

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | THURSDAY | 26 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30°C
Min: 14.6°C
RH: 51%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Moderate rains likely. Max/Min temp. 28/20 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+44,117)	(+518)
92,64,820	1,35,245
<i>covid19india.org</i>	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+993)	(+4)
TS: 2,66,042	1,441
(+831)	(+6)
AP: 8,64,674	6,962

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

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

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Titthi: Kartika Shuddha Dwadasi

full day

Star: Revati till 9.20 pm

Variyam: 7.50 am to 9.38 am

Durmuhurtam: 10.12 am to 10.57 am; 2.38 pm to 3.22 pm

Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Akhir 10, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.23 am

Zohar: 12.13 pm

Asar: 4.03 pm

Maghrib: 5.45 pm

Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.27 AM

SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.59 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 3.13 PM

COUNTER POINT



What is the landline, dad?

SHORT TAKE

Jallikattu India's Oscar nomination

New Delhi: Malayalam feature *Jallikattu*, directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 93rd Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India announced on Wednesday. *Jallikattu*, which was unanimously chosen from 27 entries across Hindi, Marathi and other languages, is about a tribe of men coming together to stop a bull that has run amok in their village. The film, which derives its name from the controversial bull-taming event from the south, is based on a short story by Hareesh.

Trade unions on strike today

New Delhi: Central trade unions will go on a nationwide strike on Thursday and expects participation of over 25 crore workers to protest against various policies of the Central government. In a statement, a joint platform of ten central unions said preparations have been done as more than 25 crore workers are expected to participate in the strike across the country. Various independent federations and associations are also part of the joint platform. The BJP-aligned Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh will not participate in the strike.

NATION | 4

Modi to lay stone for new Parliament building in Dec



WORLD | 5

US is ready to lead world, says Biden



SPORTS | 8

New Zealand's Greg Barclay elected ICC chairman



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

Smriti: Why not deport Rohingya?

IRREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The BJP gave further momentum to its highly successful and surcharged narrative setting campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHC) elections, with a steady featuring of national leaders. Union minister for textiles Smriti Irani on Wednesday further kept the pot boiling on the issue of illegal immigration in the Old City, sternly castigating the ruling combine of the TRS and the MIM over the ‘hospitality’ to the Rohingyas and

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

The MIM and TRS government even enlisted the Rohingyas into the voter list for political benefits, she said, accusing the K. Chandrashekar Rao government for failing to take

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

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

deporting illegal immigration.

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

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

■ **Page 2: TRS threatening BJP workers: Irani**

KISHAN: BASTI DAWAKHANA IS CENTRAL PROJECT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

He accused K.T. Rama Rao for trying to steal credit by projecting Basti Dawakhans as a state project and reminded people that it was sanctioned by the Central government. He challenged K.T. Rama Rao and his father Chandrasekhar Rao to come for an open debate on the 169 Basti Dawkhanas in the city.

He said the TRS will be forced to provide a boat for each house if they win the elections.

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



the largest Parliamentary constituency in Asia so that I could become a thorn and fight against this corrupt government. “I appeal to all of you people to give me strength by voting for Congress party and giving us a minimum of 30 seats in the GHMC. Then, we will show our

■ **Page 2: BJP, MIM stirring trouble for votes: Revanth**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

TPCC working president and Lok Sabha MP A. Revanth Reddy strongly criticised the TRS party for its failure to fulfil even the minimum needs of the people of Hyderabad during the six years of their regime. As part of this election campaign in Malkajgiri for the GHMC elections, Revanth Reddy alleged that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao failed to deliver double bed-room houses. He said that the TRS changed candidates in Neredmet division and other places itself because it was sensing a defeat. “The downfall of TRS started and KCR was clearly in a frustrated mood.”

The Malkajgiri MP reminded that people had elected him as an MP from

GOLDEN | ERA ENDS **Argentine soccer legend dies of heart attack after brain surgery at age 60**

‘Hand of God’ Diego Maradona dead

Buenos Aires, Nov. 25: Diego Maradona, one of the greatest footballers of all time, died on Wednesday at the age of 60, plunging his sport and his native Argentina into mourning. Renowned along with Pele as one of the greatest players ever to play the game, the Argentine World Cup-winning captain died of a heart attack, having undergone brain surgery earlier this month, a member of his entourage said. Maradona will forever be known for his “Hand of God” goal against England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final in Mexico, when he appeared to use his hand to push the ball into the net before later swerving through the English defenders for a memorable second goal that sealed victory.

Pele said Maradona had been a “dear friend” and said he hoped they would “play together in the sky” one day.

Gary Lineker, who was in the England team defeated in 1986, tweeted that Maradona was “arguably the greatest of all time” but made a reference to that infamous goal by adding: “After a blessed but troubled life, hopefully he'll finally find some comfort in the hands of God.

#RipDiego”Lionel Messi, the Argentine considered one of the world's greatest modern-day players, said Maradona was “eternal”.

Argentine President Alberto Fernandez immediately announced three days of national mourning in the South American country.

Shortly before the announcement that shocked the



Legendary football player Diego Maradona

world, Argentine media reported Maradona had suffered a serious health setback on Wednesday and was being treated at his home north of Buenos Aires.

“There are four ambu-

lances at the door of the residence. They have summoned family members to come. It is serious,” the TyC Sports channel reported. The life of the divine footballing talent that was Diego Armando Maradona

was marked by wild highs and lows, with Argentina and with club sides Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli. The former player underwent surgery earlier this month to remove a clot lodged between his brain and skull. Maradona has been admitted to hospital three times in the last 20 years for serious health issues — two of which were potentially fatal — due to his drug and alcohol addictions. The highs were crowned by his performances when he captained Argentina to victory in Mexico in 1986.

In the final, Maradona set up the 86th-minute winner against West Germany. He scored twice in the semi-final against Belgium, beating four defenders for the second. But the match that defined his tourna-

ment, and possibly his international career, was that win over England, in which he scored two goals that will be remembered forever -- for very different reasons. In the 51st minute, as England goalkeeper Peter Shilton reached to catch the ball, Maradona jumped alongside him and with a deftness that fooled the eye, flicked the ball with his hand through the England goalkeeper's arms and into the net. After the game, Maradona said he scored “a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God.”

The goal he scored four minutes later, when he picked up the ball in his own half and glided past six England players, including Shilton, was named “Goal of the Century” by FIFA. — AFP



K. Chandrashekar Rao

and Rachakonda, and other senior police officers on Wednesday.

Rao said that “some leaders have conspired to get political mileage by inciting communal emotions” and sentiments among the people. The Chief Minister said that their main intention behind creating trouble in the state is to paint Hyderabad as a communal sensitive place and get the GHMC polls postponed.

He pointed out that during the run up to the GHMC elections, these

forces first tried to provoke trouble through social media platforms with morphed photos. When that did not work, then they are now trying to rake up emotions through their utterances, he said.

He warned them, saying, “Their money politics did not work in Hyderabad. As people of Hyderabad are peace loving, they are trying to sabotage peace.”

He alerted the police machinery, declaring that “these forces were hatching plans to disturb peace in Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and some other places by targeting places of worship.”

The state government has definite information about this plan,” Rao said, adding, “we will maintain law and order situation come what may.”

■ **Page 2: CM urges people to be cautious**

SC STAYS APHC GAG ORDER ON PUBLISHING AMARAVATI FIR

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

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

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

■ **Page 2: HC told not to give final order on plea**

HC: IS IT MUST TO ENLIST ASSETS ON DHARANI?

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The registration of non-agricultural land and properties through Dharani portal would be delayed as the Telangana High Court on Wednesday refused to vacate its interim stay order which directed the Telangana government not to insist on the details of the property owners for the Dharani portal. The division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayash Reddy sought clarity from the government on its decision.

■ **Full report on Page 2**

SHORT TAKES

CM REQUESTS
PEOPLE TO BE
CAUTIOUS

From Page 1

“We won’t allow the plans of anti-social elements to succeed, under any circumstances. We have fought relentlessly to get Telangana state,” Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said.

He further assured the people, saying, “We will not compromise on maintenance of law and order. People have witnessed how the TRS government dealt with anti-social elements, the Mafia and other divisive forces with an iron hand. People have extended their unflinching support for our measures.”

He told the police, “We don’t have to pardon people at the cost of peace in Hyderabad. Take stern action against those fostering communal tensions. Whoever it may be, even if they belong to the ruling party don’t spare them. Get the latest information and be alert round-the-clock and quell all conspiracies.”

Rao urged people to be alert and cautious against those trying to spread communal hatred. He wanted people, especially youth, to be cautious and not become prey to those designs.

TS IS TOP
PERFORMER IN
PM SVANIDHIS.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

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

The PM had on Wednesday held a PRAGATI video conference with chief secretaries of all states to review the progress achieved in rural housing, public grievance redressal, various infrastructure projects and PM SVANidhi. During the meeting, the Prime Minister was informed that 5,88,099 street vendors had been identified in Telangana and 4,29,250 loan applications uploaded, which is 72 per cent of the total identified vendors in the state. 3,07,279 loans have been sanctioned and 1,76,628 of them already disbursed in the state.

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

Chief secretary Somesh Kumar explained during the meeting that the state government has also tied up with digital payment aggregators like Phone Pe, Bharath Pe, Paytm, Airtel Payment Bank, Pay Swift and so on for generation of UPI IDs and issue of QR code to street vendors.

Principal secretary (Municipal Administration and Urban Development) Arvind Kumar, Principal secretary (Finance) K. Ramakrishna Rao, principal secretary (Industries) Jayesh Ranjan, secretary (Agriculture) Janardhan Reddy, secretary (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Sandeep Kumar Sultania and other senior officers participated in the conference.

CASE FILED
AGAINST
DHARMAPURIDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

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

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

Quota fails to attract women

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

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

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

In unreserved divisions, parties seem to have allotted more seats to male candidates instead of women. Moreover, the number of independent

● **IN UNRESERVED** divisions, parties seem to have allotted more seats to male instead of women. Moreover, the number of independent women is far lower than men.

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

Even in case of women,

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

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

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

TUs, BANKS,
TRANSPORT
STRIKE TODAYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

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

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

Dance of joy



Lorry owners organised a rally with women carrying water pitchers on Wednesday in Khammam, expressing their joy over the state government’s decision, to waive off-road tax for six months and issue single permits to Andhra Pradesh from December.

— A. RAVINDRA SESHU

TRS threatening
BJP workers: Irani

FROM PAGE 1

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

The minister clarified

that the centre had so far allocated ₹1,900 crore for development of the textile industry, which is leading to creation of thousands of jobs.

She accused the TRS government for not submitting a detailed report on the flood damage till date, a classic example of the incompetence of the TRS.

SHAH, NADDA, YOGI, FADNAVIS TO
CAMPAIGN FOR GHMC POLLSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The heat in the campaign for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections are picking up and hitting the peak. The BJP has planned to deploy senior leaders in key positions both in the party and the government for campaigning in the city.

Party OBC national president Dr K. Laxman on Wednesday announced that Union home minister Amit Shah, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party national president J.P. Nadda will cam-

paign in the city. He also said that former chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis will launch the party’s election manifesto on Thursday.

On November 27, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will campaign in Chevella parliamentary divisions. On November 28, party president J.P. Nadda will participate in a roadshow at the Malkajgiri Parliament segment.

On the last day of the campaign, November 29, Union home minister Amit Shah will campaign in a road show in Secunderabad.

Covid norms go for a toss
during election campaignHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

However, the story in Hyderabad is pathetically one of the other extremes. With the city engulfed in the December 1 elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), one can witness massive gatherings in lanes and by-lanes for the street-corner speeches and roadshows of politicians and contestants.

A majority is without masks while social distancing has been tossed out, quite literally.

It is not that the authorities here have not announced penalties for Covid-19 protocol violations. A fine of ₹1,000 is supposed to be slapped on those moving around without masks.

However, the authorities are turning a blind eye for the past few days as the violators include ministers, MPs, MLAs, and politicians of every hue, who are on the roads as part of electioneering.

Ironically, none other

● **CITY POLICE** authorities did not reveal any information on the number of people fined in the city for not wearing masks.

than Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been appealing to the public to follow safety measures as the threat of a second Covid-19 wave is hanging like a Damocles Sword. Braving all odds, the director of health services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao has appealed to politicians to lead by example by following the mask rule.

When contacted, city police authorities did not reveal any information on the number of people fined in the city for not wearing masks.

Even senior health department officials, despite repeated attempts to reach them for finding out how the mask rule can be implemented during the campaign, did not respond.

As per the data provided by the health department, at least 40.24% of positive cases in the city and the state, belong to the 31-50

years age-group. By a strange coincidence it is this age-group that is more actively involved in the current political war.

It is rather regrettable that candidates, irrespective of their political affiliations, are going around door-to-door campaign without masks nor are they maintaining the six-foot physical distance norm while taking photo-ops.

The health department and State Election Commission have released detailed guidelines for the conduct of the GHMC elections, including directions for a door-to-door campaign, which restricts each group to a maximum of five persons, including the candidate.

For roadshows, a convoy of vehicles should be broken after every two vehicles (excluding the security vehicles, if any), and the interval between two sets of vehicles should be at a gap of 100 meters. As for election meetings, public gatherings or rallies may be conducted subject to adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. However, all such directions seem to have been thrown to the winds.

HC told not to
give final order
on ex-AG’s plea

From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting the arguments, senior counsel Harish Salve contended that the entire action of the AP government against the former advocate-general Srinivas was mala fide and was a case of “regime revenge” as the former advocate general had appeared against Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy in a number of criminal matters.

The apex court was informed that Jagan Mohan Reddy is facing 25 cases.

HC refuses to vacate
stay on Dharani,
seeks more detailsDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

The division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy sought clarity from the government on its decision to enlist the details of property and its owners on Dharani portal, when Advocate-General B.S. Prasad requested the Bench to allow the state to commence the registration of non-agricultural properties, with the condition that all registrations were subjected to the final decision of the High Court, in the matters related Dharani portal.

“Without the rule of law,

certainly, and moreover, not issuing a Government Order or a circular, only by way of the oral instructions, the government is heading towards enlisting the details of the property and its owners and their family members (on the Dharani portal). Based on the media reports, it seems it is a compulsion on the part of the property owners to enlist; otherwise, the property will not be allowed to transfer, mortgage, succession or any other transaction. How will it be possible?” (sic), the Bench asked the Advocate General.

Pentagon, White House and others have been hacked by those sitting in the Philippines; So why not expect that to happen in India? Without the backing of any statutory provisions, no official should not ask people to share their private details like Aadhaar,” the Chief Justice Chauhan commented.

Expressing doubts about the safety of the data, the court said: “You cannot compel a citizen to register property details in the Dharani portal.”

BJP and MIM stirring trouble
for some votes: Revanth

From Page 1

Leaders from the BJP and the MIM were trying to create communal disputes for grabbing votes, alleged Revanth. He said that while one leader made provoking comments about demolishing the PV Gbana Bhooni and NTR Memorial, another fellow said we will conduct surgical strikes.

“It is a completely scripted drama to divert the attention of people from crucial issues of urban infrastructure and governance.”

He said that BJP was trying to create communal divisions between Hindus and Muslims to gain a few

seats in Hyderabad where as the Congress party is geared to serve the public. “Only the Congress party is eligible to ask votes from Hyderabad people,” he said.

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

The MP welcomed him and promised him to provide all support from his side.

“The Congress does not look at the wealth and properties of candidates as other parties did. We give importance only to their hard work and sincerity of intent to serve people,” Mr Reddy said while speaking at the

Venkatapuram division. Poor people have suffered a lot throughout this terrible year of 2020, he lamented, adding that even before people could emerge out of the Covid pandemic, floods struck the city and till today victims are suffering.

Campaigning for several party candidates, including Anuradha Reddy at Alwal and Sanjeev Kumar, he reminded people that only the Congress had constructed houses for the poor.

“GHMC polls are only for galli, not for Delhi. I appeal to all of you to elect a person who can serve you and stand by you at all times.”

AKBAR SPARKS FRESH ROW, SAYS RAZE PV, NTR MEMORIALS

Hyderabad: MIM Floor leader in the Legislative Assembly, Akbaruddin Owaisi stirred a hornet’s nest controversy by demanding demolition of Samadhis of former prime minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao

near Hussainsagar instead of demolishing houses of poor people.

He slammed the TRS for making false promises to the people keeping an eye on the GHMC elections. Owaisi was speaking at an election meeting in Sultan Nagar division late

Tuesday night.

He criticised the government for allegedly targeting the underprivileged while handling encroachments around water bodies and dared the party to demolish PV Ghat and NTR Ghat which are encroachments.

OTHER STORIES

TUMMALA SURE OF TRS WIN IN GHMC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, NOV. 25

Former minister, Tummala Nageswara Rao said that the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) would win with a majority in the GHMC elections.

"We are being welcomed by all sections during campaigning," he said.

The former minister was on his way to Hyderabad, to participate in election campaigning, stopped at Kusumanchi on Wednesday. He said, "The people in Hyderabad want a peaceful Hyderabad, best infrastructure like roads, water and drainage system."

2 MUSLIMS AWARDED PhD IN TELUGU LITERATURE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 25

Two Muslims research scholars were awarded PhD in Telugu literature from the Telangana University on Wednesday.

Syed Afrin Begum of Banswada and Sheikh Akbar Pasha of Warangal mother tongue is Urdu, but they completed their post-graduation and PhD in Telugu from the university.

In-charge Vice-Chancellor Neethu Kumar Prasad, Registrar Prof Naseem and faculty of the Telugu department congratulated the scholars.

SCR ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORY IN VIEW OF NIVAR CYCLONE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

The South Central Railway on Wednesday issued a travel advisory for passengers in view of the cyclonic weather conditions prevailing in the south coastal region of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu due to the impending severe cyclonic storm Nivar.

The change in train services will be effective for the next couple of days.

At least five trains scheduled for November 26 and November 29, between Hyderabad-Tambaram and Chennai and Santragachi have been cancelled. Meanwhile, at least eight trains between Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Gorakhpur and Mysuru have been diverted via Jolarpettai, Renigunta and Gudur.

The SCR has also set up helplines at several major stations in the sections that are likely to be affected by the cyclone to disseminate information on train services. For any train-related enquiry during this period, passengers can call on Secunderabad: 040-27833099; Vijayawada: 0866-2767239; Guntakal: 7815915608 and; Guntur: 0863-2266138.

TS RECORDS 993 FRESH COVID-19 CASES, 4 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

There were 993 new Covid-19 positive cases and four deaths in the last 24 hours ending Wednesday evening. Tests were conducted on 47,593 persons. Meanwhile, depression and projected rains are causing worry that cases would rise in the next couple of days.

People have also been advised to avoid small indoor gatherings in winter as it could lead to spread of the disease.

There are 10,886 active cases in the state.

With the second wave in other parts of the country, there is a worry that travel from one state to another will see a rise in cases until January. Unnecessary travel to other places must be avoided in winter, urge experts. They contend that movement of people and travel are transit points that could trigger virus transmission. The GHMC limits have recorded 161 new cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 93 and Ranga Reddy 62 cases.

■ **WITH THE** second wave in parts of the country, there is a worry that travel from one state to another will see a rise in cases until January. Unnecessary travel to other places must be avoided in winter, urge experts. They said that movement of people and travel are transit points.



A distressed farmer uses a hired tractor to remove standing cotton crop in Sirsanna village in Bela mandal in Adilabad district on Wednesday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Farmers burn cotton crop in Adilabad

Farmers want govt to conduct survey, assess crop damage

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
SIRSANNA (ADILABAD), NOV. 25

A large number of distressed cotton farmers in Sirsanna village of Adilabad district are removing or burning their dried cotton crops that pests had attacked and damaged in their fields. Some of them with water facility are planning to sow chana (Bengal gram or chickpea), but most are finding themselves helpless.

Tractor driver Baswanth Singh said he has removed damaged cotton crop from 10 acres land belonging to different farmers in Sirsanna village on Wednesday alone.

Kushnapalli Ganganna, who had cultivated cotton on his three acres



Cotton removed

and suffered losses due to pink bollworm, has let his cattle graze the crop. Similar is the case with Yennam Shivanna of Sirsanna village in Bela mandal.

Ganganna has requested the state government to conduct a survey, assess crop damage, and pay compensation to farmers who have suffered losses.

He regretted that they have not even got insurance money for their damaged crop, though banks had deducted the premium amount towards insurance when giving crop loans to farmers.

He requested that as promised by it, the state government must immediately take steps to waive crop loans up

■ **MANY FARMERS** in Bela and Jainad mandals are removing their standing cotton crop. Some with watering facility may cultivate chana to overcome their losses.

to ₹1 lakh.

Many farmers in Bela and Jainad mandals are removing their standing cotton crop by hiring tractors. Some of them with watering facility may cultivate chana to overcome their losses.

Farmers say the cotton crop was good last year. They were hopeful of getting a good crop this year too. But they now feel shattered due to bad weather and pink bollworm attacking their crops.

CI CAUGHT TAKING BRIBE; SUSPENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD/
KAMAREDDY, NOV. 25

Kamareddy police circle inspector I. Jagadish, who was nabbed by the Anti Corruption Bureau officials for taking a bribe, was suspended. Nizamabad range Inspector General of Police N. Shiva Shankar Reddy issued suspension orders late on Tuesday night.

Jagadish is facing graft charges for organising IPL betting gangs, lucky draw schemes and other illegal activities. The CI was arrested and sent to judicial remand.

After suspension orders, the departmental inquiry against Jagadish will continue. "Due to the arrests, one police SI is absconding, and another SI has extended his leave," said sources.

■ **JAGADISH** is facing graft charges for organising IPL betting gangs, lucky draw schemes and other illegal activities.

Encroachments removed in Adilabad for NH-44

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, NOV. 25

Adilabad Municipal Corporation officials demolished the old bus stand near the Adilabad railway station, and the

debris was removed, with the help of an earth-moving machine, as part of the road widening works on NH-44, in Adilabad town on Wednesday.

"Encroachments, on

both sides of the NH-44 till Tirpelli, will be removed. We wanted to clear the encroachments much before, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic there was a delay," said officials.



Adilabad municipal authorities demolish the old bus stand and remove encroachments as part of the NH-44 road widening near Adilabad railway station in Adilabad town on Wednesday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Govt marks roadside trees to curb felling

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 25

Trees located at the side of the roads from Manuguru crossroad to Sarapaka are getting a coat of paint.

On the directions of Bhadradi district collector M.V. Reddy, the panchayat and municipal officials began painting all the trees, on the main roads in



Roadside trees between Sarapaka and Manuguru Road in Bhadradi district being painted. — DC

Bhadradi district. This initiative is to stop people from felling them, especially during night time. There are at least above 50,000 trees growing on the roadsides in the district.

A source said, "The paint will check smuggling, and the cut-down trees can be identified while being transported or sold to timber depots."

Mr Gautham said the government hospital is carrying out development work step by step with the aim of providing

X-ray machine donated to Mahbubabad hosp

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 25

The district collector on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art X-ray machine set up at the area hospital in the district center at a cost of ₹15 lakh.

He said that in the past, the X-ray machine did not have the proper capacity and the patients used to face difficulties. He appreciated Machcha Srinivas for donating the X-ray machine and urged donors to come forward in the same spirit.

Mr Gautham said the government hospital is carrying out development work step by step with the aim of providing

■ **THE** government hospital is carrying out development work step by step with the aim of providing all facilities to the poor. ICU at a cost of ₹80 lakh, ventilator system, 20 oxygen cylinders in place of existing five oxygen cylinders were arranged.

ing all facilities to the poor. ICU at a cost of ₹80 lakh, ventilator system, 20 oxygen cylinders in place of existing five oxygen cylinders were arranged.

Three ambulances were newly set up to tackle the shortage of

109 farmland registrations done in Kusumanchi so far

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KUSUMANCHI (KHAMMAM), NOV. 25

The farmers of Kusumanchi mandal are elated as they received pattadar passbook, to the lands they bought, on the next day after registration.

Kusumanchi tehsildar-cum-joint sub-registrar Sirisha registered 10 transactions on Wednesday. The number of registrations of farmlands after the implementation of the new registration system touched 109.

Mettela Bharathamma, who did a gift deed of her four acres and seven guntas of land in survey numbers of 265/e-1 and e-2, 266/a, 267/e, 268/a-1, 1-2 and a-3 and 592/8 in Jeelacheruvu to her four

■ **PEOPLE** NEED not go to the district headquarters as the completion of registration is being done in the mandal headquarters. The system is easy for the small and marginal farmers.

sions, said, "The new system is easy, and transactions are done in a short time. I received a passbook after registering my land within 24 hours. The slot for registration was booked on November 24, and the transaction was done the next day," adding that the registration charges are reasonable and no brokers and consulted in the transactions.

People need not go to the

district headquarters as the completion of registration is being done in the mandal headquarters.

Mettela Ashok said that the new system is easy for the small and marginal farmers. "We did not expect the transaction to be simple, when compared to the previous procedure", he said.

The collector visited Kusumanchi mandal tehsildar's office on Wednesday, and enquired about the farmland registrations, through Dharani portal.

While interacting with the farmers coming to get their lands registered, he asked them the amount they paid for the transaction and told them not to pay any additional fee at any of the Mee-Seva or e-Seva centres.



Collector Karnan interacts with Mettela Bharathamma who came to the Kusumanchi tehsildar's office to register her land on Wednesday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Good Samaritan offers flight tickets for stranded Gulf migrant

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 25

Officials and elected representatives have come forward to help Gulf migrant worker Kathhula Swamy of Ankapur village in Armoor mandal, stranded in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Responding to a news item published in the *Deccan Chronicle*, Kishore Reddy of Ankapur village said, "I will

provide the flight tickets for Kathhula Swamy from Saudi Arabia."

He also assured possible help to the family members of Kathhula Swamy.

Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police Kartikaya directed Armoor the division police to find out about the Gulf migrant's family members in Ankapur. On Wednesday, the police officers visited Ankapur village and collect-

ed the information. Telangana-Gulf Welfare and Cultural association president Patkuri Basanth Reddy brought the issue of Kathhula Swamy to the notice of the NRI department of the Telangana government and the Ministry of External Affairs.

The gram panchayat of Ankapur has declared that it will help the kin of the Gulf migrant.

33-YEAR-OLD MAN HELD FOR RAPE, MURDER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 25

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

Lyagala Kumar was arrested for murdering Tallamandla Laxmi, 30, a daily wage labourer after getting her drunk on November 12, police said. "They met during daily wage work a few months back and got acquainted. After hatching a plan to sexually assault her, he made her visit his friend's place in Medchal where they got drunk and he raped her. After the assault, he took her to an isolated place.

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SHORT TAKES

HC ALLOWS
REPUBLIC TV TO
AMEND THEIR PLEADC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

SENA MLA GOES IN
QUARANTINE, WILL
NOT JOIN ED PROBEDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

IMARTI DEVI WHO
LOST MP POLLS
QUITS AS MANTRIRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farm Bills stir reaches Delhi



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

PDP leader held
for links with
accused copYUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, NOV. 25

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

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

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

Reacting to Parra's arrest, PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted "Waheed has no connection whatsoever with this man (Davinder Singh) & is being falsely charged. All just to blackmail & intimidate PDP & other mainstream political parties in J&K".

In another tweet, she said, "I can personally vouch for Waheed's integrity, honesty & character. It is up to the judiciary now to dispense justice & ensure @parawahid is released at the earliest". She alleged that the reason behind Parra's arrest apparently was his contesting the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections in J&K. "No coincidence that he filed his nomination for DDC on 20th Nov. & received NIA summons next day itself", Mufti said.

Parra had appeared before the NIA at its headquarters in New Delhi on Monday and Tuesday for questioning.

He had said on Monday evening that he was asked about his political career and PDP's soft politics during the questioning. An earlier report had said that Parra's name had surfaced during the NIA's probe into the Davinder Singh case but he had publicly expressed ignorance about the same.

Singh was arrested along with Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu, one of the most wanted Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants, and his associate Asif Ahmed Rather by the J&K police in southern Kulgam district on January 11 this year. Subsequently, Kashmiri lawyer Irfan Shafi Mir and Naveed Babu's brother Syed Irfan Ahmed were also taken into custody after accused of being the Hizb's Over Ground Workers (OWGs).

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

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

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

States can take call on
lockdown, says MHA

New guidelines give states a free hand to curb Coronavirus

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

With large parts of North and East India facing a third wave of Coronavirus, the central government on Wednesday issued new guidelines that suggest stringent measures for containment and prevention of the deadly virus along with stricter surveillance.

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

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

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

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

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

The MHA said that the main focus of the guidelines is "to consolidate the substantial gains that have been achieved against the spread of Covid-19 which is visible in the steady decline in the number of active cases in the country."

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

Local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed containment measures are strictly followed and states and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, are free to impose local restrictions, with a view to contain the spread of Covid-19.

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

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

services.

There shall be intensive house-to-house surveillance by surveillance teams and testing shall be carried out as per prescribed protocol.

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

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

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

Awareness shall be created in communities on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour and local district, police and municipal authorities shall be responsible to ensure that the prescribed containment measures are strictly followed and state/ UT governments shall ensure the accountability of the officers concerned in this regard.

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

For observance of social

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

All activities have been permitted outside containment zones though some have been permitted with certain restrictions.

These include international air travel of passengers, running of cinema halls and theatres with up to 50 per cent capacity, opening of swimming pools only for training of sports persons, exhibition halls only for business to business (B2B) purposes, social/ religious/ sports/ entertainment/ educational/ cultural/ religious gatherings, with up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity, with a ceiling of 200 persons in closed spaces; and keeping of the size of the ground/ space in view, in open spaces.

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

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

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

DIDI DARES BJP
TO ARREST HER,
VOWS TO WIN
FROM JAILRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

‘Jallikattu’ is
India’s official
Oscar entry

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

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

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

"Extremely happy to know that *Jallikattu*

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

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

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

BIG LOSS Patel could be creative in solving problems and was combative in defence of his party's interest

A trusted aide, but political force in his own right also

ANAND K. SAHAY

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

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

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

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

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



Ahmed Patel

BJP, to whose national power the state of Maharashtra contributed inordinately. Congress'

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

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

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

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

His independent status was clear. He had first come to New Delhi, having won the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in 1977 when the Congress was wiped out in upper India. Then in 2017, the way he won his Rajya Sabha seat is a saga on which a thrilling film can be made. He defeated every machination of the BJP which ran the state government and the

Centre and had the resources with which it made MLAs defect and back-stab their former colleagues. This famous win set the stage alight and became the precursor to the Congress nearly winning the Gujarat Assembly election the same year.

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

IN BRIEF

KIWI SOLDIER CHARGED WITH SPYING

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

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

CAR HITS GATE OUTSIDE MERKEL GERMAN OFFICE

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

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

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

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

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

The metal gate to the chancellery appeared slightly bent.

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

AZERBAIJANI ARMY OCCUPIES EX-ARMENIA AREA

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

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

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

BOAT OVERTURNS NEAR SPAIN, 7 MIGRANTS DIE

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

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

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



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

— AFP

First Coronavirus vaccinations possible by Christmas, says EU

Brussels, Nov. 25: A top European Union official said Wednesday that the first citizens in the 27 nation bloc could be vaccinated against the Coronavirus by Christmas, but she warned that member countries must urgently prepare their logistical chains for the rollout of hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccines.

Claiming that "there's finally light at the end of the tunnel," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told EU lawmakers that "the first European citizens might already be vaccinated before the end of December." The commission, the EU's executive arm, has agreements with six potential vaccine suppliers and is working on a seventh contract.

The deals allow it to purchase over 800 million doses, more than the population of the bloc, which stands at around 460 million people.

On Tuesday, Brussels said it would sign a contract for up to 160 million doses of the experimental Coronavirus vaccine developed by Moderna, which the company says appears to be 94.5 per cent effective, according to its preliminary data.

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

Christmas bubble: Boris offers days off from lockdown

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

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

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

CHINA STIRS ROW SAYING FROZEN FOODS INFECTED

Beijing, Nov. 25: China has stirred controversy with claims it has detected the Coronavirus on packages of imported frozen food.

Frozen shrimp imported from an Ecuadorian company was banned for one week on Tuesday in a continuing series of such temporary bans. While experts say the virus can survive for a time on cardboard and plastic containers, it remains unclear how serious a risk that poses. Like so many issues surrounding the pandemic, the matter has swiftly become politicised. — AP

Russia sees record virus deaths again

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

The government coronavirus task force reported 507 new deaths on Wednesday, the country's highest

daily toll. The previous record of 491 deaths was reported on Tuesday. A total of 37,538 people have died from the Coronavirus in Russia. Russia has been swept by a rapid resurgence of the outbreak this fall. — AP

China opposes India's ban on 43 more apps

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

The banned applica-

tions, which include a few dating apps, were a threat to the "sovereignty and integrity of India", an official statement said in New Delhi. The Ministry of Electronics and IT issued the order for blocking the access of these apps by users in India based on the comprehensive reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center, Ministry of Home Affairs, the release said. Earlier on June 29 this

year, the government had blocked access to 59 mobile apps and on September 2, another 118 apps were banned under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act. The ban had come in the backdrop of border tensions with China in eastern Ladakh since May. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here China expresses serious concern over India's move. — PTI

Raped, 28 Uruguay women want justice

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

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

That allowed some a fresh start, but for others like Amorós, it meant suppressing the truth about regime-sponsored violence against women. "Women's bodies were, and still are, the spoils of war," said Amorós, now 72. Considered one of South America's most progressive countries, Uruguay remains conflicted about its military past. Torture, killings, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations were committed during the nearly 12-year dictatorship. "Women's stories are only recently emerging. There is a masculine narrative, a very masculine narrative," said former political prisoner Luz Menéndez, 66. Menéndez was arrested and held in La Tablada, an estate outside Montevideo used to torture leftist sup-

pects. She said her torturer had told her: "Girl, don't worry, you will leave here alive... but since you are a Communist, you will beg God to let you die, because we are going to drive you to the brink of madness." Like other leftist opponents of the regime, Amorós, Menéndez, Brenda Sosa, Ivonne Klingler and Anahit Aharonian were all in their 20s when they were imprisoned and tortured. AFP reporters have collected their testimonies since 2019. Amorós was a member of an armed anarchist group, the Popular Revolutionary Organisation-Orientales 33. She was arrested on one of the group's premises she was helping to guard. She was stripped naked as soon as she arrived at the barracks. — AFP

Biden: US ready to lead the world

Prez-elect: Country to sit at head of table

Washington, Nov. 25: Declaring "America is back," President-elect Joe Biden has introduced his key national security and foreign policy officials and said the incoming administration is ready to lead the world and once again sit at the head of the table. Signalling a sharp shift from outgoing Republican President Donald Trump's "America First" policy over the last four years, Biden said America is "ready to confront our adversaries, not reject our allies. And ready to stand up for our values."

Speaking from his transition center in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden, a Democrat, introduced his six top officials and highlighted the need to rebuild alliances, as well as tackling the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

World leaders, he said, were "looking forward to the United States reasserting its historic role as a global leader over the Pacific, as well as the Atlantic, all across the world."

Biden's nominees and appointees, including Antony Blinken for secretary of state and former secretary of state John Kerry to a new position as special presidential envoy for climate, spoke for the first time since being announced on Monday by the transition team, and many of them offered implicit rebukes of President Trump and his isolationist and "America First" worldview.

"The team meets this moment, this team behind

Harris: End hurdles for global leadership

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

"President-elect Biden and I have long known that when we were elected, we would inherit a series of unprecedented challenges upon walking into the White House," Harris, 56, told reporters on Tuesday at the transition headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware where President-elect Joe Biden announced his national security team.

"Addressing these challenges starts with getting this pandemic under control, opening our economy responsibly, and making sure it works for working people. And we also know

that overcoming our challenges here at home is a necessary foundation for restoring and advancing our leadership around the world," she said.

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

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

me," Biden said. "They embody my core belief that America is strongest when it works with its allies," he said.

"That's how we truly keep America safe without engaging in needless military conflicts, and our adversaries in check and terrorists at bay," he said. — PTI

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

Pak hosts UN banned ultras: India

United Nations, Nov. 25: India has reminded Pakistan, the "host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities", of Abbottabad, the garrison city where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden hid for years and was killed, in a hard-hitting response as Islamabad's UN envoy gave a "dossier of lies" to Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador T S Tirumurti on Tuesday tweeted that the "dossier of lies presented by Pakistan enjoys zero credibility".

"Concocting documents and peddling false narratives is not new to Pakistan, host to the world's largest number of UN proscribed terrorists and entities. Remember Abbott-

abad!" he said. The Indian Ambassador's tweet was in response to Islamabad's UN envoy Munir Akram meeting Guterres to hand over the dossier from the Pakistan government that alleged India was promoting terrorism in the country. Tirumurti made a reference to Abbottabad, where bin Laden was hiding for years and was killed. — PTI

Career Chronicle

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DECCAN Chronicle

26 NOVEMBER 2020

Biden signals US on way back to good governance

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

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

The eccentric nomination and firing policies of Mr Trump who let go of loyalists refusing to toe his line when in office may be a thing of the past

The damage Mr Trump has wrought by casting doubts freely in people's minds on the legitimacy of what has emerged as one of the cleanest elections in American history might have repercussions for the rest of the world. Authoritarian leaders in his mould would only be further encouraged to ignore the popular will even as the US election process and its presidential system of governance takes an image hit as a role model for democracies. The election is the very fount of democracy even if the US presidential poll hinges on the transfer of Electoral College votes and not on the popular vote as we saw also in Mr Trump's victory in 2016.

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

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

UP law violates basic rights

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

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

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

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

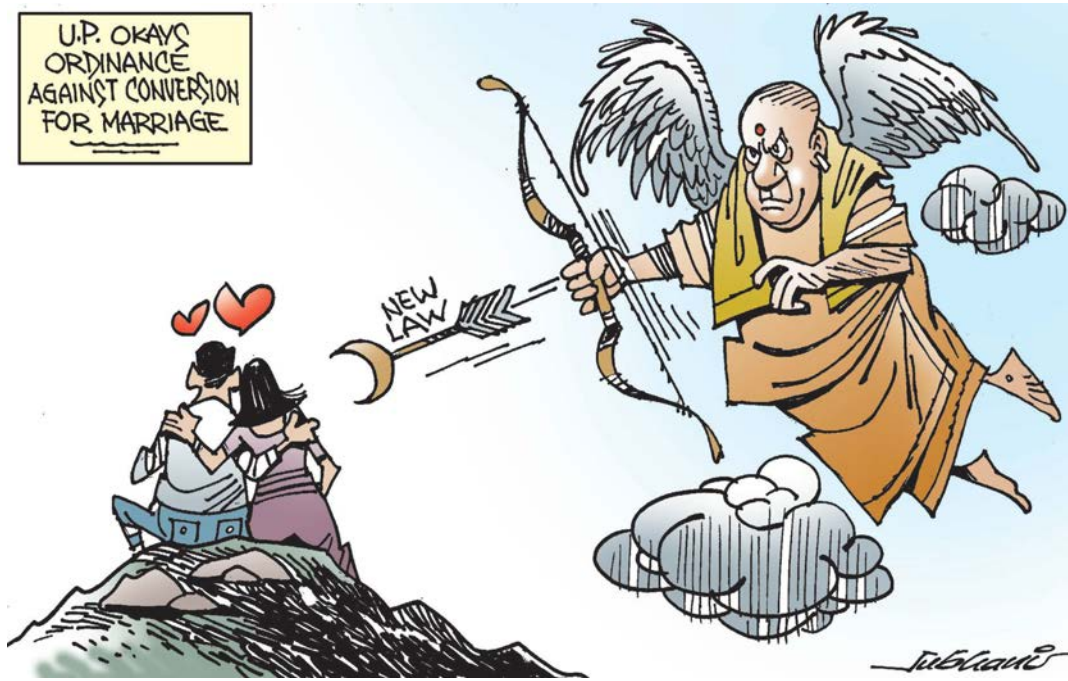
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Subhani



Use Tibet links, counter China in the Himalayas

Claude Arpi

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

After the arrival of a newcomer (Mao's People's Liberation Army) on the plateau in 1950-51, the ancient relations became more and more strained, ending with being completely severed in 1962.

Beijing could not tolerate India's special relations with Tibet.

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

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

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

the boundary had not been settled, as the idealist Indian government had wanted to believe.

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

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

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

While the People's Republic of China was able to annex Tibet by force of arms, Beijing has been unable to assimilate Tibetans into their system. Can Beijing succeed in the future? It is a moot question, the answer to which the future alone holds.

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

At the outset, instead of a new policy for Tibet alone, it would be better to have a common policy for the Himalayan belt and Tibet, which have shared countless cultural, spiritual, strategic and economic similarities. I would there-

fore suggest a new "Himalayan and Tibetan Affairs' Policy".

Some general principles should dictate this new policy.

First, that India should look after its own interests, then after the interests of those who are ethnically or culturally close to India, like the Tibetans. It seems obvious, but it has not always been the case.

India should adhere to its ideals of being a peaceful nation, of fighting against any form of imperialism and defending the rights of weaker people; further the government should certainly not take at face value declarations of peace by other nations, particularly China.

Another principle is that India's policies or actions should not be dictated by what others will think or say, particularly how China will react to a particular decision. This tendency has lasted too long with no tangible gain for this country (for example, the 2018 directive that no Indian officials should meet the Dalai Lama); retrospectively, it had counter-productive effects.

Unfortunately, India faces a country which still believes that power comes out of the barrel of a gun; without emulating China, India must quietly and forcefully look after its own interests and be honest, frank, straightforward about it.

Whatever overall policy is finally adopted, one element is crucial - coordination. In view of the individualistic tendencies of India's bureaucracy, this is extremely crucial in order to achieve the targeted aim of a common policy for all stakeholders (external affairs, defence, home, education, culture, security agencies). That is why I propose the creation of a Department of Himalayan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

GHMC ELECTIONS

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

S. Vishnu
Secunderabad

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

Syed Amjad Ali
Secunderabad

CORPORATE BANKING

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

B.K. Mohanty
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN

DECCAN Chronicle

Lok Sabha panel for lowering voting age

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

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

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

Abhijit Bhattacharyya



RECP: Why India must be firm on staying out

The "real" world of trade, commerce and diplomacy fructify on the facts. Thus, the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), including the 10-nation Asean bloc from Southeast Asia, which came into being in mid-November, can also be evaluated only on the facts, not on any "regret", "shock" or "surprise". When a former Indian commerce minister and a former foreign secretary express anguish over New Delhi committing a "historical blunder", which they feel would negatively impact the nation's progress and prosperity and lead to "international isolation" diplomatically, one needs a scrutiny of the facts.

Why are we so hallucinating? India is a recurring, chronic laggard with the 15-member RCEP club -- except for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines, India's trade balance with the other 11 RCEP states is negative. And while India's total trade surplus with these four Asean countries is just \$1,589.26 billion, the bilateral trade loss from the other 11 RCEP states -- Australia, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and New Zealand -- stands at a staggering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is an alumnus of the National Defence College

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	43,828.10	-1.56
Nifty 50	12,858.40	-1.51
S&P 500*	3,625.96	-0.26
Dollar (₹)	73.92	0.10
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.60	0.27
Euro (₹)	87.96	-0.03
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,273.45	0.09
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.18	0.32
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.885	0.006
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.873	-0.009

GST: Kerala, West Bengal accept Centre's option

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

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



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

UP export policy aims at doubling farmer income

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

Mahindra's new Thar gets 4-star safety rating

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



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

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

Customers of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will be able to operate their accounts from DBS Bank India Ltd from Friday, the central bank announced on Wednesday. The announcement came within hours of the Union Cabinet clearing the Scheme of Amalgamation of LVB with DBS Bank India. Consequently, all branches of LVB will function as branches of DBS Bank India effective Friday and the moratorium imposed on the ailing bank would be lifted on the same day, the central bank said.

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

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



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



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

(RBI) said in a statement.

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

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

allowed things to deteriorate to such an extent?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Market turns volatile ahead of F&O expiry

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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

The Nifty-50, which also touched a new high of 13,145.85, plunged to a low of 12,833.65 before some recovery.

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



STOCK RALLY TO CONTINUE IN 2021: POLL

INDRADIP GHOSH & RAHUL KARUNAKAR
BENGALURU, NOV. 25

India's stock market rally is set to continue and hit new highs in 2021, according to a Reuters poll of equity strategists who overwhelmingly expected corporate earnings to return roughly to pre-pandemic levels within a year.

The Nov. 12-24 Reuters poll of over 35 equity strategists predicted the Sensex would set new all-time peaks in the next year. It was forecast to rise about 3 per cent from Tuesday's high to 45,750 by mid-2021.

It was then predicted to rise another 4 per cent by the end of 2021, with forecasts ranging from

36,000 to 54,400.

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

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

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

— Reuters

Shrikant Chouhan, equity technical research analyst, Kotak Securities, said.

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

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

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

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

Import hurdles hit Apple, Xiaomi devices from China

SANKALP PHARTIYAL & ADITYA KALRA
NEW DELHI, NOV. 25

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

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

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

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



the two sources said.

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

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

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

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

Electronics, and from Hangzhou Hikvision, the data showed.

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

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

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

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

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

—Reuters

Model tenancy law soon: Secy

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday said the government will soon come out with the model tenancy law, giving a major boost to real estate sector, especially rental homes.

The ministry had in July 2019 floated the draft model tenancy law.

Addressing a webinar organised by realtors body Naredco, he said the government's Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme for migrants, which was launched few months ago, has been progressing well and the programme has the potential to stop creation of slums in cities.

"Model Tenancy Law is ready. It has been translated into various languages as it has far reaching implications," Mishra said.

The deadline for feedback on the proposed model tenancy law ended on October 31 and now states have been asked to send those feedbacks after compiling it, he said.

The secretary said the model tenancy will come "very soon".

Mishra pointed out that 1.1 crore homes were

vacant as per the 2011 census as people fear to give their homes on rent.

The model tenancy law will eliminate anomalies and give a boost to the real estate sector, he said.

The Centre will send the Model Tenancy Law, after approval from the Union Cabinet, to states for its adoption. The draft model tenancy law proposes that landowners will have to give a notice in writing three months before revising rent. It advocated appointing a district collector as rent authority and heavy penalty on tenants for overstaying.

On the ARHC scheme, Mishra said the initial response has been very encouraging and the already completed units have been handed over in cities like Surat and Chandigarh.

"This scheme is the answer for ending slums in the country. No one wants to live in slums," he said.

Talking about the Rs 25,000-crore stress fund to complete stuck real estate projects, Mishra said around Rs 13,000 crore has been committed so far in 135 realty projects.

—PTI

L'Oreal to train a million against street harassment



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

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

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

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

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

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

Breakthrough India president and CEO Sohini Bhattacharya said the Stand Up initiative would enable women to reclaim public spaces.

—PTI

Twitter to bring back 'blue tick'

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

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

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

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

on a draft of its new verification policy starting November 24 up to December 8, 2020.

This policy will lay the foundation for future improvements by defining what verification means, who is eligible for this and why some accounts might lose verification to ensure "the process is more equitable".

"We plan to relaunch verification, including a new public application process, in early 2021... (As) per the proposed policy, the blue verified badge on Twitter lets people know that an account of public interest is authentic," the blog post said.

To receive the blue badge, the account must be "notable and active,

Twitter noted.

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

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

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

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

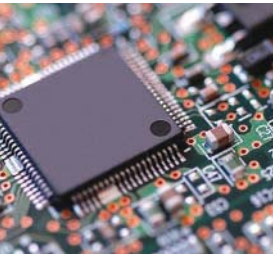
—PTI

S.Korea unveils AI chip to keep semiconductor lead

SAM KIM
NOV. 25

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

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



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

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

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

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

—Bloomberg



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

Sachin Tendulkar, batting great



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

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



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

VVS Laxman, former India batsman



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

Viren Rasquinha, former Indian hockey captain.



“Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona was like a magician with the ball at his feet. Football has lost an invaluable gem today. His glorious legacy will forever have a place in football history. Rest in peace.”

Praful Patel, All India Football Federation President



Diego takes hand of God

Argentine football legend Maradona dies of heart attack aged 60

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

— AP, AFP

The ‘Goal of the Century’

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

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

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

TOP THREE

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

Free-kick that conquered Naples

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

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

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

‘El Pibe’ volleys Verona

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

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

ON THE HAND OF GOD

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

ON LIONEL MESSI

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

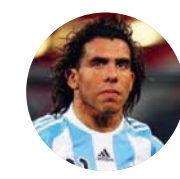
Diego in the words of others

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



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

— Argentina teammate Jorge Valdano.



“Diego, for all Argentinians, is God. And he always will be.” — Carlos Tevez.



“The best player there has ever been, better than Pele.” — Ruud Gullit, Dutch legend



“What (Zinedine) Zidane could do with a ball, Maradona could do with an orange.” — Michel Platini, French great

“Maradona is a God to the people of Naples. Maradona changed history. In 80 years, we had always suffered, fighting against relegation, yet in seven seasons with him we won two leagues, a UEFA Cup, two Italian Cups. I'm a fan too and to live those years with Maradona was incredible.” — Naples native Fabio Cannavaro, who was in the youth ranks at Napoli when Maradona was there and later won the World Cup with Italy in 2006.

