


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | MONDAY | 23 NOVEMBER 2020

WEATHER



Max: 32.0°C
Min: 23.6°C
RH: 82%
Rainfall: Trace
Forecast: Mist.
Max/Min temp.
32/23 °C

COVID-19
COUNT

CASES
(+47,216)
91,39,560

DEATHS
(+530)
1,33,750

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+873)
TS: 2,63,526
(+1,121)
AP: 8,62,213

(+4)
1,430
(+11)
6,938

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,87,72,521

DEATHS
13,90,958


COUNTRIES,
AREAS WITH
CASES
217

worldometers.info/
coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shudda Navami till
12.34 am (Tuesday)
Star: Satabisham till 1.06 pm
Varjyam: 8.09 pm to 9.55 pm
Durmuhurtam: 12.24 pm to
1.09 pm; 2.37 pm to 3.22 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 7, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.20 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.07 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 1.10 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 12.15 AM

COUNTER POINT



No pollution, no Covid...
I don't need no rescue!

IN BRIEF

MP plans cess
for cow welfare

Bhopal/Agar Malwa: The Madhya Pradesh government is planning to levy a cess to raise money for the welfare of the cow, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Sunday. "I am thinking of imposing some minor tax to raise money for the welfare of the gaumata....Is it alright?" he asked.

Power outage
hits bank ops

New Delhi: Operation of some banks like HDFC Bank were hit on Saturday due to power outage at Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City, in Mumbai which has data centres of several firms.

NATION | 5
Milk instead of 'egg' to fight malnutrition in MP

WORLD | 7
Trump suffers setback in Pennsylvania plea

SPORTS | 8
Rohit ready to bat anywhere in Test

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Security personnel stand guard beside an underground tunnel near the international border in Samba sector, suspected to have been used by terrorists killed in a recent encounter in Nagrota, in Jammu district, on Sunday.

— PTI

BSF finds tunnel bringing JeM terrorists into J&K

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, NOV. 22

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday claimed detecting yet another 'suspected tunnel' along the 198-km stretch of International Border (IB) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district. The tunnel may have been used for pushing in militants by Pakistan, it said. J&K's director-general of police Dilbag Singh said the tunnel was 150 metres long and was unearthed following investigations into the recent encounter near a toll plaza in Nagrota area along the Jammu-Srinagar highway in which four militants were gunned down by the security forces. Singh after inspecting the tunnel along with

● J&K director-general of police Dilbag Singh said the tunnel was 150 metres long and was unearthed following investigations into the recent encounter

BSF Inspector General, Jammu frontier, N.S. Jamwal, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Mukesh Singh, said, "The J&K police shared some vital inputs found from the encounter site with the BSF which after hectic efforts managed to find the tunnel." The BSF claimed it found cement bags with a Pakistani factory markings on these deep inside the tunnel. BSF officials said that a patrolling party of the paramilitary force found the small tunnel in Regal area of Samba on the IB.

"The tunnel is located close to the IB and is suspected to have been used for infiltration," they said. The BSF is tasked to guard the 198-km stretch of the India-Pakistan border in Jammu region. Meanwhile, a security alert was on Sunday sounded along the Line of Control in J&K's Poonch after a flying object was spotted in the district's Mendhar sector. Official sources said that the object was probably a drone which was reportedly shot by the Army. SDPO Mendhar Z.A. Jafri told local news agency GNS that Army and police's Special Operations Group (SOG) were conducting searches in the area.

Covid-hit schools seek govt bailout

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

The AP Private Schools Association (APPSA) sought the government to help private budget schools to recover from the corona impact by providing financial assistance of ₹10,000 per month for six months to the staff. APPSA representatives, who met here on Sunday, lamented that private budget schools were the worst sufferers of Covid-19 pandemic. Addressing the gathering, CPM state secretary P. Madhu said budget schools were pushed to deep problems due to Covid-19 pandemic and the government should support them. He said the government has implemented many schemes to strengthen government schools and sought the government to take responsibility to support private schools that are in trouble. He

alleged that authorities were harassing private managements and demanded an instant end to this highhandedness. He said that budget schools are imparting quality education and collecting fees that are less than those charged by corporate institutions. Madhu said that there were 15,000 schools in the State in which about 36 lakh students are studying and managements of budget schools are not in a position to run their institutions. Former MLC Chigurupati Varaprasad sought chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to resolve issues of budget schools sympathetically. APPSA president Komarigiri Chandrasekhar said 40 per cent of students were studying in private schools. He appealed to the government to help them recover from the corona impact on their revenue.

U.S. LETS DOCS USE UNDERTRIAL ANTIBODY DRUG

Washington, Nov. 22: US health officials have agreed to allow emergency use of a second antibody drug to help the immune system fight Covid-19, an experimental medicine that US President Donald Trump was given when he was sickened last month. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorised use of the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. drug on Saturday to try to prevent hospitalisation and worsening disease from developing in patients with mild-to-moderate symptoms. The drug is given as a one-time treatment through intravenous method. The FDA allowed its use in adults and children, aged 12 and over, who weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kg) and who are at high risk of severe illness from Covid-19 because of age or certain other medical conditions. — AP

Cyclone to hit AP's south coastal area

Nivar may cross south Andhra on Nov. 25

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 22

Cyclone Nivar, presently brewing in south Bay of Bengal, is moving north-west and may cross the north Tamil Nadu coast and south Andhra around Wednesday, November 25. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has advised agriculture and horticulture farmers to harvest their crops without delay in the south coastal AP and Rayalaseema districts. This is because winds during landfall may reach more than 100 kmph, wherein chances of damage to crops will be high. IMD director (for AP) S. Stella said Cyclone Nivar may cause heavy to extremely heavy rains at isolated places in Rayala-seema and south coastal AP districts on Wednesday (November 25) and Thursday (November 26). Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts would get light to moderate rains on these two days. On current progress of the cyclone, Stella said the storm appeared on Sunday as a well-marked low pressure over south west and adjoining south east Bay of Bengal.

Children and elders have fun at the Rushikonda Beach in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

— K. MURALIKRISHNA

● INDIA Meteorological Department has advised agriculture and horticulture farmers to harvest their crops without delay in the south coastal AP and Rayalaseema districts.

● THIS IS because winds during landfall may reach more than 100 kmph, wherein chances of damage to crops will be high.

The present system will very likely turn into a depression by Monday and further intensify into a cyclone on Tuesday. It will slowly move northwards before crossing land

between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram of TN around Wednesday afternoon, he added. The cyclone has been named Nivar on suggestion of Iran.

CBI STEPS UP PROBE ON POSTS ON HC JUDGES

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has on Sunday started probing in Vijayawada objectionable social media posts made against Andhra Pradesh High Court and other judges. There have been a series of rude comments made by certain leaders belonging to the YSR Congress, against High Court judges. The probe started after V. V. Lakshminarayana, a lawyer from Guntur, wrote a letter to Chief Justice of AP High Court, stating that ruling party leaders and its activists have been posting objectionable comments on social media platforms against the judges. As part of its investigation, CBI sleuths have questioned complainant Lakshminarayana and recorded his statement. The advocate had earlier wrote to Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan demanding that Pandula Ravindra Babu, who was elected an MLC, be not allowed to take oath as he had made serious remarks against judges of AP High Court and opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu.

■ Page 2: I have evidence, complainant tells CBI

TN | ELECTIONS

Minister wants BJP not to depend on celebrities

Rajini, Alagiri in touch with Shah

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR and D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, NOV. 22

After the long night of meetings and tete-a-tetes that Union home minister Amit Shah had with state BJP functionaries and others after his official meeting at Kalaivanar Aranganam on Saturday, actor Rajinikanth's message was conveyed to Shah by the auditor and magazine editor S. Gurumurthy. The same was the case

with M.K. Alagiri, the DMK strongman in Madu-rai and son of the late former minister M. Karunanidhi. Alagiri is said to have sent a message through K.P. Ramalingam, an ousted DMK leader who joined the BJP. Shah's visit is being seen as a major success both by the BJP and the AIADMK, which announced that their poll tie-up would continue in the 2021 state Assembly polls. Rajinikanth is said to have told


Gurumurthy what his plans were for the next elections when the two of them met very recently. However, Shah did not seem to have missed meeting Rajinikanth, going by his remarks at a party meeting. Shah said that the party should not be dependent on celebrities and should be built on the strength of its ideological moorings. Prior to addressing party members, Shah met leaders from the AIADMK, PMK

and the DMDK and reportedly settled the seat sharing question with them. The AIADMK leaders had agreed to give 20 to 25 seats to the BJP, another 25 to the PMK and 15 to the DMDK. Though none of this information was confirmed by any of the leaders involved in the talks, sources say the AIADMK is keen on contesting close to 165 of the 234 seats in the Assembly as it wants to form a government on its own without support from allies.


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OTHER STORIES

COP SEEKS CM'S NOD TO RETIRE IN SELFIE VIDEO

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

In a strange move, an Armed Reserve Head Constable Srinivas Rao took a selfie-video seeking Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to permit him for voluntary retirement objecting to the behaviour of his higher officials. In his video addressed to the CM, Srinivas Rao expressed deep dissatisfaction over the action taken by his superiors. Srinivas Rao said that on complaining about the inefficiency and poor performance of sniffer dogs to the seniors, they put him into trouble by issuing transfer orders. Srinivas Rao said that he has been working in Vijayawada Police Commissionerate since 2016 and has been serving as Dog Handler until April 2020. He said the complaints about the sniffer dogs were rejected and he was transferred by saying that it was a regular transfer. Meanwhile, police commissioner B. Srinivasulu said that the allegations made by AR Head Constable and Dog handler Srinivas Rao through a selfie-video about the performance and efficiency of sniffer dogs are baseless and incorrect. In a statement the CP said that the City Police personnel were constantly facing mental and physical pressures to maintain public peace and security, prevent crime, protect public money, property and lives, as well as VIP/VVIPs, are always on duty. The CP said that the role of police sniffer dogs is crucial during VIP/VVIPs movements and to crackdown sensational cases such as murder and theft. He claimed that the sniffer dogs performed well.

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As per the instructions of my client, Kottla Srinivasulu Reddy, residing at Garikipalem Village, Ranastalam Mandalam in Srikakulam District, I am issuing this public notice and that my client got purchased the below mentioned schedule property through the Registered Sale Deed bearing document No. 42/2019 dated 29.11.2019 from the person's sons of Late Gorle, Bhojappa (1) Jagannaidu, (2) Lakshminaidu, (3) Appanna, (4) Appalannaidu, the Owners of the property herein being represented by their General Power of Attorney cum Possessory Sale Agreement Holder, Dunna Edukondulu, S/o Tandavakannam, the Executors under the Will of General Power of Attorney cum Possessory Sale Agreement bearing document No. 3804/2019 dated 22.10.2019 and that the Registered document No. 40/2012, No. 2444/2007 and No. 998/2005 are the linked documents of the schedule property and ever since the same was under the peaceful possession and enjoyment with my client only without interruption of anybody else and that my client has the Original Linked document i.e. Registered Sale Deed bearing document No. 42/2019 dated 29.11.2019, while he was travelling in between Ranastalam and Kottla Villages on 25.06.2020 and accordingly, now my client approached the State Bank of India, Kottla Branch for the purpose of housing loan in the below mentioned schedule property so, if anybody having any right and objection to the schedule property, please contact me or my client within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Schedule of the property:
Srikakulam District, Ranastalam SRO limits, Ranastalam Mandalam, Jagannadapuram, Garikipalem Revenue Village/Vacant land in Plot No.111 in the Sri Lakshmi Nagar Approved Layout vide its No. 154/2008 - measuring - 160 sq.yds / 154.4 sq.mts. (52 ft. x 45 ft.) in the Survey No.39-15 Bounded by East: Vacant land in Plot No.112, West: Vacant land in Plot No.110, North: 20 ft. Road, South: Vacant land in Plot No.130

(N. RAJA KUMAR)
Advocate, Srikakulam

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1,121 new Covid-19 cases, 11 deaths in a day in AP

Positivity rate dropped to 1.56%, lowest in past 5 months

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

AP registered 1,121 new Covid-19 cases and 11 new deaths in the past 24 hours on Sunday. The infection of new Corona positive was stable and the overall tally has increased to 8,62,213 and the total deaths increased to 6,898 registering a death rate of 0.80 per cent. The number of recoveries crossed 8.40 lakh and reached 8,41,028 as 1,831 patients were discharged in the past 24 hours and the recovery rate has been slightly increased to 97.54 per cent. As many as 71,913 samples were tested in the past 24 hours and the positivity rate has been dropped to 1.56 per cent which is the lowest in the past five months and the overall positivity rate of the 86.15 lakh samples came down to 0.87 per cent.

AP is on top in the country in COVID-19 cases per million ratio which crossed 1.80 lakh, highest among the states. As many as 11 new Corona

Covid patient infects 17 farmers in Vizag Agency

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 22

In a rare case of negligence, an asymptomatic patient walked out of home isolation and infected 17 farmers of his village 'Tajangi' in Chintalapudi mandal in Visakhapatnam Agency. All of them in the age group of 20 and 35 were brought to Covid care centre at Youth Training Centre in Paduru.

The incident was reported when the positive cases were coming down in the Agency. Additional District Medical and Health Officer P. Leela Prasad said during a sentinel surveillance conducted in Tajangi recently, they detected six positive

deaths were registered in which two deaths registered in Chittoor and Krishna districts, one

each Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Vizianagaram, Anaparthi and West

Godavari districts. The Kadapa district was on top in single day highest Corona cases of 167 on Sunday and registration of a huge number of Corona cases continuing in the two Godavari districts. Further 1,631 patients were discharged after the cure in the past 24 hours.

East Godavari registered a total of 1,21,624 cases and topped among all districts and West Godavari in the second place with reaching 91,575 total positive cases. The single day highest number of 167 new Corona positive cases was registered in Kadapa district in the past 24 hours, increasing the total to 44,477 in which 1,978 were active cases.

The second single day highest number of 164 Corona positive cases was registered in Guntur district in the past 24 hours, increasing the total to 90,258 in which 72,661 were active cases. The third single day highest number of Corona positive cases of 142 registered in WG.



Police officers forcibly arresting Guntur CPI and CPM leaders restraining them from touring to Polavaram village from Guntur city on Sunday.

Eamcet-2020 qualifiers still wait for Engg admission

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

Around 1,33,066 aspirants, who qualified in the Eamcet-2020 engineering stream, are a distressed lot following the halting of admission process and are demanding its completion. A total of 1,56,898 appeared for the exam.

The Eamcet-2020 results were declared on October 10 and the percentage of those who made it was 84%. A total of 1,56,898 appeared for the exam.

degree classes are to start on December 1. There are 392 engineering colleges in the State and approximately 1,53,978 seats are available. The parents are lamenting that uncertainty over admissions through convenor quota is compelling them to opt for management quota seats which is putting a huge extra financial burden on them.

According to the sources, finalising of fee for engineering colleges according to category, closure of several engineering colleges due to poor admissions and revisions of seats were the causing the delay.

Parents like SN Meera and G Ganesh said that the private engineering

colleges were demanding Rs four to eight lakh per seat in CSE, ECE and IT branches for B.Tech admissions under management quota. They stated that payment of fee for certificate verification and online/offline certificates verification was completed by October 27 and officials had announced commencement of counselling through options registration by November 2.

Students T. Narayana and D. Suresh said that as the classes have been scheduled to start on December 1, the government should complete the admission process immediately. They said that students who get seats in other areas will have no time to attend classes if the admission process is further delayed.

Officials informed that revision of fee curriculum and proposals for seat adjustments were sent to the government. They are hoping to shortly announce the schedule for option registration and admission.

Karthika vanabhojanam organised at Tirumala

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, NOV. 22

TTD on Sunday observed the annual Karthika vanabhojanam programme in the lush green woods at Parvatha mandapam in Tirumala.

As part of the occasion, the utsava idols of Lord Malayappa along with his consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi were brought to the Parvatha mandapam in a colourful procession and *snapanam thirumanjanam* was performed amidst the rhythmic chanting of Purusha, Narayana, Sri, Bhu, and Neela Sooktam by Vedic pandits.

Later the artists of Annamacharya Project presented some melodious sankirtanas followed by the instrumental rendition of some more kritis while the community dining programme, Karthika Vanabhojanam was organised.

Additional EO A.V. Dharma Reddy said, usually tens of thousands of devotees



Women play at mango gardens as part of Karthika Masam 1st week celebration near Vijayawada on Sunday.

converge in the green woods for the communal dining programme. But due to Covid restrictions, we have limited this number to just a couple of hundreds.

Dacoits attack family, loot assets

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 22

A gang of dacoits attacked a family with deadly weapons and decamped with gold and cash in Chodapalle village of Achyutapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam late on Saturday night. The house owner and his son were injured in the attack and died in the hospital.

The circle inspector of Yellamanchili K. Narayana Rao, who is investigating the case, said a group of six unidentified miscreants have allegedly attacked the family and escaped with around ten tolas of gold, eight tolas of silver and Rs 80,000 cash.

The culprits tied the inmates with ropes and threatened to kill them if they raised the alarm or retaliated. Two of the three injured inmates had also been shifted to Anakapalle corporate hospital for treatment.

Giving further details, the CI said the six unidentified people gained entry into the house of Sita Ramanya in Chodapalle around night. Sita Ramanya's wife Kumari, who was in the verandah of the house, was tied with ropes and gagged, and threatened to kill them if they raised the alarm or retaliated.

Though the police took at least 20 key persons on Saturday night into custody, the activists led by BJP state leader K. Harish Babu arrived at the ghat on Sunday and proceeded to the river.

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Posting orders issued to officials who were in wait

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

The AP government issued, on Sunday, posting orders to several officials who were waiting for postings. Transfers and posting orders were issued to a few state officials with immediate effect through the orders issued by Nalin Sawhney, Chief Secretary to government of AP.

M.V. Seshagiri Babu, who is waiting for posting was posted as Inspector General, Stamps and Registrations vice Siddharth Jain, transferred and posted as

Commissioner, Survey and Settlement.

K. Raveen Kumar Reddy, who is waiting for posting, was placed at the disposal of Industries and Commerce Department to post him as Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIC).

M. Ramana Reddy, who is waiting for posting was placed at the disposal of Infrastructure and Investment Department to post him as Chief Executive Officer, AP Tors Ltd. He is also placed on full additional

charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Concept Cities.

Ch. Raieswara Reddy, who is waiting for posting, was placed at the disposal of School Education Department to post him as Managing Director, Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation vice Sura Belkrishtna.

On completion of term of deputation of Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sura Bala Krishna, relieved and repatriated to his parent cadre with immediate effect.

SHORT TAKES

RANJI SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR FELICITATED

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 22

K.S. Shahabuddin, who was appointed as Ranji Trophy Selection Committee chairman was felicitated by players and officials from Kadiri, at RDT stadium here on Sunday. CID DSP Srinivas, P. Sai Krishna, sports director, RDT, P. Mallikarjuna, president, ADCA K. Madhu, Secretary, ADCA, Janna JayaPrakash, President, Elite Club Kadiri and several others participated.

EX-MP HARSHA KUMAR TO JOIN CONGRESS TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT RAJAHMENDRAVARAM, NOV. 22

Former MP of Amalapuram G.V. Harsha Kumar will join the Congress party on Monday in a meeting here. The PCC president S. Sallanath, former Union minister J.D. Seelan, AICC member Christopher Tilak, the former chief minister of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, Incharge Dommam Chandu and others will arrive at the meeting.

ADMISSION SCHEDULE SOON: OFFICIALS

FROM PAGE 1

They stated that payment of fee for certificate verification and online/offline certificates verification was completed by October 27 and officials had announced the commencement of counselling through options registration by November 2. Students T. Narayana and D. Suresh said that as the classes have been scheduled to start from December 1, the government should complete the admission process immediately. They said that students who get seats in other areas will have no time to attend classes if the admission process is further delayed. Officials informed that revision of fee curriculum and proposals for semester adjustments were sent to the government. They are hoping to shortly announce the schedule for option registration and admission.

CONVOCATION OF SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, NOV. 22

Due to prevailing Coronavirus pandemic, the 39th Annual Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSILH) has been held on Sunday with a limited number of students and faculty at Poornachandra Hall in Prasanthi Nilayam premises of Puttaparthi.

Sri Sathya Sai Trust celebrates the annual convocation of the institute every year a day before the birthday celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in a grand manner. SSSILH is a Deemed to be University that has been given its convocations in a grand manner at the Poornachandra Hall. The trust, however, restricted the number of invitees and students for Sunday's occasion. The event began with the invocatory Veda chanting by institute's vice chancellor C.B. Sanjeevi.

Chief guest on the occasion was Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist with Geneva-based World Health Organisation in Switzerland, who delivered the convocation address to students virtually. She also gave away gold medals and awards to meritorious students in the virtual mode.

I HAVE EVIDENCE, COMPLAINANT TELLS CBI

FROM PAGE 1

Later, Lakshminarayana also filed a contempt petition in AP High Court against social media activists of YSR Congress Dondeti Venkata Ram Reddy, Kishore Reddy, Dattatraya, Balakrishna MP, Kuthati and Jalagam Venkata Satyanarayana, against their posts denigrating judges.

The complaint was referred to the state CID but later transferred to CBI by the High Court. CBI has since made inquiries and is reportedly started its investigation by col-

Health hazard



Motorists face problem with dust at Soorampalli near Polavaram canal in Krishna district on Sunday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

Two TD men critical after attack by YSRC activists

Addanki MLA Gottipati Ravikumar blames YSRC leaders for the incident

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, NOV. 22

Two persons belonging to the Telugu Desam, are battling for life after suffering grievous injuries when they were attacked by YSRC activists near Sagar canal at Mamillapalli in Santamagalur mandal late on Saturday night.

The injured have been identified as Bommineni Krishnaiah and Gorantla Veera Swamy of Kundurru village in Santamagalur mandal. Both are in a critical condition in a hospital at Narasaraopeta in Guntur district, locals said.

According to police, the accused Jada Venkateswaru and four others escaped from the scene after the attack. Though the attack was reportedly because of long-standing dispute between Venkateswaru and Krishnaiah, it took political colour because Krishnaiah's wife,

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 22

Telugu Desam Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday condemned the murder attempt on the husband of TD's MP candidate Raghavamma in Santamagalur mandal in Prakasam district. He telephoned the victim's family members and enquired about the incident and also about the health conditions of the injured persons. MP's husband Krishnaiah Yadav and one Veera Swamy Yadav came under attack by miscreants who inflicted serious knife injuries on them.

Raghavamma, is contesting for the MP's post on behalf of TD the and

Mr Naidu called up the families of the victims who were receiving treatment in the hospital. He asked the doctors to provide the best medical care available to them. He slammed the ruling YSRC for turning Andhra Pradesh into a state of criminals and anti-social elements, but as a responsible opposition party, the TD would not keep silent. Regarding the arrest of CPI leaders on Sunday preventing them from protesting at the Polavaram project, Mr Naidu accused the YSRC government of not just destroying the state development but also suppressing the democratic rights of the opposition leaders to protest against its anti-people activities.

He condemned the arrests of the CPI leaders from protesting in Polavaram and stated that the time has come for all sections of people to condemn and confront the misdeeds of this government unitedly.

Mr Naidu claimed that Polaintains that the works are speeded up after Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy took the reins of the state. Expectedly, he has been attributing the unusual delay in the execution of the projects to the previous Congress and TD governments.

Addressing the media after performing Pujas to fix the crust gates at the barrage in Nellore on Sunday, he expressed confidence in installing all the 57 gates to the barrage cum bridge before the end of December.

He said the Chief Minister would dedicate the project to the nation in January 2021.

Chief Minister gave his nod for several irrigation projects in the district, which include Submersible Causeway at an estimated cost of ₹4 crore at Mudivarthi in Kovur segment, modernisation of Sarvepalli and Kanigiri reservoirs at an estimated cost of ₹12 crore and ₹21 crore apart from completion of Kavalai canal works.

Dr Anilkumar informed that he has stored 60 tmc ft of water in Kandaleru reservoir for the first time and their target is to increase the storage to the project optimum of 68 tmc ft by the end of the year.

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Kakinada roads turn bad to worse

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, NOV. 22

A WhatsApp group comprising youth and traders have started a movement against moving of heavy vehicles, including those with 10 tyres, through Indrapalem and Chidiga villages towards the newly constructed 216 National Highway. This is badly damaging roads laid along these villages in the Kakinada Rural mandal. People are also complaining that they are unable to bear sounds of heavy vehicles during night times.

People are demanding that vehicles meant only for Indrapalem, Chidiga, Rameswaram and other villages be allowed on this route. "We have made several representations to officials about heavy vehicles moving along our village roads and damaging them. People are afraid their buildings may collapse because of such movement," said CPM leader P. Veerababu. He said an agitation has been launched against movement of heavy vehicles by people of the area irrespective of their party affiliations. A signature campaign has also been launched.

Sources said hundreds of heavy vehicles carry gravel and soil through these roads to various construction sites belonging to the government and private parties. Generally, these vehicles used to pass through Kakinada City and Jagannakpur only during nights. Due to the passing of such heavily loaded vehicles, the Kakinada-Samakot road

has got badly damaged. As a result, vehicles have now started going through Kakinada, Indrapalem and Chidiga villages and then taking NH 216, which has not yet been formally opened yet. This is the reason why roads in Indrapalem and Chidiga have got badly damaged. There is a serious threat to Indrapalem Bridge too because of them. People are afraid that heavy vehicles are not allowed into Kakinada City from 9 am to 9 pm. But this stipulation is being violated and vehicles are passing through day and night.

Auto and taxi drivers are refusing to carry passengers on these roads as their vehicles get damaged and have to be frequently repaired. However, if they do take passengers along these roads, they are collecting three times the usual charges.

Road and Building Department officials say proposals have been sent to the government for repairing these roads. They are waiting for approval of the proposals and funds from the government.

Also missing were organisations who arranged Karthika Vana Mahotsavam outings.

People would gather in large numbers for Karthika Vana Mahotsavam, including at Kondapalli fort, Kotappakonda, Kondamudi fort, Hanadandam beach of Bay of Bengal sea, Machilipatnam beach, Suryalanka beach, Kothapattanam beach and N a g a r j u n a s a g a r.

However, this time around, only a few people were seen at Kondapalli fort and other popular places on Sunday. The rush of people was slightly higher at Hamsaladevi as the public also came to take a holy bath in Bay of Bengal.

Priest M.V. Sastry said that Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi prefer to reside under Amla trees during Karthika month, which is why during Vanabhojanam, amla

trees are worshipped by Telugus, who also perform pujas to Lord Vishnu and recite Vishnu purana and Karthika purana. He explained that traditionally people cook food under these trees after puja and consume them as prasadam. This year, there has not been so because of Covid fears.

Also missing were organisations who arranged Karthika Vana Mahotsavam outings. A.V. Ramana, an organiser, said that Corona fear still haunts society and following the protocol has affected this year's procession.

He said that there were another three weeks of the Karthika month and hoped that a decrease in corona cases would bring more people in the days ahead.

Coronavirus negative people, visitors are thronging there, said a visitor from Mantralayam and S a n g a m e s h w a r a m pushkaram ghats too saw a good number of visitors. Some people ventured to take a dip near Panchalinga but police stopped them. Anyway, said another visitor.

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HOLY | BATH Third day of the Tungabhadra pushkaralu event drew a good number of visitors

Pushkaram visitors prefer Alampur to Kurnool

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC KURNOOL, NOV. 22

Visitors to the Tungabhadra pushkaralu are heading to Alampur in Jogulamba Gadwal district of Telangana state for the Kurnool ghats allow only sprinkle baths. The third day of the event drew a good number of visitors but they left for

Alampur, which is also a Shakti Peetham. Many pilgrims criticised the government for spending ₹230 crore in Kurnool but that had little practical value.

An official release said on Sunday that 11,351 persons were at the ghats in the district. The cumulative number of visitors in the past three days stands

at 32,695, the Sankal Bagh ghat in Kurnool, the main

Pushkaram ghat, attracted 5,604 visitors on Sunday. This is said to be low on the scale on the other side of the Tungabhadra, has become an attractive spot for Pushkaram visitors. The Telangana state government has released just ₹2 crore

Mokila Subramanyam, a visitor from Chirala, said the water in the river was stagnant. The shower

water seems to be entering in the stream, he said.

Alampur town, which is situated on the other side of the Tungabhadra, has become an attractive spot for Pushkaram visitors. The Telangana state government has released just ₹2 crore and made available four pushkar ghats on its side of the river. Since the holy dip is permitted for

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SHORT TAKES

BHARTI SINGH, HUSBAND SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 22

A day after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested comedian Bharti Singh, the officials arrested her husband Harsh Limbachia following his 15-hour long marathon grilling. The NCB produced the couple before the court on Sunday and they were remanded to judicial custody till December 4. The comedian was arrested on Saturday following raids at their Versova residence.

The NCB officials had seized 86.5 gram of cannabis from the couple's residence. The officials took them for questioning at the NCB office where the couple revealed they procured and consumed the banned substance. The agency subsequently arrested Singh stating that her place was searched based on the information given by one of the peddlers who was arrested during the drugs probe. Singh and Limbachia were questioned by the NCB ahead of the arrest.

TARUN GOGOI'S HEALTH CONDITION REMAINS CRITICAL

MANOJ ANANDI | DC GUWAHATI, NOV. 22

Veteran Congress leader and former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi's health condition continues to remain critical despite minor improvement in his health parameters on Sunday.

The 86-year-old was admitted to Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) on November 2 following breathing problems because of a post-Covid-19 complications.

The superintendent of Guwahati Medical College and Hospital Dr Abhishek Sarma on Sunday told reporters that he is on a mechanical ventilator with multi-organ dysfunction (MOD) and is expected to have difficulty in passing urine normally.

"Since Saturday, there has been no deterioration in his health and his laboratory parameters have improved marginally. But his condition is still critical and we will observe him closely for another 48 hours," he said.

"At present, he is passing around 100-120 ml of urine in 24 hours. It would be good if the quantity increased. A large group of specialists from various disciplines are constantly monitoring his health and we are also in touch with experts from AIIMS, Delhi, and they are satisfied with the treatment protocol," he added.

MERCURY DIPS IN MOST PARTS OF NORTH INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV. 22: Minimum temperatures dipped in most parts of north India on Sunday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, while a cold wave swept parts of Delhi which recorded its coldest November morning since 2000.

The national capital's minimum temperature dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius while the air quality remained poor and government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

"The Safdarjung Observatory which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius. It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in the month since November 2003, when the city recorded a low of 6.1 degrees Celsius," said Kuldip Srivastava, the head of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional forecasting centre.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than the normal for two consecutive days.

Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season as the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point across Kashmir region, while the weather department predicted a spell of wet weather in the Valley from Monday.

Central teams visit high Covid risk states

Efforts on to strengthen containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

With Covid-19 caseload in the country crossing the 91 lakh mark, high-level central teams were on Sunday deputed to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to support them in response and management of the virus. These states have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases or those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of Coronavirus infections.

Earlier, high-level teams were sent to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Manipal and Chhattisgarh.

A senior health ministry official said that these three-member teams will visit districts reporting a high number of Covid-19 cases and support the state during the drugs probe. The teams will also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis, pushing the national recovery rate to 93.69 per cent. Even the Covid-19 case fatality rate has declined to 1.46 per cent. There are now 4,40,962 active cases in the country. The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to the state.

At 3.2 per cent, Punjab's fatality rate is the maximum among all states and UT. Maharashtra (2.6 per cent), Sikkim (2 per cent), Gujarat (2 per cent), West Bengal (1.8 per cent), Puducherry (1.7 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (1.6 per cent) and Uttarakhand (1.6 per cent) have recorded more deaths per 100 confirmed cases than Delhi.

The country's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20 lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It crossed 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 28, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20.

According to the ICMR, over 13.7 crore samples have been tested up to November 22 with 10,75,326 samples being tested on Saturday.

Following the BJP's fierce campaign of misrule against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress on Sunday said that its government has started "rectifying" its mistakes ahead of the next year's Assembly elections. It however acknowledged that securing the total satisfaction of all the people is difficult for any ruling party either at the Centre or in the states.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "The BJP or its leader Kaishash Choudhury has taken the place here. But it is difficult for any ruling party in the country, be it the Centre or the state, to make all the people 100 per cent happy. Somewhere, errors and dissent exist. This government is identifying them, working on them and rectifying them."

The former TMC Rajya Sabha MP also pointed to the dynasty politics and nepotism in the BJP.

FORMER K'TAKA MINISTER BAIG HELD IN IMA SCAM

VINAY MADHAV I DC BANGALURU, NOV. 22

Former Karnataka minister R. Roshan Baig, who had resigned as Congress MLA and joined the BJP which helped Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa form government, has been arrested by the CBI in the Monetary Advisory (IMA) gold scam.

On Sunday morning, the CBI took Baig into custody for questioning. Late in the evening, the agency produced him before a CBI special judge and Baig was remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. He was taken to the Parappana Agrahara jail.

IMA director Mansoor Ali Khan had started a gold investment scheme and collected over 44,000 crore from over 40,000 investors and cheated them.

The state government had handed over the investigation to the CBI after Khan spilled the names of politicians and bureaucrats, including top CBI officers, as being beneficiaries.

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MID-DAY | MEALS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY I DC BHOPAL, NOV. 22

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday reiterated his government's decision to not introduce the egg in the mid-day meal provided to children in schools and anganwadis in the state to combat malnutrition among them.

Chairing the first meeting of the Cabinet committee on protection of cattle, chinted "Gau cabinet", Chouhan said milk, instead of egg, would be introduced in the menu to tackle malnutrition.

"Cattle resource development will be the cornerstone of the government policy being implemented by the government. The move will give a fillip to the milk production. This will make the proposal to introduce milk in midday meal a viable proposition," he said.

Child rights activists have been demanding introduction of eggs in the midday meal to combat malnutrition. The BJP has been maintaining that any attempt to



Visitors walk beside closed shops in Shimla on Sunday after authorities ordered closure of markets due to spike in the Coronavirus cases.

tested on Saturday.

Of the 501 new fatalities, 111 were reported from Delhi, 62 from Maharashtra, 53 from West Bengal, 25 each from Kerala and Haryana, 24 from Uttar Pradesh, 22 from Punjab, 22 from Chhattisgarh and 20 from Karnataka. Total 1,33,227 deaths reported so far in the country include 46,573 from Maharashtra followed by 11,641 from Karnataka, 11,588 from Tamil Nadu, 8,270 from Delhi, 7,976 from West Bengal, 7,524 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,929 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,595 from Punjab and 3,846 from Gujarat. The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to the state.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said there was no need to panic as 1,500 beds were available and it was in the process of requesting another eight to ten hospitals to enhance the number of beds further.

It said some private hospitals were admitting Covid-19 patients who did not require hospitalisation in a bid to fill up beds and create "artificial scarcity".

Don't create scarcity of beds, pvt hosps told

Ahmedabad, Nov. 22: Amid a spike in Covid-19 cases in Gujarat, Ahmedabad city, the local civic body on Sunday warned private hospitals not to create an artificial shortage of beds for treatment.

Ahmedabad city currently has 2,906 active cases, led by its west zone with 478, and followed by 464 in north zone and 457 in south-west.

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GEHLOT ACCORDS TOP PRIORITY TO SAVE LIVES

Jaipur, Nov. 22: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the state and reminded officials of the government's top priority to save lives and ensure strict compliance of anti-pandemic precautions by people.

Holding an extensive meeting to review the Covid-19 situation across the state, Tacking stock of the prevailing conditions & ongoing efforts to contain the virus. Our top priority is to save lives, provide adequate treatment and ensure people to strictly follow health protocols, Gehlot tweeted. Reviewing arrangements to contain the infection, ensure compliance of decisions including that of the night curfew & also to make sure that people are not inconvenienced, he said. —PTI

The civic body said it had reached out to private hospitals across the city after a review meeting was chaired by additional chief secretary Rajiv Gupta, who is the special officer for Covid-19 in Ahmedabad city, and directed them to stop any such "unscrupulous and illegal practice".

The AMC said the office-bearers of Ahmedabad hospitals and nursing homes association have been intimated about this issue as well.

The civic body also told providers of 108 ambulances in the city as much as possible, that members of a family are admitted in the same hospital and not different ones. On Saturday, the city witnessed 354 new cases, among the highest single-day additions since the outbreak began in March, and five deaths. —PTI

Uddhav warns of 'tsunami' of Covid cases in Maha

SOMU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 22

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday warned the people of the second wave of Covid-19 in the state. In the wake of the rising numbers of Coronavirus cases in the last five days, the Chief Minister said that the state is staring at "Tsunami of new cases" and told people to strictly follow the safety protocols.

Coronavirus cases across Maharashtra have been rising over the last few days, especially after Diwali. In the last 24 hours, 5,753 fresh Covid-19 cases and 50 fatalities were reported in Maharashtra.

Mumbai, which was at the centre of the pandemic not so long ago, had 12,448 active cases. In view of this, the government directed the officials to act fast to contain a fresh wave of infections in the state.

Thackeray said that the state is standing at a "dangerous point". "Now we have to decide whether to go for lockdown again. Some people are suggesting me to impose curfew at night in the state, but I believe that everything cannot be done by imposing laws," he said.

According to him, there would be Tsunami instead of the second wave of Coronavirus.

"We have celebrated all the festivals with patience so far. I had urged everyone to take all the precautions during Diwali celebrations as well and everyone obeyed it. I would like to thank everyone for that. Even during Chhath Puja celebration, people behaved patiently. In Maharashtra, we are able to control the Covid-19 situation in many ways but we will have to avoid visiting crowded places," he said.

In Mumbai, as many as 2,51,004 patients have recovered so far. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), which includes Mumbai and its satellite townships, reported 1,975 fresh cases. This took its overall tally to 6,17,474 with 16,540 deaths. Nashik city reported 119 fresh cases, Pune city 323 cases, Pimpri Chinchwad and its satellite townships, reported 1,975 fresh cases.

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Azad: People, Cong delinked for long

NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

There is a huge disconnect between the people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party, veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said Sunday as he called for an overhaul in the party organisation.

Azad was one of the 23 senior leaders who had hoped that the Congress would not place such a demand on the table to protect the alliance.

Describing the Congress as a "big delinked" for the Grand Alliance, CPI(M/L) Liberation Group member, won only 19 of the 70 seats it contested.

"There is an urgent need to overhaul the party structure by conducting elections from block to district and state level," Azad said, saying Congress leaders at all levels should "shed five-star culture, at least during elections".

In West Bengal, meanwhile, the Congress, after its fracturing in Saradha case, he added.

His remarks come after the Congress' debacle in the Bihar Assembly elections, in which the party won only 19 of the 70 seats it contested.

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THE GOVERNMENT directs the officials to act fast to contain a fresh wave of Coronavirus infections in the state.

added. Slamming the BJP over the demand to unlock everything, Thackeray said in the last five days, the Chief Minister said that the state is staring at "Tsunami of new cases" and told people to strictly follow the safety protocols.

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INDIAN NAVY PARTICIPATES IN SITMEX-20

NEW DELHI, NOV. 22

As part of effort to strengthen India's maritime strategic, Indian Navy participated in trilateral maritime exercise SITMEX-20 with Singapore and Thailand on November 22 in Andaman sea.

The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

This exercise comes soon after multilateral Malabar Naval war game involving Indian, US, Australian and Japan navies conducted complex and exhaustive exercises. Indian Navy (IN) ships including indigenous built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the second edition SITMEX.

The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).

RSN is being represented by "Formidable" Class frigates "Prepad" and "Endurance" Class Landing Ship Tank "Edeavour" and RTN by "Chao Phraya" Class frigate "Kraburi" in the exercise.

As many as 72,97,419 children including around 1 lakh tribal children are enrolled in 97,135 anganwadis across the state.

Madhya Pradesh has 42 per cent stunted, 18.6 per cent severely stunted, 25.8 per cent wasted, 9.2 per cent severely wasted, 42.8 per cent underweight and 14.3 per cent severely underweight children under the age of five.

Child health experts doubt feasibility of Gau Cabinet substituting egg with milk

Milk instead of 'egg' to fight malnutrition in MP

Child health experts have been demanding introduction of eggs in the midday meals.

The BJP claims that any attempt to change the dietary habits of children belonging to a particular section of communities may lead to cultural conflict.

Child rights activists have been demanding introduction of eggs in the midday meal to combat malnutrition. The BJP has been maintaining that any attempt to

alternatives to eggs should be made available for children so as not to hurt religious sentiments. Milk is a good alternative to egg for the purpose of "BJP spokesmen" Rajnesh Agrawal said here.

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DECCAN Chronicle

23 NOVEMBER 2020

Avoid partisan approach, apathy to conquer Covid

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was spot on, calling Covid-19 the biggest threat to humanity after World War-II, as nations across the globe stare at the possibility of another wave of the pandemic. India is no exception; several states have started showing signs of a new wave. It is welcome that the Union government, realising the threat, has launched a series of measures to lessen its impact.

The work has started right in the national capital, which is in the throes of a third wave, and the Union and the state government have promised to work in tandem. The Delhi government has no plans to reintroduce a lockdown but will tighten the rules and rigorously enforce them. It has decided to keep a special watch on markets where more people congregate, and will hike the fine for not wearing a mask from ₹500 to ₹2,000. And most importantly, there will be a house-to-house survey for testing.

The Union government has sent expert teams to several states, which are now witnessing a new surge in the number of infections. The government had done so in the past, too, but it faced the allegations that there were political motives behind it. The teams' behaviour in several states ruled by parties opposed to the BJP had given credence to the allegations, too. Hopefully, the government has learnt its lessons and would not use the opportunity for politicising this time around. The teams should limit themselves to helping the local administration benefit from their expertise.

We have said in these columns earlier, too, that public health is a matter of concern for the public first, and that a government can do only as much without its cooperation. Reports say people have started taking it easy. Festivals, markets, public transport and entertainment avenues have been flooded. Even political leaders, elected representatives and senior bureaucrats appear in the public either with no masks or wearing them in the wrong way. Such callous attitude is not the good work done so far. There must be better awareness among all ranks of the people about the need to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour such as maintenance of social distancing, washing of hands and wearing masks.

The best lesson the micro-organism has taught humanity is that it can be stopped only by the joint efforts of all of its victims; a partisan approach helps it thrive. The United States, which is facing another dreaded run of the virus, is an example. Back home, the Kerala experience tells a similar story. The state, which performed remarkably in the first phase in containing the pandemic, failed the moment partisan politics took over. Onam was not the only culprit; anti-government agitations too contributed to the spread with the result that the state today contributes more than 10 per cent of the country's total daily caseload.

Concerted efforts by all the stakeholders is the need of the hour, for there are no human enemies in this war.

BJP's pointless exertions

In the popularity sweepstakes, the two top honchos of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K. Palaniselvam and O. Panneerselvam, picked up the prize by turning up early at the Chennai airport to personally receive the Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday. In fact, they were only trotted for breaking a convention and seen as kowtowing to a Big Brother political ally for no apparent collective common cause. If the two AIADMK leaders had any genuine reason for appeasing the BJP leader by going the extra mile and even hailing him as "Chanakya", they have not yet revealed it to the people of the state.

The people might ask about it when the time comes — perhaps, when they would go to the state to seek their votes in 2021. But prior to that, what will be the fallout of the much-hyped visit of Amit Shah, for whom it was an extraordinarily long night with BJP functionaries and other visitors till 2.30 am on Sunday? The BJP cadre who stayed awake listening to one of their most prominent leaders may have returned home enthused over their party's projected future prospects in the state where their candidates have been generally vying with Neta in the vote bank.

But beyond that what did the state BJP gain? In the run-up to the visit, the state leadership had said that the news of Mr Shah coming to town itself was sending shivers down the spines of Opposition leaders. Whatever he meant by that, a "Go Back" hashtag trended on Twitter for a day and even a man was arrested for hurling a placard towards the visiting dignitary from the welcoming crowd. Nothing, however, interfered with Mr Shah's engagements and nothing helped the BJP's popularity to soar either. For, more than visitors, it's local leaders who need to gain people's confidence, which definitely can't be done by taking out disruptive marches carrying spears, even if they are blunt.

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Subhani

Theatres of the New Cold War

Manish Tewari
State of the Union



What would the new Cold War look like as China attempts to achieve a misconceived tryst with the destiny of becoming the world's pre-eminent power by 2048, completing one hundred years as a modern Communist state albeit with capitalist characters?

Where then would China's push points lie? The first and obvious one is the Western Pacific. China has been now for decades trying to break out of the first and the second island chains as well as surmount the Malacca dilemma effectively.

What are these island chains and do they serve China's strategic purpose today in containing or constraining China? The first one embraces Kuril Islands, main Japanese archipelago, Okinawa, northern part of the Philippines and the Malay Peninsula and Taiwan. The second one comprises the islands of Japan stretching to Guam and the islands of Micronesia. China has so far succeeded in establishing a robust presence through its grey zone actions in the first island chain only. In the second and the Paracel Island chain in the South China Sea, China is growing land to its entireties and pushing the waters of the region. It is landfilling submerged reefs building artificial islands that are being fashioned into the military bases.

Wherein lies the rub. These two island chains are strategically significant for the US and its hub and spoke security relationships from Japan all the way down to Australia. As General Douglas MacArthur, in his farewell address to the US Congress as far

back as 1951, explained, "All this was changed by our Pacific victory, our strategic frontier then shifted to embrace the Pacific Ocean area, which became a vast moat to protect us as long as we held it. Indeed, it acts as a protective shield for all of the Americas and all free lands of the Pacific Ocean area. We control it to the shores of Asia by a chain of islands extending in an arc from the Aleutians to the Marianas held by us and our free allies. From this island chain we can dominate with sea and air power every Asiatic port from Vladivostok to Singapore and prevent any hostile movement into the Pacific."

It would be instructive to note that China's ship-jacking imperatives traverse the Taiwan Straits, pass through the South China Sea, and into the Indian Ocean via the Malacca Straits. West of the Indian subcontinent, it splits in two. One track skirts the northern tier of the Arabian Sea and transits through the Persian Gulf. The other lane continues on to the Horn of Africa and comes through the Bab el Mandeb Strait into the Red Sea. From there, it can just as easily go along the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. These crucial sea lanes of communication and commerce (SLOCs) are China's nemesis as 80 per cent of China's oil imports and crucial minerals flow from Africa and the Middle East, and to the major export mar-

kets of Europe along these waterways. The North Arabian Sea is therefore a critical area for China. To protect its interests and project power Gwadar in southwest Pakistan seems the obvious answer to its problem. However, the moment China converts Gwadar into a full-fledged military base it would come in conflict with the entrenched powers in the region. Namely Iran, GCC countries and most importantly the US whose Fifth Fleet is headquartered in Bahrain and it maintains its biggest concentration of military personnel in the Middle East at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. China will also have to contend with a new dynamic in the region the new-found relationship between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain and Israel. India that sits on the other side of the Arabian Sea would be a natural antagonist of any Chinese presence in these waters.

The next theatre of the Cold War would be Africa where the Chinese have invested resources much before the formal commencement of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's first international ally acknowledged military facility was established in August 2017 at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Support Base is oper-

The next theatre of the Cold War would be Africa where the Chinese have invested resources much before the formal commencement of the Belt and Road Initiative

ated by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). This hub will facilitate the movement of the Chinese Navy across the entire Indian Ocean. However there are traditional powers in that area namely Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, to name but a few. They are not going to be comfortable with an alien military presence in their lands. Why would they want China to replace the United States as the outside power balancer in the region? If, therefore, will create multiple friction points for China, were it to flex its muscles.

The most portentous challenge lies in South Asia. China is already in a tense stalemate with India in Eastern Ladakh. Maldives has been targeted by China's voraciousness. Maldives debt to China is estimated to be at least \$15 billion that represents more than 30 per cent of its GDP. Under the Abdullah Yameen administration (2013-2018), massive BRI projects have been taken and contracts subsequently awarded to Chinese companies at inflated prices. Though things seem to look a tad more balanced after Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became President but the debts do remain on the Maldives national balance sheet. Similar to the cumulative value of Chinese infrastructure investment to Sri Lanka amounts to \$12.1 billion between 2006 and July 2019. Were the Chinese to push these two countries for military concessions and with the US showing an interest in both Maldives and Sri Lanka the Chinese may have to deal with both India and the US in South Asia.

This though is not in India's best interests as both these nations are pushing to contain its eminent domain.

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union Information and Broadcasting Minister. The views expressed are personal.
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LETTERS

PROHIBITION IN AP

The CM deserves a pat for his resolve to introduce prohibition at all cost. It was women who forced late NTR to introduce prohibition earlier. Now, by using 90 lakh women for the purpose, the government should easily be able to achieve the goal. It survived the revenue loss in lockdown and fulfilled poll promises.

Govardhana Myneedu
Vijayawada

ANGRY BJP

It seems that the BJP is angry with the people of AP. Their comment that the state of affairs of AP will remain the same as long as regional parties rule the state is untenable. As a national party they expect the so called national party to understand that regional parties also play a role. Public are happy to know who should rule whom?

D.S.P. Rao
Kakinada

PENSIONERS LIGHT

The Central government pensioners, especially those who are in the lower rungs, are put to hardships due to freezing of Dearness Relief from January 2020 to June 2021. DA and DRs are usually paid to compensate for the rising inflation. If we look at the present cost of living, prices of several essential commodities have shot up. Besides this, pensioners' expenses are increasing due to illness in this Covid period. In these circumstances, is it fair to impose the Dearness Relief till June 2021?

P.V. Prasad
Vijayawada

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

People warned against cycle-theft

HYDERABAD, November 22 From September there has been a spate of cycle-thefts from various localities in the city. A majority of them are committed in busy areas like shopping centres, cinema theatres, hotels and other places where owners left them unattended and unlocked, the police said. They urged the owners to be alert and lock their cycles and not leaving them unattended. In some cases criminals who were caught redhanded are being let off after the lost cycles are returned.

Kishwar Desai
London Diary

Anti-Semitism is why Meghnad quit; all hope for Christmas shots

Finally — the good news is coming, hopefully by Christmas! Indeed not just one, but six are running a close race and are likely to touch the finishing tape almost simultaneously. Our own Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was to get an early start but ran into a few problems. The UK has ordered 100 million of them. No one had foreseen Pfizer/BioNTech would get in ahead. So very quickly, we have ordered 40 million of these. The poor health minister has scrambled together enough money to also order five million of the Moderna vaccine. It looks like we may be vaccinating by late December. Maybe we need to be singing, "On the First Day of Christmas My True Love Gave to Me an AstraZeneca vaccine..."

On the personal front, it was quite a tumultuous week for us, as my husband, Meghnad Desai, left the Labour Party after 49 years! It had been a decision he had been mulling over for while as he felt that the anti-Semitism in the

party had not been dealt with and needed to be rooted out. He has fought against this racism his entire life. And when Jeremy Corbyn was recently readmitted to the Party (most of the trouble over the Big Brother scandal was Corbyn as the head of the Labour Party) Meghnad felt enough is enough. Of course, it came after discussions and was not a sudden decision — as he has always been a well-respected member of the Labour Party, and has numerous friends and supporters. But most of them, even if they don't admit it, will know why he felt it was essential to quit. The irony is that Meghnad's autobiography is out this month and one wishes he had been able to include a chapter on this very important move on his part. But perhaps he can discuss it now at the book launches.

So look out for some interesting revelations as Meghnad talks about his book, *Rebellious Lord*.

One is never sure if lifting the lockdown is good news or bad news. We now hear that

in early December we will go back to a partial lifting of the various restrictions. Everyone is fighting the big fear that in a January winter, with seven days of Christmas celebrated with no more than six people, since the government has been (as are other governments) bedevilled by the virus and does not know what it is doing or can do, we just have to hunker along. Even Boris is in isolation because Tory MPs have not learnt about distancing. When he met a bunch of friends, he was infected. But most of them, "test and trace" pinged Boris and told him to isolate. As he already had, he should be immune to it — and not require isolation. But you can never be too careful. He does seem to enjoy his isolation as he can his people. Since he came from his flat at the top of Number 11.

Last week we went through a perfect storm as one of Boris' closest advisers, Dominic Cummings, was asked to leave along with his second in command. Apparently Carrie Symonds, the

Prime Minister's partner, decided it was time for a Christmas cleanup and took over the reins. She is an environmental activist and apparently Boris was supporting a Green economy. He announced that all petrol and diesel cars would be gone by 2030 and only electric cars will be allowed. This calls for a reality show called the "Kitchen Cabinet Files". Of course, no one knows what the economy will be like in 2030 — and one wonders why we are still talking about private cars — when we should be discussing more and more public transport.

One always has the fond hope that the UK government would be corruption-free. But the pandemic seems to have brought a sleaze virus into the system. We now hear about a host of scams in which cronies have been given millions in fees and contracts to deliver dubious supplies. The Health Secretary is said to have a contract given to a fashion store in Florida which promised to

deliver three truckloads of PPE suits as the health service did not have enough PPE suits in stock. But the police say they got a subcontractor who did not deliver. It was in a court case in Florida between the contractor and his subcontractor that it was revealed the contractor had collected millions in his fee in addition to the money for the supplies. Of course, in the panic over the pandemic many unfortunate decisions were taken the world the better. Street and action will undoubtedly be taken.

Kishwar Desai is an award winning author, and playwright. Her latest book, *The longest Kiss* — The Life And Times of Devika Rani, will be published shortly.

IN BRIEF MAN DIES IN SHARK ATTACK IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Nov. 22: A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the country this year.

Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.m. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived.

He died at the scene, police said. Park rangers immediately closed the beach. The man was the eighth to die in a shark attack in Australia this year, the highest toll since 1929 when nine died. The introduction of shark nets at popular beaches in the 1950s led to a significant fall in fatal attacks.

14 PRO-IRAN FIGHTERS IN SYRIA KILLED

Beirut, Nov. 22: At least 14 pro-Iran militia fighters from Iraq and Afghanistan were killed in air strikes in war-torn eastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Sunday.

The strikes on Saturday night in Deir Ezzor province, on the border with Iraq, were likely carried out by Israeli warplanes, the Observatory said. The Israeli army said it doesn't comment on foreign reports. More than 10 strikes hit positions of Iranian-backed militias outside the border town of Albu Kamal, according to the war monitor.

The attack killed eight Iraqis and six Afghan fighters, it said. It also destroyed two bases as well as several Iranian military vehicles, the Observatory added.

Iran-backed fighters are heavily deployed in a stretch of territory between the towns of Albu Kamal and Mayadeen, both former strongholds of the Islamic State group. Along with Russia, Iran has been a key backer of the Damascus regime in its nine-year-long civil war. Israel has carried out hundreds of air and missile strikes on Syria since the civil war broke out in 2011, targeting Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah forces.

NINE KILLED IN ISLAMIC STATE AMBUSH IN IRAQ

Samarra, Iraq, Nov. 22: Six Iraqi security personnel and three civilians were killed in an ambush Saturday carried out by the Islamic State group north of Baghdad, police and a local official said.

A police source said a roadside bomb hit a car and that jihadists opened fire on a rescue team of policemen and state-aligned forces when they arrived at the scene, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the capital.

Four members of the Hashed al-Shabi and two policemen died along with three civilians, Mohammed Zidane, the mayor of Zawiya, 50 kilometres from the city of Tikrit, told AFP.

He updated an earlier civilian death toll of two.

There was no immediate word of casualties among the assailants, but Zidane said those killed among the Hashed, a coalition of mainly Shiite forces, were Sunni tribesmen.

Both the mayor and police said the ambush was the work of IS jihadists.

NIGERIA AMBUSH TOLL RISES TO 8, 2 BODIES FOUND

Kano, Nigeria, Nov. 22: The death toll in a jihadist ambush on a military convoy in northeast Nigeria's Borno state on Saturday rose to eight after two more bodies of soldiers were recovered, security sources said. Three security sources had initially told AFP six people, including five soldiers and an allied militiaman, were killed in the attack.

"The death toll from the ambush is now eight. The bodies of two more soldiers were recovered," said one of the sources. "It is now seven soldiers and one militiaman killed," he said. The toll was confirmed by another source.

Islamic State West Africa Province fighters armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades opened fire on a convoy of soldiers and an anti-jihadist militia in Kwamti village, 60 kilometres (36 miles) north of the regional capital Maiduguri.

The convoy was on its way to the town of Baga as a security detail for the state governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, who flew by helicopter earlier in the day.

England plans tougher tied steps in Covid from Dec. 2

UK media speculates PM will declare week of freedom around Christmas

London, Nov. 22: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will set out a "Covid Winter Plan" to control the spread of coronavirus in a speech on Monday, when he is expected to set out some tougher (tiered) measures to come as England's lockdown officially ends on December 2. More areas are set to be placed into the higher tiers of tougher movement and household mixing restrictions and some tiers will be strengthened to safeguard lockdown progress to keep the deadly virus under control, Downing Street said.

Ahead of the nearly month-long stay-at-home lockdown, England had been placed in a three-tier system of graded social distancing rules based on the infection rates in particular regions. The government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is expected to publish research on Monday saying that measures in the previous tiers were not strong enough.

More details of the so-called Covid Winter Plan are expected on Monday in a speech to the House of Commons, after Cabinet discussions on Sunday which Johnson will be conducting virtually as he continues to self-isolate following contact with an MP who later tested positive for Covid-19.

Some UK media reports also suggest that Johnson is expected to announce at a week of freedom from Covid-19 restrictions at Christmas, subject to

an agreement with the devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will involve a UK-wide relaxation of rules, reportedly from December 22 to 28, so that several families can join in on one "bubble" to celebrate Christmas on December 25.

Everyone's efforts during the current national restrictions have helped bring the virus back under control, slowed its spread and eased pressures on the NHS, a Downing Street spokesperson said. But the Prime Minister and his scientific advisers are clear the virus is still present — and without regional restrictions it could quickly run out of control again before vaccines and mass testing have had an effect.

That would put in jeopardy the progress the country has made, and once again risk intolerable pressure on the NHS, the spokesperson said. Downing Street also said that the Winter Plan will set out how people will be able to see their loved ones at Christmas, adding that ministers will be warning that this will not be a normal festive period. There are reports that the 10 PM curfew for bars and restaurants could be extended by an hour. Last orders would still be called at 10 PM, but people would be able to finish their food and drink, Johnson faces a rebellion from some MPs from within his own Conservative Party.

—PTI

US surpasses 12 million cases, 2.5 lakh deaths

Washington, Nov. 22: The United States surpassed 12 million Covid-19 cases Saturday, according to the Johns Hopkins University real-time tracker. The world's largest economy currently has 12,019,960 cases and 255,414 deaths, both by far the worst global tolls. The new toll comes just six days after the US crossed the 11-million case threshold.

Cases have been surging in the US at an alarming rate, forcing many cities to re-impose punishing lockdown measures.

Health authorities have

urged people to stay home for next week's Thanksgiving holiday, when Americans usually travel from coast to coast to be with their families.

New York City has shut down schools for its 1.1 million students, while California began imposing a 10:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew from Saturday.

Chicago — the US' third-largest city — has been under stay-at-home orders since Monday.

On Friday, President Donald Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., announced he had tested positive for Covid-19. —AFP

CASES IN JAPAN HIT A RECORD FOR FOURTH DAY

Tokyo, Nov. 22: The daily tally of confirmed coronavirus cases in Japan hit a record for the fourth straight day at 2,508, the Health Ministry said on Sunday. Japan has had fewer than 2,000 coronavirus deaths so far. Opposition legislators and public health experts have criticised the government for being too slow in halting its "GoTo" tourism campaign, which encouraged travel and dining with discounts. —AP

VIRUS: RUSSIA HEALTH SYSTEM UNDER STRAIN

Moscow, Nov. 22: When Yekaterina Kobzeva, a nurse at a preschool in Russia's Ural Mountains, began having trouble breathing, she called an ambulance. It was four days before she managed to find a free hospital bed.

Russia's health care system, vast yet underfunded, has been under significant strains in recent weeks, as the pandemic surges again. —AP



People hold a pig model with "I am a ractopamine pig" written on it during a protest in Taipei, on Sunday. —AP

Thousands take to the streets in Taiwan against US pork imports

Taipei, Nov. 22: Thousands of people marched in Taipei's streets on Sunday demanding the reversal of a decision to allow US pork imports into Taiwan, alleging food safety issues.

President Tsai Ing-wen's administration lifted a long-standing ban on US pork and beef imports in August, in a move seen as one of the first steps toward possibly negotiating

a bilateral trade agreement with the US.

The ban is due to be lifted in January. That decision has met with fierce opposition, both by the opposition Kuomintang party and individual citizens.

The new policy allows imports of pork with acceptable residues of ractopamine, a drug added into animal feed that promotes the growth of lean meat that some farmers

use in pigs.

The drug is banned by the European Union, but is legal in the United States. Demonstrators marched in front of the Presidential Office Building as part of an annual rally march. "I called here today to oppose the import of ractopamine," said Kelvin Chen, a 54-year-old computer engineer who was marching.

"I feel these days many

who do business are not ethical. If they meet the US pork with Taiwan pork, and then sell it to us average consumers, we as individuals have no way to know the source of the pork."

"I have a child and when we eat things with ractopamine, it's not good for our bodies," said Jacky Tsai, a 57-year-old factory worker. "I hope the government can see that we citizens oppose this." —AP

COVID | IMPACT

Coronavirus pandemic has reduced the annual gathering of world top leaders into a webinar

Masks, screens, empty chairs at virtual Saudi G20 summit

Riyadh, Nov. 21: Masked reporters filed into the Riyadh ballroom-turned-media centre Saturday after mandatory temperature checks, to cover physically a virtual G20 summit originally conceived as a grand coming party for host Saudi Arabia.

The media room in the capital's Crown Plaza hotel would have been buzzing with hundreds of international reporters were it not for the coronavirus pandemic that has reduced the annual gathering of

world leaders into a giant webinar.

As the summit opened, the handful of foreign media present pointed their cameras to a large flickering screen where world leaders popped up in multiple tiny windows, one shuffling papers, another seen calling for technical help and one casually chatting to an aide.

For Saudi Arabia, the first Arab nation to host the summit, the media centre — a cavernous chandelier-studded room

filled with mostly unoccupied work stations — is emblematic of a lost opportunity to showcase its ambitious modernisation drive.

"This is an act of God," said Adel al-Jubeir, the kingdom's minister of state for foreign affairs, referring to the pandemic that made a physical summit impossible.

The austere kingdom has seen a sweeping transformation in the past three years — a driving ban on women has been lifted,

cinemas reopened and social mixing of the genders has become increasingly common as the once-feared religious police were rendered toothless.

"It would have been nice to have thousands of people come to Saudi Arabia, walk the streets, meet Saudi men and women, see the changes that have happened in the country, feel the changes," Jubeir said at a media briefing ahead of the summit.

A physical summit would also have been an opportunity to highlight the kingdom's tourism potential — the new "white oil" — the petro-state is keen to develop to diversify its revenues.

Saudi Arabia is endowed with stunning landscapes, delights and remains a hard sell in a country with strict social codes and an absolute ban on alcohol.

Still, the government sought to make the most of the physical media centre. Adorned with portraits of Saudi destinations, the centre could be mistaken

for a tourism fair.

Livestreamed writers offered four different types of Arabic coffee — each from a different corner of the kingdom.

Coffee table books extolling Saudi culinary delights were placed next to state press on destinations such as the historic city of Al Ula and the mountain resort of Tabuk, places of immense natural beauty but little known outside the country.

The kingdom hosted a media dinner on the eve of

the summit in the historic town of Diriyah, close to Riyadh and known for its traditional mud-brick architecture.

Dressed in loose fitting traditional thobes and clutching daggers, dancers bobbed and swayed amid the ruins.

To highlight other government projects, journalists were offered official interviews and briefings on the sidelines of the summit that were unrelated to G20. —AFP

Don Pennsylvania lawsuit dismissed

Washington, Nov. 22: Donald Trump presented "strained" legal arguments without merit and "speculative accusations" that were not supported by evidence, a federal judge has ruled as he dismissed the Pennsylvania lawsuit of his campaign, in a major setback to the US president's efforts to challenge the November 3 election results.

US Middle District of Pennsylvania Judge Matthew Brann on Saturday turned down a request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the poll results, which has been won by Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden, Judge Brann, who had a few days ago alleged that she had received harassing phone calls, ruled that the Trump campaign "presented strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations that were unsupported by evidence."

"In the United States of America, this cannot justify the disenfranchisement of a single voter let alone all the voters of its sixth most populated state. Our people, laws, and institutions demand more," the judge wrote dismissing the lawsuit filed by the Trump campaign earlier this month alleging irregularities in the voting process. In her scathing opinion, Judge Brann said the Trump campaign asked the court to "disenfranchise" almost seven million voters.

"This court has been unable to find any case in which a plaintiff has sought such a drastic remedy in the context of an election, in terms of the sheer volume of votes asked to be invalidated," she said. "One might expect that when seeking such a startling outcome, a plaintiff would come forward armed with compelling legal arguments and factual proof of rampant corruption, such that this court would have no choice but to grant the proposed injunctive relief despite the impact it would have on such a large group of citizens," the judge said. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election and has filed multiple lawsuits. —PTI

TRUMP CAMPAIGN FOR RECOUNT OF VOTE IN GEORGIA

Washington, Nov. 22: The Trump Campaign has filed a petition for recount of votes in Georgia, days after US President-elect Joe Biden wrested the Republican stronghold by a little over 12,000 votes.

Democrat Biden became the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992 after a hand recount of nearly five million votes that lasted for several days. Georgia hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992.

In case of a recount, the US Supreme Court will have to re-count the five million hand-recounted and audited legal ballots. "We are focused on ensuring that every aspect of Georgia's Law and the US Constitution are followed so that every legal vote is counted," the Trump campaign said. —PTI

When seeking such a startling outcome, a plaintiff would come forward armed with compelling legal arguments and factual proof of rampant corruption, such that this court would have no choice but to grant the proposed injunctive relief despite the impact it would have on such a large group of citizens," the judge said. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election and has filed multiple lawsuits. —PTI

POMPEO MEETS TALIBAN, AFGHAN NEGOTIATORS

Washington, Nov. 22: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has met negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha amid signs of progress in their stalled talks and an uptick in violence that threatens to jeopardise the peace push in the war-torn country.

This was the first meeting of the top American diplomat with the Taliban and the Afghans representing influence of China in the region, and structure a dialogue that seeks, in some ways to counterbalance that burgeoning influence," she said, adding that the QUAD engagement involving Japan and Australia would continue. Chatterjee said for the Biden administration and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is an important strategic partner in the region. But Trump's relationship with India was a bit more short-term and reactive, the Biden administration is likely to have a slightly more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, a noted foreign policy expert has said, asserting that there will be an opportunity to really work with India to balance the kind of burgeoning influence of China in the region, and structure a dialogue that seeks, in some ways to counterbalance that burgeoning influence," she said, adding that the QUAD engagement involving Japan and Australia would continue. Chatterjee said for the Biden administration and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is an important strategic partner in the region. 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SHORT TAKES

Herrmann parts ways with AFI

New Delhi: Athletics Federation of India's High Performance Director Volker Herrmann, whose contract was extended by the Sports Ministry till the end of 2024 Olympics, has relinquished the post, saying he "could no longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role." An AFI source said that Herrmann resigned a few weeks ago but he did not give any "specific reason". The German was appointed in June 2019 for a term till the end of the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021. In September, the ministry extended his contract till the end of 2024 Olympics but AFI sources said he did not sign the new contract. "After one-and-a-half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high-performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," Herrmann wrote on his Facebook page. — PTI

It's Medvedev vs Thiem in final

London: Instead of No 1 Novak Djokovic vs No 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No 3 Dominic Thiem against No 4 Daniil Medvedev. Nadal had won 71 matches in a row when grabbing the opening set, and he served for the victory in Saturday's semifinals when leading 5-4 in the second set. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6 7-6(4) 6-3. That came after Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was "tight and nervous" during a second-set tiebreaker. Thiem gathered himself and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 4-0 in the last tiebreaker, winning 7-5 6-7(10) 7-6(5). — AFP

Afridi to lead Galle Gladiators

Karachi: Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi will lead Galle Gladiators franchise in the coronavirus-hit inaugural Lankan Premier League (LPL) Twenty20 tournament to be played in Hambantota, Sri Lanka from November 26 to December 16. Afridi was on Saturday named captain of the Galle Gladiators team, which has been brought by Pakistani businessman, Nadeem Omar who also owns the popular Quetta Gladiators franchise in the Pakistan Super League. Initially, Omar had announced Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain of Galle Gladiators but he had to alter his decision after the wicket-keeper batsman was named in the Pakistan squad for the tour of New Zealand. The inaugural LPL has been in trouble as several leading players withdrew from the event. — PTI

Ronaldo scoring streak continues

Milan, Nov. 22: Cristiano Ronaldo continued his scoring streak with another two goals as Juventus won 2-0 against Cagliari to move second in Serie A. Ronaldo has now scored eight goals in his last five matches. "When you have a champion like Ronaldo you can achieve any result, he is an example for everyone and he only has to continue like this," Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said. Juventus moved a point below league leader AC Milan, which visits Napoli on Sunday. Third-place Sassuolo is a point further back ahead of its match against Hellas Verona. Atalanta and Lazio are among four clubs on 14 points, three fewer than Milan. Lazio won 2-0 at Crotone earlier on Saturday and Atalanta was surprisingly held 0-0 at Spezia. — AP

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

Indian Super League: Odisha FC vs Hyderabad FC from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 5

English Premier League: Burnley vs Crystal Palace from 11 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

WWE

Raw: Bouts from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, HD

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Giovani Lo Celso (right) celebrates his goal with fellow goalscorer Son Heung-min during their EPL game against Manchester City. — Twitter

RED-HOT SPURS

Tottenham sink City, top EPL table

Manchester, Nov. 22: Pep Guardiola admitted Manchester City played perfectly into Tottenham's hands as Spurs shot to the top of the table with a 2-0 win thanks to goals on the counter-attack from Son Heung-min and Giovani Lo Celso. Spurs have not won an English top-flight title in 60 years, but showed their title credentials with a defensive resilience to frustrate City's domination of possession and ruthlessly take their chances as they scored with their only two shots on target. Defeat leaves City already eight points off the leaders, albeit with a game in hand, down in 10th with just three wins from their opening eight games.

The writing was on the wall for the visitors after just five minutes when one simple ball over the top from Tanguy Ndombele caught Joao Cancelo sleeping and Son had the pace and precise finish under

| RESULTS | |
|--|---|
| Fulham (Bobby Reid 15, Ruben Loftus-Cheek 70) | 2 |
| Everton (Dominic Calvert-Lewin 1, 29; Abdoulaye Doucoure 35) | 3 |
| Tottenham (Son Heung-min 5, Giovani Lo Celso 65) | 2 |
| Man. City | 0 |
| Man. United (Bruno Fernandes 56' P) | 1 |
| West Brom | 0 |

Ederson to register his sixth goal in 11 games against City. "The stats speak for themselves, we were better in many departments but we conceded a goal we cannot concede. It was the perfect scenario for them. We knew (Harry) Kane drops and Son runs in behind. We have to defend better," said Guardiola. Victory ensured Tottenham will finish

the day on top of the table for the first time in six years. Jose Mourinho's men move two points ahead of Chelsea, who they face next weekend at Stamford Bridge. Guardiola ended speculation over his future by committing to a new contract as City boss until 2023 this week. The Catalan has won eight league titles at Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City, but Guardiola now faces a challenge he has never had before in rebuilding a second title-winning side at the same club. For the sixth consecutive league game City failed to score more than once with little sign of Guardiola's men rediscovering the cutting edge of the free-scoring sides that won back-to-back titles in 2017/18 and 2018/19. Tottenham's title challenge will be fully tested with Arsenal, Liverpool and Leicester also to come before Christmas. — AFP

16-YEAR-OLD MOUKOKO SETS RECORD

Berlin, Nov. 22: Erling Haaland scored four goals and Youssoufa Moukoko became the youngest player in Bundesliga history as Borussia Dortmund beat Hertha Berlin 5-2 to move second. The buildup had been all about Moukoko, who was eligible for his debut after turning 16 on Friday. But Haaland stole the show on a cold night in Berlin on Saturday before making way for the youngster's debut in the 85th minute. Haaland got ahead of Omar Alderete and rounded the goal-keeper to complete his hat trick. Raphaël Guerreiro scored Dortmund's fourth in the 70th post which Haaland scored his fourth goal. Meanwhile, Bayern played 1-1 stalemate with Werder Bremen. — AP

Atletico edge past Barcelona

Madrid, Nov. 22: Atletico Madrid delivered a major boost to their hopes of winning La Liga on Saturday by beating Barcelona 1-0 and consigning their opponents to their worst start to a league season in 29 years. Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc-Andre ter Stegen left the goal gaping but Barca, and a below-par Lionel Messi, failed to respond at the Wanda Metropolitano. Instead, Atletico recorded their first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, which puts them three points ahead of Madrid, with a game in hand, and second in the table, level on points with early leaders Real Sociedad. It also leaves their opponents languishing in 10th, with Barcelona's 11

Like any coach. I am responsible. We know we have to improve the results. — RONALD KOEMAN
Barcelona coach

points from their first eight games their worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season. Real Madrid had earlier been held to a 1-1 draw by in-form Villarreal, another slip-up for the reigning champions to enforce the sense that this could be Atletico's year. And beating Barcelona in La Liga for the first time since 2010 will do wonders for the team's belief and extends what is now a considerable advantage in the table. It also extends Atletico's unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches. — AFP

Angulo on the double, inspires Goa comeback

Goa, Nov. 22: Clever substitutions did the trick for FC Goa as the Gaurs rescued a hard-fought point after an entertaining 2-2 draw against Bengaluru FC in match four of the ISL. 7 at the Fatorda Stadium here on Sunday. Cleiton Silva (27') and Juanan Gonzalez (57') put Bengaluru ahead before Goa hit back through a brace from Igor Angulo (66', 69'). Goa dominated possession early on, with Bengaluru happy to sit back and maintain their defensive shape. Bengaluru registered their first shot on goal in

the 11th minute when Ashique Kuruniyan cut inside from the left, beating three men, before switching onto his weaker right foot. However, his tame attempt on goal was well collected by Goa custodian Mohammad Nawaz. Three minutes before the half-hour mark, the visitors got their lead in unusual fashion, a throw-in creating confusion in the Goa box. Harmanjot Khabra's throw from the left was flicked on towards the face of goal for Jorge Ortiz Mendoza's clearance. Silva was the first to react and headed

home to hand Bengaluru the lead. It wasn't until the 45th minute that Goa got their first shot on goal. Seriton Fernandes' cross found Angulo, whose deft flick went straight to Bengaluru keeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. The visitors made one change after the change of ends, with Deshorn Brown replacing Kristian Opseth. Bengaluru soon doubled their lead and it came through a set-piece again, with Juanan getting on the scoresheet — the club's 100th goal in Indian Super League history. — Agencies

Rohit open for any slot in Test

New Delhi, Nov. 22: He has enjoyed and revelled in his new role as a Test opener but Rohit Sharma is ready to be flexible about his batting position in the eagerly-anticipated Test series against Australia as per the demands of the team management. The senior batsman is expected to play a big role alongside Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara when skipper Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child. "I will tell you the same thing that I have told everyone all this while. I will be happy to bat wherever the



Rohit Sharma

team wants me to but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," Rohit said. He believes that the team management will have figured out his role in the batting order by the time he would reach Australia after

completing the strength and conditioning work at an National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He had picked up a minor hamstring injury during the IPL. "I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what are options when Virat leaves and who are the guys who will open the innings," Rohit said. **Kohli is chilled out guy: Zampa** Virat Kohli's on-field image might be that of a combative batting superstar but Australia leg-spinner Adam Zampa says the India captain came across as a

"chilled out guy" during their interactions in the recent Indian Premier League. Zampa said on his first day in this year's Indian Premier League, a WhatsApp message popped up on his phone from a number he did not recognise. It later turned out to be Kohli. "It was the first day I arrived (and) he WhatsApped me 'Zamps, here's the \$ 15 off voucher at a vegan restaurant from Deliveroo. It's a really good restaurant'. I didn't have his number. He made it as if we've known each other forever," Zampa told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. — PTI

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