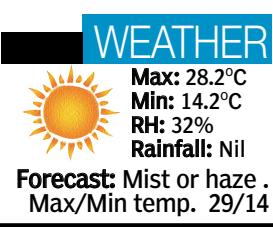
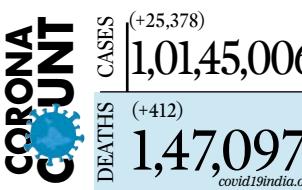


# DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2020

**NATION | 6****Modi to credit funds to farmers****WORLD | 7****UK, EU clinch post-Brexit deal**

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**7 BACK FROM UK TEST POSITIVE; FEAR OVER NEW COVID CLUSTERS**

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Seven among those who have returned to Telangana state from the United Kingdom have tested positive for Covid-19. Their samples have been sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) for genome sequencing to ascertain whether they have contracted the new strain.

A total of 1,200 persons have returned to the state from the UK in recent times. Of them, 846 persons have been identified.

According to sources, as many as 300 of these returnees are in Hyderabad city, more than 50 in Karimnagar district and about 25 in Warangal and Nizamabad districts. Fear is that these can emerge as the new clusters. The returnees have been urged to contact government officials and quarantine themselves for 14 days. Due to the festive season, a fear is that those who test negative would not want to be isolated. Health officials are urging them to remain in isolation at their homes and not step out.

■ Page 3: Contact tracing for UK returnees on

**Merry Christmas**

Devotees attend the Midnight Mass at St Mary's Basilica in Secunderabad to ring in Christmas. Deccan Chronicle wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas, joy and peace for all.

— R. PAVAN

**IPL 2022 to have 10 teams: BCCI**

**Ahmedabad, Dec. 24:** The Indian Premier League will be a 10-team affair from 2022 as the BCCI gave its stamp of approval to add two franchises, at its 89th Annual General Meeting here on Thursday.

The time constraints prevented BCCI from adding teams for the 2021 edition which would remain an eight-team tournament. The board has also decided to set a cap of one franchise per state. It's learnt that Ahmedabad, Thiruvanan-

thapuram, Lucknow, Visakhapatnam and Guwahati are on the BCCI's radar. The renovated Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad is considered the world's largest cricket stadium with a seating capacity of 110,000. Board members are keen to have a franchise based in Ahmedabad.

Meanwhile, former India pacer Chetan Sharma was appointed chairman of the senior national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC),

■ Full coverage on Page 10

which also picked Abbey Kuruvilla and Debasish Mohanty in the five-member team.

The selection panel also has former India players Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh. Sharma is a former player who represented India in 23 Tests and 65 ODIs during an 11-year-old international career, the highlight of which was his hat-trick in the 1987 World Cup. — Agencies

■ Page 5: RO decision to stop vote count 'unilateral'

He aims to equip the party win the 2023

**COUNT VOTES,****RESULTS, COURT TELLS MAHESH BANK**

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Asking how a returning officer could abruptly suspend the counting of votes, Justice P. Naveen Rao of the Telangana High Court on Thursday ordered completion of the process for elections to the board of directors at the Mahesh Cooperative Bank Ltd.

In an order issued to the returning officer, Justice Rao said the counting should be completed soonest.

The results should not be announced but the returning officer should instead send a report to the High Court by Monday, December 28. It must carry details of the votes secured by each candidate.

Disciplinary action is likely against the returning officer who stopped the counting at the last stage of the elections on Monday without stating the reasons.

The court was dealing with three petitions filed by the contestants on Wednesday.

Assembly polls and return to power with renewed energy.

Notably, the BJP has given the state leadership to Bandi Sanjay Kumar, a young leader. The

**CORONA COUNT****GAMES**

(+)25,378

1,01,45,006

DEATHS

(+)412

1,47,097

covid19india.org

STATE GOVT BULLETINS

TELANGANA

(+)574

2,83,556

ANDHRA PRADESH

(+)357

8,80,075

DEATHS

(+)4

7,089

covid19india.org

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**KCR draws up plans to keep BJP in check****Post-Delhi return, CM gears up party for polls**

Congress is looking at having a young leader at the helm to repackage the party for the elections.

As the CM is holding one-on-one discussions with senior leaders and close associates at his farmhouse, speculations are that changes in the party and government are in the offing. TRS leaders are tuning into a comment from senior party MLA D.S. Redya Naik on Thursday about K.T. Rama Rao being designated Chief Minister before Ugadi 2021.

Chandrashekhar Rao wants that the party and the government run in close coordination in the event the proposed changes in leadership structures are effected. The CM is reportedly looking at the possibility of making finance minister T. Harish Rao and health minister Etala Rajender working presidents of the party, in the event of Rama Rao being designated Chief Minister.

■ Page 5: Big revamp in TRS likely in 2021

**Tagore vision essence of Atmanirbhar: PM**

ANIMESH SINGH & RAJIB CHOWDHURI  
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, DEC. 24

celebrations of Visva-Bharati University, founded by the Nobel laureate in Santineketan.

With the upcoming West Bengal Assembly Election on his mind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attributed the essence of the BJP-led NDA government's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative to Bengal icon Rabindranath Tagore at the centenary

viral. Presiding as the Chancellor of the Central university, Modi, in his virtual address, said, "Guided by Gurudev, Visva-Bharati presented a strong image of Indian nationalist sentiment during the Independence. Gurudev wanted the entire humanity to benefit from India's spiritual awakening. Atmanirbhar Bharat vision is also a derivative of this sentiment." Invoking Tagore's famous poem, *Chitto jetha bhow shunyo, uchcho jetha shir* (Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high) in Bengali accent, he also pitched for the National Education Policy, adding, "Today the entire country is trying to fulfil this purpose through the national education policy. Visva-Bharati has a great role to play to put it in place."

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## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Ekadasi  
till 1.53 am (Saturday)

**Star:** Ashwini till 7.35 am

**Variyam:** 6.22 pm to 8.10 pm

**Durmuhuram:** 8.59 am to 9.42 am; 12.38 pm to 1.22 pm

**Rahukalam:** 10.30 am to 12 noon

**HIJRI CALENDAR**

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 9, 1442 AH

**PRAYERS**

Fajr: 5.38 am

Zohar: 12.26 pm

Asar: 4.13 pm

Maghrib: 5.55 pm

Isha: 7.08 pm

**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.43 AM

**SUNSET TODAY** 5.49 PM

**MOONSET** 2.28 PM

**MOONRISE** 2.21 AM

## COUNTER POINT



Psst! Corona vaccine...

## IN BRIEF

## 31-yr-old auto driver murdered

**Hyderabad:** A 31-year-old autorickshaw driver was found murdered by unidentified persons at Kulsumpura on Wednesday night. According to the police, the deceased, Mohd Azam Tappachabutra, reportedly went along with a group of acquaintances near Patel hotel in Kulsumpura on late Wednesday night. He was hit on the head with boulders, resulting in his death on the spot, the police said.

## NRIs return for season of joy

**SANJAY SAMUEL**  
**PAUL I DC**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Christmas festivities spread their charm all around the twin cities Thursday, with churches decorated, carol shows in most eateries, bakeries selling more of traditional cakes, and last-minute shopping being on in full swing in the run-up to the traditional Midnight Mass.

Cosmetics shops and beauty parlours did brisk business while homes were filled with the aroma of Rose cookies, Kalkals, Donuts etc. Family gatherings have been given more importance this time so as to avoid large gatherings which are usual for the occasion like Midnight Mass.

Lots of NRIs descended on the city and made sure that, even in these Covid times, the celebrations were in full swing. The Centenary Methodist Church at Chapel Road was all set to have the Christmas Services - starting from Pre-Dawn Services, extending them till late in the afternoon. The Church was beautifully lit up.

Captain Alwyn Menezes attended the midnight mass at St Anthony's church at RK Puram. "I served the Indian Army for 20 years. Even when I kept moving places on transfers, I made sure I visited the closest churches for the midnight mass," he said.

Large numbers of Non-Resident Indians have made up their mind to celebrate Christmas 2020 in the midst of their loved ones. Rahul Pranay Kumar, a permanent resident (PR) of Canada, was here celebrating and he's having great time with his family.

Stated he, "I missed my mother and sister for the past four Christmases. Without your near and dear ones around, it will be a blue Christmas even if



Joseph cathedral church illuminated on Christmas Eve to mark their 200 years celebrations on Thursday in Hyderabad.

- DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## KCR, Gov. convey Christmas wishes

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

you are at the best of places. This season is filled with so much of fun and celebrations, as we all went for the carol rounds."

Paul Mithra, a US resident, was in the city to celebrate Christmas along with his parents. "Yes, after two decades," he beamed. "This Christmas brings all my memories back. The church is beautifully lit up. Any celebration in my own Hyderabad is always the best for me."

Gopa Daniel, member of the Pastorate committee, said, "The Wesley Church, Ramkote, is all set to dedicate its new church constructed in the same premises by the Most Rev A Dharamraj Rasalam, moderator for the Churches of South India, on Christmas Day."

Celine Lazarus of the St Sebastian Church, Defence Colony, hailing from the Anglo Indian Community, said: "Since the pandemic is all around, the family is making sure we attend the virtual service."

In a message, the Governor said, "Christmas is a joyous occasion to celebrate the birth of Jesus and cherish His ideals. His life symbolises love, forgiveness, truth, compassion, brotherhood, and sacrifice."

The Chief Minister in his message said, "If everybody follows the teachings of Jesus Christ of love, peace and compassion, we can lead a peaceful life." He said teachings of Jesus Christ have influenced the world.

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao conveyed their Christmas greetings to people of the state.

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The Governor Dr Tamilisai and the Chief Minister urged the people to celebrate Christmas duly following Covid-19 precautions.

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## New mutant may replace old strain

Experts say to continue Covid techniques

## Contact tracing for UK returnees on

From Page 1

The new more infective Coronavirus strain from the UK may replace the A/3 clade, which entered the country from southeast Asia. Over time, the weaker A3 clade was replaced by the A2a clade, the global strain.

Dr Rakesh Mishra, director of CCMB, said, "With infectivity rate as high as 71 per cent as the existing strain will be replaced by the new one. The parallel strain in South Africa suggests that it affects younger people more but more research is required."

What health complications the new strain will lead to is not known. Dr Mishra said, "The mutation was slow but it has developed a new strain which is more virulent. We cannot let our guard down."

Dr Mishra met vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu and briefed him about the new strain.

The CCMB director stated that the disaster management techniques meant for SARS-CoV-2 in 2020 will have to continue.

The biggest worry is the status of the vaccines due to the emerging new strains. While scientists are confident that vaccines will work, it is not known for how long their efficacy will last. With many people preferring not to get vaccinated immediately, it is important that they

ignited for Covid-19 treatment have to start services soon and they need to be equipped. As many as 11 CT scan machines and 3 MRI machines will be purchased immediately to deal with the present situation.

A senior health official said, "The outbreak of the new strain has to be controlled. It could be in clusters of those who have returned from the UK. We have to ensure that they are isolated and tested negative. This will help avert a community spread."

The minister has urged the people to follow safety steps and wear masks regularly while going out of home. Frequent hand-washing and physical distancing are a must. Among the seven positives, two are from Hyderabad, one each from Warangal, Siddipet, Medical and two from Jagtial.

strain but the other mutations which may have occurred in India.

The strain in the UK and South Africa is an indication that virus mutation in the region means that there could be different strains in the Southeast Asia too.

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## Uttar Pradesh emerges as an economic hub with Policies to attract investors



In the post-COVID-19 national economic scenario, Uttar Pradesh is most likely to emerge as a great economic hub as the Yogi Adityanath government has been working on attracting investments with more flexible and investor-friendly policies. Economic achievements during the COVID-19 period testify the assertion as the government allotted 420 acres of land to the industrial units coming with investments of approximately Rs. 6700 crore and employment potential for more than 1.35 lakh workers.

## During Pandemic

## Investments of Rs. 45,000 crore attracted

As a result of pro-investor policies and willingness to further tweak regulations to suit industries, the state could attract new investments worth Rs. 45,000 crore from companies from 10 countries, including Japan, the USA, the UK, Canada, Germany, South Korea. As much as 43% of these proposals, worth Rs. 14,900 crore, has so far been firmed up on ground.

## German footwear major starts production in Agra

In the first week of November, famous German footwear major Von Wellx operationalized two shoe-making units in Agra. Von Wellx, earlier having operations in China, has shifted two of its shoe-making units to Agra. These units have been set up in partnership with India's Latic Industries Group at the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Agra. A total of around 2,000 employment avenues have been created in these units. Von Wellx would invest around Rs 300 crore in phases in three projects in the state, generating around 10,000 jobs. Von Wellx had announced in May that it would be shifting its entire production of three million pairs of shoes from China to India.

## Proposed investments

Investments that have already been firmed up include Rs 750 crore from

the Hiranandani Group for a data centre in Noida. The foundation for the data centre was laid in the last week of November. Another investment of Rs 300 crore from Britannia Industries to set up an integrated food processing unit in Barabanki, Rs 750 crore from Associated British Food (AB Mauri) (UK) for a yeast manufacturing facility in Chitrakoot and Rs 200 crore from Dixon Technologies have also firmed up. Surya Global Flexi Films has given investment proposals for 953 crores, Agacrafts Inc of Canada is to invest Rs. 746 crore, Edison Motors (S. Korea) will invest Rs. 750 crore in electric mobility in its first phase. In next phases its total investments could

reach Rs. 3,500 to 5,000 crore while Yazaki (Japan) is to invest Rs 2000 crore.

## Film City in Noida adjoining Yamuna Expressway

The government is also getting developed film city in 1,000 acres near Noida. MSME Park, Electronics Park, Apparels Park, Handicrafts Park and Toy Park are also proposed in the same area. These projects are likely to attract investments to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore with employment potential of 2.5 to 3 lakh workers.

## Leather Parks

The UP government is promoting a Leather Park in Agra on the Agra-Jaipur Highway (NH-11) for finished Leather Goods or Footwear/ Shoe

Industries. It is being developed with sectoral layout in an area of approx. 283 Acres at cost of USD 328 million.

In the first phase, 71.07 Acre of land is being developed and various sizes of plots like 1000, 2100 and 4000 Sq. Mtr are available for industries. Technical assistance from Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) & Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) is also available to the industrial units here.

Meanwhile, the government has announced another mega leather park in Ramnagar village of Kanpur with an investment of Rs 5,850 crore. The park, that is part of the mega leather cluster project, is likely to create 50,000 direct and 1.5 lakh indirect job opportunities. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is likely to lay the

foundation stone of the project soon. The mega leather cluster project is likely to attract an investment of about Rs 13,000 crores.

## Samsung's largest mobile factory

It may be recalled that UP is the home to the world's largest mobile factory. It was set up by Samsung in Noida. The unit has a capacity of fabricating 120 million phones a year. It makes 10 million phones a month, 70 per cent of which are earmarked for domestic usage.

## Fifth largest employment generator through MSME

During the Covid-19 hit period, the state emerged as the fifth largest employment generator through MSME units. The ranking was recently released by the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI ranked states on the basis of employment data in MSME units during the COVID-19-impacted period. Only Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are ahead of UP in this regard. Government's flagship ODOP scheme has played a major role in this achievement. Even smaller districts have become employment-generating centres with the help of ODOP scheme.

## Skill Mapping of Returnees

A big achievement of the state government has been the skill mapping of returnee workforce. More than 30 lakh skilled workers were mapped. Of these, more than 11 lakh have been linked with suitable economic sectors.

## 7,000 industrial licenses being issued every month

The kind of efficiency brought about in the regulatory systems may be seen in the fact that the UP Government is issuing more than 7000 licenses and NOCs every month for starting new industrial units and other business needs. All this has been done through the single-window portal "Nivesh Mitra" that currently offers 166 services related to 22 departments. Starting 58 new services on Nivesh Mitra by the end of November is also in the process.

## Expressway projects running ahead of schedule

Bundelkhand Expressway is likely to be ready ahead of the schedule as more than 21% of civil work in the 296-km-long expressway has already been finished despite the coronavirus pandemic. According to UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi, the draft proposal for seeking expression of interests for the PPP agreements for the proposed Ganga Expressway has been approved by the board and it would soon be forwarded to the state cabinet for approval. Also, the UPEIDA will open offices in Kanpur and Aligarh to facilitate investors in defence industrial corridor.

## UPSIDA to monitor progress on 117 MoUs

The Infrastructure and Industrial Development Department (IIDD) of UP government has identified and mapped 117 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to 13 nodal officers from UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) for tracking progress and facilitating its implementation. The MoUs were signed between the investors and the state government during the Investors' Summit in February 2018. Meanwhile, with the continuous support and assistance from the nodal officers, projects with investments worth Rs 770 crore have successfully commenced commercial production.

## Quick Investment Promotion Policy 2020

The Yogi Adityanath government has recently introduced new Quick Investment Promotion Policy 2020 for Backward Areas. Attractive incentives are being given under the policy for setting up industrial units in East UP, Central UP and Bundelkhand where a high number of skilled workers have returned from other states during the COVID-19-induced lockdown. Also, for faster processing of investment proposals, a help desk has been created under "Invest UP", the new framework set up for promotion of investments.

# Sectt not on wetland: TS

Demolition generated 1.14 lakh tonne waste; only 33K tonnes treated: PCB

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

In a response to arguments from TPCC working president A Revanth Reddy on demolition of the state Secretariat, the Telangana Pollution Control Board has explained to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the Hussainsagar lake in the vicinity is not categorised as a wetland.

The main issue raised by Reddy in the petition he filed before the southern bench of the NGT was that the location of the demolition was just 80 metres away from the lake. Any such activity in the area, he argued, can be undertaken only after permission is obtained from the authority overseeing the Wetland Rules, 2017.

In its counter, the board clarified that this lake was a man-made water body and does not fall into the category of a wetland.

The board also made it clear that the waste generated via the demolition of the old secretariat complex was being "appropriately" taken care of by the Hyderabad Construction and Demolition Waste Pvt Ltd in Jeedimetla. The total waste generated was of 1,14,447 tonnes. This

involved 4,578 tonnes of iron, wood and other materials. These were segregated for recycling. Till date, 33,590 tonnes of waste was processed and the rest would be done by January 2021.

The PCB said it would inspect the process and verify the quantity of waste processed every month. The facility will submit a monthly progress reports to the board," the PCB stated.

The PCB said the facility in Jeedimetla would be manufacturing products like paver blocks using the recycled aggregates and sand of 1,500 units per day. "The unprocessed waste of about 60,942 tonnes is being stored within the premises to the west and south-west directions of the plant. This would be processed by March, 2021."

"However, there now was a labour shortage due to the Covid-19 crisis and hence the processing got delayed," the board said.

The PCB also stated that the documents submitted by the state ambient monitoring project data section and the roads and buildings department had stated that sufficient precautions were being taken during the demolition and disposal of the waste.

## RBI briefs cops on online bank fraud

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjan met K. Nikhila, regional director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on Thursday and discussed the misuse of online applications by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other entities in the name of instant personal loans.

Rohini Priyadarshini, DCP Crimes, explained how these loan apps functioned, and said that they were developed by companies that have agreements with NBFCs and others.

"Mentioning that the names and addresses of the NBFCs registered with the Reserve Bank can be accessed on RBI's website, the officials suggested that the public can report information about unverified/unauthorised apps to the law enforcement agencies concerned or use RBI's Sachet portal (<https://sachet.rbi.org.in>) for filing on-line complaints. Complaints against the entities regulated by the RBI can be accessed through RBI's Complaint Management System (<https://cms.rbi.org.in>)," added the officials.

RBI officials briefed the police officials on the central bank's regulations on digital lending platforms / mobile apps.

They also said that the names of the digital lending platforms engaged as agents shall

## Four killed as car hits water tanker

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Four students were killed and two sustained serious injuries when their car rammed into a water tanker while they were trying to overtake another car on Thursday evening on the Hyderabad-National Highway at Bhongir. The died were identified as C. Venkatesh, from Kushtaguda, who was at the wheel, P. Kalyan Reddy, from Nizamabad, V. Karthik, from Ghatkesar and E. Ravikiran, from Malkajgiri.

K. Akhil Reddy, from Anojiguda, Medipally, G. Harshvardhan of Kushtaguda, and G. Saicharan, from from Malkajgiri were injured.

They were all BTech second year engineering students of Holy Mary College in Ghatkesar. Everyone was 19 years

old, except Kalyan Reddy who was 18.

"They were heading back to the city in the car (AP28 DM 9989) after attending a wedding when they met with the accident at around 5.15 pm," the police said, adding that the water tanker was parked on the roadside for watering of saplings of Telangana Ku Haritha Haram.

Upon getting the information, Bhongir police rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies to the area hospital of Bhongir for postmortem examination. The injured persons were brought to a hospital in the city.

According to the Hyderabad traffic police website, the car they were driving was registered to one Manda Aravind and had five unpaid challans amounting to ₹3,975 since September 2017, including three for speeding and dangerous driving.

## SPECIAL TEAM BUSTS OPEN DRUG RING, SEIZES DRUGS WORTH ₹7 CRORE IN CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD DEC. 24

A drug racket was unearthed by the Special Operations Team of Madhapur who nabbed the kingpin, a former pharma employee and a graduate, who was illegally manufacturing and supplying alprazolam in the city.

The officials seized ₹7 crore worth drugs, 500 kilos in beta stage and 102 kilos of final batch apart from ₹2.98 lakh net cash from manufacturing unit in Prakasam district.

Police said he hired Golla Krishnaiah, 31, Bondalapati Nageswar Rao, 45, Kaluvai Manohar Reddy, 39, Kaluvai Amarnath Reddy, 40, Kongani Raju, 40, Bandi Ravi Teja, 27, Gonapelli, 24, Neelam Ravi Kumar, Rajesh Reddy, and Kothi Venkatesh to distribute, handle logistics and manufacture the batches at a unit in Prakasam district.

was banned in Telangana state about three years ago, police.

Police said he hired Golla Krishnaiah, 31, Bondalapati Nageswar Rao, 45, Kaluvai Manohar Reddy, 39, Kaluvai Amarnath Reddy, 40, Kongani Raju, 40, Bandi Ravi Teja, 27, Gonapelli, 24, Neelam Ravi Kumar, Rajesh Reddy, and Kothi Venkatesh to distribute, handle logistics and manufacture the batches at a unit in Prakasam district.

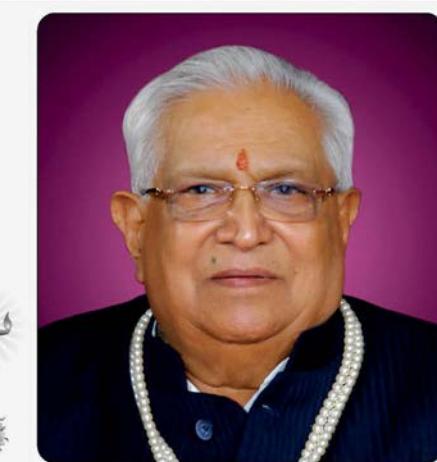
## MEDAK GETS NEW MANDAL

Hyderabad: The government on Thursday constituted Masaipet as a mandal in Medak district. It will have Chetlathimai-

pally, Pothampally and Pothamsethpally village from Chegutu mandal and Masaipet, Ramamthapuram, Yeldurthy, Achampet,

Hakimpet, Koppulapally, and Lingardipally from Toopran from Yeldurthy mandal, according to the notification.

## UTHAVANA

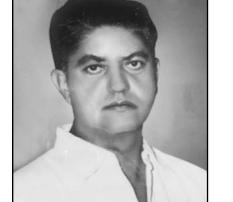


**SRI RADHESHYAMJI KANODIA**  
S/o: Late Sri Hazarilalji Kanodia  
(Expired on 22nd Dec. 2020)

Join UTHAVANA (Prayer meet) today, 25th December 2020 from 12 noon to 1 pm from your home/work place.

Chaganal Kanodia (Brother), Omprakash, Rajkumar, Sanjay, Deepak (Nephew), Girish, Anil, Sunil (Sons), and Kanodia Family  
**HAZARILALJI RADHESHYAMJI KANODIA**  
3-5-199/B/9, Hari Vihar Colony, Narayanguda, Hyderabad  
Founder : GRACE AGENCIES GROUP  
SAIN MEDICAMENTS PVT. LTD.  
INLIFE HEALTHCARE PVT. LTD  
NUTRA GRACE, LIVESTAMIN HEALTHCARE LLP  
Phone. No. 92463 41319

## 34th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Shree D.H. BALAJI SETH**  
DOB: 25-12-1986  
Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday. Your principles guide us everyday and your life continues to light our path.  
Deeply missed and remembered by:  
D.B. Jitendra (Son)  
Namita Yadav (Daughter-in-Law)  
Harsh Yadav, Saarthak Yadav (Grand Sons)

## 26th ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF SMT. B. ASHALATHA



10-10-1949 25-12-1994  
Some may think you are forgotten, but in our memory you are with us, as you always have been before.  
Those we love always remain with us, their special love, lives on forever.  
Ramesh, Bobby & Dr. Radhika, Chinmu & Parvathi

## SHRADHANJALI



**Late PRAMILA DEVI GELLI**  
DOB:02-11-1944 DOD 23-12-2020  
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS  
**HUSBAND :**  
GELLI VENKATESHWARI  
**CHILDREN :** NARESH GELLI,  
SATISH GELLI &  
GEETA THADAKA &  
GELLI FAMILY MEMBERS

## SHRADHANJALI



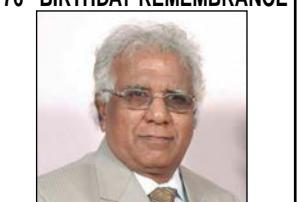
**Smt. Ranjana Ashok Doshi**  
(W/o. Shri Ashok M Doshi)  
22nd Aug. 1955 - 23rd Dec. 2020  
We will miss your graceful smile always.  
May your divine soul rest in peace

## BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**Dr. V.C. Narasimhan**  
M.D.,D.A.  
(s/o Sri. V.C. Rangaswamy)  
Formerly Professor of Anaesthesia -  
Osmaria Medical College, NIMS,  
Indian Army: 1963-67 during war.  
OMC, GMC & Hospitals - Hyd.  
Meenakshi Mission Hospital - Madurai.  
Born: 24th May 1937, Vaikasi Visakam.  
Deceased: 21st Dec 2015 Valkunta Ekadasi.  
- Dr. Rajalakshmi (wife)  
Son, Daughters, Grandchildren

## 76th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



**Late Mr. B.J. CHRISTOPHER**  
S/o Late Mr. B. John Joseph  
Born on: 25th Dec 1944  
Slept in the Lord: 4th June 2018  
Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even if he dies...." John 11:25  
Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grand Children

## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Rev. K.A. JAMES CHRISTOPHER**  
B.D.OB:25-12-1938 — D.O.D: 09-03-2011  
Deceased: 25-12-2017  
Born: 24th May 1937, Vaikasi Visakam.  
Deceased: 21st Dec 2015 Valkunta Ekadasi.  
- Dr. Rajalakshmi (wife)  
Son, Daughters, Grandchildren

## 1st Death Anniversary



**Sis. D. DORCAS**  
DOD: 25.12.2019  
**Mr. David Sikhamani**  
DOD: 14-01-2020  
Your Memory is stored in our  
Hearts & Minds.  
Believers of Gilga Prayer House  
and Branches & Sons  
Mob.: 9912151556

## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Smt. SHAKUNTALA DEVI**  
DOB: 08-10-1932 DOD: 25-12-2017  
Deceased: 08-10-1932 DOD: 25-12-2017  
Born: 22.02.1932 D.O.B: 25-12.2017  
Deceased: 25-12-2017  
Name: Smt. SHAKUNTALA DEVI  
Cell: 93480 95470 / 80 / 90  
Inserted by: RAWAT FAMILY (Lal Bazar)

## 34th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**D. BALAJI**  
S/o late D. Hiralal  
YOU ARE ALWAYS REMAIN IN OUR  
HEARTS & MINDS.  
PRAVEEN KUMAR & VIDUSHI PRAVEEN  
(Son & Daughter-in-Law)  
UTKARSH & APARAJITH (Grand Sons)  
Ph: 9849816837

## PRARTHNA SABHA

### PRARTHNA SABHA



**Smt. Ranjana Ashok Doshi**  
(W/o. Ashok M Doshi)  
22nd August 1955 - 23rd December 2020

NO WORDS CAN TELL THE LOSS WE HAD !  
TILL MEMORIES FAIL AND LIFE DEPARTS,  
YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS..

## ZOOM MEETING

Today, 25th Dec, 2020, Time : 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Zoom Meeting ID: 932 164 4223 Passcode : 1414

Inserted by:

**Sushilaben Mansukhlal Doshi Parivar**  
Ashok M Doshi (Husband)  
Rajeev & Sonal Doshi (Son & Daughter in Law)  
Aanya, Freya & Prehaan Doshi (Grand Children)  
Pankaj & Sheetal Doshi, Sharad & Varsha Bhayani,  
Ketan & Nita Doshi, Devang & Reena Mehta,  
Bhavya & Dhwanil Doshi, Ronak & Hiral Gandhi,  
Jai & Vidhi Doshi, Seema & Nyra Doshi

**DOSHI**  
Group HYDERABAD

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aachamma in Heaven 25.12.2020  
"Marvel not at this: For the hour is coming. In which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice." John 5:28



**KOLLURI ALICE**  
Eldest D/o Late K. Jessie Prema Kumar  
I love you and I hope the Angels will be throwing you a wonderful Birthday Celebration in heaven.  
Inserted by: Sisters, Sons, Daughter Son: Samuel (Pandu) Grandson: Judah Prince

(CA-3486)

## AKHAND PATH

we regret to inform you the sad demise of



**SARDAR JASBIR SINGH WAHI**

DOB: 17th December 2020

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Saheb will be held on 25th December 2020 @ 10.00am

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Saheb on 27th December, 2020 @ 12.00 pm onwards

Followed by Guru Ki Langar at Gurudwara Sahib Alwar, Secunderabad

In Gurdwara Hazrat Khan Wali

Son and Daughters Mukhbir Singh Wali, Mannmei Kaur Thind, Jagvirinder Kaur Phable 915105522, 888629209, 81060078424,

888629209, 81060078424,

888629209, 81060078424,

888629209, 81060078424,

888629209, 81060078424,

888629209, 81060078424,

## RO DECISION TO STOP VOTE COUNT UNILATERAL, SAY COUNSELS

From Page 1

They sought directions to complete counting of the remaining 637 votes and for declaration of the results at the earliest.

The court asked the central and state governments whether any action against the returning officer has been initiated.

Counsel for the petitioners submitted that the RO unilaterally took the deci-

sion to stop the counting. He flouted the rules. The authority has no power to stop the counting even on the ground that there were bogus voters.

Such aspects would come up only at the time of publication of the voters list, counsels argued.

The court directed the RO to submit the results to it in a sealed cover. The cases have been adjourned to Monday.

<b>GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA</b>											
Revenue (LA) Department											
or											
Collector / Joint Collector /											
Special Collector (L.A.) & SDC (LA)											

### FORM - VII

#### DECLARATION

(See Sub-Rule(1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)

Gazette No: RRD-167

Dated: 19-12-2020

File No. A/5/2020

Dated: 18-12-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Special Collector, LA & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad that a total of 36,196.06 Sq. Yards of land is required in Shivarampally & Hassan Nagar villages, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District for Proposed road widening from (Aramgarh Junction to Miralam Tank, via Shivarampally & Hassan Nagar, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District under SRDP.

Therefore Declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less 36,196.06 Sq. Yards, standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in Shivarampally & Hassan Nagar villages, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, whose detail description is as follows:

SI. No. Survey No. Type of Title Name & Address of person interested Name & Address of person interested

		Boundaries				Trees		Structures			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
Left side allotted properties											
1	743	744	T. Arvind Goud	Neighbour's Land	6-3-162/1	1/2	Part of owner's land	Road	-	-	-
2	705	706	Dr Syed Hussain	6-3-167/1	6-3-162/A	1/2	Part of owner's land	Road	-	-	-
3	155	156	1 Sadala Padma	6-3-162/2/A/1	Passage	1/2	Part of owner's land	Road	-	-	-
4	2063	2064	Jai Durga Bhagwan Auto	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Temple	-	-	-	-
5	148	149	Syed Razia 6-3-162/2	Part of owner's land	Road	Road	Hanuman Temple	-	-	-	-
6	261	262	Ramachandrapuram Police Station	Part of owner's land	Road	Road	-	-	-	-	-
7	603	604	Vijaya Lakshmi Complex	Part of owner's land	Road	6-3-151/7/1	Road	-	-	-	-
8	139	140	K Srikantha Reddy 6-3-151/1	Part of owner's land	Road	Passage	6-3-151/3/9	-	-	-	-
9	126	127	Roop Lalit Kedia	Part of owner's land	Road	Vinayaka Parking	Passage	-	-	-	-
10	605	606	R. Narayana Reddy 6-3-151/2/2/NR	Part of owner's land	Road	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	148	149	Vinayaka Parking	Part of owner's land	Road	6-3-56	-	-	-	-	-
12	2045	2046	Rokkam Sri Ram 6-3-56	Part of owner's land	Road	Patel Enterprises	Vinayaka Parking	-	-	-	-
13	126	127	R.Narsimha Reddy 6-3-56	Part of owner's land	Road	6-3-56	6-3-56	-	-	-	-
14	608	609	R.Narsimha Reddy 6-3-56	Part of owner's land	Road	6-3-56	6-3-56	-	-	-	-
15	601	602	Rokkam Sri Ram 6-3-56	Part of owner's land	Road	Bharat Lorry Parking	6-3-56	-	-	-	-
16	6011	6012	Bharat Lorry Parking	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	6-3-151/3/1	-	-	-	-
17	577	578	Praja Bharat Kalyana Mandapam	Part of owner's land	Road	Sai Baba Temple	Road	-	-	-	-
18	402	403	Henry Marlyn Institute Amritanam	Part of owner's land	Road	S.S. Grand Convention	Shops	-	-	-	-
19	404	405	Hesnuddin	Part of owner's land	Road	V. Balaramaiah	Henry Marlyn Institute Amritanam	-	-	-	-
20	126	127	Vishwanath 6-3-128/1/1	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	S.S. Grand Convention	-	-	-	-
21	6078	6079	Rajendranagar Traffic Police Station	Part of owner's land	Road	S.V. Police Academy	6-3-128/1/1	-	-	-	-
22	407	408	Sardar Vallabhai Patel Police Academy	Part of owner's land	Road	S.V. Police Academy	Open Land	-	-	-	-
23	2852	2853	Sardar Vallabhai Patel Police Academy	Part of owner's land	Road	S.V. Police Academy	Shops	-	-	-	-
24	7205	7206	Md. Rasheed	Part of owner's land	Road	Road	S.V. Police Academy	-	-	-	-
25	248	249	Zaleema Begum	Part of owner's land	Road	4-14-5	-	-	-	-	-
26	143	144	Khalqia Begum 4-14-5	Part of owner's land	Road	4-14-6	4-14-2	-	-	-	-
27	133	141	Khalqia Begum 4-14-6	Part of owner's land	Road	4-14-6	4-14-5	-	-	-	-
28	5656	5657	Khalqia Begum 4-14-6	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-133	4-14-6	-	-	-	-
29	154	155	Rahim Unnesha Qadir, 8-13-133	Part of owner's land	Road	4-14-6	-	-	-	-	-
30	302	303	Sampath	Part of owner's land	Road	Road	4-14-6	-	-	-	-
31	224	225	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Plastics authorized dealers	Road	-	-	-	-
32	644	645	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Mount Joydi School	Road	-	-	-	-
33	607	608	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
34	572	573	Surya Prakash & others, 6-4-17/A/6	Part of owner's land	Road	Restaurant	Road	-	-	-	-
35	283	315	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
36	574	575	Haji, 6-4-16/2	Part of owner's land	Road	Top Gear Shop	Road	-	-	-	-
37	575	576	Top Gear Car Service	Part of owner's land	Road	6-4-18	Road	-	-	-	-
38	432	433	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
39	423	424	Abdul Habeeb Khan, 6-4-18	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
40	5236	5237	Mahender Patel, 6-4-18/A	Part of owner's land	Road	Darul Uloom Hyderabad	Road	-	-	-	-
41	412	413	Govt Land	Part of owner's land	Road	Balaji Lorry Service	Road	-	-	-	-
42	5043	5044	Sardar Vallabhai Patel Police Academy, Hyderabad	Part of owner's land	Road	Electric Power House	Road	-	-	-	-
43	5043	5045	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Electric Power House	-	-	-	-
44	5043	5044	Owner & Occupier	Part of owner's land	Road	HP Gas Rooms	Open Land	-	-	-	-
45	5043	5045	M/s Raghavendra Nagal Cooperative Housing Society Ltd	Part of owner's land	Road	Rechavendri Nagar Kaman	Open Land	-	-	-	-
46	5042	5043	Raghavendra Co-Operative Housing Society	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
47	5043	5045	M/s Krishnamraju Investments by Sri Goutham Chand Jain & M. Chithrangan	Part of owner's land	Road	Nataraj Office	Road	-	-	-	-
48	5044	5045	Nataraj Office	Part of owner's land	Road	CSK Kings Colony	Road	-	-	-	-
49	5044	5045	Solanji Salaiji, 6-3-119/A	Part of owner's land	Road	Open Land	Open Land	-	-	-	-
50	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
51	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
52	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
53	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
54	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
55	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
56	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
57	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
58	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
59	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
60	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
61	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
62	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
63	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
64	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land	-	-	-	-
65	5045	5046	Patta Land	Part of owner's land	Road	8-13-067/1	Open Land</td				



## SHORT TAKES

## 15-YRS' JAIL TO HAFIZ SAED IN ONE MORE CASE

Lahore, Dec. 24: Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Thursday sentenced to 15 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in one more terror financing case. The court also imposed 200,000 Pakistani rupees fine on him.

Saeed, 70, has already been convicted for 21 years imprisonment in four terror financing cases of late. Now, Saeed will have to undergo collective imprisonment of over 36 years in five terror financing cases at the Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore. His punishment will run concurrently in these cases.

## BODIES OF 20 MIGRANTS RETRIEVED

Tunis, Dec. 24: Tunisia's coastguard on Thursday retrieved the bodies of 20 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa after their boat capsized at sea, a spokesman for the defence ministry said. Five other migrants who were on board were rescued, ministry spokesman Mohamed Zekri said, adding that a search operation was underway. Zekri did not give further details, but said the rescue operation took place off the port of Sfax in central Tunisia. Khaled Hayouni, a spokesman for the interior ministry, said the boat was heading to Italy from the Sidi Mansour district of Sfax when it sank.

More than 40 people were on board the makeshift boat, Mourad Turki, a spokesman for the Sfax court, said.

## ETHIOPIA GUNMEN KILL MORE THAN 100

Addis Ababa, Dec. 24: Gunmen killed more than 100 people in an attack on Wednesday in western Ethiopia, the national human rights body said, the latest in a series of deadly assaults on the area.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), a government-affiliated but independent body, said in a statement late on Wednesday that "more than 100 people have been killed in fires and shooting perpetrated by armed men" in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

The commission said survivors had "disturbing photo evidence of the attack" which started in the pre-dawn hours "on sleeping residents" in the region's Metekel zone and continued until Wednesday.

## KANSAS COP FATALLY SHOT SUSPECT

Kansas, Dec. 24: Wichita police say a police officer fatally shot a bank robbery suspect after the man rammed a stolen pickup truck into the officer's police cruiser.

Paul Peraza, 50, was fatally shot Monday afternoon after allegedly robbing a credit union and leading police on a chase that ended in a crash. Police said Tuesday that after striking an SUV, Peraza put the truck in reverse and struck a police cruiser. "The officer, concerned about his safety and the public's safety, fired shots and struck Peraza," Deputy Police Chief Jose Salcido said in a written statement. The truck then struck a Honda Accord before coming to a stop. Peraza was pronounced dead at the scene.

## TURKEY HANDS EXILED JOURNO 27-YR JAIL TERM

Istanbul, Dec. 24: A Turkish court on Wednesday sentenced the exiled former editor-in-chief of the Cumhuriyet daily to more than 27 years in jail on espionage and terror charges for one of the reputable paper's stories.

The court found Can Dundar — who fled to Germany in 2016 — guilty in connection with an article about an alleged Turkish arms shipment to Islamist Syrian rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad.

He was sentenced to 18 years and nine months for "securing confidential information for espionage" and eight years and nine months for "aiding a terrorist group" led by US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen.

The Turkish government blames the cleric for orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

## UK, EU clinch post-Brexit free trade agreement

Details to emerge in next few days with final ratification by both Parliaments

**London, Dec. 24:** The deal is done, Downing Street in London and European Union (EU) officials in Brussels confirmed on Thursday as both sides managed to thrash out a post-Brexit free trade agreement (FTA) just days before the December 31 deadline. Thousands of pages of legal text accompanies the deal, with details of the agreement set to emerge in the course of the next few days, including the final ratification of the FTA by Parliaments on both sides.

"We have got Brexit done and we can now take full advantage of the fantastic opportunities available to us as an independent trading nation, striking trade deals with other partners around the world," Downing Street said in a statement. "We have signed the first free trade agreement based on zero tariffs and zero quotas that has ever been achieved with the EU. The deal is the biggest bilateral trade deal signed

by either side, covering trade worth GBP 668 billion in 2019," it said, adding that the UK has taken back control of its "money, borders, laws, trade and our fishing waters".

"The deal also guarantees that we are no longer in the lunar pull of the EU, we are not bound by EU rules, there is no role for the European Court of Justice and all of our key red lines about returning sovereignty have been achieved. It means that we will have full political and economic independence on 1st January 2021," Downing Street declared.

On the other side, the EU said it has a good deal to show for the "long and winding road". "We have finally got a deal, a fair and responsible deal," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said at a press conference from Brussels.

"The EU rules and standards will be respected... the United Kingdom is a long-standing partner,"

● **THE LAST** few months and weeks have proved particularly tense on the path to such an agreement, with the UK concerned about the EU's insistence to close alignment to its rules even after Brexit and the EU accusing the UK of expecting unfair advantages.

she said, adding that while "parting was such sweet sorrow" it was time to look to the future as the UK is now classified as a "third country" in relation to the economic bloc.

Earlier, it had emerged that crunch talks overhauled meant UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson summoned his Cabinet for a late Wednesday night conference to indicate that a post-Brexit trade agreement is ready to be signed off soon. Johnson and Von Der Leyen have been in close contact over the past few days as the December 31 transition period cut-off

loomed over the negotiations, which have missed repeated deadlines as they failed to agree on key areas of fishing rights in each other's waters and competition rules that would apply to the UK as a non-member of the 27-member economic bloc.

According to early reports, both sides have come to a base agreement which would ensure most of the current tariff-free, quota-free arrangement but unlikely to mean entirely frictionless trade as businesses had hoped. The UK Parliament needs to ratify the deal and as it has already risen for Christmas next week for urgent business. Johnson's comfortable majority in the Commons means the deal is likely to be signed off in time.

On the EU side, the European Parliament would then ratify the agreement, which is expected in the New Year and with all the member-countries briefed on it, they are unlikely to exercise their veto powers. It has now been four and half years since Britain voted to exit the EU in a referendum in June 2016.

It officially left at the end of January this year and entered into an 11-month transition period, or a phase of status quo, to hammer out a new free trade agreement.

However, the last few months and weeks have proved particularly tense on the path to such an agreement, with the UK concerned about the EU's insistence to close alignment to its rules even after Brexit and the EU accusing the UK of expecting unfair advantages.

The main sticking points were fishing rights and the so-called "level playing field" — measures to prevent what is seen as unfair competition through the lowering of standards or the use of state subsidies.

— PTI

## RECORD VIRUS CASES, DEATHS IN RUSSIA

**Moscow, Dec. 24:** Russia on Thursday registered record numbers for daily infections and deaths from the coronavirus, as the country avoids reimposing a nationwide lockdown.

Health officials reported 29,935 new infections, bringing the country's caseload to 2,963,688 — the fourth-highest in the world. They also registered 635 deaths, increasing total fatalities to 53,096 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Russia's death rate is much lower than that of other badly hit countries, raising concerns that authorities could be downplaying the scale of the outbreak.

Data published by the country's statistics service earlier this month indicated excess deaths of nearly 165,000 year-on-year between March and October, suggesting virus deaths could be much higher. — AFP

Dover, Dec. 24: Rail and sea links between the UK and France will remain open over Christmas to clear the backlog of thousands of trucks stranded by border closures due to the discovery of a new strain of coronavirus, Britain said Thursday.

Thousands of European truckers on Wednesday spent a fourth night sleeping in the cabs of their vehicles, which are stuck close to the major cross-Channel port of Dover while the drivers wait to pass a Covid test, as required by France for travel.

Around 6,000 trucks were waiting early Wednesday evening to cross the border according to Britain's Department of Transport, including 3,750 vehicles parked at the old Manston airport, which is also a Covid testing site.

The others are stuck on the nearby roads in the southeastern county of Kent. "As testing in Kent continues... I've spoken to my French counterpart Jean-Baptiste Djebbari and we've agreed the UK/

French border at Eurotunnel, Dover & Calais WILL remain open throughout Xmas in order to help hauliers & citizens return home as soon as possible," UK transport minister Grant Shapps wrote on Twitter. The massive testing operation, which is

being bolstered by the military, began late Wednesday under an agreement between London and Paris. — AFP

## Plane tails: Indian gets into Guinness

**Dubai, Dec. 24:** A 12-year-old Indian boy in the UAE has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by identifying the most aeroplane tails in a minute, media reports said on Thursday.

Siddhant Gumber, an Abu Dhabi-based homeschooled boy who identified 39 aeroplane tails in 60 seconds, is also the youngest Indian to identify top 100 tallest buildings, Gulf News reported. Gumber, who hails from Haryana, was earlier recognised by the India Book of World Records.

He achieved the Guinness world record last month, the report said.

## JEWISH CENTRE BOMBING: MAN CLEARED

**Buenos Aires, Dec. 24:** A court has said it has cleared the only Argentine still facing charges in the 1994 bombing that killed 85 people at a Jewish cultural center in the nation's capital.

The federal court ruling came on Wednesday after former auto dealer Carlos Telleslén again denied knowing that the truck he sold would be used as a bomb in the attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association, which caused the organization's main building to collapse. He proclaimed his "total and absolute innocence." — AP

Karachi, Dec. 24: In a surprise move, a Pakistani court on Thursday ordered the release of British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides, who were convicted and sentenced in the abduction and murder case of US journalist Daniel Pearl.

A two-judge bench of the Sindh High Court, presided over by Justice K K Agha, directed security agencies not to keep Sheikh and other accused under "any sort of detention" and declared all notifications of the Sindh government related to their

detention "null and void". The court observed that the four men's detention was "illegal". In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench commuted the death sentence of 46-year-old Sheikh to seven years imprisonment.

In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench commuted the death sentence of 46-year-old Sheikh to seven years imprisonment. The court also acquitted

## DRAGGED FROM CAR BY HAIR, WOMAN SUES

**Chicago, Dec. 24:** A woman who says she was yanked by her hair from a car by Chicago police during a shopping mall encounter has filed a federal lawsuit against the city.

Mia Wright, 25, and four family members claim their civil rights were violated and asserts the May confrontation left her blind in one eye from flying glass caused by police breaking the windows of the car to get to its passengers. "During this attack, Mia Wright could not breathe and was in paralyzing fear as her face and neck were smashed against the concrete ground." — AP

won't be too many more occasions to enjoy the experience. And Trump, consumed by election conspiracy theories, abandoned by allies and determined to take opponents down with him, is not exactly in a merry mood.

Crises engulf the man supporters call "disrupter in chief" ("chaos president" to his critics.)

What's more, most of them are of his own making.

— Trying to overturn the result of the election.

— Unexpectedly refusing to sign a massive economic relief bill for Americans struggling from coronavirus fallout, insisting at the last moment that it be

rewritten.

— Choosing to say nothing, other than to play it down, about what senior officials and members of Congress describe as a devastating Russian cyberattack.

— Vetoing just before he left for Florida the bill funding the US military.

— Declaring war on top members of his own party who dare concede that Biden won.

Yet for all his bluster, the larger-than-life showman who for four years held the media, his party and the entire country in thrall now cuts a diminished figure.

Normally, the departure on Marine One from the South Lawn of the White House has been a favorite stage for Trump to act out his flamboyant press conference/performance art routine.

Boasting, ad-libbing, entertaining and insulting, Trump used to love nothing more than "chopper talk" with journalists jostling to hear the world's biggest media star against the roar of an idling military helicopter.

But since losing the

## Don vetoes def bill; cites certain provisions as risk

## TRUMP PARDONS MORE, INCLUDING KUSHNER DAD: WH

**Washington, Dec. 24:** US President Donald Trump vetoed a broad defense funding bill sent to him by Congress Wednesday, complaining that it helps Russia and China and objecting to provisions to rename military bases.

The bipartisan bill was passed by high enough margins in both chambers of Congress for lawmakers to — in theory — override the president's rejection. The veto of the \$740 billion measure to fund the military for fiscal 2021 came a day after the US leader, with less than one month left in office, threw a separate \$900 billion Covid-19 relief bill and overall funding for the government into question.

Trump criticised the annual National Defense Authorization Act for not responding to his demand to end liability protections for social media companies, known as Section 230 — an issue with no relationship to the US Defense Department.

He also objected to a provision in the NDAA to rename military bases bearing the names of generals from the secessionist, slavery-supporting South in the 19th century US civil war.

And he objected to a provision which could impede his decision to sharply cut US troop levels in Germany, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The NDAA "fails to

include critical national security measures, includes provisions that fail to respect our veterans and our military's history, and contradicts efforts by my administration to put America first in our national security and foreign policy actions," Trump said in a statement.

Without the changes to Section 230, Trump said, the NDAA "is a gift to China and Russia."

— AFP

include critical national security measures, includes provisions that fail to respect our veterans and our military's history, and contradicts efforts by my administration to put America first in our national security and foreign policy actions," Trump said in a statement.

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— AFP

added, before offering "some friendly health advice to Iran: if one American is killed, I will hold Iran responsible. Think it over," he said.

Responding to Trump, the Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Thursday: "Putting your own citizens at risk abroad won't divert attention from catastrophic failures at home." He also attached an image of years-old Trump tweets that claimed ex-president Barack Obama would have started a war with Iran to win re-election.

— AFP

## Rocket hit: Trump warning to Iran

**Washington, Dec. 24:** US President Donald Trump warned Wednesday he would hold "Iran responsible" in the event of a fatal attack on Americans in Iraq, as the first anniversary of the killing of a top Iranian general in a US air strike approaches.

"Our embassy in Baghdad got hit Sunday by several rockets," Trump said on Twitter, referring to an attack that caused damage but no deaths.

"Guess where they came from: IRAN," he added.

"Now we hear chatter of additional attacks against Americans in Iraq," he

## NEPAL: CHINESE ENVOY MEETS PRACHANDA

**Kathmandu, Dec. 24:** Chinese ambassador Hou Yanqi on Thursday met Nepal Communist Party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who claims control over the ruling party after removing Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli from the posts of the party's parliamentary leader and chair. The meeting at Prachanda's residence in Kathmandu was organized by the party's leader.

However, it asked to place their names on the no-fly list so that they could not leave the country. It also directed them to appear before the court whenever summoned.

— PTI

— PTI

## Release men charged in Pearl murder: Pak court

**Karachi, Dec. 24:** In a surprise move, a Pakistani court on Thursday ordered the release of British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides, who were convicted and sentenced in the abduction and murder case of US journalist Daniel Pearl.

The court observed that the four men's detention was "illegal".

In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench

commuted the death sentence of 46-year-old Sheikh to seven years imprisonment.

The court also acquitted

his three aides who were serving life terms in the case — almost two decades after they were found guilty and jailed. However, the Sindh government refused to release them and kept them in detention under the Maintenance of Public Order. Their continuous detention was challenged in the Sindh High Court, which ordered their release.

However, it asked to place their names on the no-fly list so that they could not leave the country. It also directed them to appear before the

# DECCAN Chronicle

25 DECEMBER 2020

## PM's platitudes at AMU play up contrast to reality

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University the other day offered Indians a reassurance that this nation belongs to all of its citizens, that India is on the path of progress and that no citizen would be left behind because of their religion. "Everyone would get equal opportunities so that everyone can fulfill their dream," the Prime Minister told the young people, and through them, to the nation, rekindling the spirit of the speech the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivered on January 24, 1948, months after India's Independence and days before the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. "The basic objective," Pandit Nehru had said, "is to build up a free India of high ideals and noble endeavour where there is equality of opportunity for all and where many variegated streams of thought and culture meet together to form a mighty river of progress and advancement for her people." Mr Modi went on to say, quoting the university's founder Sir Syed, that "for the body to remain healthy, every body part should be healthy." Mr Modi also urged people not to look at everything from a political lens.

One may have points of difference with the Prime Minister when he compartmentalises politics and development but none would quarrel with him when he says nobody would be left behind because of their religion as the nation makes progress. All that one would doubt is whether the Prime Minister is reflecting the realities his fellow citizens experience in their daily lives. Uttar Pradesh, where the AMU stands, has a different story to tell. The recently introduced, patently discriminatory, anti-conversion law that militates against the basic tenets of our Constitution has been used indiscriminately against interfaith couples. It's nothing less than horrendous to learn that the Uttar Pradesh police have arrested 17 persons under the provisions of the law when the Allahabad high court, and several other high courts, have made it abundantly clear that the state has no business intervening in the decision of two adults on how they would live their lives. The fundamental rights to equality, life and religious freedom are violated by the state even as the Prime Minister wants to remind us that we have a shared future.

The Central Bureau of Investigation recently chargesheeted four persons for the gangrape and murder of a teenage dalit girl in Hathras in the state. It may be recalled only with trepidation that a very senior police official of the state had stated that there was no rape in the case as no semen was found in the body of the victim, displaying extreme insensitivity and complete ignorance of the law. The same state police had burnt the body in the dead of the night against the wishes of her family, sending all right thinking people to doubt whether Indian laws are in force in the state or not when it comes to minorities and dalits.

When the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy speaks of equality, then everyone has a duty to listen to him and work towards fulfilling that ideal. It must be a national endeavour, and not a national pastime.

## Curtains for Netanhayu?

Will it be curtains for the artful survivor Benjamin Netanyahu who will soon be facing an even greater existential crisis? His former allies Naftali Bennett of the Yamina party and Gideon Saar, who broke away from the Likud party to set up his "New Hope" party, are setting their sights on March 23, 2021, the day of reckoning in the fourth election in two years, as an ideal opportunity for them to dethrone the longest serving Israeli Prime Minister.

Endearingly called "Bibi", the master political strategist has been brought down this time as an unorthodox coalition between his right wing Likud and Benny Gantz heading the centrist Blue and White party gave way under the weight of near impossible contradictions. The two rivals had been brought together in May 2020 to resolve a 17-month political stalemate after Israel's top court had ruled that Mr Netanyahu could head a government while under indictment for corruption charges.

Glowing in the benign warmth of his friend Donald Trump at the White House, Mr Netanyahu had prospered in the eyes of the world as his country wiped away years of solemn history to gain the diplomatic recognition of four Arab states. A prominent face in Bibi's last election campaign had been Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi whose friendship the Israeli had flaunted to win votes and remain in power amid the political minefield that Israel has become in its Left and Centrists versus the Right politics that has been dragging the country into bitter electoral battles, which are known not to yield clear mandates.

Indicted for fraud, breach of trust and graft in a series of scandals involving quid pro quo with wealthy media moguls, Bibi has displayed phenomenal dexterity. The court ominously said its legal ruling did "not diminish the severity of pending charges for violations of moral integrity". Blame it on the times we live in but leaders with conflicts against the highest moral and ethical standards seem to constitute the "New Normal" on the world's stage. It is standing up to the coronavirus sweeping nations across the globe that they seem to be failing.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

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If a report put out by the ANI news agency and published by a number of leading newspapers turns out to be correct, "the Bharatiya Janata Party is planning to dedicate December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, to farmers".

The report suggests that the Prime Minister will make this announcement on Christmas Day itself when he will also speak on the controversial issue of the new farm laws.

Frankly, this would be terrible. It would be reprehensible and deplorable. It amounts to a blatant and unforgiveable

If you disagree with me, just ask yourself a simple question — would Narendra Modi dare to designate Diwali or Holi as Good Governance Day, to farmers?

The report suggests that the Prime Minister will make this announcement on Christmas Day itself when he will also speak on the controversial issue of the new farm laws.

Why then as the Prime Minister of a secular country does he feel free to proclaim Christmas as Good Governance Day? Or, as ANI sug-

This year the attempt to redesignate Christmas as Atal Behari Vajpayee's birthday is likely to be more hurtful to India's Christians than the 2014 redesignation as Good Governance Day

Let me make one further point. This year the attempt to redesignate Christmas is likely to be more hurtful to India's Christians than the 2014 redesignation as Good Governance Day. This is because fear of the virus

If there is a politician in India who understands the importance of Christmas and what it means to Christians, it has to be Sonia Gandhi, who was born a Catholic. Yet she said nothing in 2014 and I fear that could be the case again.

Today, I wait to see if the India I am so proud of is changing for the worse. I so much want to be proven wrong. In fact, I would really like the day to end with readers of this column proclaiming that I was terribly mistaken. This is one occasion when I sincerely want to be totally incorrect... well, we'll soon know.

Finally, and if it's not too late, Merry Christmas.

The writer is a television commentator and anchor

part of one of the virus's proteins which then alerts the body's immune system. Once invented, the technology is like a general-purpose vaccine. You simply rewrite the message between the same opening and closing sequences, put it in the same kind of bubble, and fire it off — almost as easy for genetic engineers these days as writing a text for teenagers. It is faster, cheaper, safer and simpler than the old ways of making vaccines.

More conventional vaccine designs may still make a vital contribution to defeating the pandemic. Oxford's included. And the messenger method has its drawbacks, such as the need for extreme cold storage. But in the long run, messengers probably represent the future of vaccines. Now the principle has been approved by regulators, there may be no need to go through the same laborious and expensive three-phase clinical trials every time.

What if 2020 went down in history as the year synthetic biology dealt a mortal blow to future viruses?

What is more, at the cost of a few billion dollars, the world may now be able to build a library of messenger

vaccines for every plausible coronavirus and influenza virus with pandemic potential we can find, test them in animals and store the recipes on a hard disk, ready to go at a moment's notice. Moderna's vaccine was first synthesised in mid-January, before we even knew the coronavirus was coming out of China.

There are already improved variations on the messenger theme too: self-replicating messengers, for example. Vaccine development has long been the Cinderella of pharmaceuticals, and this would not have happened without the pandemic. But nor would it have happened without the 30-year scientific slog Dr Karikó undertook.

A fast, adaptable vaccine platform has long been the dream. Let's try it against hepatitis, Zika and several kinds of common cold. We may begin to do to viruses what we have already done to most intestinal worms, many blood parasites and not a few bacterial species abolish them from the human experience.

If the message is the recipe for a protein characteristic of particular tumours, the immune system may learn to mount a devastating attack on a cancer. How about Alzheimer's?

There will be setbacks, side effects and unintended consequences. There always are with innovation. There will be scares based on false fears spread by unscrupulous cranks. Already some worry that these vaccines might cause infertility. It's nonsense, but with just enough plausibility to alarm some people.

One problem we will probably face if this RNA dream comes true is a rise in allergies, asthmas and autoimmune problems. These are caused by the loss of parasites which used to suppress our immune systems. The more infections we get rid of, the more likely we are to get intolerant reactions to things like pollen and gluten. But then messenger vaccines may also be a way to tackle these and teach the immune system to behave.

What if 2020 went down in history as the year synthetic biology dealt a mortal blow to future viruses and illnesses in general, rather than the year a virus ruined our health, well-being and livelihoods?

By arrangement with the *Spectator*

Subhani



## Christmas, like Diwali, is a special day in India



Karan Thapar

As I See It

### LETTERS

#### DIVORCE POLITICS

A BJP MP going for a divorce because his wife joined the Trinamul is the abysmal levels to which our politics have fallen (*BJP MP gets ready to divorce his wife for joining TMC, DC, Dec. 22*). Is it not a wise step to quit politics than getting rid of the wife on political grounds? Or, alternately, the wife should refuse divorce on such grounds. It remains to be seen how the court would respond to such a case.

**D. Nagarjuna**  
Hyderabad

#### PV'S REFORMS

As an economist also feel that because of the economic reforms initiated by then prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian economy is better (*KCR: India enjoys PV's reforms now, DC, Dec. 24*). Before the pandemic, India's GDP and per capita income were much impressive, employment opportunities were created after the reforms.

**Dr Shankar Chatterjee**  
Hyderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN CHRONICLE

#### NGRI devises cheap aerial survey for minerals

By a staff reporter

HYDERABAD, DEC. 24.

The National Geophysical Research Institute here has developed instrumentation and methodology for air-borne magnetic surveys for mineral reconnaissance, thus saving for the country considerable foreign exchange.

Dr Hari Narain, Director of the Institute, told a news conference today that highly sensitive and sophisticated instruments developed and perfected in the Institute were now having good demand, both among the sister research institutes in the country and the Universities.

The Director also claimed that the Institute was now in a position to undertake aerial survey for mineral location at a cost which would be one-fifth of what the American Survey Team had charged or what had been quoted by the French Party which was due to undertake an air-borne survey early next month.

Matt Ridley

**A**lmost 60 years ago, in February 1961, two teams of scientists stumbled on a discovery at the same time. Sydney Brenner at Cambridge University and Jim Watson at Harvard independently spotted that genes send short-lived RNA copies of themselves to little machines called ribosomes where they are translated into proteins. "Sydney got most of the credit, but I don't mind," Watson sighed last week when I asked him about it. They had solved a puzzle that had held up genetics for almost a decade. The short-lived copies came to be called messenger RNAs — mRNAs — and suddenly they now promise a spectacular revolution in medicine.

The first Covid-19 vaccine given to the British people earlier this month is not just a welcome breakthrough against a grim little enemy that has defied every other weapon we have tried, from handwashing to remdesivir and lockdowns. It is also the harbinger of a new approach to medicine altogether. Synthetic messengers that reprogramme our cells to mount an immune response to almost any invader, including per-

haps cancer, can now be rapidly and cheaply made.

Katalin Karikó, the Hungarian-born scientist who doggedly pursued the idea behind this kind of medication for decades at the University of Pennsylvania before joining BioNTech, and her collaborator Drew Weissman may be the Watson and Brenner of this story. They figured out 15 years ago how to send a message in a bubble into a cell and have it read. For years they had tried putting in normal RNA and found it did not work; the body spotted it was an alien and destroyed it.

But by subtly modifying one of the four letters in the message (replacing uridine with pseudouridine, a chemical found in some RNAs in the body anyway), they made a version that escaped the attention of the cell's MS2 agents. Further refinements five years ago produced a recipe that worked reliably when delivered to cells inside a tiny oily bubble. The pandemic is the first time the technique has been tried in anger, and it worked: the first two Covid vaccines, BioNTech's and Moderna's, rely on these messengers.

The message tells the cell to make

part of one of the virus's proteins which then alerts the body's immune system. Once invented, the technology is like a general-purpose vaccine. You simply rewrite the message between the same opening and closing sequences, put it in the same kind of bubble, and fire it off — almost as easy for genetic engineers these days as writing a text for teenagers. It is faster, cheaper, safer and simpler than the old ways of making vaccines.

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What if 2020 went down in history as the year synthetic biology dealt a mortal blow to future viruses?

What is more, at the cost of a few billion dollars, the world may now be able to build a library of messenger

## Why the mRNA vaccines could revolutionise medicine soon



## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	46,973.54
Nifty 50	13,749.25
S&P 500*	3,700.86
Dollar (₹)	73.54
Pound Sterling (₹)	100.01
Euro (₹)	89.66
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	50,030 ▼119
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	51.10
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.929 -0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.936 -0.019

\*As of 9:30 PM IST

### ESIC adds 11.75L new members in October

Around 11.75 lakh new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in October against 11.49 lakh in the previous month, official data showed on Thursday, giving a perspective on formal sector employment in the country. Gross new enrolments with ESIC were 8.27 lakh in June, 4.87 lakh in May and 2.62 lakh in April, showing an increase in enrolments after easing of the lockdown, the data showed.

### India challenges Voda arbitration in Singapore

India has challenged in a Singapore court a verdict of an international arbitration tribunal that overturned its demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes from Vodafone Group Plc, sources said on Thursday. An arbitration court had on September 25 rejected tax authorities' demand for Rs 22,100 crore in back taxes and penalties relating to the British telecom giant's 2007 acquisition of an Indian operator.

### SpiceJet ties up with GMR cargo for Covid vax

Low cost carrier SpiceJet on Thursday announced that it has signed an MoU with GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo, a GMR group company, for providing a seamless service to all vaccine manufacturers in the region. As part of this association, SpiceXpress the cargo arm of SpiceJet envisions to provide efficient, speedy and reliable solutions for vaccine delivery, while also creating a sustainable cold chain network.

### Auro signs deal with Covaxx for Covid vaccine

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and Covaxx, a United States-based company, have entered into an exclusive license agreement to develop, commercialise and manufacture UB-612, the first Multitope Peptide-based vaccine to fight COVID-19, for India and UNICEF. According to a release issued by the city-based drug maker, Covaxx is currently conducting a Phase 1 clinical trial for the vaccine candidate.

## Smartphone sales to see 2-digit growth

New Delhi, Dec. 24: When the pandemic forced people to stay indoors, smartphones became their window to the world, helping them stay connected with friends, work from home (WFH) and even learn new recipes.

And 2021 promises to bring back double-digit growth for the smartphone industry as people embrace hybrid work models, binge on web series and continue the pursuit for the perfect selfie on their six-inch screens.

This year has been challenging for the industry right from the beginning as supply chains for components were disrupted amid rising Covid-19 cases in China. Given the heavy reliance of Indian phone and electronics industry on imports from the neighbouring nation, there were apprehensions that stocks would run out, hitting local assembly.

By March, there were bigger worries. Rising number of coronavirus cases in India forced the government to impose a nationwide lockdown that banned movement of everything but essential items like food and medicine.

However, after the lockdown was eased, the industry saw a never-seen-before level of demand. Shipment in the September quarter is estimated to have touched an all-time high of over 50 million units. Pent up demand, coupled with people rushing in to buy devices to ensure continuity of work and studies, saw tech brands literally struggling to keep up.

Counterpoint Research senior analyst Prachir Singh said that despite losing almost one-and-a-half months to lockdown, there is just a six per cent year-on-year fall in shipment at 148 million units in 2020, reflecting the "resilient nature" of the



### Laptops, desktop sales continue to rise in 2021

Oakland, California, Dec. 24:

The world stocked up on laptop and desktop computers in 2020 at a level not seen since the iPhone debuted in 2007, and manufacturers still are months away from fulfilling outstanding orders, hardware industry executives and analysts said.

Remote learning and working has upturned the computer market during the coronavirus pandemic, zapping sales of smartphones while boosting interest in bigger devices, which had become afterthoughts to iPhones and Androids over the last decade.

Annual global shipments of personal com-

puters, the industry's collective term for laptops and desktops, topped out at about 300 million in 2008 and recently were sinking toward 250 million. Few expected a resurgence.

But some analysts now expect 2020 will close at about 300 million shipments, up roughly 15 per cent from a year ago.

Tablets are experiencing even faster growth.

By the end of 2021, installed PCs and tablets will reach 1.77 billion, up from 1.64 billion in 2019, according to research company Canalys.

They added 2021 sales forecasts would be higher if not for the supply issues.

—Reuters

Indian smartphone market.

"In 2021, the Indian smartphone market is estimated to grow at 20 per cent year-on-year. Major reasons for such a high growth will be increased consumer spending as economic activities grow, and aggressive product

strategies from top brands," he said, adding that Jio's anticipated launch of low-cost 4G smartphone with Google could add further momentum.

Domestic players like Micromax could also make a strong comeback next year.

—PTI

authentications of Aadhar number, wherever applicable or physical verification of business premises for the purposes of obtaining GST registration.

"Data driven targeting of the fraudsters is the need of the hour. The data is being collected from Income Tax and Customs departments and banks and necessary matching is being done to identify fraudsters... Precise targeting of fraudsters is being done only in specific cases after doing a comprehensive analysis using advanced data analytics tools," said CBIC.

CBIC also has issued a few notifications to deal with the menace. It has introduced mandatory

filings of outward supply details in GSTR 1 return for businesses who have not paid tax for the past periods by filing GSTR 3B. Till now, non-filing of GSTR 3B resulted in blockage e-waybill but will now result in GSTR 1 blockage as well.

"The government's idea here seems to be to curb input tax credit passing by businesses which have otherwise not paid their GST liability," said Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, EY.

According to industry experts, the government

has been focusing on identifying such fraudsters in the past two months. They have been analysing back-end data to find out fraudulent cases.

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**SHORT TAKES**  
Kakatiya Kings  
continue to rule

**Hyderabad:** Kakatiya Kings carved out a comfortable win over Indur Icons in the Kakatiya Cup T20 cricket tournament.

Batting first, they made 159 for 7 before bowling out the Icons

for a paltry 78.

Mulugu Masters and Suryapet Sunrisers too registered easy victories, over Bhongir Badshaws and Singareni Blasters respectively.

**Brief scores**

■ Kakatiya Kings 159/7 in 20 overs (Manoj 33, Md Gouse 3/27) bt Indur Icons 78 in 19 overs (Sai Kumar 3/7, Aditya 3/24).

■ Mulugu Masters 141 in 20 overs (Harsha Vardhan 3/19) bt Bhongir Badshaws 118 in 19 overs (Pavan Kumar 48, Sagar 3/23).

■ Singareni Blasters 55/9 in 16 overs (Md Imran 4/17) lost to Suryapet Sunrisers 59/1 in 3.1 overs (Avinash Kailash 33).

**Ex-Hyd hockey player no more**

**Hyderabad:** Former Hyderabad hockey player N. A. Praveen Kumar passed away on Wednesday. He was 59. A centre forward, Praveen represented Hyderabad at the Junior Nationals in 1981 as also the Senior Nationals in 1985. A member of the Coronation Hockey Club in Mudfot, he also played for the Osmania University hockey team.

**Man U, Tottenham cruise into semis**

**London:** Manchester United left it late to book their place in the League Cup semifinals with a dramatic 2-0 win at Everton, while Tottenham joined them in the last four after beating Stoke 3-1 on Wednesday.

Ole Gunnar Solsjaer's side dominated for long periods of their quarter-final at Goodison Park, but it took until the 88th minute before Edinson Cavani broke the deadlock.

Anthony Martial bagged United's second goal in stoppage time and sealed the deal for Manchester United. — AFP

# NOW, 10-TEAM IPL

Chetan appointed as new chairman of selectors

**Ahmedabad, Dec. 24:** The BCCI's governing body on Thursday ratified the entry of two new franchises in the IPL to make it a 10-team affair from 2022 and also decided to back the ICC's push for cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics, during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) here.

It is learnt that time at hand is too short for even a nine-team IPL next year as an elaborate tender-floating process, increase of matches and ensuring that all foreign player international calendars are adjusted, would be prove to be a herculean task.

**T20 CRICKET IN OLYMPICS**

In another major development, the Board, in principle, decided to back the ICC's bid for inclusion of cricket, in the T20 format, in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics "after getting some clarifications from the International Olympic Committee".

"Look, the BCCI is an autonomous body and it would like to maintain its autonomy. Our legal team is looking to get a few clarifications. Obviously, cricket in Olympics is great for the game. Let's hope we can move in the right direction," the member, who attended the AGM, said.

**BCCI LIKELY TO LOSE \$123 MILLION**

The BCCI has decided that if its does not get full tax exemption from the government of India to host the World T20 next year, as sought by the ICC, then it would agree to deduction from its annual revenue of \$390 million from the global body.

"We have told the ICC that we will approach our government for tax rebate but if we don't get that exemption, the amount, which is around \$123 million, will be deducted from our annual revenue, so we will get around \$267 million. But India is hosting the 2021 T20 WC," the source said.

**CHEATAN TO CHAIR SELECTION PANEL**

Former India pacer Chetan Sharma was on Thursday appointed chairman of the senior



(from left) BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal, president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah pose after the 89th Annual General Meeting in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which also picked Abbey Kuruvilla and Debasish Mohanty in the five-member team.

The selection panel also has former India players Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh.

As per the BCCI constitution, the candidate with the most Test caps becomes the chief selector.

**COMPENSATION FOR DOMESTIC PLAYERS**

Also, it was decided that all first-class players, both men and women, will be suitably compensated for the curtailed domestic season due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The BCCI plans to get the domestic season underway after several months' delay, in January with the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 championship.

Asked about the money to be set aside for this, the Board source said: "The BCCI will give a lump-sum compensation amount to the state units. Now they will draw up their own list and accordingly

compensate their male and female players."

**JUNIOR AND WOMEN'S CRICKET DURING IPL**

The BCCI has decided that women's tournaments (senior and junior) along with age-group tournaments (U-23, U-19, U-16) will be held simultaneously at the time of IPL-14 which, in all likelihood, will be held in India despite the raging Coronavirus pandemic-related concerns.

**SHUKLA BECOMES NEW VP**

In other decisions, veteran Congress leader Rajiv Shukla was officially anointed the Board's vice president in place of his protege Mahima Verma from Uttarakhand.

Brijesh Patel will continue as the chairman of the IPL Governing Council.

**GANGULY-SHAH, INDIA'S FACE AT ICC**

It was also learnt that the general body decided in favour of BCCI President Sourav Ganguly continuing as a director in the ICC

Board. Secretary Jay Shah will be the alternate director as well as India's representative at the Chief Executive Committee meets of the global body.

**WOMEN'S TEST MATCHES**

The house deliberated on having women's Test matches and there could be a two-Test series in the offing next year but a final call in this regard will be taken by the BCCI Apex Council.

**GM SACRED**

The BCCI has sacked GM (Game Development) KVP Rao, who was asked to resign. While Rao termed leaving BCCI as his "happiest day", it is learnt that in general, his lack of proper action plan amid the Covid-19 pandemic was one of the big reasons for his ouster.

**RETIREMENT AGE OF UMPIRES INCREASED**

The BCCI's affiliated scorers and umpires will now retire at 60 instead of 55 years after the governing body ratified the move.

— PTI

## 5 batsmen have a ball in the league

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 24

Five batsmen hit centuries to emerge best performers in Thursday's action in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's A-1 Division three-day league matches here.

Shashank Lokesh of Zinda CC hit an unbeaten 118 against Concorde CC to emerge the top scorer. His 101-ball innings that contained nine fours and three sixes won the game for Zinda.

Shivam Tiwari of AOC was next best with 110 that was instrumental in his side defeating Enconse.

K. Sumanth hit 101 not out but failed to save Central Excise from losing the match to Sporting.

Syed Ghousie also got to three figures. His 100 in 74 balls which contained 15 boundaries and four sixes helped Charminar beat Khsala CC.

In another match, M. Abhirath Reddy hit 100 in 136 balls to guide Gemini Friends (386) to a one-run lead over Hyderabad Bottling (385 for 7) on the penultimate day of their match. Abhirath's teammate Maruthi Reddy was unfortunate to miss his century by six runs.

**Brief scores:**

**A-1 Division (Three-Day)**

**Group A, Day-3**

■ Central Excise 196 in 59.3 overs & 315/6 in 40 overs (K. Sumanth 101 n.o. — 73b, 7x4, 2x6, Sai Anurag 30, Manish Reddy 3/5) lost to Mahmood CC 239 & 165/9 in 40 overs (Devesh Daima 57, Abdul Quadri 34, Trishank Gupta 5/32). **Points:** Charminar 6, Khsala 0.

■ Balaji CC 353 in 73.5 overs & 249/9 in 40 overs (Paras Raj 52, HK Simha 83, Md Abrar Mohiuddin 4/44) bt Jai Bhagwati 245/9 in 90 overs & 312/9 in 40 overs (Rahul Buddhi 56 n.o., Chandan Sahani 46). **Points:** Evergreen 32/3, MP Colts 0.

**Group B, Day-3**

■ Charminar CC 317/5 in 66 overs 239/6 in 40 overs (Syed Ghousie 100 — 74b, 15x4, 6x4, N. Sathwik Reddy 46, Md Adnan Ahmed 35 n.o.) bt Khsala CC 239 & 165/9 in 40 overs (Devesh Daima 57, Abdul Quadri 34, Trishank Gupta 5/32). **Points:** Charminar 6, Khsala 0.

■ Sri Chakra 286 in 88.2 overs & 220/8 in 40 overs (Malik Mustafa Khan 61, D. Suresh 41, Gaurav 3/27) lost to Mahmood CC 232 & 163.3 overs & 217/2 in 40 overs (Jaspit Singh Reddy 75 n.o., Sri Chakra 0).

■ Rohit XI 121 in 33.1 overs & 279/8 in 40 overs (Shahnawaz Khan 74, Jayasri A 61, Abhishek Murugan 3/46) bt Sporting CC 92 in 22.2 overs & 205/7 in 40 overs (Chandrasekhar 30, Abhishek Murugan 40, Aryan C 41 n.o., Nitin Sai Reddy 4/38). **Points:** Rohit XI 6, Sporting CC 0.

■ R. Dayanand 316 in 82.1 overs & 160/8 in 36.2 overs (K. Nitesh Reddy 70) lost to Budding Star 402 in 83.3 overs & 75/7 in 20.4 overs (C. Hitesh 13.3 overs). **Points:** Apex 8, Gouds XI 0.

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