

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | TUESDAY 24 | NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 31°C
Min: 21°C
Rainfall: 1.2 mm

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Karthigai 9
Tithi: Dashami
Star: Puratathi,
Rahukalam:
3 pm to 4.30 pm
Yamagandam:
9 am to 10.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.57 am
Zohar: 12 noon
Asar: 3.13 pm
Maghrib: 5.39 pm
Isha: 6.54 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.12 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 1.57 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.06 AM

CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+35,315)	(+440)
91,75,627	1,34,213

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,624)	11,622
TN: 7,71,619	

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

5,92,53,132

DEATHS

13,98,117

COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES

218

worldometers.info

One hurt as buses collide in Koyambedu bus terminal

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Chennai: One person was injured when two buses collided head-on in Koyambedu bus terminal on Monday night. According to the Koyambedu police, a bus plying between Chennai-Vellore collided head-on with another bus heading Tiruvannamalai from the bus terminal on Monday. The incident happened when Ashok Kumar, the driver of the Tiruvannamalai bus rammed into another bus to avoid hitting a pedestrian. The front portion of the buses were damaged and the pedestrian has been injured. The Koyambedu police arrested the driver, Ashok Kumar. Investigations are on.

COUNTER POINT



Our MLAs are demanding 33% quota in the cabinet for those without criminal cases!

Delhi HC rules change in PCA does not apply to 2G case, rejects Raja's appeal

New Delhi, Nov. 23: The Delhi high court Monday dismissed various pleas challenging the legality of CBI's appeal against the trial court verdict in the 2G scam case in which former telecom minister A. Raja and others were acquitted and said that it was filed duly by the probe agency. The high court also held that the amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act would not apply to the offences that had already taken place and rejected several other pleas which raised the issue. It further said that the CBI appeal was not maintainable as there was lack of requisite sanction/approval from the central government.

letters or other related documents relating to the CBI appeal. Justice Brijesh Sethi released the appeals from his court and said that subject to the orders of the Chief Justice, they will be listed before another bench on December 1. The pleas by various acquitted individuals, including former telecom secretary Siddharth Behura, Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetable Pvt Ltd director Rajiv Agarwal and Kalaignar TV director Sharad Kumar claimed that the CBI's appeal was not maintainable as there was lack of requisite sanction/approval from the central government.

STATE | 3

IIT-M develops hi-tech survey craft for ports, waterways



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TN districts put on alert as Nivar to hit coast tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

The state government on Monday put the district administrations to be on guard with the depression over the Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm, Nivar, by Tuesday and cross the coast as a severe cyclonic storm a day after.

The government also announced suspension of inter and intra-district bus services in seven districts from Tuesday, till further orders. Trains were partially and fully cancelled in some districts.

The depression over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal moved west-northwards at a speed of 11 kmph and lay centred over the same region, about 520 km east-southeast of Puducherry and 560 km south-east of Chennai at 11.30 am Monday, the ndia Meteorological Department said.

The depression is very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin.

"It is very likely to move northwards and cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram around November 25 afternoon as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph," it said.



Several parts of Chennai witness intermittent showers late Monday evening. — DC

Under its influence, widespread rainfall/thunderstorm were "very likely" over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during November 24 to 26, the IMD warned.

Isolated extremely heavy rainfall was very likely over Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Karaikal, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Ariyalur and Perambalur, Kallakurichi, Puducherry, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Chengalpet between Wednesday and Thursday.

As a result, a high alert has been sounded in Nagapattinam and fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea till November 26, the IMD bulletin said.

■ **More stories on P2**

Remain at home, CM tells people in cyclone route

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Chief Minister K. Edappadi Palaniyandam on Monday called upon the people in the districts that might be affected by cyclone Nivar not to step out of their homes, not get close of electricity posts or transformers, protect their personal documents from get wet and update themselves about the developments through radio sets.

■ **P2**

Aim at zero loss of life, Central panel tells states

New Delhi, Nov. 23: The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, on Monday reviewed the status of cyclone 'Nivar' and directed that fishermen should not be allowed to venture out to sea. It directed everyone concerned to continue to work with an aim of zero loss of life and early restoration of normalcy in the affected areas.

■ **P2**

India launches hi-tech security audit to find out more tunnels

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 23

Security forces have launched a major security audit using hi-tech gadgets, including satellite imagery, to find tunnels along the entire Line of Control and International Border with Pakistan.

The move comes in the wake of the revelations that Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists killed in Nagrota encounters Friday morning had used a tunnel to infiltrate.

Sources said the cross-border underground tunnel unearthed in Samba sector was 160 metres into the Indian side and estimated to be 40 meters on the Pakistani side of IB. Security sources claimed that considering the perfection with which the tunnel was dug, there was a possibility of Pakistani establishment's engineering support.

The exit was in thick bushes meticulously covered with soil and wild growth. The mouth of the



Tunnel mouth was strengthened and reinforced by sand bags with markings of Karachi.

tunnel was strengthened and reinforced by sand bags with markings of Karachi.

The freshly dug tunnel appears to have been used for the first time. Based on leads available consequent to the Nagrota encounter, it seems that Jaish terrorists were picked up by a truck from village Jatwal in Samba on the national highway.

The nearest Pakistani border outposts where the tunnel was found are Chak Bhura, Rajab Sahid and Asif Sahid.

"We suspect that some more such tunnels might

The Samba tunnel
160 metres into the Indian side. Estimated to be **40 meters** on the Pakistani side

Exit was in thick bushes meticulously covered with soil and wild growth.

have been constructed close to the border. Due to increased security and the strong anti-infiltration grid it is become increasingly difficult for militants to infiltrate. Hence terrorists supported by Pakistani establishment are using alternate techniques to cross into India," a senior security official said.

Now a detailed survey is being done all along the border to check for more such tunnels. Sources claimed this audit would be completed within the next few days to ensure no infiltration takes place during winter.

Kissing scene on temple campus has Netflix in soup

Bhopal/Indore, Nov. 23: An FIR was registered in Madhya Pradesh on Monday against two executives of OTT platform Netflix for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through its web series *A Suitable Boy* which showed kissing scenes purportedly on the campus of a temple, an official said.

The FIR has named Monika Shergill, Vice President, Content (Netflix) and Ambika Khurana, Director, Public Policies (Netflix), Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said. Meanwhile, collector of Khargone district Anugraha P told PTI that the

controversial kissing scenes do not appear to have filmed inside a temple in Maheshwar town in the district.

Earlier in the day, Shergill and Khurana were booked by Rewa police on a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) national secretary Gaurav Tiwari who demanded apology from Netflix and the makers of the series, and removal of "objectionable scenes", which he stated were also "encouraging love jihad".

"I had asked officials to examine the series 'A Suitable Boy' being streamed on Netflix to check if kissing

● **"Kissing scenes (filmed) inside a temple of Lord Maheshwar (a historic town located on the banks of Narmada in MP) have hurt the sentiments of Hindus. This is also encouraging 'love jihad'," Tiwari had stated**

scenes in it were filmed inside a temple and if it hurt religious sentiments. The examination prima facie found that these scenes are hurting the sentiments of a particular religion," Mishra said in a video statement. "On the basis of a complaint filed by Gaurav Tiwari, an FIR is being registered under section 295 (A) (malicious acts to outrage and insulting the religious feelings and beliefs) of the

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Blinken to be US Secretary of State

SPORT | 8

Medvedev stuns Thiem to win title



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SC SEEKS STATUS REPORT

States reimpose controls to check fresh wave of Covid-19

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, NOV. 23

From night curfews to shutting down markets and now even some contemplating stopping incoming passengers from places like Delhi – panic has gripped several Indian states as new cases of novel coronavirus are on sharp rise in Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam and Haryana.

Upset with chaos and rising cases, the Supreme Court on Monday pulled up Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Assam governments saying worse things will happen in December if they are not well prepared and sought status reports from them in two days.

India on Monday had a total of 91.40 lakh cases of Covid-19 out of which 44,059 were new cases. The death overall is now 1.34 lakh out with 511 new fatalities.

The Supreme Court sought status reports from Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam governments on steps taken by them related to the Covid-19 situation and what more efforts are being made by them to deal with the pandemic.

"Things have worsened in the last two weeks, in November. Our question is what is your present situation? What more steps are you taking? That is

No severe cases in trial of AstraZeneca vaccine

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 23

No hospitalisation or severe cases were noted among those who had received the AstraZeneca vaccine AZD1222, according to interim analysis of 131 trial participants, a company release said on Monday.

There were two different doses regimes used by the company. Between them, one regime has shown a better profile, the it said in a detailed analysis.

There were 23,000 participants being assessed, who among them would

be following two regimes of half dose and full dose, and two full doses of AZD1222. In one dose regime (n=72), where the full dose was followed one month apart, the efficacy was 90 per cent. In another dose (n=8) regime, it was found that the efficacy was 62 per cent.

The combined analysis of both the dose regimes (n=11) showed that the efficacy of the vaccine was 70 per cent.

The company said that more data will continue to accumulate with efficacy and safety being of prime importance.

■ **P4**

what we are going to look into," the SC bench told the Delhi government.

Saying that Gujarat is worst after Delhi and Maharashtra, the court also pulled up the Gujarat government for allowing weddings and gatherings despite rising cases.

Maharashtra, that is again witnessing sharp rise in fresh cases, is contemplating having checks on arrivals from other states like Delhi. The government has made it mandatory for the inbound passengers coming from Delhi, Goa, Gujarat and Rajasthan to carry a Covid negative

certificate with them.

In a desperate measure, the Delhi government first ordered shutting down of heavily crowded markets in West Delhi – Nangloi and Punjabi Basti market – after it was found that wearing masks and social distancing were not being followed there. The orders were later withdrawn. However, street vendors were stopped from setting up stalls to prevent crowding in several parts of Delhi. Himachal Pradesh has imposed night curfew in four districts – Shimla, Kullu, Mandi and Kangra – that are witnessing high cases.

■ **P4**

GOVT FACES FLAK

Kerala puts cyber abuse law on hold

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 23

Relenting to the strong protest from within and outside, the CPM-led LDF government in Kerala on Monday decided to put on hold the controversial amendment to Kerala Police Act which made posting offensive remarks on social media liable for imprisonment and fine or both.

The amendment was made to Kerala Police Act by introducing 118 A through ordinance route triggering widespread criticism from Left sympathisers, human rights activists and legal experts. Under the provisions of the new law, "whoever makes, expresses, publishes or disseminates through any kind of mode of communication, any matter or subject for threatening, abusing, humiliating or defaming a person or class of persons, knowing it to be false and

that causes injury to the mind, reputation or property of such person or class of persons or any other person in whom they have interest shall on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both." This means that a person can face three years in jail and a fine of Rs 10,000 for any social media post that is considered "offensive" or "defamatory".

"The amendment has met with criticism from those who supported the LDF and also those who have always safeguarded democratic values. Under these circumstances the government has decided to put the ordinance on hold. The matter will be placed before the Assembly for detailed discussions and opinion of all sections will be elicited before deciding the future course," the chief minister said in a statement.

■ **P4**



Former Assam CM Tarun Gogoi passes away

Guwahati, Nov. 23: Veteran Congress leader and a three-term former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi died here on Monday while undergoing treatment for post-Covid-19 complications, state health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

He was 84 and is survived by wife Dolly, daughter Chandrima and son Gaurav, a Lok Sabha member.

Gogoi, thrice chief minister of the state from 2001 to 2016, breathed his last at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) at 5.34 pm, Sarma said. The doctors conducted an ECG and found that his heart has stopped, following which the GMCH superintendent confirmed that he is no more, he said.

President Ram Nath Kovind said Gogoi's passing away marked the end of an era and his long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in the state. "Extremely sad to know of the demise of Shri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam. The country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. His long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam," Kovind tweeted. He will always be remembered for the development of Assam, he said in another tweet.

— PTI

SHORT TAKES

Action plan drawn up: Pondy CM

Puducherry: The Puducherry administration has drawn up a multi-pronged plan to face the cyclone that is likely to bring heavy rain, territorial Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said on Monday. Puducherry and Karaikal regions may get rain from Tuesday as was predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), he told reporters after chairing a joint meeting of officials of various departments. The Chief Minister said the meeting, attended by Revenue Minister M O H F Shah Jahan and officials of various departments, evolved the plan to ensure precautionary steps were taken in view of the weather. Narayanasamy said the government was working on setting up 80 relief centres in Puducherry and separate centres in Karaikal, control rooms in all the departments and rehabilitation of people in low-lying areas.

He said fishermen have been asked not to set out to sea. The Chief Minister said all shops and other establishments have been asked to close business on the evening of Tuesday and remove the high-rise advertisement boards.

He said he and his ministerial colleagues would be on field visits to take up relief work. Officials of Revenue, PWD, Police, Fisheries, Health and other departments took part in the meeting. —PTI

Students secure 25%

ICAR seats in TNAU

Coimbatore: Students from different districts of Tamil Nadu have secured 30 seats and got allotment at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) which accounted for 25 per cent of total seat matrix. The AIEEAICAR (All India Entrance Examination Admission-Indian Council of Agricultural Research) allotment of students for the year 2020 has been released in the ICAR exam portal and the total ICAR seat matrix of 120 students from different states has been allotted to TNAU.

ICAR is conducting AIEEA for undergraduate admission-2020 for BSc (Agri) and allied subjects and the state agriculture universities have reserved 15 per cent of the total seats to students who secured admission through AIEEA. During this academic year, the domicile state students secured 30 seats from different districts of Tamil Nadu and got allotment in TNAU which accounted for 25 per cent of the total seat matrix, a varsity press release said on Monday. TNAU Vice-Chancellor Dr N Kujmar appreciated the students from Tamil Nadu who selected TNAU and agriculture as their profession, the release said. —PTI

Govt gears up to face 'Nivar'

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV 23

Gearing up to face the possible onslaught of Cyclone 'Nivar' expected to cross the coast between Karaikal and Mamallapuram, a series of official meetings were held on Monday to chart out various plans of action by the departments concerned, while Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami met ministerial colleagues S. P. Velumani, P. Thangamani, R. B. Udhayakumar and D. Jayakumar.

Udhayakumar, who is the revenue minister, visited the control room set up by the State Disaster Management Authority at Ezhilagam office complex and told the media that all efforts had been taken to mitigate the devastation that the cyclone might bring to the State.

Six teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), each comprising 20 personnel, had been despatched to Cuddalore district, which might bear the brunt of Nivar, the Minister said. People living in low lying areas and in old buildings had been evacuated to safer areas and preparations had been done to set up relief camps and supply food to people.

Special officers had been appointed to oversee the relief operations and collectors of all districts had been put on high alert to raise to any emergency. Fishermen had been alerted about the cyclone and all water bodies like reservoirs were being closely monitored, Udhayakumar said.

Nivar was not expected to be as intense as Cyclone



CM K. Palaniswami holds a review meeting and asks his cabinet colleagues and officials to remain fully alert and take appropriate precautionary measures.

Gaja that hit Tamil Nadu in 2018, the minister said and warned people against spreading rumours about the cyclone particularly on the social media. Action would be taken against those spreading rumours, he said.

When Nivar crossed the land, electricity would be switched off in the affected areas, electricity minister Thangamani told the media. He explained that power would be restored once the situation became normal. Several districts that fall in the region between Karaikal and Mamallapuram would face the power cut for some time, he said.

The government was prepared to set right the power disruptions that might be brought about the strong winds as it had 1.5 lakh electric poles ready to installation, he said. In the aftermath of the Gaja devastation, the government had to replace

3.3 lakh electric poles, he recalled.

All equipment and manpower to clear trees felled by the cyclone was kept in readiness and the people need not panic about Nivar, he said.

Fishermen had been asked not to venture into the sea and all those who had gone to the sea had been instructed to return to the shore, fisheries minister Jayakumar said. All efforts were being made to tackle the situation, he said.

Food minister R. Kamaraj said that 4,713 places had been identified to open relief camps in the region that was expected to be hit by the cyclone and food material had already been transported to the PDS shops near the identified spots.

Mobile medical teams were in a state of preparedness to rush to areas that may face medical emergencies, Health



Don't venture out: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV 23

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami called upon the people in the districts that might be affected by the devastation brought about by Cyclone Nivar while crossing the coast not to step out of their homes, not get close of electricity posts or transformers, protect their personal documents from get wet and update themselves about the developments through transistor radio sets.

After holding review meetings with ministers and officials concerned, Palaniswami gave specif-

ic instructions to various departments. Revenue, local body, fire, PWD, highways, municipal, electricity and health department officials have been asked to be ready with necessary equipment and other requirements and camp in the cyclone prone areas.

He said Pudukottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thiruvavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Chengalpattu districts were likely to bear the brunt of Cyclone Nivar and hence all bus services to the districts and within them would be cancelled. The Chief Minister urged the people to not venture out in their

personal vehicles, too.

Instructing officials to keep essentials ready for setting up relief camps, Palaniswami stressed on arranging drinking water, toilet facilities, power supply through generators, food grains, cooking vessels, cooking fuel, cooks, mats, blankets and so on.

In coastal areas, the fishing community had been advised to keep their boats and fishing gear in safe places. Those manning Direct procurement centres had been asked to protect the food grains stored there, farmers and others had been told to keep medicines, vaccines and food for cattle.

Minister Vijayabaskar said. Hospitals had also been equipped to raise to the occasion, he said.

The Chief Secretary also had a meeting with the dis-

trict collectors when he reviewed the arrangements that had been made to face the disaster.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, who was sched-

uled to call on Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan to brief him about the Covid-19 situation in the State, cancelled the visit.

Coastal districts all set to face cyclone

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC
PUDUKKOTTAI, NOV 23

The district administration here is coordinating with all departments and taking all steps concerned to face 'Nivar' cyclone in the district, said Collector B Uma Maheswari, on Monday after discussions with concerned officials on the subject.

She said a toll-free phone number 1077 and a landline phone 04322 222207 were installed at the collectorate. These two phones will be ready for round-the-clock service, and those in need can use them any time, for

relief.

She said there were 60 cyclone protection centres across the district and had asked officials to get these centres ready. All school heads have also been advised to prepare the school premises for housing cyclone-affected people. Fishermen have been asked not to venture into sea for the next four days, and they have been cautioned to protect their vessels and fishing nets, by moving them to safer places. Similar measures have also been taken by Nagapattinam and Tiruvavur district Collectors Praveen P Nair and V Shantha, respectively.

Nilgiris horticulture department gears up to face Nivar cyclone

B RAVICHANDRAN | DC
OOTY, NOV 23

While the threat from cyclone 'Nivar' looms large now, the horticulture department here has geared up face the situation. It has roped in the support of farmers for soil and storm water management to protect farmlands, green houses and standing vegetable crops. Horticulture forms a major chunk of farming activities here.

Joint director Shiva Subramanian Samraj, Horticulture department, The Nilgiris, said that the dep-

artment has issued advisories to farmers on precautionary measures to be taken to protect their interests.

The department is also taking several measures to help the farmers. As far as irrigation and drainage is concerned, farmers have been advised to stop watering of fruit plants from now onwards. By this, the tree roots get tightened and also help withstand wind speed during cyclones and water logging conditions.

Partial root zone drying (PRD) could be adopted in fruit orchards which help in

development of deep root systems. To protect horticulture crops, especially annual crops like vegetables and flowers, water should be drained completely, and water channels kept de-silted and ready to avoid rain water stagnating in the fields.

Polygreen house, shade net house and nursery propagation structures like mist chamber and rooting chamber, should be protected from heavy winds. The basement should be strengthened firmly with soil. Ventilation should be checked and drainage pipes should be

cleaned and channelized to collect excess rain water.

To minimize produce damage due to heavy rains, crops that are in near maturity stage, should be harvested immediately. For soil moisture management, farmers should reschedule irrigation and maintain proper soil moisture. Plastic mulching and drip irrigation may be followed for better soil moisture conservation and weed management. Soil moisture conservation by trenching, contour or field-bunding may also be taken up, Samraj added.

'Yours Truly Margazhi' to go online this year

CURBS EASED

B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Days after the Tamil Nadu government allowed sabhas across Chennai to conduct music and dance performances in closed space with a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity and 200 persons, the Federation of City Sabhas comprising 13 leading sabhas has decided to stick to its plan of hosting concerts on digital platform. However, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan will conduct the music fest on the campus of Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram at Kilpauk.

The government order had said the concerts could be held by following the SOPs with prior permission obtained from the Commissioner of Police.

Speaking to DC, K. Hari Shankar, secretary of the Federation of City Sabhas, says, "We have moved online this year due to Covid-19. There is no change in our plans. Most of the top artists have finished the recording of

Upcoming artistes may get an opportunity to perform in sabhas

their concerts for this month-long digital festival. For artists it is definitely a different experience sans rasikas."

Eminent artistes like Sudha Raghunathan, S. Sowmya, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Nithyashree Mahadevan, Ranjani-Gayatri, Vishaka Hari, Trichur Brothers, Unnikrishnan, Jayanthi Kumaresh, Kanyakumari, Akkarai Sisters, Embar Kannan, Shobana, Priyadarsini Govind and Dushyanth Sridhar are part of this digital fest.

The federation has joined hands with Kalakendra.com to present 'Yours Truly Margazhi', the online re-creation of Margazhi season, from December 18.

M. Krishnamurthy, secretary of Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha, says, "Margazhi concerts this year are going online. Now that the government has given the nod and in the event of more relaxations in the coming months, we can work on accommodating budding and

young artistes in sabha concerts."

Echoing similar views on organising concerts for upcoming artistes, RR Sabha secretary R. Nagarajan says, "Concerts are mostly attended by those above 55 years. Now during this health crisis, it is unlikely seniors would step out of their houses to attend kutcheris. Of course, nothing can match watching live performances of Carnatic musicians."

Rasikas can enjoy watching and listening to top artistes performing exclusively in the YouTube channel as part of 'Yours Truly Margazhi' relayed at high quality streaming at affordable prices. Also, the concerts will stay on the platform till the end of the season. The festival will feature more than 120 concerts of music and dance and lec-dems. Aalaap, a city based performing arts company, has collaborated with the federation to ideate and spread the word about this unique digital event.

BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN TO HOST OPEN AIR CONCERTS

Chennai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is going ahead with its open air Margazhi event on Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram campus from November 28. Speaking to DC, K. N. Ramaswamy, director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai, says

"One can watch concerts of musicians online anytime. Live performances definitely make a difference and we don't want to miss it, especially during Margazhi festival. We believe music lovers will make it amid corona threat. We have prominent musicians performing in our festival. Standard operating procedures will be in place. We will put up giant screens on the school grounds so that rasikas can watch the concerts from inside their cars. Besides sanitising the place everyday, rasikas' temperature will be checked at the gates. Also they will be given a mask and a cap."

Vocal duo Ranjani-Gayathri performing at Kalakshetra auditorium as part of online Margazhi festival on Monday. The accompanists are seated as per social distancing norms.

— DC



Seven girls of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar, are set to realise their dreams of becoming doctors soon. — DC

Fighting all odds to pursue medicine

E. K. SANJAY | DC
CHENNAI, NOV 23

Fighting adverse economic conditions and the pandemic, a group of girls have made their alma mater, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar, Chennai, proud by getting admission in various medical colleges in Tamil Nadu as part of the 7.5 per cent reservation scheme for government school students.

Keerthana, among the seven students from the school, lost her father when she was just 10. Her mother Arokkiya Mary is a sanitary worker, earning just Rs 8,000 a month. Keerthana worked very hard for the Neet and also took additional online coaching. She also helped her mother in her chores and looked after her younger brother. Keerthana got admission for BDS and is excited about serving the needy and the poor after com-



Director of medical education Dr R. Narayana Babu has said screening process will be stringent this year during medical counselling to avoid false nativity or impersonation. —N. Sampath

● **Medical counselling slated for November 24 has been postponed to November 30 owing to cyclone Nivar, according to a late evening press release.**

from the government scheme based on Neet results. Prema is another student from the same school. Her father is a daily wage worker at the Koyambedu market. She has been selected for MBBS at Vellore Medical College. Narrating her methodology while preparing for Neet, Prema

says she prepared a timetable and allotted separate time slots for physics and chemistry. In addition to biology, she also took help from YouTube videos. She expressed her gratitude for teachers. Prema aims to be a specialist in oncology. HM Saraswathi R.C has received the national best teacher award.

On high alert

● Six teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) despatched to Cuddalore district

● Special officers appointed to oversee the relief operations and collectors of all districts had been put on high alert

● Fishermen asked not to venture into the sea and all those who had gone to the sea had been instructed to return to the shore

● 4,713 places identified to open relief camps in the region expected to be hit by the cyclone.

● Mobile medical teams were in a state of preparedness

Inter, intra-district bus services in 7 dts suspended



SHORT TAKES

Security beefed up at
Chennai old airportDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV 23

Security has been beefed up at Chennai old airport, ahead of the arrival of the President Ram Nath Kovind who is scheduled to make a one-day pilgrimage to Tirupati, via Chennai on November 24.

According to official sources, the President along with his entourage will land at the Chennai old airport at 9:15 am and he will reach Tirupati by a special IAF aircraft.

Kovind will have darshan at Tirumala temple and return to Chennai by 5:33 pm, from where he will fly to Delhi.

Sources at the airport said, ahead of his arrival, security arrangements have been strengthened across all points on the old airport premises.

Child fatally knocked
down by vanDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

In a tragic accident, a three-year-old boy, playing outside his house in Perungalathur, died after being knocked down by a van, on Monday.

According to the police, the incident happened in the morning, when Sivalingam (3), son of Karthikeyan (28), a coolie, was playing outside his house in Madhurakavi Alwar Street in Perungalathur.

Sivalingam was sitting on his father's bike when a Tata Ace van allegedly speeding rammed the two-wheeler. Police said Sivalingam fell down and suffered a serious head injury.

The driver of the van who tried to escape was nabbed by eyewitnesses and beaten up.

The child was rushed to a private hospital in Tambaram, but was pronounced dead. The Chrompet traffic investigation police registered a case. They arrested the driver identified as Ramesh (24) a resident of Anbu Nagar in Perungalathur and seized the van. The body of the deceased was sent to Chrompet government hospital for post-mortem. Further investigations are on.

Sloth bear rescued
from well

Tirunelveli: A sloth bear fell into a farm well near Kalakkad forest area in the district and was rescued in a six-hour-long operation by forest officials, on Monday. The bear is said to have strayed out of the forest to Singikulam village at the foothills of the Western Ghats in search of food and water, and accidentally fallen into the well the previous night, said deputy director Elango, allakad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve.

Sathankulam case
accused cops' bail plea
hearing tomorrowDC CORRESPONDENT
MADURAI, NOV 23

The Madurai bench of the Madras high court took up the bail plea of the accused policemen in the Sathankulam father-son, custodial murder case on Monday, adjourned the hearing to November 25.

Four accused policemen, Murugan, Veyilmuthu, Thomas Francis and Muthuraja arrested along with six other police personnel including the police inspector, Sridhar in connection with the Jayaraj-Bennix father-son duo custodial death case in June and imprisoned at Madurai central prison, filed bail petitions with the Madurai bench of the Madras high court. The accused policemen sought bail on the grounds that they had been in custody for more than 130 days and that the CBI completed its investigation and collected the evidences in the case. The petitioners had promised that they would abide by the bail conditions and would not abscond.

'Take students who missed counselling'

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV 23

DMK president M. K. Stalin and CPM state secretary K. Balakrishnan wrote separate letters to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, urging him to accommodate in medical colleges those students from government schools who skipped their counselling fearing that they would not be able to mobilise funds to join private colleges.

Stalin also met two girls from Cuddalore who had refused to take up seats in private colleges as the government announcement to take care of their education expenses came in late. Since the students were not told about the government scheme to provide post-Matric scholarships to the students and to enable them pay the fees immediately without waiting for the scholarship through a rotational fund created by the gov-



ernment not during the counselling, Stalin said.

If the announcement had come prior to the counselling or at least during the counselling, several students would not have given up on their seats obtained through the 7.5 per cent reservation for government school students, Stalin said.

Both the leaders wanted the government to provide admission to the students who missed their seats in the colleges through fresh counselling or by increasing the number of seats.

Balakrishnan also wanted the government to extend the same facilities given to the students getting admission in private medical colleges to those who had joined government medical colleges by scoring higher marks in Neet. Many of those students who had joined government colleges were also from extremely poor families, he said.

DMK forms environment wing: The DMK announced the formation of a new party wing – the environment wing – and appointed Karthikeya Sivasenapathy, the organic farmer who runs a cattle research foundation in Kangayam. He has been advocating the need for conserving the native breeds of bulls, particularly the Kangayam variety. Making the announcement, DMK general secretary Durai Murugan said the rest of the office-bearers of the wing would be appointed later.

Stones laid for Indian
Oil mega projectsA. ARUL PALANI | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Union home minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stones for various mega infrastructure projects of IndianOil at a cost of ₹ 3,200 crore in Chennai last week. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam were also present.

The projects - Petroleum Terminal - Vallur, Captive Petroleum Jetty in Kamarajar Port - Ennore and Petroleum Terminal - Vallur are part of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Industrial Guidance Bureau of the state government for an investment of over Rs 7,900 crore during the Global Investors' Meet held in Chennai in 2019. The Vallur petroleum terminal would be set up in 100 acres near Kamarajar Port. It will have a storage capacity of 200,000 KL and facility to fill trucks in 24 bays at a time. The terminal would receive products from CPCL Refinery and also through petroleum jetty at Kamarajar Port.

The terminal would supply petrol, diesel, kerosene and aviation fuel by road to Chennai and the adjoining districts and through pipeline to Trichy, Salem, Madurai and Asanur (Villupuram).

The terminal will have the operational flexibility to receive petroleum products through tanker ships from Chennai Port during contingency. The project is estimated to cost Rs 900 crore and is

expected to be completed by 2023.

The captive petroleum jetty in Kamarajar Port at Ennore would have a capacity to handle petroleum products from CPCL. The new terminal at Vallur would also be required to carry out coastal movements of petroleum products by ships. Hence, a captive jetty is planned in Kamarajar Port (KPL) with the capacity of two to three million metric ton per annum.

The new lube complex has been planned in 71 acres identified in Amullaivoyal village in Manali. The integrated lube complex will blend advanced eco-friendly lubricants, coolants, brake fluids, greases, diesel exhaust fluid (DEF), white oil (IP Grade) and food grade lubricants. Base oil, which is the input material for the plant, will be sourced from CPCL Refinery and Chennai Port.

The finished lubricants will be dispatched as bulk transfer in tank trucks, in barrels, pails and small cans. The planned capacity of the plant is 680 TMT/PA at a cost of ₹1,400 crore. The project expected to be commissioned by 2023.

The total investment of all the three projects is estimated to be ₹3,200 crore. The projects, during execution, are expected to provide employment to hundreds of skilled / unskilled contract labour, besides improving the profile of the adjoining areas once the facilities start commercial operations.

Campaign trails: DMK
warns CM, police officersDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV 23

The high level executive committee of the DMK resolved to continue with the campaign trails undertaken by 20 top leaders of the party under the theme 'Vidyalai Noki Stalin Kural' (Stalin's voice towards a new dawn) and warned the Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and police officers who are preventing them from taking out their rallies.

A party statement here

said the resolution condemned the police action against DMK Youth Wing Secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin, who had been repeatedly arrested ever since he launched his campaign on November 20.

Pointing out that the detention of the arrested party workers till late night in police custody everyday was anti-democratic, the resolution said that the Chief Minister, in the pretext of holding Coronavirus review, was going around the State

holding official functions that are converted into political meetings.

Without bothering to follow Covid-19 protocols, the Chief Minister was organizing huge receptions for him in all the places that he visited and launched verbal attacks on the DMK in the meetings, it said.

Though his ministers were also just repeating what he did in their districts, none of those meetings were stopped by the police, the resolution said.

broadband communication technology capable of delivering precise depth measurements, an IIT press release here said. An echo sounder is a device used to find out water depth or the position of an object in the water.

A research team at the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts in IIT-Madras has developed the craft and researchers are already in

Need more buses



Cowl bazaar residents near Pallavaram block a small bus demanding more bus services to their area on Monday.

— DC

HC tells IB to frame job rules

J. STALIN | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

The Madras high court has directed the Indian Bank authorities to frame recruitment rules prescribing qualification for the post of sub-staff and notify the same in the gazette.

Justice R. Mahadevan, who gave the directive, said, "equal opportunity in public employment is a constitutional mandate and all the citizens, who are eligible for public employment, should be provided an opportunity to participate in the open competitive process and selection to the public post must be done in accordance with the rules".

The judge was disposing of the petitions filed by K. R. Saru Priya Dharshini and 11 others, which sought a direction to the Indian Bank authorities to appoint them to the post of sub-staff based on their applications.

The judge said, admittedly, the petitioners directly made repeated applications to the respondent bank seeking appointment to the post of sub-staff, which were not considered. Hence, they preferred writ petitions on two occasions. However, they failed in their attempts. Finding no other alternative, the petitioners have again come up with the present writ petitions for the very same

relief. It was the specific stand of the counsel for the petitioners that there were no rules and regulations for recruitment to the post of sub-staff in the respondent bank and hence, the same have to be framed, to regulate the selection process and appointment for the said post, whereas the standing counsel appearing for the bank submitted that the petitioners cannot straight away approach the respondent bank for appointment to the post of sub-staff and there was a procedure for selection to any post. However, he did not produce any material relating to rules and regulations to be followed by the respondent bank. It

was clear that there were no standard rules and regulations to be followed in the respondent bank for recruitment to the post of sub-staff, the judge added.

Citing the judgments of the Supreme Court, the judge said the petitioners cannot claim as a matter of right to be recruited to the said post of sub-staff, in the absence of any recruitment rules in the respondent bank. "This court, to sub-serve the interests of justice, directs the respondent authorities to frame recruitment rules, if not already framed, prescribing qualification for the post of sub-staff and the same has to be notified in the Gazette," the judge added.

Fire engulfs two parked cars

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

Fire engulfed two cars parked near Eri-Katha Ramar temple in Madurantakam on Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported.

The incident took place around 12-noon, when an Omni van and Bolero car that were parked on the

roadside caught fire. According to the police, when the driver of the Omni van started the vehicle, a spark erupted causing a fire. The alert driver reportedly got down from the van, and in a few seconds, fire engulfed the vehicle. The flames also spread to the Bolero car, which was parked nearby, said a

police officer. A fire engine was rushed to the spot. Since the vehicles were parked at the side of the road, the flames did not disrupt traffic. However, sources said, one of the vehicles burst with a loud noise triggering panic in the area. Madurantakam police have registered a case and are investigating the cause of the fire.



Hues of orange and red adorning the late evening sky in Madurai.

— DC

Thirunavukkarasar slams
Udhayanidhi arrestsR VALAYAPATHY | DC
PUDUKOTTAI, NOV 23

Senior Congress leader and Tiruchirapalli Lok Sabha member S Thirunavukkarasar, strongly condemned the arrest of DMK youth wing leader, Udhayanidhi Stalin, and said that the government attempted to prevent his election campaign under the pretext that they violated covid-19 lockdown norms.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Thirunavukkarasar asked if Corona virus would not spread due to

the crowd assembled for the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues meeting.

The government should stop such one-sided action, he added.

He also condemned Union Home Minister Amit Shah's political comments in a government function.

The DMK-led alliance is getting stronger due to the AIADMK-BJP ties, and urged the Chief Minister to conduct a state-level survey on how much people support would be there for the AIADMK-BJP alliance.

Minister hands over welfare benefits

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUVARUR, NOV 23

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami is giving equal importance to the development activities, distribution of welfare measures to the needy along with Covid-19 preventive measures across the state, said Food minister R. Kamaraj, while dis-

tributing welfare measures to 532 needy persons at a function held on Monday at the collectorate here. Collector V. Shantha who presided over the function, said that the government was ready to meet any eventuality due to cyclone. Extra care has been taken to safeguard people living close to the seashore, she added.

Inspector held
on sexual
abuse chargesDC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

The city police have arrested a police Inspector on the charges of sexually harassing a minor girl.

According to the police, the arrested officer has been identified as C. Pugalandhi. Police arrested him for reportedly harassing a minor girl.

Earlier the city police city police have arrested eight people in connection with forcing a teenage girl into flesh trade. The complainant, the mother of the victim started working as a housemaid after her husband eloped with another woman, two years ago. Her daughter, a 13 year old daughter dropped out of her school and accompanied her in household chores.

Five months ago, the woman's niece asked her to send her minor daughter to her house in North Chennai to help take care of her two children, where she was subjected to sexual harassment. The niece and her partner, had sent her to different pimps, who in turn, invited several "customers", and earned out of it.

The incident came to light after the complainant insisted on seeing her daughter after being refused several times by niece. Based on the complaint, the police arrested eight men. During an investigation, the arrested persons confessed that police Inspector C. Pugalandhi and his friend Rajendran were also involved in the racket and that they allegedly raped the minor girl last month. The police Inspector has been arrested and further investigations are underway.

IIT-M develops hi-tech survey craft for ports, waterways

DC CORRESPONDENT &
AGENCY INPUTS
CHENNAI, NOV. 23

In a boost to indigenous technology in the maritime sector, IIT-Madras has developed a solar-powered hi-tech survey craft to undertake seamless survey operations in ports and inland waterways. The craft was successfully tested recently off the city's coastline at the Kamarajar port and more

trials have been scheduled in Kolkata.

The UASC could help meet challenges encountered by the port administrators like surveys slowing down the busy, heavy traffic and even causing accidents and the high cost of periodical channel surveys. The Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft (UASC) that looks like a country boat can take hydrographic and oceanographic surveys and pro-



vide real-time data transmission.

The craft could be equipped with an echo sounder, GPS system and

broadband communication technology capable of delivering precise depth measurements, an IIT press release here said. An echo sounder is a device used to find out water depth or the position of an object in the water.

A research team at the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts in IIT-Madras has developed the craft and researchers are already in

the process of getting the technology commercialised with the help of the central government and the IIT-M's incubation cell.

Prof K. Murali, NTCPWC, IIT-Madras, said the craft was a leap towards indigenisation of the Indian maritime sector, which is now dominated by foreign technology. The craft can deliver precise and accurate depth measurements even in very shallow waters, he said.

SHORT TAKES

KANGANA, SISTER
MOVE BOMBAY
HIGH COURTDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 23

Actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel moved the Bombay High Court on Monday, seeking to quash an FIR registered against them by Mumbai Police for allegedly trying to create hatred and communal tension through their posts on social media.

The duo also challenged Bandra magistrate court order directing the police to carry out an inquiry against them by one Munnawar Ali Sayyed.

Bollywood casting director Sayyad had moved Bandra magistrate court last month seeking FIR should be registered against Kangana and her sister for posting messages on twitter as well as giving TV interview which creates communal tension in the society.

In his complaint, Sayyed pointed out to the court several posts published by Ranaut and her sister on their social media accounts on actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, an incident of lynching of two seers in Maharashtra's Palghar district, and a post comparing Mumbai with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

SHRINGLA TO
VISIT NEPALDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 23

In a bid to smoothen rough edges between India and Nepal, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will visit Kathmandu on November 26 and 27. This will be the first visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge.

"The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal. During the visit, Foreign Secretary will meet his counterpart and other Nepalese dignitaries to discuss the wide ranging bilateral cooperation between the two countries," ministry of external affairs said on Monday.

KERALA PUTS ON
HOLD CYBER LAW

From Page 1

The central leadership of the CPM and CPI also expressed their displeasure over the manner in which the ordinance was promulgated.

With the criticism gaining momentum, the government sought to put the controversy to rest by shelving the ordinance for the moment. Governor Arif Mohammad Khan had given his assent to the ordinance here the other day.

Those who opposed the new law said it was similar to the 66 A of IT Act and 118 D of Kerala Police Act which were repealed by the Supreme Court in 2015 saying these were against freedom of speech. At that time the CPM was in the forefront opposing the provisions of 66 A of the IT Act calling those draconian. So when the Marxist party led government itself brought the amended law which also had similar provisions, even those who were close sympathizers of the Left came out in strong disapproval.

NO SEVERE CASES
IN VACCINE TRIAL

From Page 1

"There are no serious safety events related to the vaccine," the company said. It said that AZD1222 was well tolerated across both dosing regimens.

The current trials are going on in the United States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, Russia, South Africa and Kenya besides some Latin American countries, with more trials being planned in other European and Asian countries.

The company will now prepare regulatory submission of data to authorities around the world for conditional or early approval. They are also planning for 'Emergency use listing' from the World Health Organisation for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income countries.

The 90 per cent efficacy announcement by the company has led the way for many more volunteers to join the trial. It will now be scaled-up to 60,000 volunteers, after the data is studied and submitted to the WHO and for peer review in journals.



Health workers collect samples from passengers for the Covid-19 test, as coronavirus cases surge across the national capital at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in New Delhi on Monday. - PTI

Maha makes Covid negative
report must for travellers

The new rule applies to passengers from Goa, Delhi, Raj and Gujarat

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 23

The Maharashtra government on Monday made it mandatory for all travellers coming to the state from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa to carry RT-PCR negative reports.

Fearing second wave of Covid-19 in Maharashtra, the state government issued new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which states that every passenger arriving from Delhi-NCR, states of Goa, Rajasthan and Gujarat will have to mandatorily carry a Covid-19 negative report while travelling with either rail, road or train.

For domestic air travellers, the RT-PCR sample

collection should have been done within 72 hours before the scheduled time of landing at airports in Maharashtra. Passengers not having the RT-PCR test reports will have to compulsorily undergo RT-PCR tests at concerned airports at their own costs.

"The Airports Authority of India is requested to check for the report before allowing the passengers to board the flight. Only after taking the test, the passengers will be allowed to go home by the Airport Operator," the government notification said.

Passengers arriving in the state via rail will have to carry an RT-PCR negative test report from a sample collected 96 hours before the scheduled

arrival in the state. Those rail passengers who do not have an RT-PCR test negative report will be screened for symptoms including body temperature at the alighting railway stations.

"Passengers not having the RT-PCR test negative report shall be screened for symptoms and body temperatures at the alighting railway stations. Passengers without symptoms would be allowed to go home," the notification said.

Railway passengers showing symptoms shall be segregated and made to undergo antigen test. Passengers whose antigen test report will be negative will be allowed to go home, the government said. It

said that passengers not testing/found Covid-19 positive, shall be sent to Covid-19 care centres and the cost shall be borne by the commuters themselves. Similarly, for those travelling by road, the state government added that the concerned district collectors of state's border districts shall make arrangements to ensure that the passengers coming from these four states shall be tested for symptoms including body temperature.

Those with symptoms will have to undergo an antigen test and will be allowed entry in the state only if the report is negative. People with Covid-19 symptoms seeking to enter the state from Delhi,

Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa would be turned back, the notification said.

The new guidelines were issued a day after chief minister Uddhav Thackeray warned people of the "tsunami" of Covid-19 cases in the state if precautions are not taken. He urged the people of the state not to lower their guard against Covid-19 and follow the safety protocols strictly so that there will be no need to impose another lockdown.

Maharashtra's Covid-19 tally rose to 17,84,361 with the addition of 4,153 new cases on Monday, the state health department said. With 30 fresh deaths reported during the day, the state's fatality count increased to 46,653.



Government Railway Police personnel inspect railways track after the goods train services resumed in Patna on Monday. - PTI

Punjab: Rlys runs
two goods trains

Chandigarh, Nov. 23: Nearly two months after the rail blockade by Punjab farmers against the Centre's farm laws, the railway authorities on Monday operated two goods trains under its Ferozepur division.

The trains were run after the inspection of all tracks falling under the Ferozepur division, officials said.

The Ferozepur division caters to needs of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and a part of Himachal Pradesh. Two goods trains, one empty and other loaded, were run at 2 pm on Monday, said Divisional Railway Manager (Ferozepur Division) Rajesh Aggarwal.

A freight train carrying gypsum from Jammu via Kathua to Lucknow was operated, said Aggarwal, adding that an empty freight train was started from Jalandhar for Delhi.

Talking to the media, he said a passenger train to Haridwar will resume its operation from Amritsar on Tuesday morning.

Similarly, the way

things are being planned, other trains will also be resumed, he said.

Aggarwal said all rail tracks under the Ferozepur division, whether they were in Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir, were inspected by teams of the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force.

The inspection was also carried out on Monday morning, he said.

Various Punjab farmers' bodies protesting against the Centre's recently enacted farm laws had announced to lift their blockade of passenger trains for 15 days from Monday.

The operation of goods trains in the state had remained suspended for nearly two months, except on October 22 and 23. Farmers had resorted to the 'rail roko' agitation on September 24 over the Centre's three farm laws.

Though they had allowed goods trains in the state but were not allowing passenger trains. - PTI

Bharti Singh, husband
get bail in drugs caseDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 23

Comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Haresh Limbachiyaa, who were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau over alleged possession and use of marijuana, were on Monday granted bail by a Mumbai court.

The NCB had arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband Limbachiyaa on Sunday. Both were remanded to judicial custody on Sunday after which both applied for bail.

When their bail applica-

tions came up for hearing on Monday, the probe agency claimed before the court that the two have confessed to consuming ganja.

Singh has also told officers that she would smoke weed procured by her husband.

Limbachiyaa has claimed to have said that he purchased ganja from one peddler and that he would keep one bag of the contraband at his office and another at his house for consumption.

Since there was no need for their custody for further investigation and the

drugs seized from them were of small quantity for consumption only, the court granted them bail.

It may be recalled that search operations were carried out at the couple's properties following a tip-off. The NCB recovered a bag with 65 gram of ganja from Limbachiyaa's production house in Versova.

Later, another search was carried out at his residence, Oberoi Springs in Andheri, from where another bag consisting 21.5 gram of cannabis and unaccounted cash of ₹1.49 lakh were seized.

Shiv Sena rules out 'love
jihad' law in MaharashtraDC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV. 23

After the demand made by some state BJP leader to bring a law against "Love Jihad" in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena on Monday ruled out enactment of any such law in the state. Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that he had a discussion with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on the issue and there was no need to bring the law even if BJP-ruled states take such a step.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis last week had reportedly said that incidents of 'Love Jihad' were taking place in the country and therefore, laws to curb the practice were justified.

"Key BJP leaders in

● **WHEN A law will be framed in Bihar, when Nitish Kumar ji will frame it, we will study that law in its entirety. After that we will think about it."**

Maharashtra are asking when a law against Love Jihad will be passed. I spoke to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the morning. On this issue, we only want to say that let the laws be formed in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. But, when a law will be framed in Bihar, when Nitish Kumar ji will frame it, we will study that law in its entirety. After that we will think about it in Maharashtra," Sanjay Raut said.

Some BJP-ruled states have announced plans to

prevent the so-called 'Love Jihad', which refers to an alleged conspiracy to convert Hindu women by marrying them.

Sanjay Raut also took pot shots against Fadnavis, who has said that his party believes Karachi will be a part of India one day.

Fadnavis had made the remark when he was asked a question regarding a Shiv Sena activist asking owners of Karachi Sweets outlet in Mumbai to rename it and justified the demand by calling Pakistan a country of terrorists.

Raut said that his party will welcome Karachi becoming a part of India. "But first bring PoK in India, then we will go to Karachi," he said.

AIMIM head in
West Bengal
quits, joins TMCRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 23

The Trinamul Congress on Monday roped almost the entire West Bengal leadership of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) including its state "face" Sheikh Anwar Pasha in its fold, dealing a severe blow to Asaduddin Owaisi's outfit to stop it from snatching the Muslim votebank away from its command in the next year's Assembly Election in West Bengal.

With an eye on the 30 per cent Muslim population in the state, the TMC had started cultivating Mr Pasha, who was the AIMIM head in the state, and 17 other senior functionaries quietly in wake of the AIMIM's victory in five seats in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly polls.

Among other leaders who quit the AIMIM and joined the TMC included Murshid Ahmed, Sheikh

Hasibul Islam, Jamshed Ahmed, Intekhab Alam, Abul Kashem, Syed Rahaman and Anarul Mondal.

At the Trinamul Bhawan in the city, state minister Bratya Basu sitting next to Mr Pasha said, "He was the face of AIMIM and its pillar here. Shunning communal and divisive politics, however, he and others joined our party influenced by of our party supremo and CM Mamata Banerjee's vision for peace and development."

Tearing into Mr Owaisi Mr Pasha alleged, "A section of people is taking our country to the path of destruction by misusing our faith. Lot of powers including those who wear saffron or green are eyeing Bengal. They are trying to create a division. AIMIM played a role in the polarisation of votes in Bihar which helped the BJP in forming the government there. But it will not happen in Bengal."

MIM MLA wants
'Bharat' in place
of 'Hindustan'NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 23

Newly elected All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA Akhtarul Imam stoked a controversy on the first day of the Bihar assembly session when he objected to the word "Hindustan" while taking oath on Monday.

The situation occurred when he expressed his desire to take oath in Urdu instead of Hindi and raised objections to word "Hindustan" and urged Protem speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi to replace it with "Bharat".

"While taking oath in Hindi and Maithili people use Bharat but in the letter of oath handed to me in Urdu, the word Hindustan is mentioned. I would like to use the word Bharat while taking an oath", AIMIM MLA Akhtarul Imam said during the oath ceremony in the state assembly on Monday. Reacting to his request Protem speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi pointed out that the elected members have been using "Hindustan" while taking oath in Urdu in the past as well. The Chair, however, later allowed him to use the word "Bharat" instead of "Hindustan".

Later while talking to reporters after his oath Mr Imam clarified that he intended to point out that Preamble of the Constitution mentions the word "Bharat" and that he wanted to use the same term while taking the oath in the name of Constitution.

Mr Imam further said that he has "no objection to the word Hindustan"

● The NDA leaders criticized Akhtarul Imam for refusing to use the word "Hindustan". "The word Hindustan is used by everyone but some people want to create controversy unnecessarily by raising questions on the issue", JD(U) MLA Madan Sahani said.

● The BJP also reacted and said that "those who have a problem using the word Hindustan should go to Pakistan".

and that he has grown up reciting lines from Iqbal's famous poem "Saare Jahan Se Acha Hindustan Hamara".

When asked about his stand on Congress MLA Shakeel Ahmed Khan taking oath in Sanskrit instead of Hindi he said that "it was his personal choice".

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM has entered Bihar assembly for the first time by winning five seats in the Seemanchal and Kosi region of the state. Akhtarul Imam who has won from the Amour constituency is the party's state president.

Reacting sharply, the NDA leaders criticized Akhtarul Imam for refusing to use the word "Hindustan". "The word Hindustan is used by everyone but some people want to create controversy unnecessarily by raising questions on the issue", JD(U) MLA Madan Sahani said.

The BJP also reacted and said that "those who have a problem using the word Hindustan should go to Pakistan".

Shah visit a show
off, says MamataRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, NOV. 23

In a blistering attack, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday called Union home minister Amit Shah's lunch during his visit to Bankura in his last tour to the state earlier this month at a tribal family's home a "show off" and his garland tribute to a hunter's statue, passed off by the BJP as of Birs Munda, an "insult" to the tribal freedom fighter.

Charging Mr Shah of "lying", she announced that her party would build a statue of Birs Munda in the district to woo the tribal votebank.

"A few days ago our honourable Union home minister came here for a

'show off.' *Dikhane ke liye aaye the!* He had brought cooked food and people including Brahmin from outside to a Dalit family's home. He did not allow the family to do anything," she alleged.

Lashing out at Mr Shah, Mr Banerjee claimed, "The poor man's daughter suffers from a disease like Thalassemia. With the assurance of help, he was told that the minister would have his lunch sitting at his home. Though it was shown that vegetables were chopped for cooking his lunch, he (Shah) did not have the food made of it. Neither coriander leaves nor cabbage was used in cooking. From the newspapers I found he had Basmati rice and Postor Bora (Poppy Seed Fritters)."

IN BRIEF YEMENI REBELS STRIKE SAUDI OIL FACILITY

Dubai, Nov. 23: Yemen's Houthis rebels said they struck a Saudi oil facility in the port city of Jiddah on Monday with a new cruise missile, just hours after the kingdom finished hosting its virtual Group of 20 leaders summit.

The kingdom did not immediately acknowledge any attack as videos on social media suggested a fire at an Aramco oil facility.

Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarie, a Houthi military spokesman, tweeted that the rebels fired a new Quds 2 cruise missile at the facility.

He posted a satellite image online that matched Aramco's North Jiddah Bulk Plant, where oil products are stored in tanks.

3 PAK BURGLARS ATTACK INDIAN MAN IN THE UAE

Dubai, Nov. 23: A 33-year-old Indian man was attacked by three mask-wearing Pakistani burglars who also stole his laptop, mobile phone and some cash while he was asleep at his home in Dubai, according to a media report.

During a hearing in the Dubai Court of First Instance on Sunday, the man said the Pakistani burglars broke into a villa in the Bur Dubai area in August, assaulted the residents with a metal bar, and stole several items, the *Gulf News* reported on Sunday. He said the attackers put a plastic bag over his face and tape on his mouth. "They were wearing medical masks. One of them muzzled me and the other attacked me with a metal bar. I tried to resist but they overpowered me. I pulled the mask of one of the attackers and saw his face," the victim told the court. "I managed to remove the plastic bag and the tape and went outside the room. I went to my roommate and tried to chase the attackers," he said.

The burglars stole the man's laptop, mobile phone, cash, and credit cards, the report said. While one of the burglars was arrested by a police patrol as the victim identified him, the other two remain at large.

UK SC TO DECIDE IF I.S. BRIDE CAN RETURN

London, Nov. 23: Britain's Supreme Court is set to decide whether a woman who ran away from her London home as a teenager to join the Islamic State group in Syria can return to the UK.

The British government is fighting to keep Shamima Begum from coming back to the country where she was born. At a hearing beginning on Monday, it is challenging a lower court's ruling that Begum can return to Britain to mount a legal challenge aimed at restoring her UK citizenship, which was revoked on national security grounds.

The Court of Appeal said in July that "the only way in which she can have a fair and effective appeal is to be permitted to come into the UK."

But James Eadie, a lawyer for the UK government, told the Supreme Court that Begum "is considered to pose a real and current threat to national security." Begum was one of three east London schoolgirls who travelled to Syria in 2015.

US RENEWS VOW TO DEFEND PHILIPPINES

Manila, Nov. 23: President Donald Trump's administration provided precision-guided missiles and other weapons to help the Philippines battle Islamic State group-aligned militants and renewed a pledge to defend its treaty ally if it comes under attack in the disputed South China Sea.

National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien represented Trump in Monday's ceremony at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, where he announced the delivery of the cache of missiles and bombs to the Philippine military. Trump pledged to provide the \$18 million worth of missiles in a phone conversation with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in April.

O'Brien expressed condolences to the Philippines after back-to-back typhoons left a trail of death and devastation in the country and outlived US help to the country battle the coronavirus pandemic. The US assistance projects normalcy in Washington's foreign relations as Trump worked to challenge the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Blinken to be US Secretary of State, Sullivan next NSA

Washington, Nov. 23: Joe Biden intends to pick his trusted foreign policy advisor Antony Blinken as the US Secretary of State and Jake Sullivan as National Security Advisor, media reports said on Monday, as the President-elect is poised to make his first round of Cabinet announcements on Tuesday.

Blinken, 58, has served as the Deputy Secretary of State in the second term of the Obama administration and National Security Advisor to Biden when he was the vice president.

A strong India-hand, Blinken was the top foreign policy advisor to the Biden campaign.

"President-elect Joe Biden intends to nominate Antony Blinken to serve as secretary of State, turning to a trusted diplomat and foreign-policy adviser to oversee his work to rebuild US relationships around the globe, according to people familiar with the decision," *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

"President-elect Joe Biden is planning to announce that he has selected Antony Blinken, one of his closest and longest-se-

rving foreign policy advisers, as secretary of state," *The Washington Post* said. "Jake Sullivan, another top Biden adviser, is expected to be named as national security adviser, according to two people familiar with the announcement," the daily said.

Last week, Biden said he had decided on his name for the Treasury Secretary. "The announcement of Blinken's selection is expected by Tuesday at the latest, people familiar with the selection said," the *Journal* reported.

Blinken also spoke during the virtual celebration of India's Independence Day organised by the Biden Campaign and addressed by Biden himself and his running mate Kamala Harris, who is now the Vice President-elect.

"The Vice President (Biden) has long been a champion of stronger ties with India. I saw this firsthand. I started working for him in 2002 on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Then, of course, the Obama-Biden administration and his years as Vice President.

— PTI

China to launch 1st unmanned mission for moon's samples

Beijing, Nov. 23: China said on Monday that it will launch its first unmanned space mission on Tuesday to collect samples from the moon's surface and return to earth, which its scientists say is one of the country's most complicated and challenging space missions.

China National Space Administration (CNSA) said that the fuelling of the Long March-5 rocket, currently China's largest launch vehicle, began on Monday ahead of the launch on early Tuesday.

The rocket, which will send the Chang'e-5 spacecraft to Earth-moon transfer orbit, is scheduled to be launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province in the early hours on Tuesday.

The mission is the country's first attempt to launch a spacecraft to collect and return samples from the moon, the CNSA said. The Chang'e-5 mission aims to conduct unmanned lunar sample collection and return to Earth, one of the country's most complicated and challenging space mis-

sions, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported. It will contribute to the scientific studies in fields such as the formation and evolution of the moon, it said. China's lunar exploration program is named after the legendary Chang'e, the "Moon Lady," who took a potion and floated into the sky, eventually landing on the moon, where she became a goddess accompanied by a jade rabbit.

A major space power, China launched its first Mars mission 'Tianwen-1' on July 23 this year. The Mars spacecraft which included an orbiter, lander and rover is on its way to the red planet. China launched its first lunar probe, Chang'e-1, in 2007 which orbited 200 km above the moon and mapped 3D images of the lunar surface followed by Chang'e-2 in 2010 which had sent high resolution photos of the moon's surface. Chang'e-3 was launched in 2013 which softly touched down on the Sinus Iradium 12 days later. Chang'e-3 included a lander and a moon rover called Yutu (Jade Rabbit). — PTI

Saudi Arabia denies Bibi met crown prince

Jerusalem, Nov. 23: Israeli media reported Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Saudi Arabia for a clandestine meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which would mark the first known encounter between senior Israeli and Saudi officials.

But, Saudi Arabia on Monday denied Israeli media reports of landmark talks Netanyahu and bin Salman during a visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"I have seen press reports about a purported meeting between HRH the

Crown Prince and Israeli officials during the recent visit by @SecPompeo," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in a tweet.

"No such meeting occurred. The only officials present were American and Saudi," Israeli public broadcaster *Kan* and other outlets had reported that the meeting took place Sunday, weeks after the Jewish state reached historic deals to normalise ties with two Saudi allies, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Those deals, known as the Abraham Accords,

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine 70% effective on an average

Becomes third drugmaker to announce promising results to contain Covid

London, Nov. 23: Pharma major AstraZeneca said on Monday that an interim analysis of clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine in the UK and Brazil showed that it was 70 per cent effective on average, becoming the third drugmaker to announce promising results to contain the deadly virus. The vaccine, developed with the University of Oxford, showed 90 per cent efficacy in one dosing regimen when the vaccine was given as a half dose, followed by a full dose at least a month later, and another dosing regimen showed 62 per cent efficacy when given as two full doses at least one month apart, AstraZeneca said in a statement.

"The combined analysis from both dosing regimens resulted in an average efficacy of 70 per cent," it added. An independent Data Safety Monitoring Board determined that the analysis met its primary endpoint showing protection from Covid-19 occurring 14 days or more after receiving two doses of the vaccine, AstraZeneca said.

No serious safety events related to the vaccine have been confirmed. The ChAdOx1 nCoV-2019 or code-named AZD1222 was well tolerated across both dosing regimens, it said. The company "will now immediately prepare the regulatory submission of the data to authorities around the world that have a framework in place for conditional or early approval," the statement said.

AstraZeneca will seek an Emergency Use Listing from the World Health Organisation for an accelerated pathway to vaccine availability in low-income countries, it added.

"These findings show that we have an effective vaccine that will save many lives. Excitingly,



German health minister Jens Spahn wears a protective mask as he is shown around the vaccine production company IDT Biologika by its general manager Juergen Betzing in Dessau, Germany on Monday as the race to develop a Covid vaccine continues.

we've found that one of our dosing regimens may be around 90 per cent effective and if this dosing regimen is used, more people could be vaccinated with planned vaccine supply," explained Professor Andrew Pollard, Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and Chief Investigator of the Oxford Vaccine Trial. The result of the Oxford vaccine compares with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which were recently shown to be 95 per cent and 94.5 per cent effective, respectively. The Oxford vaccine is comparatively cheaper and easier to store.

"This vaccine's efficacy and safety confirm that it will be highly effective against Covid-19 and will have an immediate impact on this public health emergency," AstraZeneca Chief Executive Officer Pascal Soriot said.

— PTI

4 Indo-Americans Rhodes Scholars

New York, Nov. 23: Four Indian-Americans are among the cohort of 32 students chosen from the US as Rhodes Scholars virtually for the first time this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The diverse group, that won scholarships to the Oxford University in England, comprises immigrants and students of colour.

American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust Elliot Gerson announced the

names of the 32 Americans chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the US on Sunday. The four Indian-American students include Swathi R Srinivasan, Vijayasundaram Ramasamy, Garima P Desai and Savarni Sanka.

"Never before has a class of Rhodes Scholars been elected entirely virtually, with both candidates and selectors participating safely, independently and digitally," Gerson said. — PTI

Covid-19 shots could reach US health staff by mid-December

Washington, Nov. 23: US healthcare workers and others recommended for the nation's first Covid-19 inoculations could start getting shots within a day or two of regulatory consent next month, a top official of the government's vaccine development effort said on Sunday.

Some 70 per cent of the US population of 330 million would need to be inoculated to achieve "herd" immunity from the virus, a goal the country could achieve by May, according to Dr Moncef Slaoui, chief scientific adviser for "Operation Warp Speed."

Slaoui said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would likely grant approval in mid-December for distribution of the vaccine produced by Pfizer Inc and German partner BioNTech, launching the largest inoculation campaign in US history.

The FDA's outside advisers are slated to meet on Dec. 10 to review Pfizer's

emergency-use application for its vaccine, which the company said was found to be 95 per cent effective against infection from the highly contagious respiratory virus.

A second pharmaceutical company, Moderna Inc, is expected to seek separate approval later in December for its Covid-19 vaccine. Appearing on several network news shows on Sunday morning, Slaoui sketched out a timeline for getting the initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine from FDA authorization into the arms of those who will be first in line to receive it.

"Within 24 hours from the approval, the vaccine will be moving and located in the areas where each state will have told us where they want the vaccine doses," Slaoui told NBC's "Meet the Press."

"Maybe on 11th or 12th of December, the first people will be immunised across the US," he said. — Reuters

GERMANY MIGHT START GIVING SHOTS IN DEC.

Frankfurt, Nov. 23: Germany could start administering shots of Covid-19 vaccines as soon as next month, health minister Jens Spahn was quoted as saying. "There is reason to be optimistic that there will be approval for a vaccine in Europe this year," Spahn said in an interview with publishing group RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland. "And then we can start right away."

Spahn said that he had asked Germany's federal states to have their vaccination centres ready by mid-December and that this was going well. "I would rather have a vaccination centre ready a few days early than an approved vaccine that isn't being used immediately." — Reuters

China tests millions in 3 cities

Beijing, Nov. 23: Chinese authorities are testing millions of people, imposing lockdowns and shutting down schools after multiple locally transmitted Coronavirus cases were discovered in three cities across the country last week.


As temperatures drop, large-scale measures are being enacted in the cities of Tianjin, Shanghai and Manzhouli, despite the low number of new cases compared to the United States and other countries that are seeing new waves of infections.

Experts and government officials have warned that the chance of the virus spreading will be greater during the cold weather. Recent flareups have shown that there is still a risk of the virus returning, despite being largely controlled within China. — AP

Shringla to visit Nepal from Nov. 26, talk bilateral issues

Kathmandu, Nov. 23: India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will arrive here on Thursday on a two-day official visit to Nepal during which he would hold talks with his Nepalese counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal and discuss wide ranging areas of bilateral cooperation.

Shringla is visiting at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Paudyal. This will be a continuation of the regular exchange of high level visits between the two friendly neighbours, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said on Monday. — PTI

<div>  <div> Punjab State Power Corporation Limited </div> </div>			
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813 Phone No. 0175-2213047, Fax No. 0175-2225024 Mob: 09641-82644, 096461-11035 e-mail: pocablesteel@yahoo.in e-tendering page: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in			
TENDER NOTICE			
Short Description	Supply of sub-station structure for mounting of 11/0.4 kv transformer on 9 meter double pole and 11meter double pole against tender enquiry no. QQ-1303/PSPCL/PO/C&S. of following quantity:-		
	Sr. No.	Item	Quantity (No.)
	1	Sub Station Structure for 9 m double pole	7000
	2	Sub Station Structure for 11 m double pole	350
Start date for down loading of Specification/tender documents from www.eproc.punjab.gov.in	23 November, 2020		
Last date for down loading of Specification/tender documents from www.eproc.punjab.gov.in	24 December, 2020 (upto 11:00 AM)		
Last date for Bid Submission	24 December, 2020 (upto 11:00 AM)		
Bid Opening date.	30 December, 2020 (11:00 AM)		
For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in . Note :- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSPCL website www.pspcl.in			
C-357/2020 RO : U107782		Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organisation, PSPCL, Patiala.	

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு பேருருட்சிகள் துறை குளேஸ்வரன்பட்டி முதல்திலை பேருருட்சி			
த.பா.எண்: 105/2020/அ-1			
கோயம்புத்தூர் மாவட்டம், குளேஸ்வரன்பட்டி (முதல்திலை) பேருருட்சிகள் 2020-21ம் ஆண்டில் ஒருங்கிணைந்த நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் குறுநீர் மேம்பாட்டு பணிகளுக்கு 2 சிபாய் வேண்ட. ரூ. 92.00 இலட்சம் மதிப்பில் மேற்கொள்ளத்தக்கான டீயு ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி (முன்றம்) அறிவிப்பு.			
1. குளேஸ்வரன்பட்டி பேருருட்சிமில் ஒருங்கிணைந்த நகர்ப்புற மேம்பாட்டுத் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் குறுநீர் மேம்பாட்டு பணிகளுக்கு ரூ. 92.00 இலட்சம் மதிப்பில் மேற்கொள்ள குளேஸ்வரன்பட்டி பேருருட்சி செயல் அலுவலரால் தகுதிகளை ஒப்பந்தத்தாரர்களிடமிருந்து ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகளில் வாங்கிக்கொடுக்கின்றன. ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகளின் தொடர்பான விவரங்களை எவ்வதப்பட்டு, பேருருட்சிமில் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும். 2. குடிசைகள், பள்ளிகளின் சிபாய் ரூ. 92.00 இலட்சம் மதிப்பிடப்படும். 3. இப்பணிகளை ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி நேரடிவிலைகள் www.tntenders.gov.in என்ற இணையதள முகவரியிலிருந்து இலாபவாரை பதிலிறுக்கல் செய்து கொள்ளப்படும். இந்த இணையதள முகவரியிலிருந்து ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி முழுவிவரங்களைப் பெறப்படும்.			
4. மேற்கூறான நேரம் வரையில் தான்			
அ) ஒப்பந்த துணை பதிலிறுக்கல் செய்தல்	19.11.2020 முதல்	10.12.2020 வரையில்	3.00 பணிய முடிய
ஆ) ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி எவ்விதத்தில்	10.12.2020 மாணவ 3.00 பணிய வரை		
இ) ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி திறத்தல்	10.12.2020 மாணவ 3.30 பணிய		
ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி தள்ளுது விடுமுறை தினங்களில் அறிவிக்கப்படும் அடுத்த வேலை தள்ளி அடுத்த இடத்தில், அடுத்த நேரம் ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளிகளின் பெறப்பட்டு திறக்கப்படும்.			
செயல் அலுவலர் செயல்பாட்டு/4358/ஒப்பந்தப்பள்ளி/2020			
குளேஸ்வரன்பட்டி பேருருட்சி, கோயம்புத்தூர் மாவட்டம்			

DECCAN
Chronicle

24 NOVEMBER 2020

Kerala's dropping law to punish dissent welcome

The decision by Kerala's Left Democratic Front government led by the CPM to put on hold its controversial ordinance amending the Kerala Police Act 2011 is extremely welcome. The ordinance was intended to insert a section in the law giving the police wide powers to proceed against those who defame people through various media, including the social media, and another to make it a cognisable offence.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who announced the decision, said the government was forced to bring in the ordinance in the background of complaints about widespread misuse of social media platforms to attack individuals, especially women and children. The government must now complete the legal process which leads to the nullification of the ordinance.

The new Section 118A in the law had made a communication which "caused injury to the mind" of not only the target but also of "any other person in whom they have interest" a cognisable offence, giving the police undefined powers to initiate criminal proceedings against unsuspecting people.

It evoked instant condemnation from civil rights activists and Left sympathisers as well as the Opposition, who said that it could be misused to stifle voices of dissent. The Communist Party of India, the second largest LDF constituent, had also publicly voiced its dissent. The protests forced the CPM central leadership to promise a rethink at the law.

That a government led by the CPM, which has consistently opposed every single move against freedom of speech, had dared to bring in such a law could perplex an outsider. But a close look at the way the police has behaved in Kerala under the current government would show that the new law was a continuation of the pattern of its behaviour, which has nothing to do with the published policy of the party that leads the government. The police shot and killed two Maoists in the forests of Nilambur in an encounter just three months after the new government had taken over.

Though Left parties oppose encounter killings, the party offered no explanation while the Chief Minister said the government will do nothing that would affect the morale of the police. Encouraged perhaps by the words of the Chief Minister, who also holds the home portfolio, the police conducted more encounters in the following years, in which six more people were killed. Two youngsters were incarcerated last year for about 10 months under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 for allegedly possessing Maoist literature though the CPM has been in the forefront of agitations against its misuse.

While it is true that the Vijayan government has finally given in to public pressure against a draconian law, the CPM leadership needs to do a serious rethink why the Kerala police, which functions directly under one of its most senior leaders, gets to do whatever it feels like, even breaking the party's own policies. It must also be a lesson for all governments in this country which find voices of dissent an unnecessary evil. They might do well to recognise that freedom of speech is a vital part of democracy, guaranteed by the Constitution, and that all attempts to smother it will face stiff resistance.

J&K: What kind of democracy?

Jammu and Kashmir has taken a long break from democracy. There has been no popular government there since 2018's summer, and in August 2019, without going through any laid-down procedure, the Centre scrapped the former state's autonomy, vivisectioned it, and converted it into a Union territory. Now, when polls are to be held for District Development Councils, which didn't exist in the past, non-BJP parties are vociferously complaining that they aren't allowed to campaign while BJP candidates face no hurdles.

Mostly these are the Gupkar Alliance parties, and they complain that their candidates, in the name of security, are practically facing internment. This is Kashmir's first real test at procedural democracy in 29 months and it was expected that the leaders of Kashmir's mainstream parties, who have sworn by India and paid the price, with thousands of them killed by terrorists over the years, would have every opportunity to have their say in the DDC polls.

In an eloquent letter to lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha, stalwart National Conference leader and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, president of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the conglomerate of Kashmir's non-BJP parties working for restoration of Kashmir's autonomy, has said that the story of democracy in Kashmir is soaked in the blood of representatives of the same parties whose candidates are being physically restrained from campaigning. Other PAGD parties have also complained bitterly. The elections are imminent.

If this grievance is made up, it will be appropriate for the L-G to go on record to say so, and then to substantiate his stand before the public. Else, the impression is apt to go around that the ruling party is intent on winning the election by hook or by crook, for it will be a big blow to the BJP if it loses the election after the party pursued its ideological agenda to denude J&K of its historical autonomy. And why has the Election Commission gone to sleep in the face of such complaints?

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Subhani



Beyond the RCEP: India matters in Indo-Pacific

Sreeram Chaulia

Since the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement by 15 nations on November 15, criticism of India for sitting out the mega free trade pact has arisen in some quarters. Myths have been propagated that deserve to be debunked.

The first line of attack is that India has hacked at its own feet because remaining outside the pan-regional integration process will hamper India's economic growth and transformation. This argument is not supported by empirical evidence from previous free trade agreements. Barring the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (Safta), which came into force in 2006, all the other FTAs have produced trade deficits for India.

By 2019, India had a deficit of \$22 billion with Asean, thanks to the India-Asean Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which has been operational since 2010. Likewise, the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), in vogue from 2011, and the India-South Korea CEPA, in effect from 2010, have engendered progressively larger deficits for India. Signing these FTAs did increase overall trade volumes between India and its partner countries, but India's market became more open to imports without reciprocal benefits for Indian exporters.

Liberal proponents of consumer welfare contend that the deficits should not matter as Indian consumers gain from the influx of cheaper foreign-made goods. But the widening trade deficits have adverse implications for India's macro-economic stability and ability to strategically plan its economic future.

External affairs minis-

ter S. Jaishankar explained the crux of the matter by reminding us that past FTAs led to "de-industrialisation" of sectors of the Indian economy by pumping in cheap foreign goods and removing economic incentives to build our own indigenous manufacturing base.

The challenge, Mr Jaishankar rightly says, is "whether India will become a first-class industrial power or not". Multiple studies have shown that if India joined the RCEP on the bargaining terms we got after six years of negotiations, the already alarming surge of Chinese goods would have swamped India and rendered it permanently uncompetitive and crippled.

Already, even without an FTA, China had a worrisome trade surplus of \$48.6 billion with India in the 2019-2020 financial year. With China sitting as the 800-pound gorilla in RCEP, which doesn't prohibit China's notorious state subsidies to its exporters and doesn't block Chinese exports rerouted via other RCEP members, India would have committed strategic suicide by entering the club.

All the hopes pinned on Prime Minister Modi's "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India" drives would have been eviscerated had we been in RCEP. For example, the billions of dollars of incoming FDI flows to India to manufacture consumer electronics for sale in our domestic market and for export would evaporate if our gates were wide open for tariff-free Chinese mobiles, laptops or television sets.

Protectionism and import-substitution indeed failed in earlier eras and stunted India from developing world class export-oriented products. But the record FDI inflows and improvements in "Ease of Doing Business" in the Narendra Modi era

are rays of hope for a late industrialisation renaissance, which needs at least one more decade before judging its success. In this intervening decade, we ought to be cagey about FTAs involving predatory exporting giants.

The second myth about India not joining RCEP is that the other RCEP members — the Asean nations, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand — have been deeply disappointed and India has marginalised itself by abandoning these partners when they needed it the most to counter the Chinese behemoth from within. This too is a misrepresentation. India already has FTAs with 12 out of the 15 RCEP members. Only Australia and New Zealand lack FTAs with India, but its trade with them too has been growing. We have already been quite generous with all RCEP members and remain committed to elevating our strategic partnerships with many of them. Just because we are not in RCEP does not mean India has lost its appeal in the eyes of these countries.

Admittedly, there is far greater economic cooperation potential to be unlocked by India with RCEP members other than China. But one must not downplay the defence and geopolitical dimensions of India's salience in the Indo-Pacific region. The recently strengthened "Quad" security dialogue mechanism has spurred enthusiasm in Japan and Australia, which are speeding up military interoperability for balance in the Indo-Pacific. Japan and Australia may have signed RCEP, but China is far from neutralising the "Quad" or softening opposition from Asean biggies like Vietnam and Indonesia to Chinese intimidation.

The present multilateral and multipolar international environment is complex, and countries

RCEP is not a talisman for India's economic or geopolitical rise. We should move past what was lost by missing the RCEP bus.

often hold overlapping memberships in a variety of groups. Owing to the interests of private corporations and big businesses, RCEP members see economic value in trading and investing with China. But there is also deep fear and anxiety among their national security establishments and ordinary citizens about China's territorial aggrandisement and economic blackmail. This is why, after the Covid pandemic hit, Australia, Japan and India formed the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to avoid dependence on a single hegemonic power. India is bang in the middle of these new structures and not a sideshow.

The third myth about India and RCEP is that we are rudderless if we do not coalesce into the Asia-wide economic connectivity network because the US and Europe will provide scant solace. It is true that India has not had much joy getting market access to Western countries due to their protectionist politics. But trade experts believe India might secure better terms than what was offered in RCEP if it moves forward FTAs with the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). One must be unsentimental in the pursuit of national interests, which is what the Modi-Jaishankar duo is trying to do.

Another heartening shift is that the Europeans want to permanently deploy military assets in the Indo-Pacific alongside the US to restrain China. France, Germany and the Netherlands are advocating accelerated trade and political linkages with democratic nations like India and Indonesia to contribute to rebalancing in the Indo-Pacific.

RCEP is not a talisman for India's economic or geopolitical rise. We should move past what was lost by missing the RCEP bus. There are other conducive regional and global vehicles to propel India as a "leading power", and it is on its way.

The writer is professor and dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs

LETTERS

A CLARION CALL

The editorial *Avoid partisan approach, apathy to conquer Covid*, (Nov.23) sends a clarion call to both the Centre and the respective state governments as to how to jointly tackle the menace on the second innings of inexorable novel coronavirus, which keeps smiting victims by scores across the globe. It is disheartening to note that despite seven months of its landing, it keeps giving the advisory bureau and the health departments anxious moments as to how to put a stasis on the prevalence of the invisible foe, thanks to people's obdurate and wayward attitude resulting in the advisory's safety norms being thrown to the winds, which has aggravated the situation from bad to worse.

E.S.Chandrasekaran
Chennai

EXERCISE IN FUTILITY

HAD JAYALALITHAA been alive she would not have entertained anyone from the Centre, be it Prime Minister or home minister (*BJP's pointless exertions*). The present leadership of AIADMK is needlessly bending over backwards to Amit Shah indicating their foreboding of losing power to either Sasikala or Stalin next year. Tamil Nadu politics is peculiar and only DMK or AIADMK can wrest power from each other. All other parties including BJP, Congress and communists can never dream of ruling from Fort St. George. BJP's exploratory efforts will not yield any tangible results. It is "looking for a needle in a haystack".

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

OF NATIONAL UNITY, STABILITY

TRENDS LIKE the current try men's souls. Tough and hard as nails our armed forces are. In the face of horror and disaster, daunting odds and baffling challenges, many Indian servicemen display enviable mettle. Our brave and unselfish soldiers, marines and airmen nurse their weapons and sharpen their bayonets; ever on the ready and on the alert - to lay down their lives in order to guarantee a solid security for peace and safety of their native land. Unvarying vigilance has characterised these noble warriors, renowned for their admirable morale. Our tenacious armed forces could grip, hold and keep intruders at bay. Such has been their constant high state of combat readiness. "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war" has been their motto. Duty inescapable remains. It behoves, therefore, everyone of our civilians to stick in unity together and in fidelity to one another.

P.R. Krishna Narayanan,
Chennai

Mail your letters to
editor@deccanmail.com

Aakar Patel



From testing to travel, India's Covid handling process is faulty

Hong Kong banned Air India flights again last week, after Indians landing there tested positive for Covid-19 for the fifth time since August. Passengers are supposed to board the aircraft only after taking a test that confirms that they are negative, but the testing does not appear to be done at our end with any sort of rigour. The passengers who boarded the flight and landed in Hong Kong had certificates showing they were Covid negative, but this turned out to be untrue.

I was not surprised by this because there is no standard process that India is following for testing and for flying, and I can vouch for this from personal experience. For the last few months I have been going to Surat every month to attend to a case that has been filed against me. The first time I went was the first time I flew after the Covid-19 outbreak and had to find out what the process for flying was. I was told by the airline

that an app from the Surat Municipal Corporation would have to be downloaded, and a form that was self-attested which said that I was not bearing any symptoms would also be needed to be signed and submitted. I tried downloading the app, but it was a fairly crude piece of software and my phone refused to download it.

On landing in Surat, I was not asked to show either the app or the form but instead all passengers above 50 were told to take a rapid test, and their phone numbers and addresses were taken down. On leaving Surat, I was asked to show if I had downloaded the Aarogya Setu app, which I did not have and did not know I was supposed to have. On landing back in Bengaluru, nothing was asked for.

That was the first time I had travelled. The second time, the following month, on landing in Surat there was nobody at the airport to check anything and I walked about without the test or any form. The

One airline gave face shields but did not insist that passengers use them. Another airline forced all passengers to wear the shield over their mask. Each time there was a different process

third time, which was in October, there were people at Surat airport who were taking the temperatures of passengers who were getting off the plane but no testing or taking down of addresses or phone numbers. This time, on leaving, nobody checked for the Aarogya Setu either.

One airline gave out face shields but did not insist that all passengers use them. Another airline forced all passengers to wear the shield over their mask. Each time there was a different process and even that process wasn't followed with any kind of rigour. It is random and does not reflect the seriousness with which the rest of the

world has taken the virus. This could be one reason why China has 100 times fewer infections than India and why Hong Kong has had to repeatedly ban Air India.

The problem of testing is not limited to the airlines. A report from Bloomberg this week said that questionable testing in India could be the reason why our Covid-19 numbers were down. Half of all testing in India was done through rapid antigen tests. These tests were quick but were likely to result in false negatives (meaning reporting a negative wrongly) half the time. This could mean that one out of every four people getting tested negative could actually be infected with Covid-19.

In mid-August only 25 per cent of the total tests were done in this way but now it is almost 50 per cent. In states like Bihar, about 90 per cent of all tests are of the rapid variety. This could explain the sharp fall in the number of cases in India, the report said. Other nations which

had large numbers of positive cases like the United States and Britain were using the RT-PCR tests, which took longer time for results but were more reliable.

There is also uneven testing across the country and no specific standard. The day the Bloomberg report was published, Bihar, which had just voted in an election with large rallies, reported only 600 cases while the city of Delhi, the nation's capital, added about 7,000 cases in 24 hours.

The report quoted several experts who were sceptical about the numbers in India, and again, this doesn't surprise me. We have no standard processes in place to address the more serious public health hazard of our lifetime. It is obvious to those of us who have travelled in this period. The rest of the world, as the repeated bans on us from Hong Kong show, knows it too now.

The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist

Investment proposals from HK going into deep freezer

between the
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have been
nce May.
—*Bloomberg*

Work-from-home category products continued to show faster recovery, especially electronics and consumer durables, with some segments registering double digit growth of about 15 to 18 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

Prajnesh goes down in final

Orlando: Indian tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran ended runner-up at the Orlando Open, losing the summit clash of the ATP Challenger event to American Brandon Nakashima, here.

Prajnesh did not have the required power in his strokes to hurt the American, losing 3-6 4-6 in the \$52,080 hard court tournament on Sunday. He could convert none of the eight break chances that came his way in an hour and 28 minute contest. It is Prajnesh's second straight runner-up finish. He had reached the final at the Cary Challenger last week. The result helped Prajnesh to move to 128 from 137. He has already locked the India number one rank with his Orlando show. Serving at 2-3, 30-all, Prajnesh buried a forehand to the net to be down a break point but saved it with an ace. Another forehand error by Prajnesh gave Nakaksima another chance but the Indian saved that too with a well set-up winner. — PTI

BCCI condoles Bhaskaran's death

New Delhi: The BCCI on Monday condoled the death of former Kerala first-class cricketer CK Bhaskaran Nair, who had also played an unofficial first-class game against then Ceylon. Bhaskaran breathed his last in Houston, USA, where he practised medicine. He was 79. "The BCCI mourns the death of Dr. CK Bhaskaran Nair. The 79-year-old passed away on 21st November 2020 at Houston in the United States of America (USA)," the Board stated in a condolence message. Nair, a former Ranji Trophy cricketer, was born in 1941 in Thalassery in Kerala. He picked 106 wickets in 42 first-class matches in a 12-year career spanning from 1957 to 1969. He had five five-wicket hauls and scored 580 runs, with the highest being 76 not out. — PTI

Afridi misses SL flight ahead of LPL

Lahore: Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi on Monday missed his flight to Sri Lanka and will be unavailable for at least the first two matches of his franchise Galle Gladiators in the inaugural Lanka Premier League. The former Pakistan captain tweeted about the same, adding to the agony of the tournament organisers after a spate of heavyweight pullouts. "Missed my flight to Colombo today morning. Nothing to worry, I'll be reaching soon to take part in the LPL for Galle Gladiators. Look forward to joining my teammates," Afridi wrote on his Twitter handle. Galle Gladiators will play their first match on November 27 against Jaffna Stallions, a day after the inaugural season opener between Kandy Tuskers and Colombo Kings. The Gladiators play their second and third matches on November 28 and 30 respectively. — PTI

VFI told to pay ₹4 cr to Baseline

New Delhi: The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has been ordered to pay ₹4 crore as compensation to Baseline Ventures for terminating its contract with the sports event management company for conducting the Pro Volleyball League. In an award delivered by sole arbitrator Justice (ret'd) K Kannan, the VFI has also been ordered to pay ₹5 lakh legal fee and 12 per cent interest from the date of commencement of arbitral proceedings, Baseline Ventures said in a release on Monday. The arbitrator was appointed on the orders of the Madras High Court. The first season of the PVL was held last year but the VFI and Baseline Ventures, who had signed a ten-year contract to conduct the league, got embroiled in a dispute. — PTI

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Jamshedpur vs Chennaiyin from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Champions League: Rennes vs Chelsea from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Krasnodar vs Sevilla from 11.25 pm on Sony Six; Manchester United vs Istanbul Basaksehir from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Six; Dynamo Kyiv vs Barcelona from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 1; Paris St Germain vs Leipzig from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 3; Juventus vs Ferencvaros from 1.30 am (Wednesday) on Sony Ten 2

High-flying Reds

Jota, Firmino score as Liverpool bulldoze Leicester

London, Nov. 23: Liverpool shrugged off an injury crisis to move level on points with Tottenham at the top of the Premier League with a 3-0 win over Leicester, while 10-man Arsenal were left to cling on for a 0-0 draw at Leeds by Nicolas Pepe's red card on Sunday.

The champions were without the injured Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jordan Henderson, Thiago Alcantara, Xherdan Shaqiri and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, while top scorer Mohamed Salah was absent due to a positive Coronavirus test.

Yet, Jurgen Klopp's men were still imperious in easing past a Leicester side that had started the weekend on top of the table.

The Foxes did not do themselves any favours when Jonny Evans turned James Milner's corner into his own net to reward Liverpool's bright start.

Diogo Jota then became the first ever Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games with a downward header from Andy Robertson's cross. Only a combination of goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and the woodwork kept Liverpool from a repeat of the 4-0 thrashing they dished out to Leicester when the sides last met in December.

But Robert Firmino then rounded off a fine night for the champions with a towering header from another Milner corner six minutes from time.

Liverpool have now set a new club record of 64 unbeaten league games at Anfield.

PEPE LETS ARSENAL DOWN

Leicester's defeat means Arsenal are just five points off the top four, but Mikel Arteta was furious at Pepe's lack of discipline as the Gunners were lucky to escape with a point at Elland Road where they played 0-0 stalemate with Leeds.

Leeds are 14th after their third consecutive match without a win, but Marcelo Bielsa's men were left cursing their luck as Rodrigo, Patrick Bamford and Raphinha all hit the woodwork in the closing stages.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had been given a rare chance in the central striker's role, but he was starved of service even before Pepe's dismissal.

Aubameyang's penalty in a 1-0 win at Manchester United last month is the only league goal Arsenal have now scored for nearly 500 minutes.

Meanwhile, Everton recovered from three straight defeats to beat Fulham 3-2 thanks to a double from Dominic Calvert-Lewin. — AFP

RAINA PLEDGES TO LOOK AFTER 34 SCHOOLS

New Delhi, Nov. 23: Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has pledged to build sanitation and drinking water facilities at 34 government schools across Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and NCR.

Raina has decided to ring in his 34th birthday on November 27 with a series of philanthropic activities in association with his NGO, the Gracia Raina Foundation (GRF), named after his daughter.

The initiative will ensure health and hygiene to over 10,000 children studying in these schools.

Raina, along with his wife Priyanka, a co-founder of the foundation kicked off his birthday week by inaugurating the upgraded drinking water facility, separate toilets for boys and girls, hand washing, dish washing area and smart classrooms at Govt Composite Middle School, Noor Nagar Sihani, Ghaziabad as part of the joint project of Gracia Raina Foundation and Yuva Unstoppable. — PTI



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino in a goal-mouth action during their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool, North West England, on Sunday. Liverpool won 3-0. — AFP

Zlatan's brace blanks Napoli

Milan, Nov. 23: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to bring his tally to 10 league goals this season before limping off with a muscle strain as AC Milan stayed top in Serie 'A' on Sunday with a 3-1 win at 10-man Napoli.

Milan move back two points ahead of Sassuolo — 2-0 winners earlier at Hellas Verona — with Roma third after Henrikh Mkhitaryan netted a brace in a dominant 3-0 win over Parma.

Ibrahimovic continued his fine form, heading in a Theo Hernandez cross after 20 minutes, sending in the second with his knee nine minutes after the break.

But the 39-year-old pulled up clutching his left hamstring and was substituted after 79 minutes.

The Swede has scored in all six games he has played this season, having missed two after contracting Coronavirus.

Napoli played the final half an hour a man down after Tiemoue Bakayoko was sent off for two yellow cards, just after Dries Mertens had pulled a goal back for the hosts.

Norwegian Jens Petter Hauge completed the scoring five minutes into injury time, the 21-year-old getting his first Serie A goal. — AFP



Zlatan Ibrahimovic of AC Milan in action against Napoli during their Italian League match at the San Paolo stadium in Naples on Sunday. — AFP

YUSUF STRIKES TWICE IN LILLE'S 4-0 VICTORY

Paris, Nov. 23: Turkey international Yusuf Yazici struck twice as Lille ended a three-game winless run in French League with a 4-0 victory over Lorient that cut Paris Saint-Germain's lead at the top to two points.

Yazici slotted home from a Jonathan Bamba pass to put Lille ahead on 28 minutes before flicking in a Jonathan David cross to double the advantage early in the second half.

The midfielder then turned provider for Luiz Araujo to add a third for Lille on the hour, with Jonathan David notching his long-awaited first goal for the club in the closing stages.

Meanwhile, Christophe Galtier's side reclaimed second place from Lyon, who beat Angers 1-0 earlier in the day courtesy of a late winner from Zimbabwe striker Tino Kadewere. — AFP

ISAK SHINES AS SOCIEDAD EDGE PAST CADIZ 1-0

Madrid, Nov. 23: Real Sociedad moved three points clear at the top of La Liga on Sunday after Alexander Isak's goal proved the difference in a 1-0 win over Cadiz.

Isak headed in Adnan Januzaj's cross shortly after the hour mark at the Ramon Carranza to secure a sixth consecutive league victory for La Real.

An excellent start to the season shows no sign of abating, with Imanol Alguacil's side now three points clear of second-placed Atletico Madrid, albeit having played two games more.

They have scored an impressive 21 goals from their opening 10 matches, the highest tally in the league, and conceded only four. After travelling to AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday, Real Sociedad play at home to Villarreal, who sit third and are the league's other surprise high-fliers.

Defeat means Cadiz sit sixth, just above Sevilla. Getafe were earlier held to a goalless draw by Eibar. — AFP

VIRAT'S WORDS HELPED ME STAY STRONG: SIRAJ

Sydney, Nov. 23: Away from family while grieving the recent loss of his father, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj says skipper Virat Kohli's advice to "be strong" has helped him stay afloat as he gears up for a gruelling series against Australia.

Siraj's father Mohammed Ghouse, 53, died due to a lung ailment in Hyderabad last week and despite BCCI offering him the option to return home, the fast bowler decided to stay put on national duty.

"Virat bhai said 'Miyaan tension maat le (don't be tense) and be strong. Your dad wanted you to play for India. So, do that and don't stress,'" the Siraj told *bcci.tv* on the sidelines of India's training session.

"The skipper told me, 'If you can be strong in this situation, it will only help you'. So those were positive words from the Indian captain and it felt nice," the Hyderabad based pacer further added. — PTI

Aridane stars as Hyderabad win

Goa, Nov. 23: Hyderabad FC began their Indian Super League Season 7 campaign with a solitary goal win over Odisha FC, at the GMC Stadium in Goa on Monday. Debutant Aridane Santana (35') netted a penalty that proved to be the difference between the two sides, as Hyderabad kept their first-ever clean sheet in the league.

Hyderabad were all over Odisha's territory in the opening minutes of the game, forcing their opponents to play deep. They won a series of corners in the first 10 minutes.

The Nizams' first real chance arrived in the 6th minute when Luis Sastre whipped a perfect delivery into the box but Santana failed to direct his header towards goal. That the visitors had worked on their set-pieces was evident. A smartly-executed corner in the 10th minute saw Akash Mishra force Odisha goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh into a save.

After constant probing, Hyderabad got their reward in the form of a penalty. Aridane Santana played Halicharan Narzary clear on goal, and his effort was handled by Odisha skipper Steven Taylor.

Santana kept his composure and slotted home in the 35th minute.

Hyderabad keeper Subrata Paul had to wait until the 40th minute to make his first save, thwarting Odisha striker Manuel Onwu. The Nizams had chances to extend their lead but the outstanding Singh made a couple of good saves just before the breather.

Minutes after the restart, Odisha had their best opportunity to restore parity. But Nandhakumar Sekar's poor first touch allowed Mishra to make a crucial goal-saving tackle. At the hour mark, Odisha had yet another chance. Diego Mauricio ghosted past his marker and squared a pass into the area to Onwu, whose low shot was kept out by Paul.

Hyderabad almost doubled the lead from a set-piece but Joao Victor's goal was rightly ruled offside. Liston Colaco almost produced a moment of magic in the 67th minute, when he dribbled from the half-way mark into the box but was unable to find the finish. In the end, though, the misses did not matter, as Hyderabad held on for the win. — Agencies

CHENNAIYIN LOCK HORNS WITH JAMSHEDPUR FC

Vasco, Nov. 23: Chennaiyin FC will have their task cut out as they go up against two individuals who charted their stunning comeback last season but will turn out for Jamshedpur FC in their Indian Super League game here on Tuesday.

Chennaiyin fans will find not one, but three of their former heroes in the opposing dug-out when their team takes on Jamshedpur FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium.

Coach Owen Coyle was the mastermind behind last season's stunning recovery that saw Chennaiyin go from rock bottom to within a game of the ISL title.

Jamshedpur conceded 35 goals last season with only Hyderabad FC having a more porous defence. It remains to be seen whether the presence of former Sunderland defender Peter Hartley and Nigerian centre-back Stephen Eze will improve things in this regard.

For Chennaiyin, the biggest task will be to fill the gaps left behind by departing players. Of the foreign contingent from last season, only new captain Rafael Crivellaro and defender Eli Sabia remain. — PTI



Daniil Medvedev of Russia holds up the winner's trophy after defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 in the final of the ATP World Finals at the O2 arena in London on Sunday. — Agencies

Medvedev stuns Thiem to win title

London, Nov. 23: Daniil Medvedev came from behind to beat US Open champion Dominic Thiem in a gripping encounter and win the biggest title of his career at the ATP Finals in London on Sunday.

The Russian fourth seed was second best for large periods at the empty O2 Arena but found a way back into the contest and prevailed 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. Medvedev, who beat five-time champion Novak Djokovic and world number two Rafael Nadal earlier in the week, is the first man to beat all three of the world's top-ranked players at the season finale.

The giant Russian, 24, has now won 10 consecutive matches following his title earlier this month at the Paris Masters and his victory will taste sweet a year after a winless debut in London. But it is a painful defeat for Thiem, who also lost in

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