notice, if anybody enters into any kind of transaction/s with the above named Vendors of my client in respect of above said lands, they would be doing so at their own risk and peril and the same would be illegal and not binding on my client.

**P. RAM REDDY, Advocate**  
Plot No.5, MP's & MLAs Colony, Road No.10C, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033  
Ph.: 23554244 Mobile: 9849061116

## CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client Badri Vishal Soni S/o. Bal Mukund Soni R/o. H.No.4-7-24, Station Road, Vikarabad has entered into agreement of sale on 04.05.2015 with (1) Trilok Chand, (2) Anuradha Chand, (3) Ranjana Chand, (4) Moti Chand, (5) Rajkumari Chand, all sons and daughters of Mahesh Chand R/o. H.No.7-1-95/2, Ameerpet, Hyderabad agreeing to purchase the agricultural land adm. Ac.94.28 gts. comprising Sy.Nos. 50 to 56, 70 to 72 situated at Shivareddypet Village, Vikarabad Mandal & District, Telangana State belonging to them and paid substantial sale consideration. Thereafter under a settlement arrived at before Lok Adalath in PLC No.46 of 2019 dt. 29.08.2019 the sale consideration was enhanced as per mutual agreement. The said agreement of sale is subsisting and my client is the lawful purchaser of the said land and the same is fortified by Lok Adalath Award. While so, my client has reliably learnt that the above referred Vendors of my client suppressing the above sale transaction and Lok Adalath Award, with malafide intentions, are making hectic efforts to alienate the above mentioned lands to third parties without any right or competency. Therefore, the General Public are hereby cautioned not to enter into any kind of deal or transaction/s with the above named vendors of my client in respect of the above mentioned land any part thereof in any manner. In spite of this Caution Notice, if anybody enters into any kind of transaction/s with the above named Vendors of my client in respect of above said lands, they would be doing so at their own risk and peril and the same would be illegal and not binding on my clients.

**P. RAM REDDY, Advocate**  
Plot No.5, MP's & MLAs Colony, Road No.10C, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033  
Ph.: 23554244 Mobile: 9849061116

## AIR | QUALITY

Ambee's readings unsubstantiated: Board

## PCB clean air claims belied

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

In stark contrast to the TS Pollution Control Board's (TSPCB's) claim of the air being comparatively cleaner after Diwali, an environmental intelligence start-up, Ambee, has said this might not be the case.

In a report published on Friday, the company said it identified areas in and around the TS Police Academy, Vikasnagar, Aliabad and Golconda, Tadbun, Kishanbagh, Bahadurpura, Fateh Darwaza, Hussainialam, Shalibanda, and Moghalpura

as having registered high levels of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 microns between November 12 and 17. Diwali was celebrated on November 14. As calculated by Ambee, the most polluted areas had an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 140 on average. Ambee said that it uses

a multimodal approach to monitor air quality at a street-by-street level. In addition to government sensor data, its on-ground IoT sensors, and open-source data, the company said it uses satellite imagery, weather, and meteorological data, to measure air quality.

Places like Jubilee Hills, Miyapur, Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, Kukatpally and Peerzadiguda had registered low presence of PM2.5, the overall air quality was slightly poorer.

stantiated. "We do not know the kind of equipment they are working with. We have equipment that is mandated and checked by the CPCB. We spend ₹1 crore per unit and spend another few lakhs for its upkeep," said an official of the TSPCB.

The PCB had recorded 64 microns/ cubic metre (/m3) of PM 2.5 on Diwali, it was 72 microns/m3 last year. PM10 was recorded at 128 microns/ m3, this year against 163.4 microns/m3 last year. The safe limits for PM 2.5 as per the CPCB norms is 25 microns/ m3.

Cong, BJP fail to  
find 54 candidatesDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

The Congress and the BJP failed to find candidates to fill all seats of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation when nominations closed on Friday. The BJP has nominated only 130 candidates and the Congress 116.

Both national parties told the media they were not facing a dearth of candidates

but had some problems in finalising the names in a short period. The two parties claimed their activists had filed nomination in all 150 divisions. They will choose one candidate among them for each division where they have not announced their candidates. The TRS announced candidates for all 150 wards. The BJP and the Congress were waiting for rebels from the TRS.

## CONG LEADER SATYANARAYANA TO JOIN BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Former Union minister Sarve Satyanarayana will leave the Congress and join the BJP. BJP state president Bandi Sanjay and former MP Vivek Venkataswamy went to his residence at Mahendra

Hills on Friday to persuade him. He is learnt to have agreed to join the BJP. Satyanarayana said he was impressed by the BJP's working style and the party line. Recently Congress leaders Banda Karthika and Ravikumar Yadav had joined the BJP.

**Dr. Sundara Rao Tsappidi (84)**

5th July 1936 - 16th November 2020

An eminent educationist, passed away due to cardiac arrest on November 16, 2020 in New Jersey, USA. In his career, he served as a lecturer in English at S. S. N. College, Narasaraopet; Loyola College and K. B. R. College in Vijayawada. He studied and lived his early childhood years in Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh. After his retirement, he was living in the USA for the last two decades. He had authored and published several books. Dr. Sundara Rao Tsappidi will be remembered for his generous spirit and a passion for mentoring that touched many people.

He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and grandchildren. His wife, Grace Vijaya is a retired teacher. Their son, Dr. Samuel Tsappidi is a well-known neurosurgeon and daughter, Dr. Beula Koduri, is a famous oncologist, son-in-law, Dr. Hemanth Koduri is a medical doctor serving in the USA. Their grandchildren are also pursuing medical education. His burial will be held on 21st November in New Jersey, USA.

## OBITUARY

**EDA. JESSON**

DOB: 27-07-1962 DOD: 20-11-2020

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints" Ps:116:15

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

## OBITUARY

**SINGARAM EMBAIAH**

Sons: Singaram Ashok

Singaram Srinivas

Daughter: Satya Laxmi

Grand Sons &amp; Daughters

21.1.2020 Time: 12:00 noon

Malkajgiri Patel Nagar, Grave Yard.

9502282487, 9553558650

(S/2021/D00845)

## OBITUARY

**PHEMANTH KUMAR**

DOB: 18-8-1964 DOD: 19-11-2020

No matter where you are, we know you will always be beside us...we love you a lot and we miss you a lot.

Inserted by: Smt.Sandhya Hemanth Kumar(wife)

Smt&amp;Sri.Mayuri (daughter) Balachandran (son in law)

P.Vineeth Kumar (son) 9160877166, 9899192283

## DASADINA KARMA

**PACHUNURI VEERAIAH (BE)**

DOB: 15-3-1944 DOD: 12-11-2020

with Profound Grief we inform the

Sad Demise of **Veeraiah**

10th Day Ceremony on 21-11-2020 at 1.00 pm

at Plot No. 220, TV Colony, Vinasthalipuram

Vasanthi (Wife)

Satish - Sandhya (Daughter-in-law)

Dr. Suresh - Suhasini (Grand Daughter &amp; Grand Sons)

## OBITUARY

**Mrs. Rani Bai**

(Retired Asst. Commissioner, EPFO)

attained heavenly abode on 19th Nov. 2020.

Join us for Funeral Service at Malthi

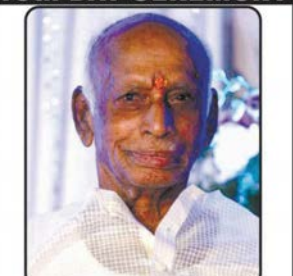
Enclave, Villa no 10, Yaprul, Near Carnival

Club, on Sunday at 10.30 am

on 22, November, 2020.

Contact-09247801276.

## 10th DAY CEREMONY



Very sad for the DEMISE of

**LATE SRI KOYEDA SHANKARIAH GOUD**

ON 13th November

**TENTH DAY CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT****RESIDENCE ACHIAH NAGAR NALLAKUNTA****ON 22ND NOVEMBER at 1.00pm**

With Regards Family

## 10th DAY CEREMONY

**Mrs. GAJALAKSHMI**

W/o (Late) P.M. Kuppuswamy

Passed away on 13.11.2020 early hours

Nadapu will be held on 22.11.2020

(Sunday) at 6 PM and Karmandaram

on 23.11.2020 at Bansilalpet.

Followed by Lunch at H.No.10-3-30,

East Marredpally, Hanuman Temple Street,

Secunderabad-25.

Inserted by: **Murugesan (Brother)****Near & Dear, Ph: 9866509035**

(S/2021/D00836)

## 5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**P.N. JAYA PRAKASH**

Field, Senior Auditor (CDA)

DOB: 17-09-1950 DOD: 21-11-2015

Inserted by:

**DAUGHTERS, SONS-IN-LAW,****GRAND CHILDREN. Ph:9866196990**

(S/2021/D00841)

## 100th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

**CHIDURA SRINIVASULU (CVK)**

S/o Rai Sahib CK Durvasulu

DOB: 20.11.1920 DOD 28.02.2017

You will always live in our hearts and

be our guiding lights.

Inserted by:

**Chidura Narsimha Rao (Babu Seth)**

And Family

(S/2021/D00843)

## SHRADDANJALI

**TELUKUNTA GOVIND RAO**

S/o Late T. Narayana

DOB: 14-11-1934 DOD: 14-11-2020

Inserted by:

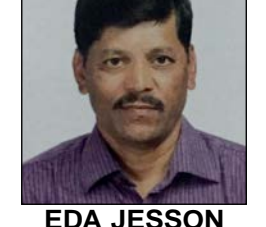
**RACHURI NARASIMHAM & RAMADEVI****RACHURI VIKRAM SIMHA & PAVITHRA**

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

Contact No: 9701431836

(S/2021/D00841)

## 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**Dr. ATLURI MANOHAR LYMON**

M.A., D.D (A.O - A.P.S.E.B)

(D.O.B. 13-06-1930, D.O.D. 21-11-2013)

Wife: SARALA

HEMANTH - ALICE,

CHRISTOPHER - ARATHI,

DEEPAK - HELEN &amp;

GRAND CHILDREN

7995232767 / 9000005701

(S/2021/D00842)



## SHORT TAKES

JAGAN OPENS  
TUNGABHADRA  
PUSHKARALUDC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, NOV. 20

Tungabhadra Pushkarams got-off to a tumultuous start amid chanting of vedic mantras as Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy formally opened the festivities at Sankal Bagh pushkar ghat around 1.40 pm here on Friday.

On arrival, he offered prayers to River Tungabhadra and gave Ganga Haarathi to the river besides silk saris.

Later, in traditional attire, he participated in a special yagam performed in the newly constructed yagasala near the pushkar ghat where Ayush Homams would be performed and offered purna phalam amid spiritual music and rendition of mantras.

However, the absence of his family members did not go well with the onlookers.

Deputy chief minister SB Amzad Basha, district in-charge minister P Anil Kumar Yadav, ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Gummanur Jayaram, Vellampalli Sreenivash, M Shankara Narayana, district collector G Veera Pandian, MPs TG Venkatesh, Dr S Saniv Kumar and Gorantla Madav, and MLAs accompanied the Chief Minister.

Before leaving for Amaravati, Jagan Mohan Reddy interacted with family members of Nandyal Abdul Salam, who committed suicide along with his wife, daughter and son unable to bear alleged police torture. He assured financial help and protection to the victim's kin. Mabunne Sha, mother-in-law of Abdul Salam, wanted the Chief Minister to take stern action against the accused policemen.

Meanwhile, as a preventive measure Kurnool police detained several prominent political leaders belonging to BJP, CPM and CPI and also various delegates of different social organizations.

They were demanding approval for the holy dip in Tungabhadra waters during the pushkaralu.

## IMA insists masks are best to fight Covid

90% Covid cases in Australia, New Zealand proved to have been reduced by wearing masks

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Face masks are the best vaccine against Covid-19. People will have to wear them properly in public places for another year, said public health specialists and the Indian Medical Association.

It has been proved in New Zealand and Australia that wearing face masks can reduce Covid-19 cases by 90 per cent. Compliance levels in India are very low as far as face masks are concerned and that is said to be one of the reasons for rising cases.

Besides, the dependency of people on the vaccine poses a challenge as the virus mutates. The present strain in Europe has shown further mutation, making it more virulent, and there is a worry whether the vaccine will work on the highly mutated virus. Dr Sanjiv Singh Yadav, secretary of Indian Medical Association, said, "We have the best vaccine available with us. Face masks are the best prevention against Covid-19. Instead of wearing them properly, especially in crowded places, people are blatantly moving around which is increasing the risk for themselves and everyone in their family."

The best way to prevent Covid-19 is wear masks, wash hands regularly and maintain physical distance, said experts at the seminar held at the Preventive Healthcare and Infection Control Expo and Conference at Hitex.

Dr Yadav said, "Excessive use of sanitizers is a cause for concern and people must be careful. Instead, they must wash their hands with water properly and clean them thoroughly when they go out in crowded places or are out for some work."

## Study: Remdesivir effective between ninth to 11th day

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Remdesivir is effective in treating Covid-19 when it is administered between the ninth and 11th day of the disease according to a study on 350 patients carried out at Apollo Hospital for peer review in medRxiv and submitted to the government of India.

Researchers compiled the data to give an insight into how the drug has worked in reducing mortality in moderate to severe cases from 33 per cent earlier to 18 per cent in their study. The reason for this study is the confusion created by the World Health Organisation (WHO) study.

While the WHO with its one-study trial had stated that the drug is not effective, the Centres for

Disease Control and Prevention in the US had stated that remdesivir is the first drug which must be used.

To understand the use of the drug in Indian patients, Apollo Hospitals researchers compiled data of those who underwent treatment from June 25, 2020, to October 3, 2020.

It was found that the timing of giving remdesivir was very important. Dr Ravindra Mehta, senior consultant pulmonologist and critical care medicine and a researcher for the paper, said, "We found that in moderate to severe patients, the earlier the drug is administered the better."

"It is already nine to 10 days when they come to hospital after testing. It is when they start having breathlessness and their oxygen levels are below 94,

administering the drug has shown results as the mortality reduced. It was also found that during this time the virus is multiplying in the body and this medicine has been effective in stopping the process."

The patients whose cases were studied were aged 60 years and above, and there were many with co-morbid conditions of diabetes, hypertension and other underlying ailments.

The researchers divided patients in two groups depending on intensity. In the moderate group, 106 patients were discharged, which was 97.2 per cent, and three died. In the severe group, 164 patients, or 69.2 per cent, were discharged and 73 died. Four patients discontinued the medicine.

## Non-Covid services resume at Gandhi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Non-Covid 19 services begin in Gandhi Hospital from Saturday, and there will be two separate gates for entry in the hospital. The road outside Gandhi Hospital will be barricaded only at the gate meant for Covid-19 patients.

The non-Covid 19 gate will be open, which will allow people to enter the hospital for medical services.

Dr Raja Rao, superintendent of Gandhi Hospital, said, "Maintaining separate pathways will be a challenge and co-operation of people will be required." He said all services in the out-patient, in-patient, medical, surgical and emergency departments will be fully operational.

The protocols of Covid-19 have to be followed for

● **THE ROAD** outside Gandhi Hospital will be barricaded only at the gate meant for Covid-19 patients.

● **THE NON-COVID 19** gate will be open, which will allow people to enter the hospital for medical services.

entry to the hospital: A patient can be accompanied by one attendant, there are no visiting hours and the no mask-no entry rule will be in place. Maintaining physical distancing in the hospital is important and visitors as well as patients must not spit inside the hospital premises.

Director of Health and medical education Dr Ramesh Reddy also visited Gandhi Hospital and gave suggestions to further strengthen the pathways.

STATE REPORTS  
894 FRESH COVID  
CASES, 4 DEATHSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

There were 894 cases and four deaths due to Covid-19 recorded in the state on Thursday, data released on Friday showed.

The number of tests fell to 39,448. The reason for discovering fewer new cases is said to be lesser testing. There are 12,515 active cases of whom 10,245 are undergoing treatment at home or in institutions. The GHMC area had 154 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri district 84 and Ranga Reddy 70 cases. Due to winter, those suffering from respiratory diseases have been advised to take extra care.

● **DUE TO** the onset of winter, those suffering from respiratory diseases have been advised to take extra care.

## 2nd Covid wave in TS unlikely: Etala

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, NOV. 20

Telangana state and the rest of India are unlikely to experience a second wave of Covid-19, health minister Etala Rajendar said on Friday.

The minister said the intensity of Covid-19 had come down in the country. "Some countries are experiencing a fresh wave of Covid-19. Though I am not an expert on the subject, I personally feel that there may not be a second spell of the virus in India and Telangana state," he said.

Rajendar was addressing a panel discussion on the

topic 'Safe re-opening of schools after Covid lockdown' at Hitec, here on Friday, as part of a three-day hybrid exhibition on 'Preventive Healthcare & Infection Control Expo-2020'.

Home remedies, Rajendar said, played a major role in controlling the disease in India. Though, initially, people used to test positive for up to 35 days and were quarantined for long periods, the Indian Council for Medical Research's easing of restrictions meant that most infected people are now in home quarantine. "Thanks to our ancient

wisdom, our homes have turned into Ayurvedic hospitals. Ayurveda's extensive knowledge based on preventive care helped many in home quarantine," he said.

On reopening of schools in Telangana state, he said parents would rather send their children to school than to have them home over extended periods of time. "At the same time, they cannot take a risk with the health of their children. We need to take decisions carefully."

Though online classes are helping to some extent, the taking over of mobile

phones by children for attending classes could also lead to them getting exposed to things they should not be exposed to, he said.

The minister assured the TRSMA (Telangana Recognised School Managements Association) that claims membership of 10,000 private budget schools with an enrollment of 33 lakh students and five lakh teaching staff, that their concerns would be placed before Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and assured that the government would take a suitable decision.



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## DECCAN Chronicle

21 NOVEMBER 2020

### SC fails if it can't protect fundamental rights of all

The Constitution is the guarantee of the individual against the state. For, it lists his fundamental rights, which are non-negotiable except through the process of law, and denies state a chance to be arbitrary. These rights are not pious declarations without remedies; the Constitution has provided for mechanisms to ensure that its writ runs. The Supreme Court of India is that supreme institution the Constitution has envisaged to perform the noblest job of protecting the fundamental rights.

Article 32 of the Constitution guarantees people the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the fundamental rights. It also empowers the court to act appropriately to enforce them. The founding fathers who debated the Article in the Constituent Assembly were near unanimous on this unique power which made Supreme

**His policy statement (made in connection with the Siddique Kappan case) is disappointing, unfortunate and unacceptable**

Court of India a unique institution. And between Article 32 and the Supreme Court, they thought the fundamental rights of the people are in the safe hands. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, who later became the speaker of the first Lok Sabha, called the Supreme Court the supreme guardian of the citizen's rights in any democracy. "I would even go further and say that it is the soul of democracy," he said, and explained if the fundamental rights of the individual are left to the tender mercies of the government of the day, they cannot be called fundamental rights at all. Members called Article 32 "the most important article of the whole Constitution", "fundamental to all the fundamental rights guaranteed under this Constitution" which "makes all the fundamental rights become real". Dr B.R. Ambedkar who wound up the discussion in no uncertain terms made the importance of the Article clear. "If I was asked to name any particular article in this Constitution as the most important — an article without which this Constitution would be a nullity — I could not refer to any other article except this one (Article 32). It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it."

Now, cut to 2020. The Chief Justice of India, S.A. Bobde, while hearing a petition seeking the release of a journalist who was apprehended by the police while on his way to report the rape-murder of a teen, told his counsel that the court was "trying to discourage" individuals from filing petitions under Article 32. The policy statement is disappointing, unfortunate and unacceptable not only because it refused to repeat its act which ensured the personal liberty of another journalist a few days ago under Article 32 but also for its decision to totally abdicate itself from the solemn duty. The court had already started showing the signs of its fatigue with the Article when it chose to look the other way when the several people from Kashmir approached it with habeas corpus petitions, when lakhs of people were made to walk their way home which are thousands of miles away due to governmental apathy during the pandemic and when the government chose to introduce religion as a condition for citizenship. If the Supreme Court fails Article 32, it fails the fundamental rights of the people, and thereby, the Constitution itself.

### Trump to leave mess for Biden

By still not recognising Joe Biden to be the President-Elect a fortnight after polling for the US presidency was completed, outgoing President Donald Trump is causing America's reliability as a partner, and also as a democracy, to be brought into question. This is apt to makes it more difficult for Mr Biden to extricate US foreign policy from the mould in which Mr Trump placed it, although the President-Elect is acknowledged to be a seasoned foreign policy hand who leans in the direction of building democratic alliances, and finding the middle ground.

Across a wide range, President Trump has taken steps in the dying weeks of his presidency to place hurdles in the path of the incoming President, who turned 78 on Friday. Assuming that he goes quietly on January 20, Mr Biden's efforts in respect of Afghanistan and Iran will be watched in New Delhi. Mr Trump signed a so-called peace deal with the Taliban under whose terms US troops are to vacate Afghanistan by May 2021. In an extraordinary move, after the counting of votes in the presidential election the US leader decided to reduce US force levels to only 2000 from 4,500 by Christmas. (At its peak, a few years ago, the US had 1,35,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.)

This appears precipitous since violence in Afghanistan has gone up alarmingly after the inking of the US-Taliban deal last February. Can Mr Biden make troops withdrawal more gradual? In fact, US force strength needs to be a lot higher to ensure that the non-Taliban factions are not disadvantaged in the talks with the Taliban as violence rages. In his fading hour, and attempting to bind his successor's hands, Mr Trump has imposed further sanctions against Iranian entities and even prepared nuclear attack scenarios against Iran. Mr. Biden has to scale back comprehensively from the dangerous Trump era path of "maximum pressure" against Tehran and seek to return to some practical version of the Obama-period Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that curbed Iran's nuclear plans. Normalising US-Iran ties creates better conditions for a healthy Iran-India relationship.

#### DECCAN CHRONICLE

**KAUSHIK MITTER**  
Editor

**K. SUBHAKAR**  
Printer & Publisher

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Subhani



## China's Ladakh chimera: India needs to stand firm



Syed Ata Hasnain

In June 2020 after the Galwan incident I responded to a television anchor's question on how long the Ladakh standoff might last by saying: "Till at least the end of the campaigning season". That in plain language meant the end of November 2020. My rationale was not too complex. First, China would not mobilise resources to coerce India and return without achieving any objectives a second time, the first being Doklam. These objectives and intent have been the subject of much debate without conclusion, a kind of Chinese chimera. Second, winter is a difficult period in Ladakh even on the Chinese side despite the flat open terrain. Whatever the Chinese would do, campaign style operations in such conditions may not be possible and they were not prepared. The Chinese would seek to withdraw or draw down by December and await the next summer or the one after to pursue their objectives, which weren't specific or cogent. Also, China would always wish to have some kind of agreement, knowing well that India as a rule-bound nation wouldn't not contravene it. An agreement with "advantage China" written all over is what it would seek. It would bargain to retain the most of what it had progressively transgressed upon. Most of these assessments are coming true. Obviously, India will not agree to any of this and the standoff will probably continue through winter; yet this is against my reckoning but it's too early to conclude a final stance. My understanding of China's intent, oft-repeated, continues to be that it is India's rising strategic confidence that worried China at the instance of Pakistan. The spate of strategic decisions

regarding national security that India has taken in the last four years or so include the surgical strikes, the Balakot strike, Doklam standoff, the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the publishing of new maps of J&K laying full claim to Gilgit Baltistan and Aksai Chin, and the long awaited creation of a Chief of Defence Staff in pursuit of eventual theatreisation. All this has perked up the adversaries to review their own security. The intent then was simply to puncture India's confidence about dealing with dual threats, by limited coercion at selected friction points that would leave the PLA in a position of tactical advantage in the continental domain and keep India imbalanced in the development of its capability. The latter is skewed against the maritime domain, where China's well recognised fragility lies.

What upset China's intent to a great extent and in fact virtually amounted to a strategic ambush was the Indian Army operation on the night of August 29-30, 2020 by which it progressively occupied seven tactical features on the Chhota Kailash range south of Pangong Tso in the Chushul Bowl; all the features are on own side of the Line of Actual Control and were never occupied all these years for various reasons. It left the situation with the theoretical potential of the PLA advancing on Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) from Depsang, but without the support of a Pakistani offensive

which could only be made through the Siachen area. The Indian Army's Kailash Range operations upset everything for the PLA, with Indian domination over Moldo and Spangpur on the other side of the LAC which could balance any

adventurism at Depsang by a foray towards Highway 219, the crucial road link to Kashgar which had triggered the entire issue of Aksai Chin between India and China over 60 years ago.

Now comes the floating, rumoured and unconfirmed information that the Chinese have proposed the PLA's withdrawal from Fingers 4 to 8 and the creation of a buffer zone for patrolling, with no patrolling rights for India. In addition, it proposed mutual withdrawal of all artillery and armoured vehicles in the vicinity of the LAC to suitable depth areas and, most important, all this to be preceded by the Indian Army's withdrawal from the Chushul Heights on Kailash range. Those in severe criticism of India's willingness to engage in the corps commander-level talks are unhappy at receiving such tripe as proposals for disengagement. While I agree that the proposals are tripe, it is the talks which bear significance since in ground-based discussions over time it is not difficult to gauge the adversary's intent. China's *Global Times* has cleverly denied these proposals and turned the report around to a perceived psychological advantage, terming them the wishful thinking of Indian commanders who fear surviving the cold of eastern Ladakh. However, the airy proposals have triggered much-needed debate in the strategic community in India, for good measure.

A few plain facts need to be kept in mind when examining the current situation. The Kailash range deployment, which

**The Kailash range deployment, which should have happened many years ago but for the low strategic confidence India possessed, has given us a strategic advantage which we never had all these years**

should have happened many years ago but for the low strategic confidence India possessed, has given us a strategic advantage which we never had all these years. While it must not become the reason for unnecessary bluster, it does give quiet optimism of holding important cards in an environment where everything always appeared to be packed against us. We need not be worried about Chinese adventurism to coerce us because whatever escalation China attempts to do can be responded in equal if not greater measure, albeit also with the risk of greater escalation, about which we need not be perturbed. There is a lot of talk by our strategists about lack of Indian aggressiveness in Depsang to push beyond the Y Junction to assert our right to patrolling to our claim line. This is absolutely unnecessary. Aggression must never come from a position of weakness because it will peter out even before it becomes effective. We did what we did at the Chushul Heights because we were "balanced in disposition" after having inducted reserves to Ladakh. This term, which is often taught and discussed in the Army's schools of instruction, could not have seen better application. The basics of the Indian military leadership are clear, and it is the critics who need to revisit their basics.

With the advantage achieved by the Kailash Range decision India's occupation of Chushul Heights is akin to deployment on the Saltoro Range in Siachen, such is the strategic advantage which it offers. Justifiably it should therefore be a greater strategic advantage which must accrue to us by any decision to vacate the heights. China's Ladakh chimera must never view India as a pushover; not ever again. We have not seen the end of standoffs in this strategically crucial region.

*The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps*

#### LETTERS

##### IDLE POLITICIANS

Not only corporators, but majority of people are not aware about their MLAs and MPs too (*Voters are not aware of their corporators, DC, Nov. 20*). After being elected, these netas never visit their constituency except for inaugurations and never address problems faced by people. The best example of this can be seen in the sufferings of people for flood aid at Mee Seva counters. Not a single leader was helping people. Hence it is better to vote Neta.

**B. Badrinath**  
Hyderabad

##### FACE MASKS

Many people are still coming out without wearing a face mask which is harmful and endangers the lives of others. If the Covid spread is not controlled, we cannot eliminate the virus. Like Delhi, I request our authorities to impose fine on those not wearing masks.

**R.S. Murty**  
Hyderabad

##### GHMC ELECTIONS

GHMC voters should think and carefully review all promises of the corporators. It's time for all Hyderabad voters to choose wisely for development of the city. GHMC voters should prefer able, qualified and honest representatives irrespective of political parties.

**Vaddeti Venunath**  
Hyderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN

### DECCAN Chronicle

#### Mass starvation feared in E. Pakistan

DACCA, EAST PAKISTAN, Nov. 20.

Mass starvation fears in disaster shattered East Pakistan grew hour by hour here and top officials issued urgent orders to step up relief operations into full flow.

A high-level conference was held here last night to get international aid that was pouring into Dacca airport to the coastal area decimated a week ago by a cyclone and gigantic tidal wave.

President Yahya Khan declared a day of mourning and special prayers were being offered for the dead, Radio Pakistan reported. Hardly any of the food, medicines, blankets and other vital life-saving supplies donated has so far reached the disaster zone due to transport problems.

Farrukh Dhondy  
Cabbages & Kings



*"I drive, therefore I am  
Stuck in this F...ing traffic jam!  
If you want some change, be the change  
I don't go for chillar, dollars — the whole range!  
I've done unto others as they would do unto me  
Now not the best F...ing lawyers can set me free..."*

— From **Namkeen Pumpkeem** by Bachchoo

### Vaccines on the way... amid talk of conspiracies, Bill Gates' role

Every boy and even some girls I knew in Pune in my boyhood had two marks like little wrinkled lips on the top of their left arms. My two scars stood out for years and then age eroded them and now they are gone. Those were the marks of vaccination that Doctor Frenchman (yes, I know, but he was a Parsi and we inherited all manner of surnames through our subservience to European colonialism) dispensed, against various possible diseases, including rabies, because we lived amongst mad dogs.

Now every year in London I go down

to my local surgery and get a free "flu jab" on the UK's National Health service. It's rendered by a needle injection and, apart from a bit of discomfort in the same location below the left shoulder, leaves no mark. As I was a mere infant when Doc Frenchman inoculated me, I don't know how the scares came about, but using my renowned forensic skills, I deduce that it was a cut with a sharp blade into which the vaccine was introduced.

I am sure the anti-Covid-19 vaccine, promised by the end of the year to the most vulnerable and then to the general population, will be delivered by a needle injection.

The announcement that these anti-Covid vaccines are in the stages of testing and perfection is welcome news. I look forward to a time when, with the aid of the vaccine, the population is shielded against this contemporary plague and we can mingle and live our lives as dharma and karma dictate. I will line up for the vaccine as soon as my generous and caring local medical practice indicates its availability. I shall even advise all the illegal immigrants I know, though they are mostly

wary of exposing their status, to register close to where they live and get a jab.

When the vaccine was announced, instead of praising Ahura Mazda and lining up for a shot, I read all manner of lunatic anti-vaccine propaganda. Some of it is reported on the news and some of it pops up on my mobile phone and my email as unsolicited, threatening information. Now I am sure, gentle reader, that some or all of you have been subjected to the same load of contentious contentions — I will suppress the stronger terms that come to mind. (Yes, keep it clean. — *Ed.*)

One persistent message on these platforms urged me to reject the vaccine because it said it was a ploy by Bill Gates and his wife to secretly inject billions of humans with a microchip which would then make those supposedly vaccinated people slaves to Mr Gates who would control their lives and instruct them what to do. They would become the robot children of the Gates family!

"Destroy your Apple computer. Buy one of ours!"

The Gates family (not to be confused

with The Doors, and renowned inventors of Windows) are known to have saved millions of lives through their charitable endeavours through supplying medicines to the poor. It is ironic then that a survey in the United States among those who voted for Donald Trump found that 46 per cent believed that Covid-19 was a hoax and among them were believers in the Bill Gates conspiracy.

They were, of course, the same people who said they wouldn't have the vaccine when it became available. Other conspiracy theorists, including a taxi driver hired by the BBC to carry me to a recording, determinedly believe that the Covid-19 symptoms and deaths are not caused by a virus, but by the presence or proximity of 5G mobile phone towers.

*O Tempora O Mores!* This is the twenty-first century, and the human brain has evolved for billions of years. And yet, and yet...!

The fact that Pfizer, which was the first company to put forward an effective, tested and safe vaccine against Covid-19, has had its share price skyrocketing is not surprising. If I

announce the discovery of a diamond mine in my back garden, the price of my property will go up. Of course, the conspiracy-wallas would say that this was what it was all about — set a disease loose on humanity and then sell the cure for zillions. The reported facts are that Pfizer's vaccine, which has to be kept at minus 70 degrees Centigrade, will cost £30 for the two doses, fuels such crazy speculation. The second vaccine, developed by AstraZenica and Oxford, expected soon, will stay healthy at home-refrigerated temperatures and will cost a mere £2.23 a dose.

When I was in Pune last, I was shown around the vaccine manufacturing plants of the Serum Institute of India, set up and owned by my friend and schoolmate Cyrus Poonawalla. His institute has manufactured and distributed, at loss-making, nominal costs, scores of vaccines as a humanitarian gesture and I am now told that the institute is working on an anti-Covid vaccine in partnership with the US Codagenix. I am confident that when it is tried and tested, Cyrus won't be charging £30 a go.



## SHORT TAKES

14 PEOPLE DEAD  
AS CAR COLLIDES  
WITH TRUCK IN UP

**Lucknow/Pratapgarh, Nov. 20:** As many as 14 people, including seven children, died when their car collided with a stationary truck on the Lucknow-Allahabad highway, around 70 km from Pratapgarh district headquarters, an official said on Friday.

The road accident took place late on Thursday night when the victims were returning from a wedding function in the Nawabganj area of Pratapgarh, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi said.

Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Arya said the speeding SUV dashed into the truck parked by the road in the Manikpur police station area after one of its rear tyres got punctured near Deshraj Inara.

While five bodies could be taken out initially, a JCB machine had to be used to pull out the SUV from under the truck to retrieve the remaining bodies, he said, adding the bodies have been shifted to CHC Kunda and will be sent for autopsy later in the day.

It took almost two hours to pull the car out from under the truck, the SP said.

Arya, who visited the spot, said the police have spoken to the family members of the victims and assured all possible help.

Awasthi said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed senior officials to reach the spot and extend all possible help. The Chief Minister has extended ex gratia of ₹2 lakhs to each of those killed in the crash, he added.

ED FILES MONEY  
LAUNDERING CASE  
IN TRP SCAM

**SAURABH JOSHI | DC  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a money laundering complaint in connection with the alleged TRP (television rating points) rigging scam case that is being investigated by Mumbai police. The ED officials said that the case was filed by them on the basis of the Mumbai police's FIR.

The officials said that they would summon all those named accused in the case for questioning in the fresh case. The Mumbai crime branch is currently probing the case that was filed in October naming *Republic TV*, two Marathi channels accused of rigging the TRP ratings for their channels with help of some other persons, who are also named in the case.

The Mumbai police's probe revealed that apart from the named accused, two former employees of Hansa research agency were in cahoots with the accused persons. These persons will be summoned by the ED for recording their statement and the prime focus of the probe will be to ascertain if there was any laundering of ill-gotten money in the case.

"ED will probe if fake TRPs were generated and if the money earned through this was used to generate illegal funds and create illegitimate assets. TRP is the parameter to ascertain programmes with highest viewership and hence it becomes crucial for the channels to earn advertising and other revenue," said officials.

Mumbai police filed a case after ratings agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint through Hansa Research Group pertaining to the alleged rigging. Several people including *Republic TV*'s Arnab Goswami were arrested in the case that has attracted several eyeballs and has become bone of contention between the state and central governments.

## LoC locals call for 'end to hostility'

Flare up along LoC last week left at least four civilians and an equal number of jawans dead

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
BALKOT (LoC), NOV. 20**

"I was away when I received a phone call from my wife saying intense artillery shelling is underway. She asked me what she and other family members should do, stay at home or leave", recalled Abdul Haleem, a resident of Balkote, a sleepy village comprising scattered traditional houses at the foothills just a stone's throw from the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district.

Alarmed by the grimness of his spouse's voice, Haleem quickly headed for home but, before he could reach there, his wife called up again to inform him that two houses including their's have caught fire due to the artillery fire. "I was shocked and merely asked her if all the family members were safe. I felt relief when told everyone at home has escaped unhurt," Haleem told this newspaper.

Standing beside the debris of his house and that of his uncle's, Haleem said, "You can yourself see everything has been reduced into rubble. What was our fault? Indians and

Pakistanis may do to each other whatever they want to but why should we suffer?"

Farooqa Begum was not as lucky as her neighbour Haleem's family. An artillery shell pierced through a wall of her house killing the 35-year-old housewife on the spot. "*Hum par qayamat guzri hai* (we've gone through doomsday)", lamented her husband Bashir Ahmed Dar.

Tahir Ahmed Mir, an employee of J&K's department of consumer affairs and public distribution, was distributing ration at a depot in Kamalkote area when a mortar shell fell and exploded a couple of metres away. Mir suffered multiple splinter injuries and died on the way to the hospital. Back in his native village Sultan Daki, the world of his aged parents and siblings lies completely shattered after the tragedy.

Raveel Ahmed, his brother, said, "We were six brothers and one of them has been snatched from us. Our hearts are bleeding". The rage in Ahmed's eyes was clearly evident as he repeatedly asked 'Why was he snatched from



Last week's flare up left behind a trail of destruction in villages close to the LoC in Hajipur and Kamalkote sectors of Baramulla district.

— DC

us...what was his fault?". The interminable hostility between India and Pakistan troops along the LoC flared up again last week, leaving at least four civilians and an equal number of Indian Army and one Border Security Force (BSF) jawans dead and more than a dozen civilians and three Army personnel injured.

Pakistan reported the death of four civilians and one Army soldier and injuries to 12 civilians in cross-LoC firing and shelling on November 12 and 13.

However, Indian Army claimed to have killed, at

least, 11 Pakistani soldiers and caused "substantial damage" to its infrastructure including ammunition dumps and "terrorist launch-pads" across the LoC "in retaliation to unprovoked ceasefire violations".

In their counterclaim, the Pakistan Army claimed inflicting "substantial losses" both in terms of men and material to the Indian troops "in response to their provocative act of engaging innocent civilians".

In J&K, many houses in villages falling in close

proximity of the LoC including Balkote, Kamalkote, Gowhalan, Sarai Bandi, Nambla and Gwalta (Baramulla district), Dawar (Bandipore district), Keran (Kupwara district) and Sawjian (Poonch district) were damaged in artillery shelling, forcing the residents to flee to safer locations.

As reported by Pakistan media, 15 residential houses, a few multi-storey buildings and one shop were gutted and 24 residential houses and a guest-house suffered partial damage and 20 cattle and eight goats perished in the Indian shelling.

The guns fell silent on the evening of November 13. Next day when residents returned to the affected villages on the Indian side of the LoC they found their homes burnt or damaged extensively and the household goods strewn and wrecked apart.

The two countries' armies accused each other of initiating firing and it was not the first time that the exchanges caused deaths among both facing troops and civilians besides leaving a trail of

destruction in villages.

As per official statistics, 32 Indian Army and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, 26 militants and infiltrators, 16 civilians and three civilian porters working for the Army or the BSF (total number of casualties was 77) were killed in the incidents of cross-border firing and shelling, clashes and sneak attacks carried out by militants or Pakistan's Border Action Teams (BATs) along the LoC and the IB, so far, this year.

As the civilians have routinely fallen prey to such exchanges, Nazir Ahmed, a resident of Balkote asked, "When an artillery shell lands in a house, a cowshed or courtyard we can't immediately say who fired it. But the fact is that it is mainly the civilians on both sides who suffer whenever India and Pakistan troops clash. This has to be brought to a close".

The border-dwellers were also unanimous in demanding early construction of community and individual bunkers in shelling prone areas to minimise the casualties in such eventualities.

TMC MANTRI  
COMPARES DIDI  
WITH NETAJI

**RAJIB  
CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, NOV. 20**

Trinamul Congress minister Bratya Basu on Friday compared his party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to fan an eternal "Bengali" sentiment about the legendary freedom fighter against the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the next year's Assembly election. He also branded her party as her own "Azad Hind Fauj" in what may trigger a controversy.

The state science and technology minister alleged, "it is a fact Bose had to go away from the politics of Bengal and India as the freedom movement was against a colonial power. Exactly the same thing happened after 50 years with Mamata Banerjee. But she did not have to go since her fight was not against any colonial rule for freedom. Mamata Banerjee's battle was on parliamentary democracy for which she formed a separate party."

Night curfew in three more  
Guj cities to contain Covid-19

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 20**

The Union government has rushed four high level teams to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Manipur to help the states deal with surging cases of Coronavirus.

The Union health ministry said on Friday that the teams will visit the districts reporting a high number of Covid-19 cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases.

India on Friday crossed 90 lakh cases with 45,882 new detections. The total deaths so far is 1.32 lakh out of which 584 are in the last 24 hours.

India has tested a total of 12,95,91,786 samples, as on date. Close to 11 lakh tests were conducted in the past 24 hours.

"High levels of widespread testing have ensured that the cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory. The cumulative national positivity rate stands at 6.95% today, less than the 7% mark. Higher volumes of testing eventually lead to low positivity rate," health ministry said.

The National Recovery Rate has reached 93.60%. Meanwhile, vaccine maker Serum Institute of India's CEO Adar Poonawalla has said the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine should be available for healthcare workers and elderly people by February 2021 and by April for the general public, and will be priced at a maximum of 1,000 for two necessary doses for the public, depending on the final trial results and regulatory

Schools to remain  
closed in Mumbai  
till December 31

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20**

Amid the rising numbers of Covid-19 positive patients in Mumbai, the Shiv Sena ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday announced that schools will remain closed in the city till December 31. Earlier, the Maharashtra government had planned to open schools from November 23.

According to the circular issued by BMC's education department, although pandemic is under control in Mumbai, other countries are witnessing the second wave and considering the situation of the infection of the other states, the possibility of the second wave cannot be ignored in Maharashtra. "The next four to six months are very crucial for containing the

pandemic. Hence, the schools in BMC's jurisdiction cannot be started from November 23rd. All the schools will remain closed till December 31, 2020.

Maharashtra reported a single day rise of 5,640 Covid-19 new cases on Friday taking its overall tally to 17,68,695 cases while 155 new deaths were reported which pushed the fatality count to 46,511.

Gaikwad said that the online classes will continue at the schools that remain closed. "Even if the schools do not reopen, the students can still attend the online classes and learn. I have given necessary instructions to the officials concerned," the minister added.

Gaikwad said that the education department has approved the BMC's proposal.

approvals. He added probably by 2024, every Indian will get vaccinated.

"It will probably take two or three years for every Indian to get inoculated, not just because of the supply constraints but because you need the budget, the vaccine, logistics, infrastructure and then, people should be willing to take the vaccine. So these are the factors that lead up to being able to vaccinate 80-90 per cent of the population. It will be 2024 for everybody, if willing to take a two-dose vaccine, to be vaccinated," Poonawalla said.

Meanwhile, to curb the spike in coronavirus cases, the Gujarat government decided to impose night curfew in Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot cities from November 21. The announcement came as a 57-hour-long weekend curfew came into effect from 9 pm in Ahmedabad city, which will end at 6 am on November 23. The government has already announced a night curfew in Ahmedabad from November 23. Deputy CM Nitin Patel announced curfew between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am in Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara.

## Chhath Puja in the time of Covid



Devotees gather to take holy dip in Ganga on the occasion of Chhath Puja in Patna on Friday. The four-day festival began with folk songs dedicated to the Sun God and aroma of traditional offerings filled the air. It is celebrated by scores of people, especially those hailing from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

— PTI

FB: HATE SPEECH  
PREVALENCE IS  
0.10 PER CENT

**New Delhi, Nov. 20:** Social media giant Facebook has for the first time disclosed prevalence of hate speech on its platform, saying that out of every 10,000 content views globally in the third quarter, 10-11 were hate speech.

Facebook, which has 1.82 billion daily users globally, has drawn flak in the past for its handling of hate speech on the platform in India.

In its community standards enforcement report for Sept. 2020 quarter, Facebook said it is including the prevalence of hate speech on its platform globally "for the first time". "In Q3 2020, hate speech prevalence was 0.10 per cent, 0.11 per cent or 10 to 11 views of hate speech for every 10,000 views of content," it added.

— PTI

Sonia shifts to Goa to  
avoid Delhi pollution

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, NOV. 20**

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday set up three separate panels for discussing policy issues related to economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security before leaving Delhi due to health issues.

Mrs Gandhi, who has been advised to shift out of Delhi to avoid the heavy pollution in the national capital in view of her chronic chest infection, has shifted to Goa for a few days.

Congress sources said she was accompanied by Rahul Gandhi. The Congress president has been under heavy medication following her discharge from hospital in August, and doctors are concerned about her consistent chest infection.

The air pollution in Delhi has aggravated her asthma and her chest condition, the sources added. Hours before leaving, Gandhi set up three separate committees for discussing policy issues related to economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh is a part of all three panels.

The economic affairs committee will comprise of former finance minister P Chidambaram and party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Digvijaya. Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh will be its convener.

While the committee on foreign affairs will have Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Salman Khurshid and Sapthagiri Ulaka. Khurshid will be the convener of the

panel, the committee on national security will have leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, party leaders Veerappa Moily, Vincent H. Pala and V. Vaithilingam, with Pala as its convener.

"The Congress president has constituted three committees to consider and discuss issues and policies related to the subjects of economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security," an official statement from AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal said.

It is interesting to note that those nominated in the committees include Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Veerappa Moily and Shashi Tharoor, who were part of the 23 letter-writers seeking an organisational overhaul of the Congress.

## TAX | FRAUD

## The farmer alleges that photocopies of his ID cards were misused

## Odisha farmer gets ₹10cr GST evasion notice

**AKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, NOV. 20**

A farmer in Sonepur district, who ekes out a living by toiling day in and out in his one-acre farmland, has received a notice for alleged Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion to the tune of a whopping ₹10 crore.

Naveen Bag, the farmer, on Friday said he came to know how his name has been used by some unknown, dishonest businessmen to evade GST

when some departmental officials recently raided his humble accommodation on charges of tax evasion. The poor farmer learnt that a firm — Bag & Bag — had been set up using his name.

According to Naveen, he had shared the photocopies of his Aadhaar card, voter identity card and other documents with one Dilip Meher of his district around eight months ago to avail loans from a bank. He now suspects that his identification documents had been misused, leading to the

● **FOLLOWING THE detection of the fraud, Naveen Bag has lodged a complaint with the Odisha police.**

● **THIS IS not the first time such massive irregularities and instances of GST evasion have come to the light in Odisha.**

fraud. Following the detection of the fraud, Naveen has lodged a complaint at the Rampur police station. "The agricultural land is registered in the name of

my father. We are completely dependent on farming and we are completely ignorant how the company was set up in my name," Naveen said.

However, this is not the first time such massive irregularities and instances of GST evasion have come to the light in Odisha. On November 11, a delivery boy working with a private company in Rourkela had received a notice for ₹10 lakh GST evasion.

Preliminary investigations had revealed that a

fake company by the name of 'Manorama Trading' was set up using the name of the delivery boy and fraudulent transactions of over ₹70 lakh had been carried out.

Similarly, a man residing in Sector-20 area of Rourkela was also charged with gross tax liability under Section 74(5) for allegedly receiving taxable goods amounting to ₹23.96 crore and further availing ₹4.31 crore under CGST and SGST on the basis of fake invoices.





## IN BRIEF

**Truck hits funeral mourners, kills 9**

**Beijing:** A truck crashed into a funeral procession in central China on Friday, killing nine people and injuring four others, the state media reported. The accident happened on a national highway in Henan province's Huabin county. Nine people were killed in the incident, Xinhua news agency reported. Four people were injured and hospitalised, it said. The Ministry of Public Security has sent a team to investigate the case, the report said. Deadly road accidents are relatively common in China. Violations of traffic laws are often blamed for these accidents.

**'Cannibal' arrested after bones found**

**Berlin:** German prosecutors said Friday there is evidence of "cannibalism" in the killing of a 44-year-old man whose remains were found on the northern edge of Berlin earlier this month. A 41-year-old man was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of murder with sexual motives at his home close to the site where the victim's bones were found. "The suspect had an interest in cannibalism," Berlin prosecutors' office spokesman Martin Steltner said. "He searched online for the topic." Steltner said it was unclear whether the victim had also had an interest in cannibalism. The two men, both Germans, had been in touch with each other online, he said.

**Pak: Ancient Hindu temple discovered**

**Peshawar:** A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in north-west Pakistan's Swat district. The discovery was made during an excavation at Barikot Ghundi. Announcing the discovery on Thursday, Fazle Khaliq of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Archaeology said that the temple discovered is of Lord Vishnu. It was built by the Hindus 1,300 years ago during the Hindu Shahi period, he said. The Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850-1026 CE) was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan), and present-day northwestern India.

**Mink farmers mourn as livelihood dies**

**Copenhagen:** Denmark's mink farmers are mourning what they say is the death of their industry after a government order to cull all of their stocks over a mutated variant of the Coronavirus. On Saturday (Nov 21), angry farmers and supporters plan to demonstrate against the cull in the country's two biggest cities, Copenhagen and Aarhus, with 400 tractors expected to roll in. "We're in shock," Marianne Norgaard Sorensen said. "Words can't describe the nightmare we've been through." She and her husband, who has been a mink farmer since 1993, live in North Jutland, the region in northwestern Denmark home to the most mink farms. Like millions of others across the country, their 27,000 minks were slaughtered in early November and around two thirds of the country's stocks have been culled to date.

**SINGAPORE PM'S SIS-IN-LAW BARRED FOR LAW ABUSE**

**Singapore, Nov. 20:** Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's sister-in-law was on Friday barred from practising law for 15 months over professional misconduct in her handling of the final will of Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of modern Singapore and the patriarch of the Lee family. The Court of Three Judges, the highest disciplinary body for the legal profession, found senior lawyer Lee Suet Fern guilty of "misconduct unbefitting an advocate and solicitor", for preparing and executing the will which is seen as a gain for her husband, Lee Hsien Yang, the prime minister's younger brother. Following the death of Lee Kuan, the prime minister and his brother are disputing the status of the family property at Oxley Rise on the outskirts of the central business district and hotel belt of Orchard Road. A disciplinary tribunal (DT) had found Lee Suet guilty of grossly improper professional conduct in February this year.



Migrants use a rope to cross the Tachira river, the natural border between Colombia and Venezuela, as the official border remains closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Cucuta, Colombia. Hundreds of Venezuelans stranded in Colombia tried to cross the international bridge Wednesday as heavy rains had increased the river level. — AFP

**Pfizer, BioNTech seek emergency nod from FDA for virus vaccine**

**Washington, Nov. 20:** Pfizer and its partner BioNTech confirmed they will apply on Friday for emergency use authorisation for their Coronavirus vaccine, becoming the first to do so in the US or Europe as the pandemic rages around the world. The vaccine has been developed with breathtaking speed — just 10 months after the genetic code of the Coronavirus was first sequenced. The announcement had been expected for several days, after the companies said that a completed study of trials of the product showed it was 95 percent effective in protecting people from infection. The announcement also confirms what BioNTech's CEO said. "Filing in the US represents a critical milestone

in our journey to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine to the world and we now have a more complete picture of both the efficacy and safety profile of our vaccine, giving us confidence in its potential," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said. The vaccine has been under evaluation for weeks in the European Union, Australia, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom, the companies said. "The companies will be ready to distribute the vaccine candidate within hours after authorisation," their statement said. The Food and Drug Administration has not said how long it will take to study the vaccine data, but the government expects to give the green light for the vaccine in the first two weeks of December. — AFP

**Serbian Church leader dies due to Covid at 90**

**Belgrad, Nov. 20:** The leader of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Irinej, has died after testing positive for the Coronavirus, the church said on Friday. He was 90. The patriarch was hospitalised with the virus early in November, soon after attending the funeral of the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro, Bishop Amfilohije, who also died from complications caused by the Covid-19 infection. "It was an honor to have known you," Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said on Instagram with a

black and white photo of the patriarch. "People like you are never gone." At that funeral, thousands of mourners, most of them with no masks or keeping any distance between each other, gathered at the funeral in the Montenegrin capital of Podgorica on Nov. 1, in violation of coronavirus-fighting measures proclaimed by the small Adriatic state's authorities. Since Amfilohije's death, and the hospitalization of the patriarch, Serbian priests have been appealing for their parishioners to take the deadly virus seriously. — AP

**MANY MOURN DEATH OF BELARUS PROTESTER**

**Minsk, Nov. 20:** About 5,000 people gathered in the Belarus capital Minsk on Friday for the funeral of an opposition activist who died of brain trauma after being arrested by police. Roman Bondarenko, a 31-year-old soldier, died last week in Minsk after police arrested him following a dispute in a city square that has become a regular meeting place for the opposition. Mourners carried red and white flowers — the colours of the opposition — to a church on the outskirts of Minsk. For more than three months, Belarus has been gripped by historic protests after a disputed presidential vote that saw strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko re-elected for a sixth term. Protesters demand that Lukashenko, 66, resign and hand over power to political novice Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who they believe won the election. "It is not in our power to bring back Roman, but we can try to ensure that such crimes are never repeated," Tikhanovskaya, 38, wrote on her Telegram channel from exile in EU member Lithuania. — AFP

**UK PM's adviser quits as 'bullying' minister stays on**

**London, Nov. 20:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday backed his Cabinet minister Priti Patel, despite a Cabinet Office inquiry into allegations of bullying concluding that she had breached the Ministerial Code, albeit "unintentionally". While ministers are usually expected to resign if they breach the code, it ultimately rests with the prime minister on whether to take any action on the independent Ministerial Code adviser's findings. Johnson, who has consistently supported Patel ever since the allegations first emerged earlier this year, declared that he still has "full confidence" in the 48-year-old Indian-origin minister, who holds one of the UK's highest political offices as Home Secretary. It has, however, led to the resignation of Alex Allan, the independent adviser on the Ministerial Code, as the decision seems to go against the findings of his report. "My advice is that the Home Secretary has not consistently met the high standards required by the

● **WHILE MINISTERS** are usually expected to resign if they breach the code, it ultimately rests with the prime minister on whether to take any action on the independent Ministerial Code adviser's findings.

Ministerial Code of treating her civil servants with consideration and respect. Her approach on occasions has amounted to behaviour that can be described as bullying in terms of the impact felt by individuals," his report notes. "To that extent, her behaviour has been in breach of the Ministerial Code, even if unintentionally. This conclusion needs to be seen in context. There is no evidence that she was aware of the impact of her behaviour, and no feedback was given to her at the time," it reads. The report takes note of the high pressure and demands of the UK Home Office role and the need for more supportive leadership from the top of the department as a "contributory factor". — PTI

## WRITE | MOVE

**Book Shuggie Bain was rejected by 30 editors Douglas Stuart wins Booker Prize**

**London, Nov. 20:** New York-based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the prestigious 50,000-pound Booker Prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain', a coming of age tale of love and alcoholism set in 1980s Glasgow and "destined to be a classic", beating five other shortlisted authors including Indian-origin Avni Doshi. Stuart, 44, dedicated the book to his mother, who died of alcoholism when he was 16-years-old. After graduating from the Royal College of Art in London, he moved to New

York to start a career in fashion design. "I cannot believe this. Shuggie is a work of fiction but writing the book was extremely healing for me; hugely cathartic," Stuart said, adding that he was "absolutely stunned" to win the coveted prize. "I always wanted to be a writer so this is fulfilling a dream. This has changed my entire life," he said in his acceptance speech on Thursday. Stuart has worked for various brands, including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Gap. He started writing in his spare time a decade ago. Dubai-

based Indian-origin writer Doshi, who was shortlisted among the final six authors for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar', lost out on the top prize. She was in the running for this year's prize alongside Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga for the third novel in her trilogy 'This Mournable Body' on a shortlist otherwise dominated by US authors — Diane Cook for 'The New Wilderness', Maaza Mengiste for 'The Shadow King' and Brandon Taylor for 'Real Life'. The 2020 Booker Prize

judging panel was chaired by Margaret Busby, editor, literary critic and former publisher, and consists of author Lee Child; author and critic Sameer Rahim; writer and broadcaster Lemn Sissay; and classicist and translator Emily Wilson. "We bonded across Zoom meetings. It was a wonderful experience... please read all the books on the shortlist," said Busby, who led the panel through whittling down the finalists from 162 entries. "Shuggie Bain is destined to be a classic — a moving, immersive and nuanced portrait of a tight-knit

social world, its people and its values. The heart-wrenching story tells of the unconditional love between Agnes Bain — set on a descent into alcoholism by the tough circumstances life has dealt her — and her youngest son," she said in reference to the winning book. "Shuggie Bain can make you cry and make you laugh — a daring, frightening and life-changing novel," she added. The book was rejected by 30 editors before it was picked up by publishers Grove Atlantic in the UK and Picador in the UK. — PTI

**Trump team cries foul over Joe's win****Take frantic steps to subvert poll results**

**Washington, Nov. 20:** President Donald Trump and his allies are taking increasingly frantic steps to subvert the results of the 2020 election, including summoning state legislators to the White House as part of a long-shot bid to overturn Joe Biden's victory. Among other last-ditch tactics: personally calling local election officials who are trying to rescind their certification votes in Michigan, suggesting in a legal challenge that Pennsylvania set aside the popular vote there and pressuring county officials in Arizona to delay certifying vote tallies. Election law experts see it as the last, dying gasps of the Trump campaign and say Biden is certain to walk into the Oval Office come January. But there is great concern that Trump's effort is doing real damage to public faith in the integrity of US elections. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, one of Trump's most vocal GOP critics, accused Trump of resorting to "overt pressure on state and local officials to subvert the will of the people and overturn the election."

**Willmington, Nov. 20:** US President-elect Joe Biden on Thursday accused Donald Trump of brazenly damaging democracy, as the incumbent's campaign to reverse his election loss through fraud claims was dealt another blow with a recount in Georgia. Trump was behind "incredibly damaging messages being sent to the rest of the world about how democracy functions," Biden told reporters in his home state of Delaware. "It's hard to fathom how this man thinks," said Biden. "I'm confident he knows he hasn't won, is not going to be able to win and we're going to be sworn in January 20th."

Trump has refused to accept his loss on November 3, despite his opponent getting over six million more votes. Biden won the state-by-state Electoral College votes that ultimately decide who takes the White House by 306 to 232, flipping five states that went to Trump four years ago. That includes Georgia, where a hand recount of its five million ballots confirmed Thursday that Biden is the first Democratic presidential candidate to win the southern state in almost three decades. The recount showed Biden had won by 12,284 votes, according to figures posted on Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger's website — slightly fewer than the approximately 14,000 he originally led by.

Trump campaign legal advisor Jenna Ellis attacked the outcome and pledged the campaign will "pursue all legal options." After initially making baseless claims of widespread fraud, Trump has appeared to shift his strategy to asking states to overrule the will of voters. In Michigan, Trump

**BIDEN: CHINA MUST PLAY BY RULES, U.S. TO BE BACK IN WHO**

**Washington, Nov. 20:** US President-elect Joe Biden has said that he wants to make sure that China plays by the rules and announced that his administration will rejoin the World Health Organisation. Biden was responding to a question on Thursday about his remarks during the presidential debates that he wanted to punish China over the way Beijing has been behaving. He was asked if that could include economic sanctions or tariffs on China, the world's second largest economy. In April, President Donald Trump announced that the US would withdraw from the WHO, accusing the UN organisation for failing to oversee the onset of the coronavirus as it began to spread in China. "It's not so much about punishing China, it's about making sure China understands they've got to play by the rules. It's a simple proposition," Biden said during a meeting with a bipartisan group of governors in his hometown in Wilmington, Delaware. — PTI

placed a telephone call to a Republican on a once-obscure board who wants to withdraw her certification of the election result in a heavily Democratic county that includes majority-Black Detroit. "He was checking to make sure I was safe after seeing/hearing about the threats and doxxing," Wayne County Board of Canvassers chairwoman Monica Palmer said, referring to personal information posted about her on social media. — AFP

**Tech giants tell Pak to ease data rules**

**Islamabad, Nov. 20:** Global technology companies have told the Pakistan government that its "draconian" data regulations would make it extremely difficult for them to continue their operations, two days after the IT ministry notified rules to define how social media will be governed in the country, according to a media report on Friday. Under the new rules announced by the Ministry of Information and Technology on Wednesday, social media companies and internet service providers shall provide the designated investigation agency with any information or data in

decrypted, readable and comprehensible format, the Dawn newspaper reported. Subject to justifiable technical limitations, the information to be provided may include subscriber information, traffic data, content data and any other information or data. In a statement, the Asia Internet Coalition (AIC), which exclusively represents leading global internet companies on matters of public policy, expressed its alarm over the scope of new law targeting internet companies, as well as the government's "opaque process" by which their rules were developed. — PTI

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA		
e-Procurement Tender Notice		
NIT No. 75/2020-21	Dated: 20.11.2020	
Online tenders are invited for the NIT bearing No. 75/2020-21, Dt 20-11-2020 from the eligible registered contractors for "Widening and strengthening from Km. 010-4/0 of R&B road Jagannadapuram (Ammavay Temple) to Thagudem via. M. Tank and Surya Camp of Pavoncha Mandal, Bhadrachal Kolhapur District". Est. Cost: Rs.500.00 Lakhs. All other details will be available on https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ from 23-11-2020 onwards. If there are any changes, corrections etc. in the tender notice in future, it will be published on the above website only. The last date for online submission of tender is 02-12-2020.		
Contact No. 8121705777 & 8008999586	Sd/-	
R.O. No. : 728-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2020-21 Dated 20-11-2020	Superintending Engineer	

MUSI RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED	
"e" Procurement NIT No.30/MRDCL/DEV/2020-21, Dt:21.11.2020	
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one (01) work with an estimate cost of Rs.21.50 Lakhs.	
1. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place portal https://tender.telangana.gov.in 21.11.2020 from 2.00 pm onwards. 2. The last date and time of receipt of bids on or before 28.11.2020 upto 2.00 pm. 3. Technical Bid Opening 28.11.2020 at 2.30 pm. 4. Price Bid Opening on 02.12.2020 at 11.00 am. 5. Further details can be seen at e-procurement marketplace i.e., "www.tender.telangana.gov.in".	
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MRDCL, Hyderabad.	
DIPR No. 1152-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21	

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.	
(A Government of India Undertaking)	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER	
Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Two bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS Portal from eligible contractors for the following work. Tender Notice No. : KR-W-01-58-2020-12. Name of Work : Complete Track Renewal (P) between Km 693/000 to 739/800 UDUPI (UD)-THOKUR (TOK) in AEN/UDUPI Section of Karwar Region of Konkan Railway, Karnataka State. Estimated Cost : ₹ 1779.40 Lakhs excluding GST. Closing Date/Time : 11/12/2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. for submission of online offers/bids. Completion Period : Twelve months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in website for details/ participation. Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.	



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,882.25	0.65
Nifty 50	12,859.05	0.68
S&P 500*	3,570.89	-0.31
Dollar (₹)	74.14	0.18
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.45	-0.35
Euro (₹)	87.92	-0.09
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	49,551.65	0.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.36	0.36
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.877	0.017
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.849	-0.702

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## CCI approves Reliance-Future Group deal

The Competition Commission has approved Reliance's proposed acquisition of Future Group businesses. The Rs 24,713-crore deal was announced in August. In a tweet on Friday, the regulator said it has approved "acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics & warehousing businesses of Future Group by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited".

## Rabi sowing begins; wheat planted in 97L ha.



Sowing of winter crops has started in the country, with farmers planting wheat in about 97.27 lakh hectare so far in this rabi season, the agriculture ministry said. Wheat is the main winter or rabi crop. Rice and pulses, such as gram, urad, moong as well as oilseeds like groundnut and sunflower, are other rabi crops. Paddy has been sown in more area at 7.26 lakh hectare compared with 6.98 lakh hectare a year ago.

## Large IPOs may be allowed with 5% equity dilution

The Sebi proposed to reduce the minimum offer size in an initial share-sale, whereby companies with a post-issue capital of above Rs 10,000 crore would be required to offer at least 5 per cent stake in IPO. At present, all companies with a post-issue capital above Rs 4,000 crore have to dilute at least 10 per cent shareholding in an IPO. Sebi felt minimum public holding of 10 per cent may be achieved in 18 months.

## Forex reserves surge \$4.28 bn to record \$572.77 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$4.277 billion to a record high of \$572.771 billion in the week ended Nov. 13, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended Nov. 6, the reserves had risen by a massive \$7.779 billion to \$568.494 billion. Foreign currency assets climbed by \$5.526 billion to \$530.268 billion. The gold reserves declined by \$1.233 billion to \$36.354 billion.

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## RBI panel for 26% promoter stake Corp. houses set to get banking licence

**FALAKNAAZ SYED**  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20

In what could potentially change the landscape of the Indian banking sector, an internal working group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested that large companies and industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks with necessary legislative changes, and large, well-run NBFCs could convert into banks after 10 years of operations.

Interestingly, the panel also suggested that the cap on promoters' stake in the long run (15 years) banks may be raised from the current level of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital.

The views gain significance in the light of year-long legal battle between Uday Kotak, promoter of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and the RBI that ended in January this year. Under the current RBI norms, promoters of private banks have to reduce their stake to 40 per cent within three years of operations and then to 20 per cent within 10 years and to 15 per cent within 15 years.

The group headed by RBI executive director P.K. Mohanty was set up in June 2020 to review the extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks with the terms of reference, including the review of the eligibility criteria for individuals/entities to apply for banking licence, examination of



preferred corporate structure for banks and harmonisation of norms in this regard, and review of norms for long-term shareholding in banks by the promoters and other shareholders.

The panel that submitted its report on Friday said, "Large corporate/industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 to deal with connected lending and exposures between the banks and other financial and non-financial group entities; and strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for large conglomerates, including consolidated supervision. RBI may examine the necessary legal provisions that may be required to deal with all concerns in this regard."

Large non-banking finance companies with an asset size of Rs 50,000 crore, including those owned by large corporate houses, may be allowed to convert to private banks subject to completion of 10 years of operations and

other criteria. The working committee recommended minimum initial capital requirement for licensing new banks should be enhanced to Rs 1,000 crore from Rs 500 crore for universal banks and Rs 300 crore from Rs 200 crore for small finance banks.

"The cap on promoters' stake in long run of 15 years may be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank. This stipulation should be uniform for all types of promoters and would mean that promoters, who have already diluted their holdings to below 26 per cent, will be permitted to raise it to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank. The promoter, if he/she so desires, can choose to bring down holding to even below 26 per cent, any time after the lock-in period of five years," said the report.

For non-promoter shareholding, a uniform cap of 15 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank may be prescribed, the report said.

## Job situation worsens for women in garment industry

**SANGEETHA G**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

Covid-19 has worsened the condition of women in the garment industry in many Asian countries, including India, due to underlying challenges like discrimination and harassment, under-representation of women's voice, wage gaps as well as unevenly shared unpaid care and family obligations, finds the International Labour Organisation.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the global garment industry. As measures like lockdown have led to retail and factory closures, changes in supply and demand, layoffs & unpaid furloughs and revenue losses, the livelihoods, health and security of millions of women and men workers and employers throughout the garment sector have come under risk. Given that women account for nearly 80 per cent of the garment sector workforce, the pandemic impacts them disproportionately.

The ILO study has included the garment industries of Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea.

As many factories have furloughed and retrenched workers, many women and men, some of whom are still owed wages for completed work, have been unable to access basic necessities such as food, rent money or medical expenses for their households.

In factories which later rehire workers, women are more likely to be directly and indirectly discriminated against. Practices have been documented where women are offered short-term contracts to defer access to maternity benefits. In the case of dismissals due to the pandemic, this may lead to disproportionate dismissals of specific groups of women regardless of their actual skill level or years of service at a given factory.

Prior to the pandemic, women around the world

did an average of three times more care work than men. In Asia and the Pacific and in Arab states women did over four times more. Looking after children at home due to school and nursery closures during the lockdown, as well as caring for family members who fall ill due to the pandemic has increased the demands of unpaid care and household work for many women. This also risks delaying the return of women workers to work, and could lead to them dropping out of the labour force altogether.

"It is a reality that women have become more vulnerable as they are largely informal workers and their voices are generally not heard. In the garment sector, women work on a piece rate model and no order means no compensation," said Ritu-parna Chakraborty, co-founder & executive VP of TeamLease Services.

She said women are unable to make use of the pockets of employment emerging as they have difficulties in travelling.

## Gland now among top 10 pharma companies

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD**  
MUMBAI, NOV. 20

Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma made a grand debut on the bourses, listing at Rs 1,710 on both NSE and BSE, a premium of 14 per cent over the public issue price of Rs 1,500 per share.

Gland is now among top 10 pharma companies in terms of market value, with a market capitalisation of Rs 29,848 crore at the close of trade on the NSE.

The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 1,850 on both NSE and BSE.

Earlier this month, Gland Pharma raised Rs 6,479.55 crore through an initial public offering priced at Rs 1,490 to Rs 1,500 per share with Re 1 face value. The issue was subscribed more than two times but had received very poor response from retail and high networth investors, making its bourses debut quite a suspense till the last moment.

On the NSE, Gland Pharma shares finally closed at Rs 1,828 providing public shareholders a return of 21.8 per cent on their IPO investment. On the BSE the stock closed at Rs 1,820.45.

Since retail and high net worth investors had largely skipped the public offer, there was a rush to buy the shares after the initial listing gains and so the percentage of deliverable quantity of shares was high at 56.25 per cent on the NSE.

## ROCHE'S COVID-19 ANTIBODY COCKTAIL LAUNCH LIKELY BY MARCH

**FRANCINE LACQUA & NAOMI KRESGE**  
NOV. 20

Roche Holding AG is working hard to rapidly boost supply of Covid-19 antibody treatments and will be able to make its first deliveries in the first quarter of next year, according to CEO Severin Schwan.

Roche has filed for emergency authorisation for an antibody cocktail it's working on with US biotech Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc and that could be granted "very soon," Schwan said on Friday in an interview.

"At Roche we'll be able to provide supply in the first quarter," he added, cautioning that availability will initially be limited and should be reserved for patients at high risk.

"We're working hard to ramp up production as fast as we can," Schwan said. "No matter what, irrespective of other therapeutics, the demand for antibody cocktails will be far outstrip supply, so we have to make sure we target really the right patient groups."

—Bloomberg

## Profits zoom, but wages flat at listed companies

**SANGEETHA G**  
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

In business, there seems to be no relation between profits and wages. While listed companies made bumper profits in the September quarter, wages have grown in low single digits, much lower than in past several quarters, finds private think-tank CMIE.

The net profit of listed companies zoomed to record levels, as they grew 209 per cent in the September quarter. Even in the first half of the fiscal, which covered the entire period of the lockdown of different intensities and associated uncertainties, the net profits of these companies grew 23.8 per cent. This growth was even higher than 11.8 per cent, the average growth in the past 60 quarters. The data is based on the financial statements of 1,897 companies available in CMIE's Prowess database as of November 11.

However, this profit growth seemingly has nothing to do with the wage growth. "In business and for corporate



honchos, there is no relation between growth in profits and growth in wages. The two move completely independently. Corporate managers would minimise their wage bill to maximise their profits," says Mahesh Vyas, managing director, CMIE.

Amidst lay-offs, salary cut and negligible hiring, wage growth was 2.8 per cent in the first half of the fiscal. Even in the September quarter wage growth stood at 3.7 per cent, which was lower than the average year-on-year growth in wages over the past 60 quarters at 13 per cent. "The low single-digit growth in wages in the last two quarters is therefore very low by historical standards and is in stark contrast to the

extraordinary profits earned by companies," says CMIE.

Manufacturing companies saw a 9.1 per cent fall in wages in the June 2020 quarter, which was the toughest quarter for them. Sales had shrunk by 42 per cent and net profits by 62 per cent. Then, in the September 2020 quarter, while sales fell again by 9.7 per cent, profits sprang a surprise by scaling up by a handsome 17.8 per cent. Yet, wages declined by one per cent. Evidently, companies do not apportion resources to labour in any proportion of profits.

In the services sector's case, except for banking and IT, the remaining sectors collectively saw a 9 per cent fall in wages in the June quarter and a 5 per cent fall in the second quarter.

"Shareholders are being awarded interim dividends or buy-backs. There is still very little interest in investing into new capacities... Employment in the corporate sector could recover if business picks up again," says Vyas.

## Mills to get ₹12.5K-cr loan to make ethanol

**New Delhi, Nov. 20:** The food ministry on Friday said it has given in-principle approval to 185 sugar mills and standalone distilleries to avail Rs 12,500 crore of loans for capacity addition of 468 crore litre of ethanol per annum as part of its efforts to achieve 20 per cent blending with petrol.

In the last two years, 70 ethanol projects were sanctioned loans of Rs 3,600 crore.

Apart from promoting ethanol production from sugarcane, the ministry is making efforts to manufacture ethanol using surplus rice with state-owned FCI as well as maize.

The move is aimed at

boosting ethanol blending with petrol, which now stands near 5 per cent.

Under the ethanol interest subvention scheme for molasses-based distilleries, the government had opened a window September for 30 days, inviting sugar mills/distilleries, to apply for the scheme, the ministry said. —PTI

## JLR seeks to block imports of Audi, Porsche SUVs in US

**CHRISTOPHER YASIEJKO & SUSAN DECKER**  
NOV. 20

Jaguar Land Rover Automotive Plc filed a complaint on Thursday to block US imports of Porsche, Lamborghini, Audi and Volkswagen sport utility vehicles it says are using its patented Terrain Response technology without permission.

Jaguar Land Rover, a British carmaker owned by Tata Motors Ltd, said in its filing with the US International Trade Commission that the technology helps negotiate a "broad range of surfaces" and is a key feature in Jaguar's F-Pace and Land Rover Discovery vehicles.

"JLR seeks to protect itself and its United States operations from companies that have injected infringing products into the US market that incorporate, without any licence from JLR, technology developed by JLR and protected by its patent," Jaguar's lawyer, Matthew Moore, said in the filing.

Representatives of Volkswagen didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment on the complaint.

Jaguar wants to block imports of Porsche's Cayenne; Lamborghini's Urus; Audi's Q8, Q7, Q5, A6 Allroad and e-tron vehicles; and VW's Tiguan vehicles. It said there are plenty of other luxury midsize SUV and compact crossover vehicles to meet buyer demand if the SUVs are banned from the US.

Still, the premium Porsche and Audi lines provide much of the profit VW is using to fund its investments in technology for electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles and further innovations.

In addition to the four brands, Volkswagen Group owns other upscale nameplates, including Bentley and Bugatti.

The International Trade Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial agency that investigates complaints of unfair trade practices, like patent infringement. It can't award damages but does have the power to block products from entering the US.

—Bloomberg

## Hyundai i20 sells 20,000 units in 20 days



**MICHAEL GONSALVES**  
PUNE, NOV. 20

Despite uncertainty in the market due to Covid pandemic, the all-new Hyundai i20 premium hatchback is turning out to be a big hit for the car-maker, which sold 20,000 cars in just 20 days, that is, 1,000 cars per day.

Prices of the all-new Hyundai i20 start from Rs 6.80 lakh, making the car significantly expensive than its main rival the Maruti Baleno.

The new i20 offers plenty of choice for buyers with multiple variants, engines and transmission options.

In fact, one in every four buyers has opted for automatic/semi-automatic variants of the car while one in three buyers has opted for the sunroof equipped, top-end trims. Even the diesel variant found one in five buyers.

**WINNER | TECH'S IT ALL?**

**It's feared that the rise of fintech firms may send banks the dinosaur way**

## Ant's setback holds a lesson for all fintechs

**ELISA MARTINUZZI**  
NOV. 20

Speaking in October to his banking brethren at the world's biggest payments confab—the annual Sibos conference—Jamie Dimon didn't mince words. The rise of financial technology companies, warned JPMorgan Chase & Co's chief executive officer, will see some banks "go the way of the dinosaur."

In the world of finance, as in many other parts of the economy, Covid-19 has accelerated a shift to digital interactions that was already under way. And it hasn't gone unnoticed by regulators. In Asia, Europe, and the US, central banks and other regulators are increasingly focused on how technology companies could come to dominate financial services, undermining the stability of the systems the watchdogs are entrusted to preserve.

One obvious sign of the growing importance of fintech companies is their surging market value. The valuation of PayPal Holdings Inc, the US e-commerce payments giant, had exceeded \$225 billion as of early November—more than that of Europe's top four banks combined and higher than all US banks bar JP Morgan. In Europe, where lenders' stock prices have plummeted to record lows this year, only HSBC



Holdings Plc, with \$3 trillion in assets and a history dating to 1865, was worth more than Adyen NV, a 14-year-old Dutch payments processor.

And of course, none compare with Jack Ma's Ant Group Co, the Chinese financial giant that at the end of October was proceeding with an initial

public offering set to value it at \$315 billion—bigger than Dimon's JPMorgan. But then China's regulators stepped in to halt the IPO at the eleventh hour, demanding that Ant adhere to stricter capital requirements and provide at least 30 per cent of the funding for loans it underwrites, just like the banks it competes with.

Analysts at Morningstar Inc and other firms estimated the rules could cut the company's value in half. China's top banking watchdog also warned that it will step up probes to ensure fair competition where monopolies can be spotted. Ant and Tencent Holdings Ltd, which owns the WeChat Pay platform,

are luring customers away from commercial banks in the consumer-loan market.

While the news was shocking, thwarting the world's biggest-ever IPO, the truth is that China isn't alone in expressing new concerns about the regulatory advantage provided to the digital finance industry. The collapse of fintech poster child Wirecard AG after billions of dollars went missing from the Bavarian startup has prompted a review of how regulators in Germany and Europe oversee payment companies.

In the UK, the banking supervisor is considering tougher demands on so-called neobanks and once-hot fintechs such as Monzo

and Revolut that are struggling. In the US, the New York Department of Financial Services has sued to bar the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency from handing out licences under a fintech charter that would place companies under lighter regulation than banks.

The pace at which consumers have turned to digital transactions during the pandemic, as bank notes and coins became untouchable, is one reason regulators fret. Given the rate at which some fintechs are growing, regulators will have to decide quickly how far they want to go to keep them in check. —Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## Women's T20 WC pushed to 2023

**Dubai:** The South African edition of the Women's T20 World Cup was on Thursday postponed by three months to February 2023 to avoid a cluster of big-ticket events in 2022 and manage players' workload, International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday. The tournament was scheduled in November 2022 but will now be held in February 2023. In August this year, the ICC had postponed the 50 over Women's World Cup slated in New Zealand from 2021 to 2022 owing to pandemic and women's T20 cricket is also set to make its debut in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. "The Board confirmed that the ICC Women's T20 World Cup will move from its current slot at the end of 2022 to 9-26 February 2023. If not postponed, the year would have "three major events in 2022 with the Commonwealth Games in July 2022 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup due to be held in November 2022," ICC said. The ICC said the decision was taken keeping in mind the workload of the players and also considering long term interest of women's cricket. — *PTI*

## Champ Rossi gears up for final race

**Portimao, Portugal:** Nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi says it will be a "special moment" when he brings the curtain down on his 15-year factory Yamaha MotoGP career in the final race of the season in Portugal on Sunday. Joan Mir's World Championship may already be secured but second place and the constructors' title will also be on the line in Portimao. Rossi, who has won seven of his world titles in the elite class, is among a number of riders bidding farewell, with Andrea Dovizioso heading off for a planned sabbatical and Cal Crutchlow exiting the series to become a Yamaha test rider next year. Rossi will join Yamaha's satellite Petronas team, leaving the factory to go ahead with Fabio Quartararo alongside Maverick Vinales in 2021. "Sunday will be a special moment because it was a long journey together," said Rossi. — *AFP*

## Task cut out for Spurs against City

**London:** Tottenham's title credentials face a thorough examination when they host Manchester City as the Premier League returns on Saturday after the international break. Spurs are just a point behind early pace setters Leicester, but only three points separate the top six, with Chelsea and Aston Villa also having the chance to claim top spot for a few hours at least when they face Newcastle and Brighton respectively. With the final international fixtures of the year done and dusted, a gruelling winter schedule of club football awaits for England's top-flight with nine rounds of league matches before January 2. Liverpool are already bearing the brunt of the hectic schedule as the squad has been ravaged by injury ahead of Leicester's trip to Anfield. — *AFP*

## Live on TV

## CRICKET

**Big Bash League:** Hobart Hurricanes vs Perth Scorchers from 10:10 am; Sydney Sixers vs Melbourne Renegades from 1:35 pm; Perth Scorchers vs Adelaide Strikers from 4:50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, HD

## TENNIS

**ATP Finals:** Semifinal-1 from 7:30 pm, Semifinal-2 from 1:30 am (Sunday) on Sony Six, HD

## FOOTBALL

**English Premier League:** Newcastle vs Chelsea from 6 pm; Aston Villa vs Brighton from 8:30 pm; Tottenham Hotspur vs Manchester City from 11 pm; Manchester United vs West Brom from 1:30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1

**Indian Super League:** NorthEast United vs Mumbai City from 7:20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**Italian league:** Crotone vs Lazio from 7:30 pm; Spezia vs Atalanta from 10:30 pm; Juventus vs Cagliari from 1:15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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## NADAL NAILS IT

## Djokovic also makes semifinals at season-ender

**London, Nov. 20:** Rafael Nadal kept alive his hopes of a first ATP Finals title on Thursday, beating defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in London to qualify for the Last four.

Novak Djokovic too advanced to the semifinals after beating Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6 (4).

The top-ranked Djokovic set up a match against Dominic Thiem on Saturday as he goes for a record-tying sixth title at the season-ending event, and a first since 2015.

Rafael Nadal will take on Daniil Medvedev in the other semifinal match.

Bouncing back from a straight-set loss to Medvedev on Wednesday, Djokovic broke Zverev to take a 2-0 lead in the first set when his opponent double-faulted on the second break point.

Djokovic saved two break points at 4-2 before clinching the set with a backhand down the line as he closed in on the net following a serve out wide.

Zverev posed more problems for Djokovic in the second set, and led 2-0 in the tiebreaker. Djokovic then won five of six points and, on his first match point, sent a deep and penetrating forehand that Zverev could only slice into the net on the stretch.

Nadal, whose haul of 86 singles titles includes just one on indoor hard courts, is chasing the biggest prize missing from his resume at the eight-man elite event. The 34-year-old has qualified for the ATP Finals for a record 16 consecutive years but has been forced to withdraw on six occasions.

The second seed won his opening round-robin match against Andrey Rublev but defeat against Dominic Thiem meant he faced a shootout against 2019 champion Tsitsipas to reach the semifinals.

Both players were rock solid on serve until Nadal



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during the match against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in their men's singles match of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena in London on Thursday.

earned the first two break points of the set in the seventh game, which he failed to convert.

Tsitsipas was again under pressure in his next service game and this time he cracked, double-faulting on break point.

Nadal pressed home his

advantage, serving consecutive aces to take the set 6-4 against his 22-year-old opponent.

The Spaniard, twice a finalist at the tournament, had another chance to break in the first game of the second set but the Greek sixth seed dug him-

self out of danger with a searing backhand.

Tsitsipas did well to cling on against his illustrious opponent who was serving with metronomic efficiency and dominating the longer rallies.

But out of nowhere the Greek earned two set

points on Nadal's serve and levelled when the Spaniard double-faulted on the second of those.

The match took a bizarre twist at the start of the decider, with neither player able to hold serve until Nadal finally held to lead 3-1.

— *AFP*

## INDIA SLIP TO SECOND SPOT IN TEST RANK

**Dubai, Nov. 20:** India on Thursday slipped to the second position in the standings of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) after the ICC decided to rank teams "in order of percentage of points earned" from the contested matches.

Australia (296 points from 3 series) toppled India (360 points from 4 series) in the standing after the revision with a percentage of 82.22 compared to the latter's 75 per cent.

According to current regulations, incomplete matches are treated as draw but after due deliberation, the ICC Cricket Committee, headed by Anil Kumble, recommended that the final WTC standings should be determined on the basis of matches played, which was approved by the Board.

— *PTI*

## GUILTY ZOYSA SAYS THERE IS FOUL PLAY

**Colombo, Nov. 20:** Former Sri Lanka cricketer Nuwan Zoysa on Friday denied any wrongdoing after being found guilty of corruption on three counts by an independent tribunal of the ICC.

Already serving suspension on match-fixing charges, Zoysa was charged under the ICC anti-corruption code in November 2018 and was found guilty on all charges on Thursday after he exercised his right to a hearing before an independent anti-corruption tribunal.

The ICC said Zoysa will remain suspended and sanctions will follow in due course.

— *PTI*

## Bagan blast past Kerala in opener

**Bambolim, Nov. 20:** In their new avatar, ATK Mohun Bagan kicked off the seventh season of the Indian Super League on a high, defeating Kerala Blasters by a solitary goal here on Friday.

Fijian hitman Roy Krishna, who was ATK's top goal scorer with 15 goals last season, struck the all important goal after a 67 minute deadlock to give the all important three points for the green-and-maroon brigade.

The Yellow Brigade playing with a heavy defensive lineup of 4-2-3-1 managed to thwart ATKMB throughout the first half but after the hour mark they left a loose ball as the Fijian International pounced on it with a calm and composed finish.

All eyes were on the 131-year-old legacy club Mohun Bagan as they were making their ISL debut following their 'marriage' with three-time defending champions ATK.

ATKMB had a dominant first half and made some early inroads with Roy Krishna missing an early chance, even as KBFC enjoyed more ball possession in the first 45 minutes.

KBFC, who were the designated home team, looked more threatening and came out with an attacking intent in the second-half.

But KBFC were made to pay for it as Roy Krishna made amends for his three misses in the first half with his poacher goal to become the difference between the two sides.

That goal was enough for ATKMB to sink Kerala Blasters' hearts.

— *PTI*

## MUMBAI TAKE ON NORTHEAST TO OPEN BID

**Vasco, Nov. 20:** A revamped Mumbai City FC, with 19 new recruits and a Spanish coach of repute, will be aiming for a positive start in pursuit of a maiden ISL title when they take on NorthEast United here on Saturday.

Mumbai City have never won the coveted trophy and would be hoping that there is a turnaround in fortunes under new coach Sergio Lobera, who had guided FC Goa to a Super Cup win in 2019.

Mumbai have two good strikers in Bartholomew Ogbeche and Adam Le Fondre who can prove to be more than handful for any opposition.

The inclusion of Mandar Rao Dessai has bolstered the team's defence and he coupled with the likes of Sarthak Golui, Senegalese Mourtada Fall and Mohamad Rakip are ready to thwart any attacking line-up.

On the other hand, NorthEast United FC under new coach Gerard Nus, would also be aiming for redemption after a poor last season.

They will expect their foreign players to pull their weight with much depending on former Anderlecht and Queens Park Rangers striker Idrissa Sylla and former Ghanaian international Kwesi Appiah.

— *PTI*

## Betting charges dog Andhra T20

**DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 20**

At least six players from Andhra Premier League (APL) conducted at RDT stadium here last month were reportedly involved in cricket betting.

The six cricketers from Andhra Pradesh include four from Kadapa district and another from Anantapur district. They used 'Dafabet', an online betting company. The anti-corruption unit of Andhra Cricket Association (ACA), reportedly identified the role of some players in betting.

Andhra Premier League was held as Karbonn Harmonycity T20 Andhra by Andhra Cricket Association for 18 days in October. A total of 98 players participated in the event and 33 matches were held overall with Kings-XI

emerging triumphant.

Now, the online betting allegations have raised many eyebrows. Sources close to ACA revealed the players were involved in betting, although there was no evidence of match-fixing.

Association president Sharath, secretary Durgaprasad and several others were present during the tournament. The organisers reportedly warned players for involvement in suspicious activities.

"The players were not involved in match-fixing activities but in betting by using an online betting company," an official from ACA confirmed.

A police officer from Anantapur district observed that he had become suspicious because of a group of sponsors in the league.

## Tiger teams up with son Charlie

**Los Angeles, Nov. 20:** Tiger Woods and 11-year-old Charlie will team-up in the father-son PNC Championship in December, the golf superstar confirmed this week.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to be playing with Charlie in our first official tournament together," Woods, a 15-time major champion, said.

"It's been great watching him progress as a junior golfer and it will be incredible playing as a team together in the PNC Championship," he added.

The tournament will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando, Florida, December 19-20.

It features 20 major championship winners competing as a team alongside a family member.

Woods has largely kept his children, Charlie and Sam, out of the public eye, although both were on hand when he won the 2019 Masters for his first major title in more than a decade.

Woods finished the Coronavirus pandemic-delayed 2020 Masters this month in deflating style, with a final-round 76 that included a 10 on the par-three 12th. Teaming up with Charlie in the PNC Championship gives him a chance to compete one



**I can't tell you how excited I am to be playing with Charlie in our first official tournament together. It's been great watching him progress as a junior golfer and it will be incredible playing as a team together in the PNC Championship..**  
— **TIGER WOODS**  
15-time major golf champion

more time in 2020, a year that has seen his unofficial World Challenge in the Bahamas cancelled because of the pandemic.

No fans will be allowed at the Florida tournament, but it will be televised in the United States by NBC.

German veteran Bernhard Langer and his son, Jason, will return to defend the title they won last year.

— *AFP*

## Pat looks to keep Kohli quiet

**Sydney, Nov. 20:** Australia speedster Pat Cummins expectedly considers Virat Kohli the "big" wicket he would target in the upcoming series against India and said that keeping the visiting captain quiet would be crucial to the home team's chances.

The Indian cricket team is currently in Australia for a full series that includes three ODIs and as many T20

Internationals followed by a four-Test rubber. The tour will start with the ODIs here on November 27.

"I think every side has that one or two batters and they are the big wickets. Most teams have their captain — Joe Root for England, Kane Williamson for New Zealand. You feel like if you get their wickets that goes a long way in winning the game,"

Cummins told *Fox Cricket*.

"He (Kohli) is always a big one. You commentators talk about him non-stop, so hopefully, we can keep him quiet," he added.

Cummins, who has been named in both the white and red-ball squads as vice-captain, is one of the 11 Australian players currently quarantining here after returning from the UAE where he played for

Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL.

Their quarantine period will end on the eve of the opening ODI against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Cummins said Australia is well prepared to give India a tough fight in the series.

The imposing Australian pacer said that over the last couple of years, he has developed as a bowler.

— *PTI*

## UNTESTED PITCHES ARE A CONCERN: MCC CHIEF

**Melbourne, Nov. 20:** The drop-in pitches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) which will host the second Test between India and Australia have not been tested and it is a cause of concern, says Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) chief executive Stuart Fox.

"It is a concern for me because I would like to give them every opportunity to trial the pitches," Fox was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The opening round matches of Sheffield Shield were held in Adelaide instead of MCG due to the Covid-19 outbreak at Melbourne and also plans to have a two-day trial match at the MCG this week also couldn't materialise due to the spread of virus in Adelaide.

"It demonstrates how vulnerable we still are day by day. Ideally, we would love to have a game and we are still working on that but, ultimately, it may not happen," Fox further added.

— *PTI*

## Rohit's absence will help us: Maxwell

**Mumbai, Nov. 20:** Rohit Sharma's absence from the upcoming white ball series is a big "positive" for Australia but K. L. Rahul is as good a player to fill in the void, feels dashing batsman Glenn Maxwell.

Rahul will be Virat Kohli's deputy in the white-ball leg since regular vice-captain Rohit is recuperating from a hamstring injury sustained during IPL.

"He (Rohit) is a class performer, so consistent as an opening batsman

with a couple of (three) double hundreds. So anytime he is not in the line-up against you, it is a positive," Maxwell said.

The three-match ODI series begins on November 27 followed by a T20 International series.

"But in saying that, India have still got back-ups, more than capable of playing that role. We saw K. L. Rahul, the performance that he put on during the last IPL was extraordinary," Maxwell further added.

— *PTI*