

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | SUNDAY | 29 NOVEMBER 2020



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Congress supports farmers agitation



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US court rejects Trump Pennsylvania lawsuit

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India look to hit back in second ODI



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Vol. 36 No. 185 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

WEATHER

Max: 27.4°C
Min: 19.0°C
RH: 57%
Rainfall: 005.6
Forecast: Haze.
Max/Min temp.
27/19 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+43,404)	(+530)
93,92,689	1,36,720
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+753)	(+3)
TS: 2,68,418	1,451
(+625)	(+5)
AP: 8,67,063	6,981

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

6,23,48,685
DEATHS
14,55,254
218
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Shuddha Chaturdasi till 12.46 noon
Star: Kritika till 6.02 am (Monday)
Varjyam: 4.40 pm to 6.27 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.07 pm to 4.52 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 13, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5:50 am
Zohar: 1:30 pm
Asar: 4:45 pm
Maghrib: 6:15 pm
Isha: 8:15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:20 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:10 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 4:41 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5:03 AM

COUNTER POINT



Don't take them seriously. The polls in Punjab and Haryana are far away!

SHORT TAKE

Cold conditions prevail in N. India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir till December 4. Kashmir experienced sub-zero night temperatures as the mercury settled several degrees below the freezing point, with Srinagar recording the minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund (Anantnag) and Kupwara experienced a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius and minus 1.0 degrees Celsius respectively. Temperatures in Himachal Pradesh, Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong was recorded as the coldest place in the state at minus 9.5 degrees Celsius.

EPFO extends life record deadline

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has extended the deadline for submission of life certificates by pensioners till February 28, a move which would benefit over 35 lakh persons who could not submit the document by November due to coronavirus pandemic. The pensioners who could not submit their life certificates till November 30 deadline, would get pension every month till February. "In view of the ongoing pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population, the EPFO has extended the time limit up to February 28, 2021.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Dr Krishna Ella, CMD and Suchitra Ella, JMD, of Bharat Biotech on Saturday.

PM reviews Covid vaccine progress at Bharat Biotech

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, AHMEDABAD, PUNE, NOV. 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Coronavirus vaccine facilities at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune to review the development and manufacturing process on Monday. The visit was purely functional, and shorn of any ceremony.

Scientists, researchers and facilitators at Bharat Biotech said they were humbled by the visit of the

Prime Minister. The PM personally reviewed the vaccine development and manufacturing process.

He was briefed by the company about the human trials for which 26,000 volunteers in hospitals across the country have been enrolled.

The vaccine is being produced in the certified level 3 biosafety production unit, Modi later posted on his Twitter handle that Bharat Biotech officials had briefed him about their vaccine.

He congratulated the scientists for their progress in the trials so far.

At all the three plants, the Prime Minister, who was wearing a PPE kit during the review, was extensively briefed about the vaccine work by com-

pany officials and scientists. Modi landed at the Hakimpet Air Force station at around 1 pm and proceeded to Bharat Biotech's facility away by road. He reviewed the progress of Covaxin, a vaccine candidate being developed by the company. He also interacted with Bharat Biotech chairman and managing director Krishna Ella, scientists and senior management.

"At the Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad, was briefed about their indigenous Covid-19 vaccine. Congratulated the scientists for their progress in the trials so far. Their team is closely working with ICMR to facilitate speedy progress," Modi posted on Twitter.

PUSHKARALU VISITORS BRAVE CHILLY WEATHER

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 28

With Tungabhadra Pushkaralu coming to an end in next three days, visitors are heading to Pushkar ghats all along the course of the river in Kurnool district braving rains and chilly winds.

Mantralayam and Sangameshwaram ghats are attracting most visitors. Various authorities say compared to 2008 Pushkarams, about one lakh fewer devotees reached the ghats for various rituals due to the pandemic. The number of visitors at the pump house ghat was 447 out of whom just 47 offered Pinda Pradanams. 287 had shower baths while the remaining took a holy dip despite the Covid risk. Authorities were warning through mics that taking a dip has been banned in view of Covid spreading through water from any infected persons taking a dip. Most devotees did not heed the warning.

Kaipa Venkata Murthy, a visitor from Secunderabad, said, "What is Pushkar bath without a dip? We are aware of Covid and have maintained physical distancing and have sanitised ourselves. This dip is essential to propitiate our forefathers."

M. Sridhar from Cooperative Colony in Kadapa, however, said his family had a shower bath and offered Pushkar pujas to minimise the threat of Coronavirus.

H. Hanumantha Rao from Nellore said facilities like separate enclosure for men and women to change clothes at the ghats have been really convenient.

Despite rains and chilly weather, most visitors, preferred early morning visits to the ghats.

AP temple land sale put on hold

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, NOV. 28

The proposed sale of 208.15 acres of temple lands belonging to Mantralayam Raghavendra Seamy Mutt in Aija, Rajoli and Gattu in Jogulamba Gadwal district of Telangana has been put on hold. The tender process for sale of these lands was to start from December 7.

When contacted, Mutt assistant administrative officer L. Madhava Setty said, "The decision to put off the tender process has been taken after farmers cultivating lands belonging to the Mutt requested that they be allowed to harvest the crops. He also cited the prevailing Coronavirus pandemic as another reason.

Madhava Setty maintained that the Mutt had got permission from the

state government to sell the lands in 2017 as per Endowment Act 30 / 1987 and other norms.

He denied that there has been any pressure from ruling YSR Congress party leaders on this issue.

Mantralayam Mutt is a public trust property. It is stated that the Matadhipathi of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt found it difficult to personally manage the vast extents of properties endowed to the Mutt by individuals and institutions for upkeep of various religious and other activities carried out by the religious institution.

Thus, the Mantralayam Matadhipathi gave power of attorney to certain people to manage the properties.

■ **Page 3: Calling tenders big scam: Mutt staff**

MEDICAL | ADMISSIONS

Higher Education dept must issue GO on counselling guidelines NTR-UHS awaits orders on MBBS, BDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

NTR University of Health Sciences (NTR-UHS) is yet to go ahead with admissions for first year MBBS, BDS and other courses. To do so, it is awaiting orders from the state government specifying guidelines to conduct counselling for admissions into the first year.

A six-member, high-level committee, with university registrar Dr. K. Sankar as its convener, has submitted already a report with a set of guidelines on conduct of counselling to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Basis this, DHE is supposed to

issue a GO incorporating the guidelines for counselling.

The guidelines include conduct of separate counselling for admission into first year MBBS and BDS courses. It had been a combined exercise thus far. Counselling for admission for first year Ayush courses will also be done separately.

The NTR-UHS registrar said, "Unless another GO specifying guidelines on conduct of counselling is issued, we cannot go ahead with admissions." DHE has already issued G. O. 159 on implementation of reservations for SC, ST and BC students in all higher educational institu-

₹5 lakh ex gratia to kin of cyclone victims: CM

Jagan asks officials to take up crop loss enumeration

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 28

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of eight persons (six in Chittoor and two in Kadapa districts) who died in the heavy rains triggered by cyclone Nivar.

The Chief Minister made this announcement while addressing collectors of Nellore, Kadapa and Chittoor districts at the International Airport in Tirupati after an aerial survey of the Nivar-affected areas in the three districts on Saturday.

He directed officials to make sure that power is restored as early as possible. He said the crop loss enumeration should be taken up on a war-footing and reports should be submitted by December 15 in order to offer compensation by December end.

The Chief Minister said people in relief camps should be given ₹500 each while returning home. Services of volunteers should be utilised to hand over the amount if they have already left relief camps. The CM instructed officials to give seeds at 80 per cent subsidy to the farmers in the affected areas. A decision to this effect was taken at the Cabinet meeting on Friday. He directed officials to act on humanitarian grounds in dealing with the people in the affected areas and to compensate other damages like houses and livestock as per SDRF norms. Deputy Chief Ministers K. Narayana Swami, Anjad Basha and other ministers and officials attended the meeting.



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy makes an aerial survey to take stock of the widespread devastation caused by Cyclone Nivar across the state.

2 more cyclones likely to hit state

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

People, mainly farmers, who have already faced the worst of Nivar cyclone, are now a worried lot as Meteorological Office has warned that another two cyclones – Burevi and Taketi – may hit the state.

While Burevi is expected to hit the AP coast on December 2, Taketi will swoop in on December 7.

Farmers are extremely distressed that for the first time, a series of cyclones are hitting them. They point out that harvesting for Kharif season

starts towards November end. But majority of the farmers were forced to hurriedly harvest due to cyclone. Many say they could save only half their crops due to sudden start of rains due to cyclone.

According to agricultural department, Nivar has caused huge devastation by damaging standing crops on 2,14,420 hectares in 11 districts of the state. Paddy farmers are the worst hit, followed by those who cultivated red gram, Bengal gram, cotton and other crops.

■ **Page 2: Highest damage reported in Guntur district**

Villages near Penna marooned

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 28

Several low-lying villages along the Penna river in Nellore district were inundated after officials released of more than 2.8 lakh cuses of water from the Somasila reservoir. The reservoir had received 2.63 lakh cuses of water on Saturday.

Elsewhere, breaches to the bunds of water bodies led to inundation of villages in Kovur, Buchireddypalem and Sangam mandals apart from low-lying areas in Nellore City.

Hundreds of villages are still under the grip of darkness as stagnant water, deposited by rains accompanying Cyclone Nivar, affected the restora-



Farmers try to protect their paddy from getting inundated in Annampalli village, Mummidivaram mandal in East Godavari District on Saturday.

— DC

tion of power. In Nellore City, water entered Bhagat Singh Colony, Parameswari Nagar and Manumasiddi Nagar among others. Industries minister

Mekapati Goutham Reddy inspected the breach to a tank at Nagulavellaturu in Chjerla mandal. Minister Anilkumar visited affected areas like Porlukatta, Nellore Rural legislator

Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, Kovur legislator Prasannakumar Reddy and Sarveypalli legislator Kakani Govardhan Reddy inspected affected areas in their constituencies.

Prasannakumar asked the people living in and around Kangiri reservoir to be alert as the reservoir is full. Water overflow poses a threat to Buchireddypalem and neighbouring villages.

Former mayor SK Abdul Aziz demanded that the authorities supply a mineral water can and food to the people living in inundated areas. Meanwhile, traffic was restored on NH 16 much to the relief of the travelling public.

■ **Page 2: Traffic allowed after damage repaired**

5 CRPF COBRA COMMANDOS HURT IN ATTACK

Raipur, Nov. 28: Five personnel of CRPF's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were injured in an IED blast triggered by Maoists on Saturday in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, officials said.

They said the IED blast took place in the Chintafuga forest area of the district and the injured personnel are being evacuated by a helicopter. The injured troops belong to the 206th battalion of the Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA). A joint team of CoBRA and police was out for a special operation when the blast took place, they said. — PTI

IN BRIEF

VUNDAVALLI SEEKS
WHITE PAPER
ON POLAVARAMDC CORRESPONDENT
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, NOV. 28

Former MP Vundavalli Arunkumar demanded that the government release a whitepaper on the status of Polavaram Project and the availability of funds for it.

He told the reporters here on Saturday that the YSRC government is not taking a firm and correct stand on the project and exerting pressure on the Union government to bear the full cost in accordance with the AP Reorganisation Act in 2014.

He said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy need not be afraid of the cases pending against him and he should take a firm stand on the issue of Polavaram project and other promises made at the time of bifurcation. He said it was absurd on the part of the Union government to contend that Polavaram cost would be borne at 2014 rates. He wondered how anybody can execute the work in 2020 at 2014 rates.

He said that it is the right of the Andhra Pradesh people to have Polavaram Project constructed at the expense of the Union government, as it has been declared as a national project. He said that former Congress leader K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao has filed a PIL in the Supreme Court regarding the Polavaram project and other assurances of bifurcation. He himself had impeded in the case. The state government should also file an affidavit and impede itself.

He said even the former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu did not take a correct stand on the project, but as he was an ally in BJP for four years, he somehow managed the show. Now, Jagan Mohan Reddy is finding himself in a corner, Arunkumar said.

He said that the Centre should bear the entire cost of the irrigation component of the project, including the R&R cost. He said that Niti Aayog had submitted a report on the comprehensive development of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation. However, it was kept a secret and it should be made public.

Cyclone Nivar claims eight lives

Rainfall had major impact on Nellore, Prakasam, Chittoor and Kadapa districts

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

Heavy rainfall under the influence of Nivar cyclonic storm has claimed eight lives, including six in Chittoor and two in Kadapa, while four persons went missing in the state.

Based on a preliminary assessment, as the rainfall had a major impact on Nellore, Prakasam, Chittoor and Kadapa districts, 1.12 lakh people were affected, 6,133 houses marooned, 2,294 houses/huts damaged, 88 big animals, 2,618 small animals, 8,130 poultry birds perished.

As many as 1,597 villages/towns in 124 mandals were affected while six villages suffered inundation due to floods. The authorities have set up 223 relief camps and evacuated 40,306 persons and accommodated them in such camps while 265 medical camps were organised to provide healthcare.

As a temporary relief, ₹2.50 crore was released to the four districts for talking up immediate relief works. A special assistance of ₹500 each was given to the affected persons accommodated in relief camps.

Agriculture crops located in Nellore, Prakasam, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool, suffered damages in about 2.14 lakh hectares based on preliminary reports while enumeration on the extent of the damage is underway.

In the fisheries department, cage culture units at Annamayya reservoir in Kadapa district and farms in Prakasam district were flooded causing an estimated loss of ₹51.15 lakh.

Infrastructure damage and loss to departments like roads and buildings, water resources, municipal administration, energy, panchayat raj, rural water supply, handlooms and textiles was estimated at ₹56,993.31 lakh for taking up restoration works



Paddy crop damaged due to rains at Kruthivenu mandal in Pedana constituency in Krishna district on Saturday.

■ As a temporary relief, ₹2.50 crore was released to the four districts for talking up immediate relief works. A special assistance of ₹500 each was given to the affected persons accommodated in relief camps.

both on temporary and permanent basis.

The state government deployed eight NDRF and six SDRF teams in the four districts for taking up rescue operations.

Meanwhile, two persons stranded in Mallidugu reservoir near Renigunta in Chittoor district were rescued as were 60 stranded in a local canal at Tippapadu village of Gudur mandal in Nellore district.

from page 1

Traffic movement was allowed after repairing the damage to the diversion road on the National Highway near Audisankara Engineering College at Gudur. The area witnessed huge floodwater obstructing movement of vehicles

Jagan should personally visit flood-hit areas, says Lokesh

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

Main opposition Telugu Desam has criticised Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for conducting only aerial surveys of flood-hit areas without personally visiting, understanding the plight, and consoling victims of floods.

Both TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and party national general secretary Nara Lokesh separately observed that aerial surveys are just eyewash, empty and half-hearted efforts. Such surveys would not be able to wipe the tears of farmers. Lokesh

underlined that only a field-level survey and first-hand enquiry from farmers will give a correct picture about the impact of flooding.

Lokesh commented that Jagan Mohan Reddy, who walked all along in Padayatra before elections, is now flying only in air. The CM has thus gone beyond the reach of the common public after coming to power. He asked why the Jagan regime has failed in carrying out timely enumeration of crops losses and is not extending the required compensation to farmers in times of natural disasters.

between Nellore and Chennai.

Chittoor Police along with State Disaster Response Force teams rescued a 60-year-old person from Neeva river in Gangadharanellor mandal in Chittoor district on Saturday.

The survivor was identified as Sk Abdullah of Kotrakona village in Gangadharanellor mandal.

According to Chittoor DSP Sudhakar Reddy, Abdullah had gone to the middle of the river to collect grass for cattle. Water was released from the nearby NTR reservoir

HIGHEST DAMAGE
REPORTED IN
GUNTUR DISTRICT

from page 1

The highest damage of over one lakh hectares has been reported from Guntur district.

Agriculture commissioner Arun Kumar said enumeration of damage will start soon and compensation will be provided to farmers within the December month.

Paddy farmers K. Venkateswara Rao and B. Govind stressed that they tried to harvest their paddy but could not complete the task by the time Nivar hit. They said water marooned their paddy harvest and there is no chance of removing water due to continuous rains. They said if the water recedes, there is a chance that they could harvest at least discoloured paddy. Instead, the two farmers said, they now have to worry about Burevi and Taketi cyclones.

Meanwhile, the ghat road of Durga temple on Indrakeeladri at Vijayawada has been closed on Saturday as a precautionary measure due to incessant rains. Earlier, big boulders had fallen on to the ghat road from the hill. Hence, officials have closed the road to avoid any untoward incident.

which marooned him. The teams rescued the man who lost hope of survival.

DSP Sudhakar Reddy said they had instructed the irrigation officials to close four gates of NTR reservoir to carry out the rescue operation and saved Abdullah.

Ready Bills on 1st day of Session: Speaker

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

AP Legislative Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram sought to prepare all Bills which would be introduced in the Assembly on the first day of Winter Session on Monday. He said the Assembly Winter Sessions would be held amidst Corona protocol taking all precautions. AP Legislative Council chairman M.A. Sharif directed all departments to prepare answers to the questions of legislators without fail. The Speaker and Chairman conducted a preparatory meeting with the officials on Saturday.

Sitaram and Sharif directed the police department to implement tight security following Corona protocol for the smooth functioning of Winter Sessions. They instructed the police to behave respectfully with the legislators without giving any chance for complaints.

Sitaram instructed the officials to take all necessary measures following the Covid-19 protocol for the Winter Sessions. He said that people would watch the Assembly ses-

sion live and urged the officials to provide thorough information while providing answers to the questions of the legislators. He said that people seek their questions raised in the Assembly by their legislators about their problems and they would be satisfied when the officials would provide proper information. He sought to conduct a review on questions and answers of the earlier session before starting the Assembly session to provide required information to legislators and further to people.

The Council Chairman said that getting answers during Zero Hour is the right of legislators; hence the officials should provide complete information without fail to the questions.

Chief whip in AP Legislative Council, Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, said that MLAs and MLCs would face severe problems from the public in their areas if they failed to get proper answers. He sought to conduct of petition committee meeting frequently for the smooth performance of question and answer sessions.

NAIDU DEMANDS ASSEMBLY WINTER
SESSION FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYSDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

Telugu Desam chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday demanded that the Assembly Winter Session be extended for a period of at least 10 days to discuss many burning problems being faced by people of the state, including floods.

Naidu said the YSRC government has not only failed in solving the old problems but ended up creating new problems for people in the past 18 months of its mis-governance. He said a longer

Assembly Session will allow time for holding discussions on a wide-range of issues being faced by the public. He alleged that only statements are being issued but no real compensation is being given to affected families at the field level.

Addressing an online meeting of the TDLP Naidu charged that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has miserably failed in delivering governance and administration. Naidu alleged that there is zero coordination within the official machinery as it has got de-motivated.



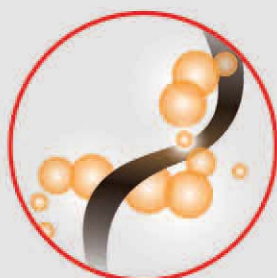
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SHORT TAKES

DOCTOR FOUND
MURDERED AT
AVANIGADDADC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

Famous doctor in Avanigadda town Dr Kota Srihari Rao of Lakshmi Nursing Home was brutally murdered inside his house in Avanigadda of Krishna district on Saturday. He was found in a pool of blood inside his bedroom on the premises of the nursing home. The incident took place when his family members had gone to other place and he was alone in the house.

Krishna district SP Ravindranath Babu on Saturday stated that the police rushed to the spot and inspected the scene of offence. He said that the culprits tactfully changed the CC camera's direction to hide their identity. He said that as the incident took place while no one of the doctors family member were at home, the police are suspecting it as a murder and investigating the case in that angle.

VIZAG MAN DIES
IN DUBAIDC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 28

A 27-year-old man from Kunchumbamba Colony of Visakhapatnam industrial suburb Sriharipuram died in a road accident in Dubai on Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Muddu Krishna, who was working as a welder in Dubai for the last six years. He spoke to his parents over the phone on November 5. The body was flown on Saturday and taken in a procession to cremation ground from Gajuwaka RTC depot.

TTD releases white
paper on its assets

Vaikunta Dwaram to be open for 10 days: TTD

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, NOV. 28

Putting the criticism over not disclosing the details of TTD assets to rest, TTD Trust board has released a white paper, on Saturday, on its assets which include 1,128 assets extending in an area of 8,088.89 acres across the country, apart from details of properties auctioned since 1974 with the survey number, place, board resolution, and auctioned date.

The Trust Board meeting took place at Annamalah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday. Speaking to media persons after the meeting, TTD Trust Board chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy said they have resolved to open the Vaikunta Dwaram for 10 days starting from Vaikunta Ekadasi day for the benefit of a multitude of visiting pilgrims to Tirumala temple.

Mr Reddy said they had consulted the Peethadhipathi and Agama advisers before

KEY DECISIONS		
● To make Tirumala as a Holy Green City and pollution-free pilgrim centre. As part of it, decided to run 100 to 150 electric buses to Tirumala with APSRTC.		
● As a pollution check measure, to utilise more non-conventional sources of energy, including wind and solar.	● Gold Malam works of Maha Dwaram, Dwajasthambam, Balipeetham in Srivari temple.	● To take up the gold malam works for Surya Prabha Vahanam at Sri Padmavati Ammavari temple with 11.7 kg of gold.
● Advance payment of ₹10,000 to the artists of Annamacharya Project as they do not have programs due to Covid.	● Decided to take up Sanatana Hindu Dharma Prachara with Prachara Rathams. Some board members have come forward to donate for these special vehicles.	
● To reintroduce Kalyanamastu, a mass, free wedding programme to the underprivileged couples with a new set of guidelines.	● Boys Hostel for S.V. Balamandiram at ₹10.75 crore	● Decided to continue its deposits in scheduled banks



deciding on the request from the pilgrims. TTD EO Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy, TTD

Trust board members, other top brass officials of TTD were also present.

AP govt begins talks with Bangla ship owners

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 28

Not missing the opportunity after losing decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Virat, the AP government has initiated

talks with the management of Bangladesh flag carrier MV Maa and the insurance company P&I Club.

MD of AP Tourism Development Corporation and chief

executive officer of AP Tourism Authority Praveen Kumar is currently negotiating with the insurance company.

"After negotiating the price, the issue would be taken to the government

and a decision will be taken on the project details," Praveen Kumar told this correspondent on Saturday.

The Vietnamese company built vessel drifted from its anchorage point

and ran aground near Tennai Park in Visakhapatnam due to the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal.

Thousands of people visited the Tennai Park to have a glimpse of it.

FIVE MILITIA
MEMBERS
SURRENDERDC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 28

Five militia members of the outlawed Maoist party surrendered before the ASP Visayasagar Naidu in Chintapalle in Visakhapatnam district on Saturday.

They were identified as Mattam Matyaru, 26, of Mynakota village, Korra Sanyasi Rao, 40, of Guralagondi village, Korra Hari, Baguraj village, 35, Mattam Bhagat Ram, Mynakota village, 25 and Korra Purnachander, 26, also from Mynakota village.

With this surrender, 13 militia members surrendered from Chintapalle sub-division alone in November, Mr Naidu said.

He said efforts of community policing created awareness among the active members and the local people in general.

Volleyball matches and medical camps were organised in a big way in the agency areas, and the response has been overwhelming, he added.

He said CRPF personnel organised civic action programme and came close to the militia members and the local youth. This helped in the surrender of the extremists. The surrendered militia members also gave assurance to the police that they would not go back to the Maoists.

2 DIE IN ROAD
ACCIDENTDC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL NOV. 28

Two youngsters died, and another was critically injured in a road accident in the outskirts of the Nandyal town on Saturday after a car rammed a motorbike. The deceased were identified as Juber, 23, and Sameer, 24, residents of Chandbada colony in Nandyal town.

AP records 625
new Covid casesDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, NOV. 28

The prevalence of Covid-19 seems to be under control in Andhra Pradesh as more number of districts are registering less than 100 daily positive cases, and only a few districts are registering deaths.

Accordingly, AP registered 625 new Covid cases taking the tally to 8,67,063 and five deaths raising the toll to 6,981 in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities issued Covid bulletin on Saturday reporting that out of 49,348 samples tested, only 625 per-

sons were found to be infected with the virus and out of a total number of 99,62,416 samples tested so far in the state, 8,48,511 patients were discharged after recovery, while 11,571 patients are still active with the virus.

Krishna district registered 103 daily cases of Covid, while the remaining districts registered less than 100 including 93 in West Godavari, 88 in Visakhapatnam, 68 in Guntur, 61 in Chittoor, 54 in East Godavari, 29 in Vizianagaram, 27 in Prakasam, 24 in Nellore, 22 in Kurnool, 21 in Anantapur, 19 in Kadapa and 16 in Srikakulam.

TD MLA stops
wall constructionDC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV. 28

The third time MLA and senior TD leader Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu stood by the shop keepers and successfully stopped the construction of a compound wall on AU Engineering College Road under the Three Town police station limits on Saturday. It may be recalled that the Andhra University (AU) authorities with the GVMC personnel demolished all the shops that were located in the engineering college road last month. The

MLA, however, could not prevent the demolition as there was a large presence of police personnel who did not allow him to go near the spot.

On Saturday when the AU officials were preparing for construction of the compound wall, the MLA along with his followers, reached the spot and had arguments with the AU officials. He told them that the land on which the shops were built belonged to the AP irrigation department, but the AU officials with the help of GVMC demolished the shops.

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Fondly remembered by
Cdr & Mrs G Ram Kumar,
Gp Capt & Mrs G Mahesh Kumar

IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN, U.S. RESTORE MONASTERY

Peshawar, Nov. 28: Pakistan and the US have jointly completed restoration work at the Takht-i-Bahi Buddhist monastery in northwest Pakistan under the \$230,000 cultural preservation project.

US Consul General Gregory Macris virtually participated in the closing ceremony of the project at the monastery in Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

"The US mission in Pakistan is committed to working with local partners to support conservation and preservation of sites of great cultural significance across Pakistan," said Macris.

The Humanitarian and Facilitation Organisation (HAFO) received a US grant to execute the two-phase project at Takht-i-Bahi.

OLI SUBMITS SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Kathmandu, Nov. 28: Nepal's protracted political crisis deepened on Saturday after embattled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli rejected Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda's" accusations that he was running the government without consulting the party, and instead blamed his rival for non-cooperation in handling the party's affairs.

In the much-awaited Central Secretariat meeting of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) on Saturday, Prime Minister Oli submitted a separate 38-page political document in response to the allegations made by party's executive chairman "Prachanda".

Oli was responding to the allegations made against him by "Prachanda" in his 19-page political paper presented at the Secretariat meeting on November 18. In his report, Prachanda had accused Oli of running the government without consulting the party, failing to abide by the party's due procedures and engaging in corruption.

Oli dismissed the allegations levelled against him by "Prachanda" while submitting the separate report, according to a senior Standing Committee member of the party.

FUTURE OF WALES GANDHI'S STATUE IN QUESTION

London, Nov. 28: There is a question mark over the future of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Wales after an official Welsh government review into Britain's colonial and slave trading history drew up a list of memorials that require a rethink. "The Slave Trade and the British Empire: An Audit of Commemoration in Wales" report released this week also shortlists the commemoration of Britain's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Robert Clive, referred to as Clive of India for his role in establishing Britain's colonial hold in India, as "persons of interest" to move to a second stage of the review process.

Wales has a bronze sculpture of Gandhi at Cardiff Bay, unveiled in 2017 to mark the 148th birth anniversary of the leader of the Indian national movement.

In the audit, he has been classified under Category E of persons of interest who "require examination as having been highlighted by campaigners".

INDIAN MAN ON TOURIST VISA MISSING IN UAE

Dubai, Nov. 28: An Indian man, who reached the UAE on a tourist visa to seek a job, has been missing since November 9, a media report has said.

Amrithalingam Samayamuthu, 46, a father of four from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, had come over to take up a job in the UAE, the *Gulf News* reported on Friday. Samayamuthu's nephew Durai Maniraja, who is a fisherman in Ras Al Khaimah, said his uncle came with three people from Tamil Nadu on November 8.

"They stayed in an accommodation in Hor Al Anz. His roommates said the next morning he went to the workplace. After he came back, they went for work at night," Durai said. He said Samayamuthu was upset as he would be alone in the room and also wanted to go.

"But the others told him not to. There was no news about him later is what they told us," Durai said. Samayamuthu had not called home as he did not have a UAE SIM card. His brother-in-law Kannan Nagoorankani, said he approached the Al Muraqqabat Police Station to file a complaint.



This picture taken with a fisheye lens on Friday shows coworking rooms of the capsule hotel Anshin Oyado Shinjuku, Tokyo, which has been renovated into a coworking space without the upper and lower partitions of the capsule. Facing unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the capsule hotel renovated an entire floor to be used as a coworking space, offering office necessities such as high speed internet required for telework and web conferencing, including computer hardware and other computing devices.

— AFP

Germany hits mn cases as Russia links up with India on vaccine

Berlin, Nov. 28: Germany, once a beacon of hope in Europe's Coronavirus nightmare, logged more than one million cases on Friday, while Russia asked India to help mass produce its controversial Sputnik vaccine.

Although the virus spread is slowing thanks to weeks of tough restrictions, Europe remains at the heart of the pandemic, recording more cases than the United States in the past week.

The pandemic is spreading fastest in Asia and Latin America, and is up by a worrying 113 percent over the week in Mexico.

Until recently, Germany's relative success in containing the virus had offered some sense of hope, with authorities putting in place some precautions that still allowed life to carry on almost as normal. However, its measured approach has failed during the second wave, endangering the health of Europe's biggest economy and weighing on the mood as the northern hemisphere heads into the winter holidays.

Germany's Robert Koch Institute recorded more than 22,000 new daily cases on Friday, pushing the overall total beyond the one-million mark.

The number of Covid-19 patients in intensive care has soared from around 360 in early October to more than 3,500 last week.

Most countries hope to ease their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

—AFP

Paris, Nov. 28: Coronavirus deaths topped 400,000 Saturday in Europe, the world's second worst-hit region, as parts of the continent began to reopen shops for the holiday season. But across the Atlantic fearful US shoppers turned to online outlets for a massive Black Friday sale, while densely populated Los Angeles county announced a ban on gatherings of people under a new "safer-at-home order".

Persistent high case

numbers loom over governments' hopes to ease their virus rules for Christmas and New Year.

Europe on Saturday crossed a grim barrier, registering 400,649 deaths. Stores began lifting their shutters in France on Saturday, while Poland's shopping centres will also reopen. "I'd rather avoid the internet, I'm going to buy things in the shops. They need it," said Anne Dubois, one of the first customers applauded through the doors by staff at

Paris' vast Galeries Lafayette department store.

"Whether or not there's people here, at least we've got our daily life getting back to normal," said 36-year-old Aurelie, a manager in the L'Oreal section at Galeries Lafayette.

Belgium will allow shops to reopen from December 1, but keep the current semi-lockdown in place possibly until mid-January. The move mirrors similar easing in Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

— AFP

CONGRESSMAN TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS

Miami, Nov. 28: South Florida Congressman-elect Carlos Gimenez has tested positive for Coronavirus, his campaign announced Friday.

The former Miami-Dade County mayor and his wife, Lourdes, tested positive Thursday for Covid-19 after having mild symptoms, according to a statement. They said they're self-isolating at home, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

— AP

Court rejects Don Pennsylvania suit

Observes voters, not lawyers choose Prez

Washington, Nov. 28: In a fresh setback to US President Donald Trump's efforts to reverse the November 3 presidential election result in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, a court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by his team, observing that "voters, not lawyers choose the president." The judgement came four days after Pennsylvania certified Trump's Democratic rival Joe Biden as the winner in the state which has 20 electoral college votes.

Trump, a Republican, has refused to accept defeat in the November 3 presidential election, and told reporters on Thursday that it would be "hard" to concede to Biden, a Democrat. The President has said that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College declares Biden as the winner, but made clear he is not prepared to "concede" the election. He has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismissed by courts. The three-judge panel of the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday upheld a previous ruling that dismissed the Trump campaign's request for an injunction in the case in Pennsylvania to challenge the election results and slammed the lawsuit. "Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. Charges of unfairness are serious, but calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither here," Judge Stephanos Bibas said in his order.

"The campaign cannot win this lawsuit," said Bibas, who was appointed by Trump. He authored the order along with two other judges on the bench, Chief Circuit Judge Brooks Smith and Judge Michael Chagares, who were appointed by former Republican president George W. Bush. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election to Biden and has

Biden to represent best in us: Harris

Washington, Nov. 28: Joe Biden will be a president who represents the best of America, his deputy and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said, asserting that he is a leader the world will respect. Lavishing praise on the 78-year-old US President-elect, Harris on Friday said that Biden will be a president for all Americans.

"Know that" Biden "will be a president who represents the best in us. A leader the world will respect and our children can look up to," Harris said in a tweet.

Harris, 56, the daughter of an Indian immigrant from Chennai, has created history by becoming the first Black American woman to be elected as the

country's Vice President. While Indian-origin politicians have been elected as heads of the state in various parts of the world in the last several decades, from Mauritius to Fiji, Harris as the vice president of the United States would be the most powerful politician ever.

Biden, in a series of tweets, called for unity in the country. "This is our moment — ours together — to write a newer, bolder, more compassionate chapter in the life of our nation," Biden said in a tweet. "Each of us has a responsibility in our own lives to do what we can to slow the virus. Every decision we make matters. Every decision we make can save a life.

— PTI

GUANTANAMO: SOME MAY BE RELEASED

Washington, Nov. 28: The oldest prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay detention centre went to his latest review board hearing with a degree of hope, something that has been scarce during his 16 years locked up without charges at the US base in Cuba.

Saifullah Paracha, a 73-year-old Pakistani with diabetes and a heart condition, had two things going for him that he didn't have at previous hearings: A favourable legal development and the election of Joe Biden. President Donald Trump had effectively ended the Obama administration's practice of reviewing the cases of men held at Guantanamo and releasing them if imprisonment was no longer deemed necessary.

— AP

US curbs on Russian, Chinese firms for Iran missile support

KILLING OF SCIENTIST: KHAMENEI CALLS FOR 'DEFINITIVE PUNISHMENT'

Tehran, Nov. 28: Iran's supreme leader on Saturday called for the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist linked to Tehran's disbanded military nuclear programme, a slaying the Islamic Republic has blamed on Israel.

Israel, long suspected of killing scientists a decade ago amid tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme, has yet to comment on the killing Friday of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush.

The slaying threatens to renew tensions between the US and Iran in the waning days of President Donald Trump's term, just as President-elect Joe Biden has suggested his administration could return to Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers

from which Trump earlier withdrew.

The Pentagon announced early Saturday that it sent the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier back into the Mideast.

In a statement, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhrizadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist."

Khamenei said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it."

He did not elaborate. Speaking to a meeting of his government's Coronavirus task force earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing. Rouhani said that Fakhrizadeh's death would not stop its nuclear programme, something Khamenei said as well.

— AP

VIDEO OF COPS BEATING POC A SHAME: MACRON

Paris, Nov. 28: French President Emmanuel Macron has said video images showing police officers beating up a Black man "shame us," and condemned violence both by and against the police. Macron asked the government to quickly come up with proposals "to reaffirm the link of confidence that should naturally exist between the French and those who protect them" and to better fight discrimination.

— AP

DETERIORATING CONDITION PM invites singer to contribute to protected areas expansion initiative

Imran lauds Cher efforts to relocate elephant

Islamabad, Nov. 28: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday appreciated efforts of US celebrity singer Cher to relocate Kaavan, dubbed as the world's loneliest elephant, from a Pakistani zoo to Cambodia for better conditions. Cher, who called on the Prime Minister in Islamabad, has been campaigning for retiring Kaavan, the country's only Asian elephant, to an elephant sanctuary. The story of Kaavan, who is 35 years old, attracted world attention after reports went viral about the deteri-

orating condition of the zoo in Islamabad where the elephant was kept.

Khan "thanked Cher for her campaign and role in this regard," according to his office. He said that "it was indeed a happy moment for all of us that after giving joy and happiness to the people of Islamabad and Pakistan for about 35 years, Kaavan will now be able to retire with other elephants in a specialised sanctuary in Cambodia."

The Prime Minister also invited the singer to participate and contribute tow-

ards the government's initiative for the expansion of protected areas, to which she agreed.

Cher also tweeted about her meeting with Khan. "Just Came From Meeting To Thank Prime Minister Imran Khan For Making It Possible For Me To Take Kaavan To Cambodia," she said. The Pakistan government on Monday issued a permit to transfer the elephant and sources said Kaavan will be flown to Cambodia on November 29.

The elephant was already handed over to experts who

● **PRESIDENT ARIF** Alvi attended a function at the Marghzar Zoo in Islamabad to mark the handing over of the elephant to experts to finalise its shifting to Cambodia.

were dealing with its transfer. President Arif Alvi along with his wife Samina attended a function on November 24 at the Marghzar Zoo in Islamabad to mark the handing over of the elephant to

experts to finalise the last part of the preparations to shift it to Cambodia, his office said in a statement.

The experts have trained Kaavan to enter a large metal crate that will be used to transport it to the airport. They have also noted that Kaavan was responding well to music and singing. Kaavan is being relocated to a wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia on the orders of the Islamabad High Court in the context of providing proper care and natural environment. The elephant, popular among children

and adults, was born in 1985 in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan government presented it to the then President of Pakistan.

In 1990, an elephant Sahli was brought from Bangladesh and stayed with Kaavan until his death in 2012. Animal rights activists campaigned for its release and their efforts got a boost with the Islamabad High Court's decision on May 21, ordering immediate relocation of all animals of the zoo, including Kaavan to some suitable wildlife sanctuaries.

— PTI

SHORT TAKES

Hamilton takes Bahrain GP pole

Manama: Newly-crowned seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position for Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix with an impeccable record-breaking lap on Saturday as Mercedes dominated the floodlit qualifying session. He clocked an all-time track record lap in one minute and 27.264 seconds to outpace team-mate Valtteri Bottas by 0.289 seconds, the pair delivering Mercedes' 11th front row lock-out of the season. It was Hamilton's record-increasing 98th career pole position and the fluency and speed of his driving endorsed his status as the outstanding man to beat at Sakhr's Bahrain International Circuit. — *AFP*

Jehan pips Mick for F2 podium

Bahrain: Rising Indian racer Jehan Daruvala earned his maiden Formula 2 podium after pipping championship leader Mick Schumacher in a gripping battle for the third place at the Bahrain Grand Prix support race, here. Starting eighth on the grid, Jehan gained two places and stayed sixth for a few laps. However, in Lap 5, he lost two places and was forced off the circuit. The resulting loss of speed cost him more positions. He stayed in tenth place for a few laps before pitting to change tyres. Jehan emerged from the pits down in the 18th place but quickly climbed up the order. He gained more positions as others pitted and was running sixth by lap 19 of the 32 lap race. — *PTI*

TIME TO PONDER

With no Plan 'B' in place, India need their 'A' game to save ODI series

Sydney, Nov. 28: India's battered bowling unit will have little time to regroup and limited resources at its disposal in a desperate bid to perform a redemption act and save the ODI series against a Australia in the second game here on Sunday. It wasn't just about the margin of defeat — by 66 runs — but the manner in which the home team exposed India's vacant cup-



board of all-rounders that will give Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri numerous points to ponder. So with no back-up all-rounders or a plan B in place, India will have to execute their plan A perfectly.

With Australia's top order firing, Bumrah and company will have no option but to pick up the pieces and give a better account of themselves on a strip that promises to be a better. — *PTI*



India captain Virat Kohli (right) talks with teammates before the start of their one-day international match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

— *AFP*

Smith finds his rhythm back

Sydney, Nov. 28: Australian batsman Steve Smith found his "rhythm" with a cracking hundred against India in the first ODI but admitted that there wasn't much pressure unlike other times.

Smith struck 105 off 66 balls in Australia's lop-sided 66-run win in the first ODI.

"I just found a nice rhythm again," Smith said while crediting his skipper Aaron Finch for setting up a nice platform with a 156-run opening stand with David Warner.

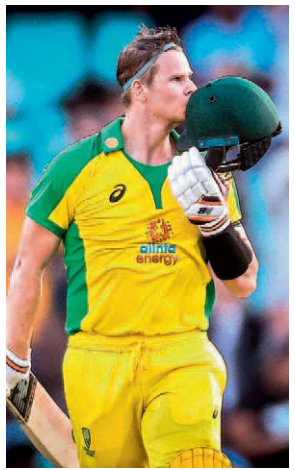
"It was just see-ball, hit-ball and obviously the foundation had been set so I could be quite aggressive," Smith said.

Having found his "hands" as he had said prior to the match, Smith was happy that he could decide which bowlers to attack even though the entire Indian bowling line-up was at the receiving end of his onslaught.

"I picked my bowlers and where I wanted to hit them, and just played some good shots to the areas of my strengths."

By his own admission, the pressure was less unlike some other times when quick wickets have fallen around him.

"There wasn't a whole lot of pressure. Probably, at other times, when I have batted my best, it's been when the team has been under a bit of pressure and I have had to play almost



Steve Smith

an anchor role to help us get a total," he said.

Smith said that trying to switch from his natural style of building the innings to a more T20 friendly mode of power-hitting did affect his game.

"I haven't felt quite right for a while and maybe that's T20 cricket, trying to be a bit more powerful and probably not playing as much to my strengths as I'd like," Smith said.

What Smith did before this series was to get back to normal grip.

"So I've been getting myself back to my normal grip and finding it," he added.

The former skipper is hopeful that he can continue with his rich vein of form during the entire summer. — *PTI*



Former India off-spinner Archana Das of Hyderabad poses with her childhood coach K. Saibaba of the Sports Coaching Foundation in Masab Tank at her marriage to K. Abhishek Reddy, a software professional, at a hotel in Begumpet, Hyderabad, on Friday. Archana is now based in Mumbai where she works for the Western Railway.

Hyderabad draw with Bengaluru

Margao, Nov. 28: Hyderabad FC settled for their second successive draw, a stalemate, in the Indian Super League, splitting points with Bengaluru FC at the Fatorda Stadium, here on Saturday.

Getting four points from two outings is best start in the league for Hyderabad.

However, it was a frustrating evening for Bengaluru FC, who are yet to taste a win this season.

The two sides showed attacking intent from the word go and BFC had their first attempt as early as the fifth minute. Ashique Kuruniyan tried his luck from a distance

but his effort took a deflection before being collected by Hyderabad custodian Subrata Paul.

Hyderabad's adamant defending frustrated Bengaluru, who struggled to take the ball up to their attacking trio of Sunil Chhetri, Kristian Opseth and Udanta Singh. Trying to find an alternative, Bengaluru engaged in long-range shots, which proved futile.

Despite making a half-time change, replacing Kristian Opseth with Dimas Delgado, Bengaluru had nothing different to offer as their opponents continued to dominate the play.

— *PTI*

BELIHU, GEMECHU EYE DOUBLE DELIGHT

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 28

Two-time winners Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu are not only ready to defend their titles, but are also determined to break the course record this year at the Delhi Half Marathon here on Sunday.

Ethiopia's Belihu will be bidding for his third successive crown but the course he will cover is radically different to the one he conquered in 2018 and 2019.

Belihu's compatriot Gemechu rewrote the women's course record when winning in both 2018 and 2019 and it currently stands at 66:00. She is raring to go even faster this year.

Regd No./JM-RNP/72
Printed and Published from Visakhapatnam by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, Survey No. 1/3A, Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Rope Way, Sector-9, M.V.P. Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017. Phones: 552333/2552334/2553806. Fax: 2755285. Grams: CHRONICLE. Editor: Kaushik Mitter. RNI Registration No. 44813/85

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