

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | SATURDAY | 14 NOVEMBER 2020



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Kodiyeri quits as CPM Kerala chief



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Verstappen fastest at Turkish GP practice



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WEATHER

Max: 29 °C
Min: 20°C
RH: 60%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky with haze. Max/Min temperature 29/20 °C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+44,876)	(+535)
87,72,776	1,29,221

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+ 997)	(+4)
TS: 2,55,663	1,397
(+1,593)	(+10)
AP: 8,51,298	6,847

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

5,34,94,241	
DEATHS	
13,05,908	
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES	217

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nijja Ashwawayuja Bahula Chaturdasi till 2.17 pm
Star: Swati till 8.08 pm
Varjyam: 1.04 am to 2.29 am (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.24 am to 7.54 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HILIRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Awwal 27, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.17 am
Zohar: 12.10 pm
Asar: 4.05 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.20 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM
MOONSET 4.19 PM
MOONRISE 4.07 AM

COUNTER POINT

Not dry fruits, our company has given a very expensive gift pack to the managers... one kg onions!

SHORT TAKE

India test-fires QRSAM missiles

New Delhi: India successfully test-fired on Friday the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system at an integrated test range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast, officials said. The successful test-firing of the QRSAM, having a range of around 30 km, paves the way for its commercial production, they said. It directly hit a Banshee pilotless target aircraft at medium range and medium altitudes.

20k fewer voters for GHMC council

Hyderabad: The GHMC Council elections will see about 20,000 fewer voters exercising their franchise next year, according to the final electoral rolls that were published by the State Election Commission (SEC) on Friday. The electoral list shows 74,04,017 persons as being eligible to vote for the GHMC Council's 150 wards or divisions.

■ Full report on Page 5

INSIDE

■ **CITY... PAGE 2**
Asifabad tiger back in Maharashtra

■ **CITY... PAGE 3**
Temple priest held for denying entry to Dalit

DC wishes its readers a happy and prosperous Diwali



Devotees light earthen lamps on the banks of Sarayu River during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya on Friday. A world record 6,06,569 diyas were lit in addition to a laser and sound show for the event. — PTI

HOLIDAY NOTICE | The offices of *Deccan Chronicle* will remain closed today for Diwali. There will be no edition on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020

India to get traditional drugs centre

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
CHENNAI, NOV. 13

In a move that provides international recognition to Ayurveda and makes India a hub for traditional medicine, the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Friday said that it would set up the Global Centre of Traditional Medicine in the country.

"I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to open a WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine in India to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of tra-

ditional and complementary medicine," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a video message, at an event organised to mark the fifth Ayurveda Day.

At the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions located in Jaipur and Jamnagar to the nation.

"This new centre will support WHO's efforts to implement its traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023 which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the

role of traditional medicine as part of their journey to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world," he said.

The World Health Organisation defines traditional medicine as "the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness".

Globally, each culture

has evolved its own system of medicine using herbs or animal products or inorganic chemical compounds.

The prominent traditional systems of medicine include those evolved by Indian, European, Persian and the Chinese. India has two types of traditional medicines — Ayurveda and Siddha.

"Traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda can play an important role in integrated people-centric health services and healthcare, but they have not received enough attention," he said.

NDA LEGISLATORS TO ELECT NITISH AS THEIR LEADER

NAYEAR AZAD | DC
PATNA, NOV. 13

A joint meeting of the newly elected MLAs of the National Democratic Alliance will be held in Patna on Sunday where Nitish Kumar will be elected as its leader, it was decided on Friday.

The decision was taken at an "informal" meeting of leaders of the four NDA constituents in Bihar — the JD(U), BJP, HAM and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) at the residence of Mr Kumar.

"The meeting will start at 12/30 pm on Sunday, November 15 where all further decisions will be taken," Chief Minister elect Kumar, who also heads the JD(U) told reporters later.

Earlier in the day Mr Kumar had met the state's governor Phagu Chauhan and handed over his resignation. He also recommended the dissolution of the state Assembly. The governor accepted the resignation and asked him to continue as the caretaker chief minister till the new government is formed.

The development paves way for the formation of the next government in Bihar. The tenure of the current Bihar legislative Assembly is scheduled to end on November 29.

"It has been decided that a meeting will take place on Sunday afternoon where the newly elected MLAs will choose their leader and it will stake claim to form a new government in the state," Mr Kumar said after the meeting at his residence.

Despite the JD(U)'s low tally, Mr Kumar is all set to take oath for the fourth consecutive term as Chief Minister.

LoC flares up, 4 security men, six civilians killed

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC with agency inputs
SRINAGAR, NOV. 13

The hostility between Indian and Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) flared up again on Friday, leaving at least 10 persons, including three Indian soldiers, a BSF official and six civilians, dead and about two dozen others injured.

The Indian Army accused the Pakistani troops of "deliberately" targeting the civilians areas with mortars and other weapons and claimed that it has, in retaliation to "unprovoked ceasefire violations" in multiple sectors along the LoC, caused substantial damage to Pakistan Army's infrastructure besides inflicting casualties among its men.

"Several ammunition dumps, FOL dumps and multiple terrorist launchpads across the Line of



A Pakistani bunker is hit by an Indian Army artillery shell at Uri along the LoC on Friday.

Control have been damaged," it said.

Indian military sources said at least eight Pakistani soldiers were killed and 12 others injured on Friday after Indian Army pounded several of their positions along the LoC in north Kashmir with anti-tank guided missiles and artillery guns in response to unprovoked ceasefire violations in multiple locations by troops of the

neighbouring country.

Late on Friday evening, Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement admitted that one Pakistani soldier was killed and five others were injured in the Indian firing and shelling. It, however, also said that four civilians were also killed and 12 others injured in what it termed as "deliberate attempt" by the Indian Army to target civilian population in PoK.

GHMC | ELECTIONS

Salons, gyms, tea joints in city become venues to get support of people

Parties piggyback on festival to campaign

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

Political parties in the city are busy preparing ground for the much-awaited Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls. While Telangana Rashtra Samiti is popularising how it has developed the city in the past six years, Opposition parties are conducting ground surveys to woo young voters who have played a vital role in defeating the ruling party in the Dubbak

bypoll. The focal centres of political parties are salons, gyms, slums, tea points and local kirana stores, where people congregate in large numbers. They want to learn the current opinion of voters regarding the incumbent corporators. The city wings of various political parties have constituted several teams to know the way wind is blowing in the 150 divisions of the GHMC. Teams are speaking with youth to learn their opinion on the upcoming civic body polls

● **THE CITY** wings of various political parties have constituted several teams to know the way wind is blowing in the 150 divisions of the GHMC.

and whether the Dubbak bypoll outcome will have any impact on hustings in the city.

"In past two days, at least 20 people from all political parties have been asking people sitting in salons who they would vote for during the GHMC polls.

They want to know how the sitting corporator has performed; whether s/he is corrupt or their spouse is indulging in corruption. We are happy that crowds have increased at our salons," says M. Ramesh, treasurer of the Secunderabad Salons Association.

Mallesha, a resident of Kacheguda, recounted: "Local representatives of all political parties are asking us whether a particular party can field its candidate in the GHMC polls. They are enquiring about

multiple things like the candidate's image, his/her connection with the public, whether s/he has been helping people in an emergency or crisis situation. Response of most people is that the incumbent candidate has not been of any help. As such, it will not be a cake walk for any political party, including the TRS, BJP, MIM, or the Congress," Mallesha maintained.

The TRS is trying to showcase its development agenda through advertise-

ments on hoardings, most of which have already been hired by the ruling party. Opposition is busy preparing charge-sheets on the failures of the current candidates and their parties.

Opposition is trying to take maximum advantage by exposing failures of poll promises made by the TRS in individual divisions during the last GHMC polls in 2016. The mishandling of the flood and irregularities in distribution of compensation to victims is coming of use for the Opposition.

SC allows green crackers in TS

Modifies HC order which imposed total ban on sale, bursting of firecrackers for Diwali

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The Supreme Court on Friday modified the Telangana High Court order of Thursday that imposed a complete ban on the sale of firecrackers during Diwali, and said that the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on bursting of firecrackers keeping in mind the pollution levels need to be followed.

The NGT, on November 9, had said that firing of crackers will be banned in cities where the average of ambient air quality during November 2019 was in the 'poor' and worse categories. In cities or towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers can be sold.

The timings for use and bursting of crackers should be restricted to two hours during festivals like Diwali, Chhath, New Year, Christmas Eve, as may be specified by the state concerned, the NGT had said.

Following this, the Pollution Control Board of Telangana state stated the

● **THE VACATION** bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna said the TS government should follow NGT guidelines on bursting Diwali crackers.

air quality in November last year fell in the 'moderate' category and met the NGT's norms.

In Telangana state, Hyderabad and Ramagundam made the non-attainment list. The state government has allowed bursting of crackers between 8 pm and 10 pm on Diwali.

However, on Thursday, the Telangana High Court while hearing a public interest litigation filed by P. Indra Prakash, an advocate, ordered a complete ban on the sale and use of fireworks in the state during Diwali.

The ban was challenged by the Telangana Fire Workers Dealers Association (TFWDA) in the Supreme Court on Friday.

The vacation bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on the plea of TFWDA and said that it

cannot stay the High Court's order without hearing the other side. The plea said the HC order was violative of the right to livelihood of persons involved in sale and manufacturing of firecrackers.

The Supreme Court bench, meanwhile, asked the Telangana state government to comply with directions of the NGT issued on November 9.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid appeared for the organisation on whose plea the top court issued notice to the state government for November 16.

"In the meantime, the impugned judgment and order of the HC stands modified and is brought in line with the directions issued by the NGT vide comprehensive order dated November 9, which applies even to Telangana state," the Supreme Court said.

"For, no reason much less special reason is noted in the impugned order for departing therefrom. All concerned in Telangana state must comply with directions of the tribunal in its letter and spirit" the court ordered.



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao greets the newly nominated MLCs at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday.

State selects 3 for MLCs seats

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The state Cabinet on Friday proposed the names of poet-lyricist Goret Venkanna, former minister Baswaraju Saraiah and Aryavysa Sangham leader Boggarapu Dayanad for nomination to the Legislative Council and forwarded the names to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan.

The names were cleared by a Cabinet meeting that was chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Reacting to the nomination, Saraiah said, "KCR has given me an opportunity to serve the most backward communities in the state." He said, "We have achieved Telangana with a united

struggle and we will take it forward to achieve the Chief Minister's dream of Bangaru Telangana."

He said he was ready to any responsibility be given to him by party working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao in the ensuing elections to the GHMC. The three nominees met the Chief Minister at Pragathi Bhavan in the evening and thanked him for proposing their names. The Chief Minister felicitated them and they later met K.T. Rama Rao.

Venkanna is popular for his songs reflecting the lives of the people in Telangana, particularly the rural areas.

■ Page 2: Saraiah was only washerman minister

ASTROGUIDE
FOR SUNDAY

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Nija Ashwayuja Bahula
 Amavasya till 10.38 am
Star: Vishakha till 5.17 pm
Variyam: 8.51 pm to 10.16 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.06 pm to 4.51 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Rabbi-ul Awwal 28, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 5.18 am
Zohar: 12.11 pm
Asar: 4.05 pm
Maghrib: 5.46 pm
Isha: 6.56 pm

SUNRISE MONDAY 6.20 AM

SUNSET SUNDAY 5.40 PM

MOONSET 4.20 PM

MOONRISE 4.07 AM

SHORT TAKES

HC SEEKS REPLY
ON REGISTRY
OFFICE HOLIDAY

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The Telangana High Court sought a detailed explanation from the state government by December 10 on issuance of GO No. 102, which declares a holiday in stamps and registration department from September 8 until further orders.

The division bench, headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan, was dealing with a PIL by Mannaram Nagaraju, president of the Lok Satta Party, Telangana state, who sought directions to declare the GO as unconstitutional and violative of the Registration Act.

Buchi Babu, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that the GO violates Sections 43, 48 and 69 of Telangana Registration Rules. At least franking services, administration of marriage, will deeds, mortgage deeds and others shall be continued. Without these services, the people are suffering a lot, counsel submitted.

SARAI AH ONLY
WASHERMAN
MINISTER

From Page 1

Venkanna was born in Gowrarani village of Nagarkurnool district in 1963. A recipient of several awards, he has been conferred the Kaloji award, instituted by the state government, in 2016 for his contribution to the literary field and the Kabir Samman national award of the Madhya Pradesh government last year.

Sarai ah from Warangal district was born on December 5, 1955. He was elected MLA for three consecutive terms between 1999 and 2009. He was BC welfare minister in the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Cabinet. Prior to that, he was a three-time corporator in the Warangal Municipal Corporation where he also served as vice-chairman of the council. He is the only legislator from the washerman community in south India.

Dayanand took voluntary retirement from his job as deputy director, protocol, in the undivided Andhra Pradesh and joined the Telugu Desam. He joined the TRS in 2014. Dayanand is life-time chief adviser and past president of Vasavi Seva Kendra and an active member of the Arya Vysya community in the state.

VENKATA BACK
AS SIDDIPET
COLLECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The state government on Friday night posted P. Venkata Rami Reddy back as collector of Siddipet district. He had been shunted out of Siddipet following an Election Commission directive ahead of the Dubbak byelection and shifted to Sangareddy district. His spot had been taken by Bharati Holikeri from Mancherial district. With the election process complete, Rami Reddy was posted to Siddipet and Bharati Holikeri sent back to Mancherial. Following this, the government relieved Sikta Patnaik of full additional charge as Mancherial collector. Sangareddy collector M. Hanumanth Rao had been transferred to Medak district. During the transfer of Rami Reddy, Hanumanth Rao was brought to Sangareddy district and given full additional charge of Medak, which he is now relieved of. The government transferred Dr V. Venkateswarlu, collector of Medchal-Malkajigiri. Hyderabad collector Sweta Mohanty has been given full additional charge of Medchal-Malkajigiri.

KTR: KCR wants more
welfare plans for poor

CM strives to make TS top state in all fields: Minister

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

Municipal administration and urban development (MAUD) minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has been urging officials and ministers to increase the state revenue and to initiate different welfare programmes for the poor and needy. He said that the government is extending all support to people during the Covid-19 pandemic and has offered immediate relief to families, which were affected due to the recent rains.

Speaking after inaugurating a sports complex in Sanathnagar, Rama Rao said that the Chief Minister has been striving to make Telangana the top state across all fields. He said "As a progressive government, all we expect your continued support and blessings." He inaugurated different development works, including sports complex, library and laid the foundation stone for a theme park at Nehru Park at a total cost of over ₹19 crore.

Animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, who represents



Urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao works out after inaugurating a sports complex in Sanathnagar on Friday. — DC

Sanathnagar Assembly constituency, said he had worked as a minister for five terms and worked with different governments but none could match the vision and speed of the TRS government. He said that earlier even for getting ₹5 lakh sanction to dig two borewells in the constituency, several meetings had to be conducted. In the TRS government's

reign, nearly ₹800 crore development works were sanctioned for Sanathnagar constituency, he informed to loud cheers from the gathering.

Srinivas Yadav said that in the past the Congress government had sold the land meant for a sports complex to the Provident Fund office at Sanathnagar. He said GHMC had allocated another land for the office

and today a multipurpose sports complex became a reality due to the support extended by the MAUD Minister.

"Past governments focused on the welfare of their own party members, family and relatives. Chandrashekar Rao says that people are our bosses. That's the difference between the earlier governments and the one headed by TRS," he said.

PUBS TO BE
BOOKED FOR
DRUNK DRIVING

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The managements of pubs which allow customers to drive out under the influence of alcohol will be booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, which leads to a jail term of 10 years, said the Cyberabad police.

The Cyberabad commissionerate, which witnessed two fatal accidents in the last week involving drunk driving, will book those who cause accidents leading to fatalities by booking them under 304-II of the IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), said police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar.

"No one can escape the legal action after causing a road accident under the influence of alcohol." He said the managements of pubs who are aware that their customers are too drunk to drive the vehicles will be prosecuted under the relevant provisions of law.

"The police is forming special teams to work continuously to apprehend the persons who cause road accidents and flee the scene. More stringent action under such persons will be taken," Sajjanar said. "If anyone does not cooperate for an alcohol test, action will be taken under Section 205 of the MV Act, which presumes that the person is drunk," added the official.

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Follow safety norms to
curb Covid spread: Govt

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

With reports of a third wave in the national capital, health officials want the festival of Diwali to be observed with proper safety protocols to ensure that Covid-19 cases do not rise in Telangana state.

The festival season has seen a lot of crowding in markets, commercial spaces and also gathering of people at homes. Keeping the numbers restricted is the key and ensuring that masks are worn properly is important. One could notice several people in crowded places moving around without masks and that is worrying officials as it can lead to a rise in the numbers.

Dr Srinivas Rao, director of public health, said, "Diwali is a very important festival and it is crucial that people celebrate it in a safe way. Due to the pandemic and the sudden change in temperatures, the high-risk group of elders and children must take utmost care. Apart from Covid 19, there are other viruses like swine flu and seasonal flu which are also a concern."

He insisted that people must avoid gatherings as that is one of the reasons for easy spread.

Those with symptoms must opt for an early test-

FIRST TIME IN 4 MONTHS, FRESH
CASES LESS THAN 1,000 IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

For the first time in four months, the number of new Covid-19 were less than 1,000 even when over 40,000 tests were conducting. According to the health department, the state recorded 997 cases on Thursday, and health officials said that the trend of reducing number of cases can be sustained if the people co-operate by following safety protocols.

The number of recoveries on Friday was 1,222, which was more than the new cases. The total

recovered cases in the state are 2,37,172 and new cases 2,55,663. The number of active cases are 17,094 and those who are in home and institutional isolation are 14,466.

The number of tests carried out were 42,163 on Thursday. It has been noted that the large number of tests also have a large section of health-care workers who are regularly exposed to patients. The highest number of positive cases are in the Greater GHMC at 169, Ranga Reddy 66 and Medchal Malkajigiri at 85 cases.

NON-COVID FACILITIES AT GANDHI
HOSPITAL TO BEGIN SOON

HYDERABAD: Non-Covid 19 facilities will begin soon in Gandhi Hospital as patients requiring treatment for trauma, maternity and other medical services

need to be attended to. Facilities are being created in the hospital and it will be done according to the orders of the director of health and medical education Dr G. Srinivas Rao.

ing, for which many centres have been enlisted and there are ample mobile testing facilities in place.

Safety in terms of wear-

ing masks, sanitization and social distancing will go a long way in protecting the person and decrease possibilities of coronavirus spread.

MIN: WILL LIFT A-GRADE PADDY
IF NIRANJAN CONVINCES CENTRE

RAVINDRA SESHU
KHAMMAM, NOV. 13

Minister for agriculture, S. Nirajan Reddy on Friday said that the state government is ready to lift 'A' grade paddy from farmers.

But, Union minister of state for home affairs, G. Kishan Reddy, should take the responsibility of convincing the Central government, that poses various queries about it.

Niranjan said that the central government is posing queries on lifting 'A' grade paddy, but, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led government will protect the interests of the farmers of Telangana. The BJP leaders are spreading false rumours on paddy lifting.

He said that the U.S. has the highest, extent of cultivable land in the world, followed by India and China. However, China stood first in farm produce, and the U.S. and

India occupy second and third place.

He said, "The government is neglecting farming and lakhs of cuses of water is going into the sea as there is no proper comprehensive irrigation policy."

Telangana is one of the four states in the country that favoured to raise all crops.

The Centre had no plan to strengthen the farming sector."

The NDA government put various conditions before agreeing to give ₹6,000 in three installments to the farmers.

The TRS-led government deposited ₹5,000 into the accounts of 58 lakh farmers within 36 hours.

"Rythu Vedikas will be the 'temples' for the farmers. A new revolution will be heralded in the farming sector once they begin functioning."

All the issues of the farmers will be solved with it", he said.

OPEN SURGICAL
WINGS, DEMAND
GANDHI DOCS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

Non-Covid 19 services are being started at the Gandhi Hospital only for medical departments and not surgical departments. This has led to protests by junior doctors at the hospital as it will not help students in the surgical departments who have to complete their academic year.

Junior doctors have demanded that the number of Covid 19 patients at the hospital be brought down to 200. The order making Gandhi Hospital the Covid-19 nodal centre must be withdrawn by the state government, they said. The Telangana Junior Doctors Association has supported this demand. Protests are being carried out inside the Gandhi Hospital campus and doctors are posting pictures on social media.

Hybiz TV celebrates 11th anniversary



Union minister G. Kishan Reddy cuts a cake to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Hybiz TV. MD of Hybiz TV Rajgopal Madishetty said the world of digital media had undergone a tremendous change in the last eight months and going forward, the new normal would be content accessed on the move. — DC

HELPING | HAND

Many families won't burst firecrackers and will use the money to distribute gifts to the needy

This Diwali, caring for poor to mark celebrations

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

Diwali will be special to those who have adopted the spirit of giving. Many families have given up bursting firecrackers and are using the same money to give gifts to the underprivileged. Some others are buying diyas and decorative items from poor

families selling them on roads and pavements. Meanwhile, sweetshops and the dry-fruit shops have been recording good business.

Many youngsters have taken up the lead in celebrating the festival more responsibly and doing away with firecrackers while many have families who have given a fresh lease of life to diyas made of mud, as in the old days.

Money, originally meant for a lavish Diwali celebration, is being given away in charity.

Dr A. Anita Reddy, a retired principal, who came up with a unique idea of promoting environmental care, is distributing gifts to those who are not burning crackers in her locality. She will be celebrating the festival with migrant construction workers, who stayed back

● **MANY YOUNGSTERS** have taken up the lead in celebrating the festival more responsibly and doing away with firecrackers while many have families who have given a fresh lease of life to diyas made of mud.

during the lockdown. "I have planned to go and light diyas with them, give

gifts and some good food items," she said.

Pratima Jaidev, creative director, Tarangani Media Works, said: "I wish to celebrate the festival with inmates in an orphanage. I will carry some gifts for each of them."

Most of the businesses are doing well this year. Markets are busy with customers, Begum Bazaar, Koti, Sultan Bazaar are the main markets for sweets

and gifts. Vemullaphally Rakesh of Vijaya Sweets, Sultan Bazaar, said, "Sales have been on a good note. Many companies have ordered Diwali packages for their staff and associates. Individual purchases have also been good for our unique ones like 'jeedipapu pakam', 'bellam jalebi', 'arisalu' 'kovakarakaya' and 'boondi laddu'."

Radhika Masrani, a fit-

ness trainer, said "There are many gyms which have come up with discount offers, I have seen many family members giving their loved ones our annual memberships. This is truly a healthy decision."

Mohd Ali of Guddu's Dryfruit Hub, said, "There have been bulk orders and gift boxes from companies while individual sales are also high for dry fruits."

OTHER STORIES

IMPOSE HEAVY PENALTY ON SAND MAFIA: COLLECTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, NOV. 13

District collector M.V. Reddy has asked the mining officials to impose heavy penalties, seize vehicles transporting illegal sand and file criminal cases against them.

He said, "The sand mafia are active on Sundays, considering it is a holiday and government employees are not on duty. Officials should supervise mining activity on Sunday too."

He asked the mandal special officers, revenue divisional officers and additional collectors to have a micro observation on the sand mafia.

THREE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY DIE BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD, NOV. 13

Three members of a family died by suicide over family disputes in Burepalli village in Chithalamanepalli mandal on Friday. Shyamala, 30, after a quarrel with her husband Nakka Raju, 35, on Thursday night, left the house with her two daughters, Srividya, 3, and Anusha one-and-a-half-year-old.

Raju followed them at a distance and brought the elder daughter home. Shyamala died by suicide in the river Pranahitha along with her younger daughter, Srividya. The villagers found the bodies of Shyamala and Anusha in the river. Raju, on hearing the news died by suicide at a well in the village. The surviving daughter has been handed over to the state home. Police is investigating the case.

MURDER CASE: VILLAGERS WANT CULPRIT ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 13

Nyavanandi villagers in Sirikonda mandal took out a procession in Nizamabad on Friday demanding the arrest of the accused in Purre Mamatha's murder case.

The villagers, along with Nizamabad MP D. Arvind and BJP leaders, reached the police commissioner's office from old LIC crossroads.

They urged the Commissioner of police Kartikeya to investigate the case and arrest the accused.

The murder has destroyed the victim's family, they said. "We suspect few persons hand in the murder of Mamatha, but Sirikonda police failed to initiate action in this regard", they alleged.

The villagers also displayed placards demanding justice for Purre Mamatha's family.

AJAY OFFERS 'OLIVE BRANCH' TO TUMMALA

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC
KHAMMAM, NOV. 13

Minister for transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar, minister for agriculture Niranjan Reddy and MLC Palla Rajeswar Reddy, visited former minister Tummala Nagaswara Rao's home, on Friday, has raised eyebrows in political circles.

One of the reasons, Ajay, extended the olive branch to Tummala, is the upcoming Khammam Municipal Corporation elections.

After Tummala's defeat from the Palair assembly segment, TRS leaders close to Ajay ignored Tummala. When Ajay became minister, the cordial relations between the two died. Ajay's camp humiliated and took potshots at Tummala whenever the occasion arose. Tummala confined himself mostly to his home in Gandugulapalli, sometimes stepping out to attend programmes in the Palair segment.

Ajay used the occasion of the opening of the Rythu

Ikya Vedika in Raghunathapalem to invite Tummala along with leaders of the left parties at the last minute.

Potu Ranga Rao of New Democracy, Puvvada Nagaswara Rao, CPI leader and father of Ajay, Pothineni Sudarshan of the CPI-M and Tummala attended the programme. Tummala enjoys a strong support base in Khammam and won as MLA from Khammam in 2009. If the TRS needs to win the KMC polls, Tummala's support is very crucial.

KILLING | THE BUZZ

Tiny pink nets are being tied over the septic tank pipes

Adilabad tackles mosquito menace creatively

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, NOV. 13

Bizarre as it may sound but mosquito nets are being used for septic tank pipes as a means to control mosquito menace, courtesy of the Adilabad municipal officials.

They have come up with the 'innovative' idea of tying small mosquito nets at the opening of septic tank pipes.

This comes after the rise in dengue fever cases in several colonies here.

Ironically, the nets are in pink colour bearing a striking resemblance to the TRS flag. Officials say that the mosquitoes are entering houses through toilet pipes and even breeding inside them.

Municipal councillors are going around colonies

AUTHORITIES WERE distributing the mosquito nets in order to control mosquitoes from entering houses.

20,000 specially stitched small mosquito nets were procured at a cost of ₹1 lakh from various self-help group members.

and urging households to make use of the septic tank pipe mosquito nets being distributed free by the municipality. Some house owners have shown interest.

Adilabad Municipal TRS floor leader Bandari Satish said the authorities were distributing the mosquito nets in order to control mosquitoes from entering houses.

He said they had procured 20,000 specially stitched small mosquito nets at a cost of ₹1 lakh from self-help group members and are distributing them to households.

He said that mosquitoes are breeding more in septic tank pipes than in drainages. Satish said Adilabad is the first municipality to come with such an innovative idea.

Municipal chairman Jogu Premender said they were trying to control the mosquito menace and had realised that many families were spending huge money on medical expenditure for fever, dengue, and malaria caused by mosquitoes.

This innovation can help solve the problem to a considerable extent, he said.



An Adilabad municipal worker ties a mosquito net atop the pipe of a lavatory in Adilabad town on Friday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE



Protesters argue with the police in front of the temple on Friday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

Temple priest held for denying entry to Dalit

Priest had refused to perform prayers for a local resident

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, NOV. 13

Several people belonging to the Dalit communities protested in front of the Anjaneyaswamy temple in Ganeshwada, Jangaon, on Friday demanding action against priest Gangu Anjaneya Sharma.

According to local resident Lakkapalli Bhaskar, the priest refused to perform prayers when his family visited the temple. A further humiliation, he pointed out, was that they were forced to leave the premises as the priest said Dalits are not allowed to enter the temple.



The Anjaneya swamy temple in Jangaon.

— DC

As a result, the family members sat in front of the temple and began a protest. Several others joined them and raised slogans against the priest.

"We visited the temple and asked the priest to perform prayers for our family. On being told that we belonged to the Madiga community, he said they

would not perform prayers for Dalits. My wife was washing her feet to enter the temple while I was speaking to the priest. When he saw my wife, he stopped her immediately and asked us to leave the premises," Bhaskar said.

The police visited the spot after a large number of people gathered in front of the temple.

A complaint was filed in the Jangaon police station and the priest was arrested after an FIR was booked.

Jangaon police inspector D. Mallesh said they are investigating the case and collecting the statements of eye-witnesses.

Cracker sellers want govt to intervene

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 13

People purchase crackers from a wholesale shop at Bypass Road in Nizamabad on the eve of Diwali on Friday.

— DECCAN CHRONICLE



THE POLICE officials, of the four districts - Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli and Rajanna Sircilla - issued orders on the sale of crackers. They warned stringent action against those violating the orders.

others paid an advance and placed their order."

The officials of the revenue, fire and municipal departments have permitted shop owners to sell crackers on receiving their applications.

Some traders have established their crackers shop in the designated place allotted by the officials during the season. The trader's question, "After all this, a suddenly a ban

is imposed on crackers, where should we go and who will bear the losses?"

The Court should rethink and on the grounds of humanity give permission.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court issued interim orders on the ban of firecrackers, and gave judgement allowing the sale of green crackers much to the relief of the cracker sellers.

NO MAROON COLOUR PASSBOOKS FOR TRIBALS: HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, NOV. 13

The Telangana High Court directed the government not to issue maroon colour passbooks in tribal areas for recognition of rights over the structures raised in the Scheduled Areas constructed between February 3, 1970, and November 19 this year.

The court was dealing with a PIL filed by Adivasi Samkshema Parishath from Kothagudem. They submitted that people residing in Scheduled Areas were staying in properties without obtaining rythuwar patts.

Issuance of maroon colour passbooks for non-agricultural properties would automatically confer ownership, which is a violation of the 5th Schedule of the Constitution of India and is contrary to the Telangana Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulations 1/59 and its Amendments 1/70 enacted under the 5th Schedule, the Parishath said.

Dubbak marks beginning of the end to KCR's rule: Bandi

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, NOV. 13

The Dubbak byelection triumph is dedicated to the true workers of BJP and to party activist Srinivas, who died by suicide in Hyderabad, said party's state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday. BJP leaders felicitated Sanjay for the victory. Sanjay thanked the people of Dubbak and the victor, M. Raghunandhan Rao, and said that the election had attracted the attention of the nation.

"The locals saw through the game-plan of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and taught him a fitting lesson. The verdict marks the beginning of the end of his rule," Sanjay said.

He said that the BJP, which started its political journey with just two Lok Sabha seats in 1984, is now ruling the country. A similar story will be replicated statewide, he asserted.

The BJP leader took a dig at the Chief Minister for being silent when people faced a lot of problems during the recent rains and floods.

He wondered whether ₹10,000 that the government claims to have distributed to the victims was enough when they had lost everything in the floods. He slammed the government that barring the health minister no one from the Cabinet had visited any hospital to inspect the facilities provided for Covid-19 patients.

Slamming the state gov-



BJP leaders felicitate state chief and Karimnagar MP, Bandi Sanjay Kumar in Karimnagar on Friday.

— DC

THE BJP, which started its political journey with just two Lok Sabha seats in 1984, is now ruling the country. A similar story will be replicated statewide.

ernment's report to the Centre that it had constructed more than one lakh double bedroom houses for the homeless poor; Sanjay demanded a White Paper.

On farming, he said that on the Chief Minister's advise, farmers had cultivated the fine variety of rice in about 30 lakh acres, but the government without fixing the MSP was

betraying them.

To remove bottlenecks like middlemen and agents, the BJP government at the Centre brought the new agriculture laws, which are being opposed by the state government as it has not understood the benefits for farmers.

He said the petition filed in the High Court which led to a ban on firecrackers was a TRS plot. He wondered what would happen to the shop owners who had taken loans to procure firecrackers. By joining hands with the MIM, the TRS leadership was trying to demoralise Hindus and creating problems during Hindu festivals, he claimed.

DESPITE HC ORDER, CITIZENS THROG SHOP

NARENDER
PULLOOR | DC
NIZAMABAD, NOV. 13

Under restrictions, cracker sellers did brisk business on Friday in Nizamabad district. People thronged wholesale and retail cracker shops to purchase crackers. Following the orders of the High Court, the officials tried to halt sales of crackers in Nizamabad and Kamareddy district.

However, because of the emergency petition filed by the TS firecrackers dealers association, the Supreme Court permitted the sale and bursting of crackers

for a limited period.

Getting relief from this, traders sold crackers in huge quantities.

Under the Covid-19 pandemic situation, officials are worried that the virus may spread at a fast pace due to the pollution caused by the bursting of crackers. Meanwhile, the district administration in Nizamabad has stopped issuing licenses for the sale of crackers. According to officials, of the 116 applications received, 110 licenses were issued. In Nizamabad city, 35 cracker shops, were set up at the Government Polytechnic grounds.

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SHORT TAKES

NCB GRILLS ARJUN RAMPAL IN DRUGS PROBE

SAURABH JOSHI | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 13

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday grilled actor Arjun Rampal, days after grilling his girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades, in connection with the Bollywood drugs consumption and peddling probe. The questioning went on till late in the evening after it started at around 11 am. The actor allegedly submitted a medical prescription to the NCB in support of the tablets that were seized from his residence.

Rampal was grilled from 11 am to 6 pm by a team of NCB at their Ballard Pier office. The investigators said that Rampal was initially summoned by the NCB on Wednesday but he turned up on Friday. While the officials grilled the actor, his friend who is also a foreign national, Paul Giryard was arrested by the NCB officials, on Thursday. He was summoned and grilled by the NCB following which he was placed under arrest. Prior to the questioning of Rampal, the NCB grilled his girlfriend for two consecutive days.

KUNAL KAMRA REFUSES TO SAY SORRY

New Delhi, Nov. 13: A petition was on Friday filed in the Supreme Court seeking initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra for his alleged scandalous tweets against the apex court.

The plea was filed a day after Attorney General K.K. Venugopal granted consent for initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against Kamra, saying the tweets are in bad taste and it is time that people understand that attacking the apex court brazenly will attract punishment under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1972.

The consent of either the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is necessary, under section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, for initiating contempt proceedings against a person.

Kunal Kamra on Friday refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they speak for themselves.

"The tweets I recently put out have been found in contempt of court. All that I tweeted was from my view of the Supreme Court of India giving a partial decision in favour of a Prime Time Loudspeaker, he said in a statement addressed to Venugopal and the judges on his Twitter page. My view hasn't changed because the silence of the Supreme Court of India on matters of other's personal liberty cannot go uncriticized. I don't intend to retract my tweets or apologise for them. I believe they speak for themselves, he added.

Festive spirit at its peak



Devotees decorated Kedarnath temple with 10 quintals of flowers in Kedarnath on Friday on the eve of Diwali festival. President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday asked people to take a resolve to become a lamp of hope and prosperity for the poor, destitute and needy this Diwali by sharing happiness.

— PTI

Delhi reports over 7k Coronavirus cases

Home ministry is monitoring the sharp increase in cases

DC CORRESPONDENT With agency inputs NEW DELHI, NOV. 13

With 44,879 fresh cases, India's overall tally of Coronavirus reached 87.28 lakh on Friday. However, the number of active cases are 4,84,547 and the total recoveries have crossed 81.15 lakh taking country's recovery rate to 92.97 per cent.

The death toll has reached 1,28,668 after 547 more fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours as case fatality rate declined to 1.47 per cent. "India continues to report a trend of steadily declining active cases. For the third day after the active cases dropped below the 6 lakh mark after nearly three months, progressive decline has been maintained. The active cases have dropped to only 6.97% of the total positive cases of the country demonstrating a steady falling percentage of the total cases," Union health ministry officials said.

Officials added with the consistent decline in the active cases, the cases per million in India is among the lowest in the world. India's average cases per million stand at 5,930.

With over 7,000 cases in a day, Delhi is one of the epicenters of the virus followed by Kerala and West Bengal. However, northern states like Haryana and Rajasthan that have seen a drop in new cases are once again reporting a surge in fresh cases.

The home ministry which is closely monitoring the sharp increase in Coronavirus cases in the national capital is of the view that the cases would start coming down and the situation would once again return to normalcy within the next 8 to 10 days.

Delhi has been recording more than 7,000 cases on average over the last few days in view of the ongoing festive season, increased pollution and onset of winter.

In fact, in the last 24 hours there have been 100 deaths due to Coronavirus in the capital.

This has forced home secretary Ajay Bhalla to personally take charge of the situation and hold regular review meetings on the issue.

"We have done our own internal assessment and are of the opinion that the situation should once again return to normal within the next 8 to 10 days. By normal we mean that the number of cases being reported daily would once again drop drastically to less than a 1,000 daily," a senior home ministry official said.

Ministry officials claimed that the medical facilities in the city were adequate. Even in private hospitals, officials added the situation was under control with adequate beds being available even in the ICU.

Both Delhi government and the ministry have already reserved a large number of beds in private hospitals for the

Coronavirus patients.

Officials admitted that Delhi was witnessing a "third wave" of Coronavirus, but it had already reached a peak and the situation would stabilise over the next few days.

The home ministry in a statement also emphasised that Metro rail travel should be carefully regulated as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

"The recent surge in the number of active cases was attributed to the festival season, which has witnessed greater movement of people, accompanied by laxity in adhering to the basic principles of safe Covid-19 behaviour," the statement said.

The strategy to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Delhi, especially keeping in view the festival season and decreasing temperatures accompanied by rising pollution, was discussed at length with representatives of the health ministry and experts.

FORMER NC MLA BARRED FROM TRAVELLING TO DUBAI

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, NOV. 13

A former National Conference (NC) lawmaker claimed on Friday that he was prevented from travelling to Dubai by the Immigration officials at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and was forced to return to Srinagar.

Altaf Ahmed Kaloo, the NC's former MLA representing Pahalgaon constituency of Anantnag district, said that he was stopped at the immigration counter at the IGIA, detained for more than four hours and barred from travelling to Dubai where he had to attend a function of the extended family.

"I was barred from boarding a Dubai-bound airplane. I was scheduled to visit Dubai to attend a family function but to my shock, I was stopped and detained for more than four hours," he told reporters here.

He claimed that the officials concerned told him that he figured in the exit control list which also has 37 other politicians from Jammu and Kashmir "who won't be allowed to travel outside country".

WB REGISTERS RECORD RECOVERY OF 4,468 COVID-19 PATIENTS

Kolkata, Nov. 13: West Bengal on Friday reported the highest single-day recovery of 4,468 Covid-19 patients, taking the total number of cured people to 3,85,617, the health department said in a bulletin.

The discharge rate went up to 90.80 per cent on Friday from 90.57 per cent on Thursday.

The Covid-19 death toll in the state rose to 7,557 with 51 more people succumbing to the disease, the bulletin said.

North 24 Parganas district registered 17 fresh deaths, followed by Kolkata at 10. The remaining fatalities were reported from several

other districts.

As many as 3,835 fresh cases were reported from different parts of the state, pushing the tally to 4,24,675. The percentage of positive cases out of samples tested stood at 8.27 per cent, it said.

Since Thursday, 44,312 samples have been tested in the state and the number of active cases stood at 31,501 on Friday, it said.

A total of 51,36,012 samples have been tested in West Bengal so far, the bulletin said.

A total of 51,36,012 samples have been tested in West Bengal so far, the bulletin said.

— PTI

MP minister asks people to defy babu's order on crackers

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, NOV. 13

A minister in the Shivraj cabinet was locked in a battle with a district collector in Madhya Pradesh, who is also his son-in-law, over bursting of firecrackers on Diwali, which falls on Saturday.

State home minister Narottam Mishra on Friday literally called upon people to defy the order by Bhopal district collector Avinash Lavania, imposing a specified period from 8 pm to 10 pm for use of crackers by the revelers on Diwali.

The district collector on Thursday issued an order under Section 144 of the CrPc, making use of firecrackers other than green crackers on Diwali an offence. The order also restricted bursting of firecrackers to the specified period.

The district collector's order was in accordance

with the directive by National Green Tribunal (NGT) in this regard.

"He (the district collector) may have issued the notification as per NGT directive. But, there is no need to observe the time limit imposed for bursting of crackers. This is our festival. One should enjoy the festival to the hilt and burst crackers as long as one desires", Mishra told reporters here.

He, however, called upon the people to follow the Covid-19 guidelines while celebrating the festival of lights.

The minister's remarks have created a flutter in the political as well as official circles here.

"The minister has made a mockery of law by exhorting people to ignore the district collector's order. He has forgotten that he is home minister of the state and is bound by Constitutional obligations to ensure strict enforcement

of law. But, he overlooked his Constitutional responsibilities by asking people to ignore the order for cheap popularity", former minister and MP Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) vice-president Raja Pateria said.

Former chief secretary of MP K.S. Sharma has expressed dismay and shock over the minister's remarks.

"It is very strange and shocking that a minister is appealing to the people to ignore the order issued by a district collector of his state. It is not appropriate for a minister to make such an appeal to the people. A government functionary cannot nullify an official order unless the government adopts change in the policy", he observed.

Mishra had earlier sparked a row when he chose to defy Covid-19 guidelines by not wearing a face mask in public. Incidentally, he held the health portfolio then.

Kodiyeri quits as CPM Kerala chief

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV. 13

Kerala CPM's powerful state secretary Mr Kodiyeri Balakrishnan on Friday stepped down from the post citing health reasons a day after his son Bineesh Kodiyeri who is an accused in money laundering case linked to a drug racket, was sent to Parapana Agrahara jail in Bengaluru.

LDF convener A Vijayaraghavan has been given the additional charge of party state secretary for the time being.

An official statement issued by CPM state secretariat here said that Mr Balakrishnan's request for leave to undergo medical treatment had been accepted by the party leadership.

LDF convener A Vijayaraghavan will officiate as state secretary in his absence, the party release said.

However, the period of leave has not been mentioned. Kodiyeri's leave comes close on the heels of investigating agencies including the Enforcement Directorate tightening their noose around Bineesh Kodiyeri.

The damning revelations being made by ED in connection with the money laundering case had made Kodiyeri's continuation in the post untenable.

Though the state and cen-

● **KODIYERI'S LEAVE** comes close on the heels of investigating agencies including the Enforcement Directorate tightening their noose around his son Bineesh Kodiyeri.

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Didi reaches out to Adhikari to stop him from quitting

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, NOV. 13

Within hours of foiling Trinamul Congress MLA Becharam Manna's exit from the party, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday evening reached out to her rebel cabinet colleague, Shubhendhu Adhikari through her election strategist Prashant Kishor with offers of talks and post in her desperate bid to stop his defection to the BJP ahead of the next year's Assembly election.

Adhikari, however, remained out of her radar. Revolted against the Trinamul supremo's style of leadership at various rallies under apolitical banner, the Nandigram MLA has been maintaining distance from her and the ruling party for the last several months.

The heavyweight minister with three key portfolios was also conspicuous by his absence in the recent cabinet meeting chaired by

Banerjee at the state secretariat.

At around 8.30 pm Kishor alongwith three members of his IPAC team visited Adhikari's residence at Shantikunja in Contai of East Midnapore.

The TMC heavyweight and his brother, Dibyendu Adhikari, a TMC MP from Tamluk were not at home then. But their father, Sisir Adhikari, also a TMC MP from Contai and a former union minister, was present there.

Kishor spoke to him for nearly an hour during which he wanted to have a word with Shubhendhu from his father's mobile to open the party's channel of talks with him, according to sources.

But Shubhendhu refused to speak to Kishor after his father called him up. A proposal of a meeting between the CM and Shubhendhu with an offer of a key post for him in the party was given to Sisir then before Kishor left with his team, sources said.

BJP will not come to power in Maha for 25 years: Raut

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, NOV. 13

Upset over BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's allegations of corruption against the Thackeray family, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut on Friday said that his party will ensure that the BJP remains out of power in Maharashtra for next 25 years. Another Sena leader Gulabrao Deokar said that Somaiya has mental problems and needs to be given "electric shock".

Raut also termed Somaiya "enemy of Maharashtra" and said that no matter how much Somaiya prattles on, the MVA government will remain in power for the next five years and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would sit in opposi-

tion for 25 years.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya has alleged that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's wife had done 21 land transactions with Anvay Naik, who had committed suicide in the year 2018. Last week, editor-in-chief of Republic TV Arnab Goswami was arrested for abatement of suicide of Naik.

The BJP leader has claimed that he has official papers of the transitions, which are "suspicious".

Rebutting the allegations, Raut said that Somaiya is free to go anywhere be it Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or Interpol for probe into the land dealings.

Raut further said that

PM'S DREAM TO MAKE AYODHYA VEDIC RAMAYANA CITY: ADITYANATH

Ayodhya (UP), Nov. 13: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to development Ayodhya as "Vedic Ramayana City" and it should be the most beautiful city.

"Our generation is not only fortunate to see the start of the construction of a Ram temple here but we also attended the historic event. In the struggle of 500 years, many saints passed away with a dream to see the start of construction. I thank PM Modi who is the one who implemented the ideology of Ram Rajya," Adityanath said while addressing the fourth 'Deepotsav', an event to mark Diwali here.

The Prime Minister had performed the 'bhoomi puja' of a Supreme Court-mandated Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5 this year, bringing to fruition the BJP's 'mandir' movement that defined its politics for three decades and took it to the heights of power. The Chief Minister said when he used to come here for development work, those who met him only used to say, "Yogiji Ram mandir nirman karwaaye (Yogiji get the construction of Ram temple done)." "I used to only ask them to trust Modiji," he added.

"It is the dream of PM Modi to develop Ayodhya as Vedic Ramayana City and it should be the most beautiful. We are here to seek support of you all as to how it can be developed that it has glimpse of a Vedic city," the Chief Minister said.

"He (PM) himself came for starting that work of construction of Ram temple following Covid-19 protocol and gave strength to the concept of Ram Rajya, in which there is no discrimination on the bases of caste, creed, religion, language, region area etc. There is honour and security for all. He gave schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, free cylinders, power connection, toilets for the poor and showed the way for development," Adityanath added.

— PTI

IN BRIEF

'Yorkshire Ripper'
UK killer dies at 74

London: A notorious British serial killer dubbed the "Yorkshire Ripper" after murdering 13 women across northern England between 1975 and 1980 died on Friday aged 74. Sutcliffe was convicted in 1981 of 13 murders and seven more attempted murders after a reign of terror that is still seared on the public memory. He received 20 life sentences and was ordered to serve at least 30 years in prison, but in 2010 a High Court judge ruled that he should never be freed. Sutcliffe had tested positive for Covid-19 but according to British media reports this week had refused treatment. No immediate cause of death was given. Boris Johnson's spokesman said the prime minister's thoughts were with the victims, survivors and their families, calling Sutcliffe "a depraved and evil individual".

7 killed in Beijing
factory explosion

Beijing: Authorities say seven people have been killed and one injured in a factory explosion southwest of Beijing. The expanded polyethylene plant in Hebei province's Wuji county went up in flames around 6 pm on Thursday. Expanded polyethylene is a type of foam used in packaging and other industrial uses. The county government said search and rescue work has been concluded and the cause was under investigation. With its heavy industrial base, China suffers frequently from factory fires and explosions. In August 2015, a massive warehouse explosion rocked the port city of Tianjin, killing 173 people and injuring nearly 800. Investigators found the warehouse held illegal stores of ammonium nitrate, which caught fire and caused a series of blasts.

Suicide bomb kills
2, 4 hurt in Afghan

Kabul: A suicide car bomb exploded at the western entry gate of the Afghan capital on Friday killing at least two government security troops and wounding four others, an Afghan official said. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said the explosion targeted a government forces checkpoint near the gate. No one immediately claimed responsibility, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban. Violence and chaos have increased in Afghanistan in recent months even as government negotiators and the Taliban are meeting in Qatar to find an end to decades of relentless war in Afghanistan. The two sides have made little progress. The attack on the army checkpoint follows weeks of violence, including an attack by gunmen earlier this month claimed by the Islamic State group affiliate at Kabul University that killed 22 people, mostly students.

RISHI SUNAK
LIGHTS DIWALI
CANDLES

London, Nov. 13: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak marked the festival of Diwali by stepping out of his No. 11 Downing Street home in London to lay out a rangoli decoration and light four diyas at the doorstep. The 40-year-old Indian-origin finance minister, who is married to Akshata Murthy – the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, has spoken about being a "proud Hindu" over the years. His celebratory gesture on Thursday night marks a first for Downing Street, which annually sees the UK Prime Minister host a Diwali gathering and an Annakut, or spread of festive food, from London's Swaminarayan Mandir next door at No. 10. Sunak's message this Diwali was for British Hindus to follow the lockdown rules and refrain from the usual tradition of getting together with friends and family. "I know how difficult it is not to be able to see each other," Sunak said. "Just a couple more weeks and we are going to get through this and it's going to be so much better on the other side. We will have lots of happy times afterwards. But, to keep everyone safe right now, just follow the rules," he said. Diwali – which symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance – will be celebrated on Saturday.

Hesitant China finally congratulates Biden

Chinese foreign ministry is more forthcoming on Harris' win

Beijing, Nov. 13: China on Friday shed its initial hesitation and congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris for their victory in the 2020 US presidential election, saying Beijing respects the choice of the American people.

"We have been following reactions on the US elections from both within the US and the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when pointed out that more world leaders as well as United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres have congratulated 77-year-old Biden.

"We respect the American people's choice and we extend congratulations to Biden and Harris and we understand that the result of the US presidential elections will be determined following the US laws and procedures," Wang said.

China initially hesitated to congratulate Biden, a Democrat, after Republican incumbent President Donald Trump refused to concede. On November 9, Wang had declined to congratulate Biden on his victory, saying the outcome of the American election should be determined by the country's laws and procedures.

He, however, was more forthcoming on the victory of Harris as the first woman Vice-President-elect. When reminded about Chinese President Xi Jinping's statement calling for greater gender equality in a recent UN conference on women and does China have any comment on Harris, Wang quoted a Chinese saying which states women hold half of the sky. "In China, there is a saying that women hold half of the sky. China has been committed to realising gender equality and advancing women's development around the world," he said.

—PTI

Mark Zuckerberg 1st tech giant head to acknowledge Biden

Washington, Nov. 13: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has become the first head of a US tech giant who has acknowledged Democrat Joe Biden as the next president of the country, a media report has said.

Zuckerberg told his employees that the outcome of the November 3 election is now clear and Biden was to take over as the new president of the country, BuzzFeed, which obtained an audio of the meeting, reported on Thursday.

"I believe the outcome of the election is now clear and Joe Biden is going to be our next president," Zuckerberg was quoted as saying in the report on Thursday. The US media

NO EVIDENCE AMERICAN VOTE WAS COMPROMISED, SAYS ELECTION BODY

Washington, Nov. 13: There is no evidence of compromised ballots or corrupt voting systems in the US election, officials said on Thursday, as a top Democrat accused Republicans who refuse to accept President-elect Joe Biden's win of "poisoning" democracy.

Their messages came hours after President Donald Trump once again

cried foul, retweeting a baseless claim that an election equipment maker "deleted" 2.7 million votes for him nationwide.

Biden, who leads by more than five million in the popular vote, cemented his victory late Thursday by winning Arizona, US networks said, flipping the state Democratic for the first time since 1996.

—AFP

has projected Biden, a Democrat, as the winner of the 2020 presidential election. However, incumbent President Trump, a

Republican, is yet to concede defeat, vowing to mount legal fights in several key battleground states.

—PTI

Chinese firms out of bounds in US

Washington, Nov. 13: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from investing in Chinese firms deemed to be supplying or supporting Beijing's military and security apparatus, earning a sharp rebuke from China.

The order listed 31 companies on Thursday it said China was using for the "increasing exploitation" of US investment capital to fund military and intelligence services, including the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction.

US-China relations have deteriorated sharply during Trump's presidency, and this was the latest in a series of executive orders and regulatory actions

that have targeted China's economic and military expansion.

On Friday, Beijing lashed out at the US for "abusing state power to arbitrarily oppress Chinese companies", saying the move "severely undermines" trade and investment cooperation between both countries.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular press briefing that the US should "stop its wrong behaviour" and withdraw its decision.

"This measure not only severely harms the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, it also hurts the interests of international investors including those from the US," Wang said.

—AFP

BIDEN CONQUERS ARIZONA TOO, FIRMLY ON TOP

Washington, Nov. 13: Joe Biden has won the state of Arizona, US networks said late Thursday, further cementing his lead in the Electoral College and flipping the state Democratic for the first time since 1996.

NBC, CBS, ABC and CNN declared Biden the winner in the tight race with a lead of more than 11,000 ballots, giving him the state's 11 electoral votes.

Fox News and The Associated Press called the race in the southwestern state in Biden's favor on Election Night, triggering the wrath of president Donald Trump, but the other outlets held off on declaring a winner until after nine days of ballot counting.

—AFP

UK PM's top aide to exit amid power struggle

London, Nov. 13: The disquiet caused by a power struggle at the very top of the UK government, which spilled out into the open earlier this week with a high-profile exit from Downing Street, seemed to intensify on Friday as it emerged that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's senior-most aide is to also resign by Christmas next month. Dominic Cummings, one of Johnson's most influential and high-profile aides as his Chief Strategy Adviser, has not formally announced his resignation but a Cabinet minister confirmed that he is on his way out.

"He'll be missed... But advisers come and go," UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told Sky News. "In any government, you

● **AS PART** of Johnson's top team, Cummings, 48, is widely credited with helping secure the UK Prime Minister's thumping General Election victory in December 2019.

require people who are going to shake things up and come up with ideas, and he's actually been that person," he said.

As part of Johnson's top team, Cummings, 48, is widely credited with helping secure the UK Prime Minister's thumping General Election victory in December 2019.

The largely behind-the-scenes influencer found himself in the limelight earlier this year when he was accused of breaching lockdown rules by making

a trip from London to the north-east of England, at a time when he feared he could have contracted Coronavirus.

There were resounding calls for him to step down or be sacked but he instead hosted a press conference to deny allegations of wrongdoing. In a blog post in January, Cummings had hinted that he planned to leave his role by the end of the year, saying he hoped to make himself "largely redundant" by then.

However, according to sources being quoted across the UK media, the exit of one of his own close allies in Downing Street – Lee Cain as the No. 10 Director of Communications – had precipitated his exit plans.

—AP

US makes comeback in Covid restrictions as infections surge

Washington, Nov. 13: The mayor of the United States' third biggest city Chicago issued a new stay-at-home advisory on Thursday, as the country's Covid-19 outbreak shattered records in the absence of a national strategy by President Donald Trump.

Lori Lightfoot called on the Midwestern city's 2.7 million people to go out only for essential tasks or to attend work or school, to scrap Thanksgiving plans and to avoid travel.

"Every single one of us needs to step up and 'Protect Chicago' right now, or 2020 could go from bad to worse," said an explanatory note on the city's website.

It comes as the United States, already the world's

France remembers 2015 Paris attacks



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, left, and French Prime Minister Jean Castex, 2nd left, participate in a wreath laying ceremony, marking the 5th anniversary of the November 13, 2015 attacks outside the Bonne Biere cafe bar in Paris, on Friday. In silence and mourning, France is marking five years since 130 people were killed by Islamic State extremists who targeted the Bataclan concert hall, Paris cafes and national stadium. —AP

Obama recalls Rahul as a 'student eager to impress'

New York, Nov. 13: Former US president Barack Obama says Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has a "nervous, unformed quality" about him like a student eager to impress the teacher but lacking aptitude and passion to "master the subject."

The New York Times reviewed Obama's memoir 'A Promised Land', in which among other issues, the first person of colour

American President has talked about political leaders from around the world.

On Gandhi, Obama says he has "a nervous, unformed quality about him, as if he were a student who'd done the coursework and was eager to impress the teacher but deep down lacked either the aptitude or the passion to master the subject," according to The New York Times review.

Gandhi's mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi also appears to find mention in the memoir. The NYT review said in the memoir "we are told of the handsomeness of men like Charlie Crist



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with former US president Barack Obama. — Twitter

and Rahm Emanuel, but not the beauty of women, except for one or two instances, as in the case of Sonia Gandhi."

Former US Secretary of Defence Bob Gates and former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh both come across as having a kind of impassive integrity, the review states.

It added that Russian President Vladimir Putin reminds Obama of the tough, street-smart ward bosses who used to run

the Chicago machine. "Physically, he was unremarkable," Obama writes of Putin.

The 768-page memoir, expected to hit the stands on November 17, chronicles Obama's childhood and political rise, before diving deeply into his historic 2008 campaign and first four years in office.

Obama was the first African-American president of the United States. He visited India twice as the US President — in 2010 and 2015.

—PTI

PESHAWAR HC CJ WHO SENTENCED MUSHARRAF DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

Peshawar, Nov. 13: Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Seth, who handed down the death sentence to former Pakistan president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf in the high treason case, passed away due to coronavirus-related complications at a private hospital in Islamabad, officials said on Friday.

He was 59 and is survived by his wife and a

daughter. He belonged to Dikhan district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Seth tested positive for Covid-19 on October 22 and was subsequently admitted to a hospital in Peshawar. He was later shifted to Kulsum International Hospital in Islamabad, where he succumbed to the deadly viral infection on Thursday, the officials said.

—PTI

The seven-day-average of new daily cases currently stands above 1,25,000, more than 65,000 people are hos-

pitalised, and more than 1,000 people are dying every day, according to data from the Covid Tracking Project.

Four states, including former global epicenter New York, have in recent days ordered restaurants and bars to close at 10:00 pm. And in embattled North Dakota, the governor has authorized Covid-19 positive medics who don't have symptoms to keep working in virus wards.

President Trump, who has focused his energies recently on trying to overturn the election victory of his rival Joe Biden through legal challenges, rarely talks about the pandemic anymore, but has always opposed sweeping lockdowns.

—AFP

VIRAL | VIDEO

Stunt 'violated the professional requirements' for protection of panda

Korean group's panda stunt angers China

Beijing, Nov. 13: A publicity stunt involving South Korean girl group Blackpink and a cuddly baby panda has prompted outraged comments and calls for an apology from some in China.

The endangered animals are native only to China, which claims ownership over all pandas loaned to foreign zoos, including those born abroad. Many Chinese are particularly sensitive about representations of what they view as a national symbol, sentiments fed by rising nationalism that often takes its most virulent form on the internet.

The outrage over a video of group members cuddling the baby panda in Everland Zoo near Seoul may also reflect a growing awareness of animal wel-



Rose, Jenni Kim, and Lisa of Blackpink perform at the Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, California. A publicity stunt involving South Korean girl group Blackpink and a cuddly baby panda has prompted outraged comments and calls for an apology from some in China.

—AP file

fare, with the China Wildlife Conservation Association among those raising their voices.

The stunt "violated the professional requirements

for protection of the giant panda," the group said, adding that the zoo should improve its management to ensure such incidents do not happen again.

THE ENDANGERED animals are native only to China, which claims ownership over all pandas loaned to foreign zoos, including those born abroad

In comments under a posting of national broadcaster CCTV's report on the controversy, users called for apologies from the band and their management and some form of explanation from the zoo itself. "If it's all about the money and you cannot or don't wish to take proper care of (the pandas), then give them back to us," wrote one person, using the name Jenea.y. "K-pop" bands such as Blackpink are hugely popular in China, as well as in South Korea, Japan and

elsewhere. But politics poses a particular challenge for those seeking fame and fortune in the vast Chinese market. Any hint of criticism of China's ruling Communist Party — and its take on major historical events — or support for an independent Taiwanese identity or for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong can bring a major fan backlash, egged on by state media and Chinese diplomats.

South Koreans tend to be the biggest targets of such attacks, along with Americans and Japanese. Last month, Chinese nationalists unloaded on South Korean boy band BTS after its leader thanked Korean War veterans for their sacrifices.

—AP

DECCAN Chronicle

14 NOVEMBER 2020

Brainstorm revival steps to take in the short term

Announcing the third tranche of the stimulus package on Thursday, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government's focus was on bringing back the economy on the growth path. The stimulus package was estimated to be ₹2.7 lakh crore, which translates to 1.4 per cent of the GDP. The package touches upon all key segments of the economy, such as industry, agriculture, employment generation, real estate and infrastructure, among others. Reforms address some of the long-pending demands of the industry, such as production-linked incentives, which could potentially attract companies that want to diversify their supply chains.

Notwithstanding its goal, the package does not give the economy and the people what they need right now: Revival of demand. Most of the announcements on Thursday were of the medium-term nature. They are, no doubt, good, but they won't provide any solution to the current problem, which is sagging demand. The Covid-19 pandemic has made several contact-intensive industries to shut or operate at abysmally low capacities, which resulted in massive retrenchments. While this had eliminated the enormous purchasing power that these people collectively wielded, the reluctance of those having cash to splurge in these uncertain times has further mauled the demand in the Indian economy.

Retail inflation continued to be high, which, unless addressed immediately, could affect people's lives and also slow down India's economic recovery

Though there have been encouraging signs of demand revival as suggested by the collection of GST, one cannot say if it is a normal demand revival or the pent-up demand, which was released ahead of the festive season. The revival of demand, therefore, should have been the focus of the government. However, it continues to ignore the advice of the economists and appears keen on letting the economy heal itself—a course that would be painful for most of the population. Despite its claims of providing a combined stimulus, whose size is 15 per cent of the GDP, experts claim that the actual fiscal component—the money spent by the government—would be less than two per cent of the GDP. Further, the government expects no additional borrowing. In the backdrop of falling tax revenue, no additional borrowing means the government would be diverting other budgeted expenditure for spending on the stimulus package, which means it won't spend any extra money.

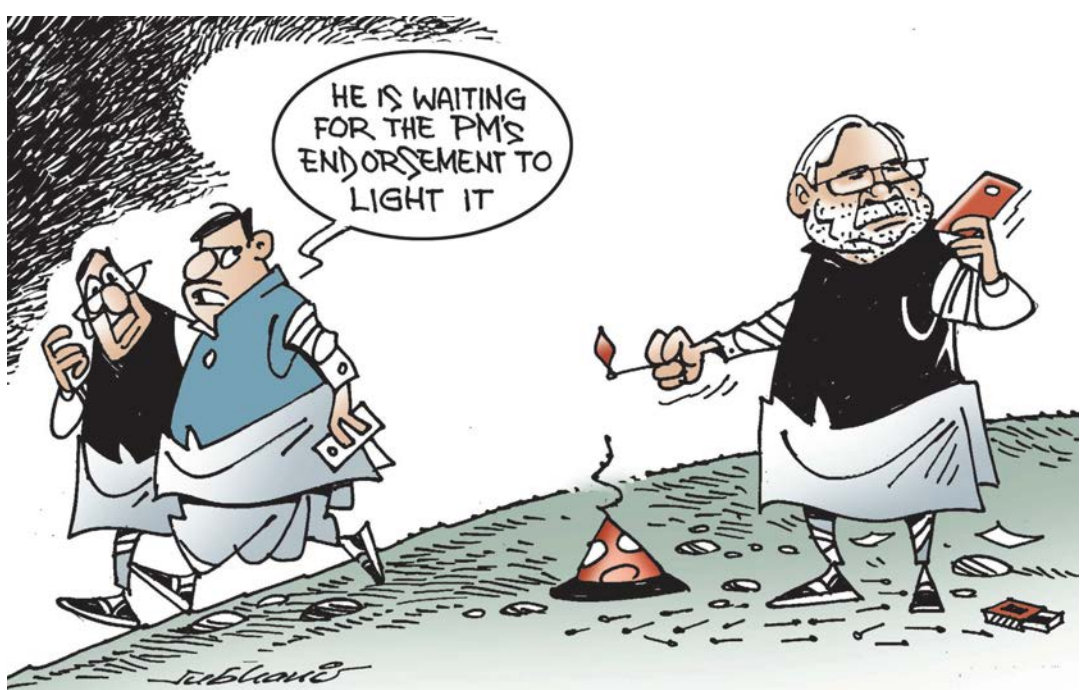
Incentives offered for real estate, and housing could improve home sales and have a spill-over effect on other businesses, such as furnishing and building products, and create employment in the construction sector. This alone, however, cannot restore the demand in the economy. If one goes by data of inflation and industrial production (IIP), there is nothing to cheer about as yet. The demand for capital goods, which indicates a booming economy, continues to be in the negative territory. Retail inflation continued to be high, which, unless addressed immediately, could affect people's lives and also slow down India's economic recovery. The government should, therefore, also focus on immediate short-term steps to revive the economy, without losing focus on medium-term and long-term economic goals, because as famous economist John Maynard Keynes said, "In the long term, we are all dead."

Owaisi's reach is growing

The Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e Ittehadul Muslimeen (or Muslim Unity Party) and its leader Asaduddin Owaisi have lately drawn analytical attention. Were it not for this party being in the fray in the recent Bihar Assembly polls in a Muslim-preponderant region, many think the NDA might have lost to the Mahagathbandhan, the Opposition coalition of the RJD, Congress, and Left parties. The AIMIM won five seats and 1.24 per cent of the votes, but this percentage would be higher if voting for only the Seemanchal region is considered. If the AIMIM had received just half a per cent fewer votes, the anti-NDA parties could have made it.

But it is clear that Mr Owaisi has every right to contest elections where he wishes. It is for the anti-BJP parties (the so-called secular forces typically) to open political channels to the AIMIM. This is not likely to be easy, though. To begin with, Mr Owaisi aims for Muslim votes. Therefore, the parties that attract his ire in an election are those that have traditionally attracted Muslim votes. This is why, politically, he does not go for the BJP and its allies, giving them an easy ride. In that sense Mr Owaisi's forays in Muslim areas are useful to the BJP. But what appears evident is that Mr Owaisi is doing his best to grow the AIMIM as an all-India Muslim party, inasmuch as the BJP is a Hindu party. In 2015, his party drew a blank in Bihar but this time round it has won as many as five seats. In Maharashtra Assembly too it has won seats and also has an MP from that state. Now the AIMIM leader has announced his intention to fight in West Bengal and UP. The continued existence of caste and religious parties is not healthy for the spread of the democratic ethos in this country. Identity-based electoral and political consolidation is a complex phenomenon but in part it derives from the failure of centrist forces represented by the Congress or the Janata Party earlier, or even the Left.

Subhani



How to be a good loser... Don needs crash course

Shobhaa De

This year, Dhanteras was celebrated on what the West deems an ominous day—Friday the 13th. Well... ominous for some is auspicious for someone else. India is lighting diyas, and let's not spoil the fun. I know I should be focusing on momentous events, closer to home—like the Bihar elections. But a timely meme said it all. It showed a super glamourised image of actor Ratna Pathak (bouffant hair, cat eyeglasses) advising her beta not to discuss the Bihar elections, since it is so "middle class". Such is the dilemma faced by us urban idiots, we did indeed follow the American presidential race pretty breathlessly, while being pretty indifferent to what was going on in *hamara* Bihar. Well, that's also because we kinda knew what would happen in Bihar—and it did! Whereas the bitterly fought battle for the White House, between Orange Hair and Boring Biden, provided more *mazaa*. If you ask me, the guy who really won the White House back for his party (the Democrats) is the guy who never wanted to leave it in the first place—Barack Obama. It was this man's solo crusade that did the trick for Boring Biden. Because, in truth, the average American is not all that different from the average Indian—we happily fall for "BS". Besides, Donald Trump did indeed bag eight million more votes this time! Had it not been for the most charismatic living politician (Obama) working relentlessly for Boring Biden and Coma-la, Orange Hair would have cruised back in *aaram se*. This is the thing about democracies (please note: India still counts itself as

Had it not been for the most charismatic living politician (Obama), Orange Hair would have cruised back in. This is the thing about democracies, the lowest common denominator generally leads the rally.

one), the lowest common denominator generally leads the rally. Barack Obama galvanised the troops and tapped into the seething rage generated by #BlackLivesMatter, as he went after Donald Trump in a campaign that should serve as the ultimate master class in astute politicking. Back home, we have become accustomed to the BJP winning—whatever, whenever, and however! Anything else comes as a jolt. Nitish Kumar has been lordling it over Bihar for 15 long years. He really doesn't give a flying eff about dull issues like the future of migrant workers or how to deal with Covid-19. His gameplan is simple—to stay put. Finished. But aha—how can we overlook the Owaisi factor? What was that? Should we take it at face value? Is it just a simple case of a shrewd tactician playing his cards expertly? Or... or... or! Politics is all about "setting" and "jugaad". Owaisi did his numbers well. Cannot take that away from this wily fox who can out-talk even the most garrulous anchors and panelists on television "debates". With Bihar behind us, the IPL over, and Covid still around, everyone is wondering what to do during this festive season. The "no *patakas*" ruling (thank God!) in most

cannot be manufactured by managers and agents. It is so evident that these two all-time great tennis champions possess the one quality that separates the men from the boys—an abundance of confidence. Compare them to the Joker with his tantrums on and off the court, and one can easily see who wins the popular vote.

It is said true character gets revealed not when you win big but when you lose even bigger. Some of our superstars in Bollywood and cricket need to remind themselves of this aspect of competition—films flop, someone else gets the role, heartbreaks happen, box office records are broken, more wickets are taken, and the spotlight shifts to the next one and the next one and the next one. True achievements never tarnish. In India, we have many number of sterling examples—men and women, who inspire generations to put the best foot forward and not obsess over "legacy".

There is something truly hideous about boastfulness, especially during a time like this, when the whole world is dealing with stress and confusion. Chest thumping is easy—watch an alpha male gorilla to figure out how it's done. But when the prevalent and dominating political culture in the country actively advocates belligerent egotism and steps in with unseemly alacrity to "save" a particularly obnoxious television anchor who has made a career out of bulldozing opponents and fabricating narratives, it is best to say "*Hari Om*!", and remind ourselves that even the mighty eventually fall with a thud despite all the cushioning provided by powerful mentor-sponsors. You can be the biggest loser on earth while foolishly believing you have won! BTW, the biryani in Taloja remains top class.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

JUDICIARY'S APATHY

The High Court order on crackers is yet another example of judiciary's apathy (HC tells TS to ban crackers on Diwali, DC, Nov. 13). How did the court expect small merchants to recover their investment within half-a-day's notice?

K.R.K.S. Murthy
Hyderabad

DIWALI CRACKERS

It is unfortunate that somebody has to force people and the government to fulfil their responsibility in tackling Covid. Earlier, the High Court had pulled up the state for fudging data on Coronavirus cases and Covid tests. Hope the state government will take proactive measures in dealing with the pandemic.

Dr O.Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

PLIGHT OF INNOCENT

In thousands of cases, innocent people are being accused on the basis of an FIR without looking into facts and are being harassed by police/courts/and other law enforcement agencies. Even High Courts do not distinguish between the innocent and the accused. As a result thousands of innocent people are being deprived of their personal liberty and freedom. Many of them, I am sure, do not have the means to approach the apex court for relief. Why can't an innocent person get automatic relief within a given time frame, and be set free?

B.K. Mohanty
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

300 killed in E. Pak tidal wave

CALCUTTA, Nov. 13 About 300 people were feared killed in today's cyclone in the coastal areas of Khulna district of East Pakistan. Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan A.K Choudhury told UNI here tonight.

He said the reports he had received said Khulna district bore the brunt of the storm.

He said weather reports indicated that another cyclone was likely to hit parts of East Pakistan tonight.

A tidal wave, apparently started by a hurricane, has hit the island of Dubla in the Bay of Bengal and is feared to have washed away several thousand Hindu pilgrims.

Farrukh Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"Why do we in temperate India Read about poetic snouts Which foreign poets celebrate In metaphors none of us knows? Yes, we sing hymns to the monsoon, The downpours which each year Bring promises of renewal When thunderous clouds appear. — From Godrej to Road Rage by

Bachchoo

Dear Narendra Saheb, Pradhan Mantriji,

I address you as a petitioner on a matter which has, I am sure, occupies the minds of millions in our constantly changing world. I mean, as you can see from global reports, particularly in the last weeks from France and Vienna, that there have been murders and terrorist attacks in the name of Islam in Europe. After the beheading of a schoolteacher in France and the murder of people in the Notre Dame cathedral of Nice, President Emmanuel Macron declared his policy of war on Islamist terrorism. He was, commendably, careful to say

that his offensive was not against the religion but against those that interpret it as an injunction or licence to murder the innocent.

He has declared a relentless campaign by the French state to eliminate terrorism emanating from this particular interpretation of Islam which, according to very many scholars and to the philosophy of many schools of the religion, is anti-Islamic and amounts to the ideas of deviant savants who instituted death-cults and insisted they were the authentic religion.

President Macron's declared offensive is fraught with difficulty as the French police say they have 20,000 individuals whom they need to keep under surveillance as they have indicated in one way or another their adherence to or sympathy for the ideas of the contemporary death-cult. Mr Macron's initiative is welcomed by the citizens of France but his efforts and that of the French state, or that of the Austrians, British, other Europeans, Americans or even the Pakistani state (which has been ambivalent towards this phenomenon) will obviously not solve what is now a universal occurrence. The Trump adminis-

tration of the US didn't seem to distinguish between Islam and the Islamicist death-cults. Mr Trump and his aides perhaps didn't understand any distinction and declared bans on citizens of certain parts of the globe.

The reason is that Islam today is a universally divided house. In the states which call themselves Islamic, the factions of Sunnis and Shias fight and kill each other in terror attacks as in Pakistan, or in factional armies, supported by foreign powers, as in Syria, or as opposing national states with deadly foreign-manufactured-and-marketed weapons as in the Yemen. ISIS, declaring itself heir to the world, began its murderous campaigns in Islamic countries, fighting Muslims in the name of Islam.

No country, no state, has gone any distance to set any sort of example to bring peace where there is war and hope where there is the underlying despair that leads to the murder of innocents. The wisest world opinion has concluded that only Muslims can bring about this peace or defeat of death cults in the Islamic world. That's as obvious, gentle reader, as the nose on your face (apologies to

Surpanakha of the *Ramayan* who had hers cut off by Lakshman). But can they? Unlike Christianity, Islam has no Pope or archbishop to make a ruling. The fatwas abound, the killing continues.

And yet Narendrajii, there is one country that can offer examples of an attitude, a policy, strategies towards the future and set patterns and ideals for the rest of the world. Yes, Pradhan Mantriji, that country is Bharat Mata.

The theology of Islam didn't come to India in the shape of Muslim conquest. It came in the guise of the Sufi evangelists, the Chishtis and the Olyas. A scholar and prince such as Dara Shikoh, the brother of the bigoted Aurangzeb, recognised the closeness of Sufi Islam to the philosophical Advait Vedant of Shankara.

Every religion has beliefs and writings from the past which the modern worshipper discards and is forced, by sheer common sense and humane values, to neglect as things which have outlived their origins. No Christian should act on the dictates and punishments that Leviticus prescribes in his book in the Bible. Just so, there are passages in the Hindu scriptures about castes and the sta-

tus of women which don't accord with the democracy that brought your party and you to power. Of course, all the modern movements of Hinduism understand that.

Millions of our citizens go to temples to worship and also make a pilgrimage to Ajmer to the shrine and presence of a Sufi saint.

Yes, as my late friend V.S. Naipaul insisted, we should tell the truth about the atrocities that were visited by conquerors on the Indian population. Nothing should be swept under the carpet, including the atrocities, through thousands of years, of the ruling upper castes against those born as lower.

In the moments of the Black Lives Matter *morchas* in the United States and Britain we saw whites and blacks saying let us, while acknowledging it, put the history of division behind us.

I address this to you, Narendrajii, as being uniquely placed in the world to lead a country with a unique history to put the divisions of that history behind us and discover, recognise the inevitability of and anoint the avatar of the future India... of freedom from the devils of conflict. *Jai Hind!*



SHORT TAKES

Prajnesh downs Sock, in quarters

Cary, North Carolina (USA): Fighting hard, Prajnesh Gunneswaran prevailed over tough nut Jack Sock in three sets to sail into the quarterfinals of the Atlantic Tire Championships, an ATP Challenger event here. The fourth-seeded southpaw beat the former top-10 American 6-7(3), 6-2, 7-6(5) in a tight round two contest, which lasted almost three hours. The gritty Indian broke the serve of Sock, who reached a career-high singles ranking of eight in 2017 but is now placed 253, thrice and dropped his own serve only once in the slugfest. Prajnesh, ranked 146, next faces Brazilian qualifier Thomaz Bellucci for a place in the semi-finals of the \$52,080 hard court tournament. — PTI

Liverpool's Salah is Covid positive

Cairo, Egypt: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has tested positive for Covid-19 while on international duty for Egypt without showing any symptoms, the Egyptian Football Association announced Friday. Medical swabs on the national team "showed that our international player, Mohamed Salah, Liverpool star, was infected with the Coronavirus", it said in a tweet. It added that he was "not suffering from any symptoms". The tweet said other members of the Egyptian national team tested negative. Salah was observing medical protocols agreed in consultations between doctors in Egypt and Liverpool, a Coronavirus hotspot, and self isolating in a Cairo hotel room. — AFP

Handball polls on December 6

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad District Handball Association is conducting elections on December 6 at the Akshara International School in LB Nagar, Hyderabad, according to a press release. Two representatives each, preferably the president and secretary of the member association are eligible to participate in the elections. In their absence two representatives duly authorised jointly by the president and secretary will be acknowledged for onward submission to Returning Officer L. Srinivasa Rao, Advocate, the release read. All the affiliated member associations have to submit the names of the two representatives attending the elections along with photographs in the specified format to the Telangana Handball Association general secretary by hand on or before November 23, 5 pm.

Condolence meet for TT's Sultan

Hyderabad: A condolence meeting in memory of S. M. Sultan, former secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Table Tennis Association (APTTA) and senior vice president of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) was held at Anandnagar Welfare Association Sports Academy in Hyderabad on Friday. The poignant meet was attended by Telangana State Table Tennis Association president A. Narasimha Reddy, secretary P. Prakash Raju, vice presidents A. Narasimha Rao and Amrullah Dasthani, players, officials, parents among others.

Live on TV

CRICKET

Women's Big Bash League: Hobart Hurricanes vs Sydney Sixers from 10.10 am; Sydney Thunder vs Melbourne Stars from 1.35 pm; Sydney Thunder vs Perth Scorchers from 4.50 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

FORMULA ONE

Turkish Grand Prix: Third practice from 2.25 pm, Qualifying from 5.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

GOLF

Augusta Masters: From 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD

FOOTBALL

UEFA Nations League: San Marino vs Gibraltar from 7.30 pm; Cyprus vs Luxembourg from 10.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Germany vs Ukraine from 11.5 am (Sunday) on Sony Six; Portugal vs France from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2; Switzerland vs Spain from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 1; Sweden vs Croatia from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 3

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Islam Makhachev vs Rafael Dos Anjos and other bouts from 5.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

SCOTLAND SOAR

End two decades wait, qualify for prestigious Euro

Belgrade, Nov. 13: Scotland qualified for a first major international tournament since 1998 by reaching Euro 2020 thanks to a 5-4 win on penalties over Serbia after a 1-1 draw in Belgrade.

The Scots' demons of two decades without qualifying seemed set to reappear when Luka Jovic's 90th-minute header sent the game into extra time. Ryan Christie's opener had deservedly put the visitors in front during what had been a fine performance from Steve Clarke's men.

But just like in a semi-final shootout win over Israel, Scotland kept their cool with five perfect penalties and finally got over the line when David Marshall saved from Aleksandar Mitrovic.

Goalscorer Christie and captain Andy Robertson welled up with emotion as a generation of Scots can look forward to a major tournament for the first time. There is an extra reward of two matches at Hampden against the Czech Republic and Croatia and a clash with England come June.

Christie missed the play-off semifinal win over Israel last month after he was categorised as a close contact of Stuart Armstrong, who tested Covid-19 positive after joining up with the Scotland squad.

He spoke openly about the mental challenge of self-isolation for 14 days on his return to playing and hoped qualification can offer some relief to those struggling with lockdown restrictions in Scotland.

Scotland are now unbeaten in nine games stretching back 13 months and the confidence Clarke has instilled in his side showed as the visitors controlled the first 90 minutes.

Serbia had all the momentum going into extra time with Clarke having withdrawn Lyndon Dykes, Christie and McGinn towards the closing stages of normal time. Marshall had to produce a brilliant save from Nemanja Gudelj a winner. And the Derby goalkeeper was the hero in the shootout after Leigh Griffiths, McGregor, Scott McTominay, Oli McBurnie and Kenny McLean had found the net. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Scotland (Christie 52)	1
Serbia (Jovic 90)	1
(after extra time, Scotland win 5-4 on penalties)	
Hungary (Nego 88, Szoboszlai 90+2)	2
Iceland (Sigurdsson 11)	1
Slovakia (Kucka 17, Duris 110)	2
Northern Ireland (Skirniar 88-og)	1
North Macedonia (Pandev 56)	1
Georgia	0



Scotland players celebrate after winning the Euro 2020 play-off qualification football match against Serbia at the Red Star Stadium in Belgrade on Thursday. — AFP

Argentina held by Paraguay

Buenos Aires, Nov. 13: Argentina had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier at La Bombonera on Thursday, and Lionel Messi had what might have been a winning goal disallowed in the second half.

A Nicolas Gonzalez goal brought Argentina back level after Angel Romero's penalty put Paraguay in front at the home of Boca Juniors.

The result ends Argentina's perfect start in their bid to qualify for the 2022 finals in Qatar, after Lionel Scaloni's team claimed narrow wins last month at home to Ecuador and away to Bolivia.

They thought they had gone in front in the 58th minute when Giovani Lo Celso pulled the ball back for Messi to sidefoot low into the net, but the goal was eventually disallowed by the Brazilian officials for a foul by Gonzalez at the beginning of the move.

At least Argentina recovered from falling behind midway through the first half, when Romero converted a penalty awarded for a foul by Lucas Martinez Quarta on Newcastle United's Miguel Almiron.

The home side lost Exequiel Palacios to injury soon after, but his replacement Lo Celso delivered the corner for Gonzalez to head in the equaliser four minutes before half-time. — AFP



England's Harry Maguire (centre) in action during the international friendly football match against Ireland at Wembley stadium in London on Thursday. — AFP

Easy victory for England

London, Nov. 13: Gareth Southgate admitted he was impressed with Jack Grealish as the England winger sparked and Harry Maguire enjoyed a moment of redemption in Thursday's 3-0 friendly win against the Republic of Ireland.

Just 48 hours after the resignation of English Football Association chairman Greg Clarke following his offensive comments about the BAME and LGBT communities, Southgate's side showed no signs of being distracted by the controversy.

After being sent off in his previous England appearance against Denmark, Maguire captained his country for the first time and scored the opening goal at Wembley. It was a welcome boost for Maguire, who has endured a difficult campaign marred by his Greek court case and poor form for Manchester United and England.

Jadon Sancho bagged England's second goal before the interval and Dominic Calvert-Lewin made it three with a second-half penalty.

That was enough to seal England's first success against the Republic since 1985. Grealish, starting against the country he represented at youth level, caught the eye on the left flank as he justified the constant calls from fans and pundits for the Aston Villa star to be given a sustained run in the team.

"The two players in those roles, Jadon and Jack, they've got the freedom to go either side of the pitch and try and create overloads," Southgate said. — AFP

CARIBBEANS CLEAR COVID TEST ON KIWI TOUR

Christchurch, Nov. 13: The entire West Indies cricket contingent has cleared the third and final round of Covid-19 test and will be leaving for Queenstown on Friday ahead of the first warm-up match against New Zealand 'A' beginning November 20.

The Caribbean team has been in isolation since arriving in New Zealand on October 30 for the T20I and Test series. All the members had cleared the first two rounds of testing. "All members of the West Indies team have returned negative results from their third and final Covid-19 tests, conducted on Day 12 of the ongoing tour of New Zealand," West Indies Cricket Board stated. — PTI

Aussie coach on guard vs India

Melbourne, Nov. 13: Australia head coach Justin Langer has hailed India captain Virat Kohli for taking paternity leave during the tour Down Under but conceded that his absence will definitely affect the visitors during the much-anticipated Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Kohli will return home after the opening Test, which ends on December 21. He has been granted paternity leave by the BCCI to be with his actor wife Anushka Sharma for the birth of their first child in early January.

Langer said he respects Kohli for putting family ahead of cricket. "Virat Kohli is probably the best player I've ever seen in my life for so many reasons, not only batting but his energy and passion for the game, the way he fields," Langer told reporters by video conference on Friday. "I cannot believe he displays the energy he does in everything he does and I've got so much respect for him. I've also got respect for him in the sense that he's made this decision (to return for the birth)."

"He's a human being like all of us... if I was giving advice to any of my players I would always say never, ever miss the birth of your children because it is one of the great things you'll ever do," the former Australia opener added.

Kohli will miss the Boxing Day Test in



Of course it will have an impact (his absence), but we also know that India beat us last time (in 2018-19). They're a very, very good team, we cannot get complacent for a second with or without Virat.

— JUSTIN LANGER
Australia head coach

Melbourne (December 26-30), New Year's Test in Sydney (January 7-January 11) and the final game at the Gabba (January 15-January 19).

Langer said Kohli's absence will definitely impact India but they cannot afford to lower their guard.

"Of course it will have an impact (his absence), but we also know that India beat us last time (in 2018-19). They're a very, very good team, we cannot get complacent for a second with or without Virat," Langer said.

India's tour of Australia begins with three ODIs, followed by as many T20 Internationals and four Tests. — PTI

GLITZY IPL IS ALL SET FOR EXPANSION, SAYS DRAVID

New Delhi, Nov. 13: Former India captain Rahul Dravid strongly believes that Indian Premier League (IPL) is "ready for expansion" in terms of number of teams without compromising on the quality as well as quantity of talent available in the country. There are talks that the 2021 IPL will be featuring nine teams instead of eight and will go up to 10 teams by 2023, which has always been the BCCI's long-term plan.

The views of Dravid, who is now the director of National Cricket Academy (NCA), were echoed by Rajasthan Royals co-owner Manoj Badale, who felt that a nine-team IPL in 2021 is "definitely possible".

"I feel IPL is ready for expansion in terms of talent, if you look from talent perspective. There are a lot of talented players who are not getting an opportunity to play," Dravid said, adding if there are more teams, all the talented players could be fitted in and there won't be a drop in quality. — PTI

Verstappen fastest in Turkey practice

Istanbul (Turkey), Nov. 13: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen posted the fastest time Friday in the second practice for the Turkish Grand Prix as speeds improved following a slow first session on a slippery track.

Verstappen was .4 seconds quicker than Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc and .58 ahead of Valtteri Bottas. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton was .85 back in fourth place on a resurfaced circuit low on grip and which last hosted a Formula One race in 2011.

Hamilton is looking to secure his seventh F1 title and equal Michael Schumacher's record. He is the runaway championship leader and only needs to finish ahead of Bottas on Sunday to win the title.

Verstappen's best lap was 1 minute, 28.33 seconds, considerably better than his fastest time of 1:35.077 in the first session. But although times improved as tyres got

warmer in the afternoon, Verstappen's leading mark was still three seconds slower than Sebastian Vettel's pole position for Red Bull nine years ago.

Verstappen was even further behind Juan Pablo Montoya's track record of 1:24.77, when the inaugural race was held in 2005.

Several drivers had difficulties controlling their cars during the second practice. Williams driver George Russell slid sideways across the track and teammate Nicholas Latifi lost the rear of the car. So did AlphaTauri driver Daniil Kvyat and Alfa Romeo veteran Kimi Raikkonen, who won the inaugural race when he was 25. Driving under a cloudy sky and cool temperatures in the first session, Verstappen finished ahead of teammate Alexander Albon and Leclerc, who skidded into a bollard at the pit lane entrance early on. Hamilton took no risks and ended that practice run down in 15th place. — AP

JOHNSON, FRITTELLI, CASEY IN AUGUSTA MASTERS LEAD

Augusta (Georgia, USA), Nov. 13: Top-ranked Dustin Johnson and South African Dylan Frittelli grabbed a share of the lead after Friday's conclusion of the storm-hit first round of the Masters while Rory McIlroy struggled to make the cut.

They matched England's Paul Casey by shooting seven-under-par 65 in concluding their darkness-halted opening rounds at storm-hit Augusta National before returning to the rain-softened layout for round two. — AFP

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