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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 10 DECEMBER 2020

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DCGI denies EUA to vaccine from Bharat Biotech, Serum

KANIZA GARARI
with agency inputs
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

In a setback to two major pharma companies in the race for the vaccine for Coronavirus, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has not granted the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to city-based Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India (SII) for their respective vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield.

The data submitted by both companies was found to be "insufficient" by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) of the DCGI in terms of data on the trials of Indian patients, according to sources.

The panel sought additional data on the safety and efficacy of their proposed shots.

Due to lack of data on Indian patients, the CDSCO subject expert committee, which met on Wednesday,

found that the "data submitted of phase 1 and phase 2 trials was not sufficient".

The DCGI said that Covid-19 vaccine candidates should have "at least 50 per cent efficacy in phase III clinical trials" for it to be widely deployed.

The DCGI rules of 2019 state that there must be at least 3,000 patients on whom the vaccine has to be tested before approval.

Dr Kiran M, senior anaesthesiologist, Government

Hospital, Nizamabad, said, "Phase III trials are still not complete. They are currently ongoing. Without data of these trials, the EUA cannot be given. There is no concept of EUA in India. This is for the first time vaccines are being taken up under this given the emergency of the pandemic. For this reason, scientists and drug controllers are very cautious."

■ Page 3: Data submitted by firms found inadequate

KCR greets Modi on Central Vista

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Patancheru police said that MLA Reddy was booked under section 504 (intentional insult, with intent to provoke, breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

■ Page 5: MLA threatens to cut journo into pieces

Wednesday conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of the occasion of his laying the foundation for the Central Vista project in the national capital.

■ Page 5: Central Vista was long overdue, says KCR

TRS MLA abuses Dalit journalist

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The Patancheru police of Sangareddy district on Wednesday booked a case against the ruling TRS legislator G. Mahipal Reddy for allegedly threatening and abusing a journalist.



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HAPPINESS BEGIN WITH
ANOTHER'S SMILE?

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RUSSIA: INDIA IN ANTI-CHINA GAME PLAYED BY WEST

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

The West, led by the US, is trying to engage India in "anti-China games" through its Indo-Pacific strategies and is also trying to undermine Russia's close and privileged ties with India. Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov has said, in unprecedented remarks that have highlighted both Moscow's proximity with Beijing and a growing unease over the India-US strategic partnership.

Addressing the Russian International Affairs Council, Mr Lavrov said: "It (the West) is trying to restore the unipolar model of world order. 'Poles' like Russia and China are unlikely to be subordinate to it. However, India is currently an object of the Western countries' persistent, aggressive and devious policy as they are trying to engage it in anti-China games by promoting Indo-Pacific strategies, the so-called 'Quad'."

■ Page 7: Russia unhappy with close Indo-US ties

Farmers reject Centre's offer

Threaten to intensify agitation, block Delhi

SANJAY KAW | DC
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Within hours of receiving the Centre's draft proposals to amend the new agriculture laws, the farmers' unions categorically rejected it on Wednesday and threatened to intensify their agitation by blocking all entry points to Delhi if their demands were not immediately met. They also threatened to capture all toll plazas and hold "sitting" protests across the country.

Terming the proposal as "vague" and an insult to farmers, Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal said: "We will block the Delhi-Jaipur highway and Delhi-Agra expressway and sit on dharna at all toll plazas on December 12... No tax to be paid on that day at any toll plaza... We will also gherao all district headquarters during our protest on December 14. We have asked the people to protest against every MP and MLA of the BJP."



Opposition leaders Sharad Pawar, Rahul Gandhi, Sitaram Yechury, D. Raja and T.K.S. Elangovan present a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday on the new Farm Bills.

— D. KAMRAJ

The farmers' organisations have also threatened they will boycott all Jio products and Reliance malls across the country.

The Centre on Wednesday proposed to give a "written assurance" that the existing Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime for procurement will continue. In a draft proposal, the Centre also assured the registration of all private mandis to strengthen Agricultural Produce Market Committees.

With the farmers camped out at Delhi's busy border points, three of the Delhi-Haryana border points — Tikri, Jhارoda and Dhansha — have been closed for traffic.

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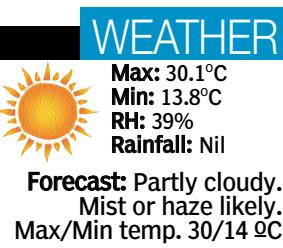
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COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+26,348)	(+338)
97,62,250	1,41,735
covid19india.org	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+721)	(+3)
TS: 2,75,261	1,480
(+618)	(+3)
AP: 8,73,457	7045

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

6,89,23,274
DEATHS
15,69,873

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES 218 worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Bahula Dasami till 12.48 pm
Star: Hasta till 10.48 am
Variyam: 6.07 pm to 7.35 pm
Durmuhuram: 10.19 am to 11.03 am; 2.42 pm to 3.26 pm
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 24, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.31 am
Zohar: 12.19 pm
Asar: 4.06 pm
Magrib: 5.48 pm
Isha: 7.02 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.36 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.42 PM
MOONSET TODAY 2.12 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 1.53 AM

COUNTER POINT



Too much of rajneeti!

SHORT TAKES

FORMER SARPANCH HELD FOR FRAUD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The former sarpanch of Pedda Shapur area was arrested by the Shamshabad police on charges of cheating and forgery on Wednesday. According to the police, S. Isra Naik has allegedly used official rubber stamps on permission letters and issued building permissions on the names of his family members and others.

He also cheated the poor and homeless in the gram panchayat by selling them such land, police said.

The suspect, S. Isra Naik, a resident of Pedda Shapur thanda and village had ended his term as a sarpanch in 2011, but he allegedly cheated people claiming he was still in the post. He along with his associates, identified as J. Raji Reddy and others had grabbed land in the village and converted them into plots and sold them to people," police inspector of Shamshabad Y. Prakash Reddy said.

Based on a complaint, the Shamshabad police booked cases of cheating and forgery under sections 420, 468, and 471 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and arrested Naik on Wednesday.

● ACCORDING TO the police, S. Isra Naik has allegedly used official rubber stamps on permission letters and issued building permissions on the names of his family members and others. He also cheated the poor and homeless in the gram panchayat by selling them such land, police said.

Envoys study ways to get vaccine for their countries

Bharat Biotech presents vaccine update even as Centre denies authorisation

Experts worried as people ignore Covid-19 protocol

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The safety and efficacy of Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, that has been developed by Bharat Biotech was evaluated by a delegation of 70 Ambassadors and High Commissioners at Genome Valley on Wednesday.

The Ministry of External Affairs facilitated this discussion as Bharat Biotech has applied for emergency use in India. The delegates discussed with the team of scientists and researchers from the pharma giant about the safety trials of phase I and phase 2.

Dr Krishna Ella, chairman and managing director of Bharat Biotech, presented the update on the vaccine with its evaluation on approximately 1,000 subjects. The phase III human clinical trials, which began last month, were conducted on 26,000 volunteers from across the country.

It is a randomized trial where one group of volunteers will be given the vaccine and others are on placebo trial. The volunteers and their treating doctors are not aware of the exact status and it is known only to the independent investigator of the company.

According to sources in the pharmaceutical industry the vaccine evaluation by other countries is to look at ways and means in which they too can procure doses for their country. The Union Government is looking at the vaccination in Telangana and Rajasthan first.

Suchitra Ella, joint managing director of Bharat Biotech, says, "Covaxin has garnered interest from several countries for supplies and introduction. Countries looking for an Indian vaccine to fight the pandemic is a morale-booster for us."

● THE PHASE III human clinical trials, which began last month, were conducted on 26,000 volunteers from across the country.

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The city is back to normal or so it seems if one were to go by the way people are moving around giving a damn to Covid-19 protocol. The people are assuming that coronavirus no longer exists. This has become more pronounced in the last two months.

Celebrations of festivals, GHMC election campaign, wedding ceremonies and Tuesday's Bharat Bandh bear testimony to the manner people are making a mockery of corona guidelines. A majority of people are without face masks and social distancing has been thrown out of the window. Medical practitioners insist that wearing masks and social distanc-

ing are paramount. This is even as experts from ICMR and IMA are warning of a second wave if people ignore preventive measures.

Psychologists opine that people are vexed with staying indoors and news of the vaccine has boosted their confidence levels.

Sajida Khatoon, an assistant lecturer, said, "At the weddings that I attended, people were without masks. Guests moved around in close proximity. This is prevalent even in family and festival gatherings. The government can only direct us. Everything else depends on how responsible we are. Norms and social distancing have been neglected during the recent political rallies and dharnas."

Dr Daljeet Kaur, consultant psychiatrist at

Virinchi Hospitals, said "People are frustrated staying indoors. They have started believing that the threat is almost over as there is a remarkable improvement in the recovery rate. But precautions cannot be neglected, particularly in gatherings and when on the streets."

IMA State Secretary, Dr B Narendar Reddy told *Deccan Chronicle* "contrary to perceptions, positive cases are growing but the actual number of cases remains unknown as many patients are going to private labs while some are preferring self-medication at home taking the prescription from recovered patients. People should note that the vaccine is still not in our reach and it's always better to avoid infections."

COVID-19 CASES GRADUALLY RISING IN CITY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Corona positive cases are rising in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits because people are crowding public places and at social gatherings.

GHMC limits recorded 123 new cases on Tuesday, 119 cases on Monday, 102 each on December 5 and 6, 109 (Dec 4), 114 (Dec 3).

Medical experts said one should not take these fluctuating figures lightly, particularly because nights are increasingly colder.

With the mask protocol not being followed properly, there is fear that spread will be faster, they warned.

Senior consultant Dr Prabhu C. states "People think that they can be isolated and the virus is mild. But post-Covid 19 symptoms are also leading to lots of fatigue and health complications. Even young patients are suffering lung problems. Hence people must not give up the protocol and care has to be taken."

Movement of people within the city, state and country has seen a rise and there is a fear that this will further spread the infection.

Telangana recorded 721 new cases taking the overall total to 2,75,261 and three deaths increasing the toll to 1,480.

Meanwhile, active cases are down to 7,661 as the recovery rate and discharges have been high. With 753 recoveries on Tuesday, the total number of recovered patients is at 2,75,261 cases. Warangal Urban recorded 47 new cases, Karimnagar 37 and Khammam.

● MOVEMENT OF people within the city, state and country has seen a rise in Coronavirus and there is a fear that this will further spread the infection. State recorded 721 new infections.

Staying indoors may spread Covid-19, caution experts

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

As the days get colder in the city with the minimum temperatures reaching 13-15 degrees Celsius, the fear of contracting coronavirus is rife. However, this can be managed with due precautions, say scientists from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB). The sensation of feeling cold happens because the air has cooled down, which they say is ideal for the virus to travel.

"Whenever the temperature is cold, the air gets heavier and the droplets which contain the virus hang in the air, for a longer duration," Rakesh Mishra, director, CCMB,

told *Deccan Chronicle*. However, he adds, that this is just a scientific explanation of the virus' characteristics. "Practically speaking, when people are outdoors, the temperature might not matter much. It is not because of the temperature in the winter season, rather what people tend to do during the cold climate," he said.

One thing that people do in winters is to stay indoors. So, when there is indoor crowding, the chances of infection are higher, he said.

"If there is cross-ventilation or the windows are kept open then the chances of catching the virus is difficult. But because of the cold winds, the windows are kept

shut, meaning there is no cross-ventilation and all the people inside are breathing the same air. In such situations, there will be a good chance of catching an infection. The only way to avoid it is to wear a mask indoors," said Mishra.

As of Wednesday morning, the coldest places in the city were BHEL, Rajendranagar and Macha Bolaram. The minimum temperatures recorded in these places were 11.8, 12.8, and 12.9 degrees Celsius, respectively. In the state, the coldest places were Ginnendari, Arli, Sirpur, and Bela. They recorded minimum temperatures of 7.1, 8.9, 9, and 9.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

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Plight of pensioners



Pensioners are made to wait outside and forced to break Covid-19 rules at the Bank of India, Malkajgiri on Wednesday for their monthly pension. "This is how we are made to suffer," said G. Malathi — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

BRIGHT FUTURE 222 offers from 63 companies

IIT-H students get record placements

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday adjourned the batch of petitions challenging the Layout Regulation Scheme (LRS) introduced by the Telangana state government to five weeks.

Advocate General B.S. Prasad sought more time to file the counters on behalf of the government which the court considered it and adjourned the cases. In all, five PILs were filed against the LRS. In the earlier hearings, the court had directed government to file its explanation on the issues raised in the pleas. The government has not filed the counters in some pleas and on Wednesday sought more time.

● ABOUT 500 students of various departments and 116 companies have registered with IIT-H for placements this year.

Between December 1 and 6, the job interviews with IIT-H students had been held online.

About 500 students of various departments and 116 companies have registered with IIT-H for placements this year. 206 students have already received offers at the end of Phase I placements, amounting to more than 75 percent offers for circuit branches. Most of them are from IT/ITES sector, with few from

core sectors as well. Phase II placements will begin in January 2021, when more international offers are expected, institute authorities stated.

Speaking about Phase I campus placements, Dr Pradeep Yemula, faculty in-charge (Placements), IIT Hyderabad, disclosed, "We had anticipated a slowdown in placements due to the pandemic. Accordingly, we had asked our student teams to strengthen themselves and adapt to the changing scenario. However, we are glad to see that the placement season at IIT-H has started on a positive note."

AI's non-stop Hyd-Chicago flight from Jan. 15

Hyderabad, Dec. 9: National carrier Air India would fly non-stop from here to Chicago, USA, starting from January 15, the Hyderabad International Airport announced on Wednesday.

The launch of this route brings two destinations closer for all our passengers who have been waiting eagerly for a direct flight from Hyderabad to the USA. We are constantly working on linking more cities domestic and international with focus on high standards of safety to serve our passengers," said CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd., Pradeep Panicker.

Hyderabad is second home to many US-based firms and as much as 70 per cent of the total IT exports to the United States is from Hyderabad, said the release.

Data submitted by firms inadequate

From Page 1

According to sources aware of the proceedings, "the data submitted by a company to CDSO in order to get a EUA pertained to data of overseas patients by a company for phase III human clinical trials".

In case of another company, recruitment of all 26,000 volunteers is still not complete, sources said. Given these lapses it will take time for the EUA to be given to these companies.

Experts argue that vaccine development takes time and evaluation of data requires time.

Dr Sanjay Reddy, senior pharmacist, said, "The data generation will be based on the dosage regime, time after doses and adverse effects, if any. These phases have to be completed. Till it is completed, it will not be known where this vaccine can be administered to people safely."

Experts believe that the waiting period for EUA will take at least another month, if not one. There are three committees which have to evaluate

SHORT TAKES

Today last day to apply for Haj online

Hyderabad: Thursday is the last day to access the Haj Online Application, said Mohammed Masjullah Khan, chairman, Telangana State Haj Committee. He asked those who have not yet applied to file their applications through Haj Committee of India website www.hajcommittee.gov.in. Masjullah Khan also requested intending Haj pilgrims to bring necessary documents, such as passports, bank proof, address proof, and passport-size photos with white background, apart from debit or credit card to pay the online processing fee. Pilgrims must have a machine-readable passport with expiry date of maximum January 10, 2022 to apply online for Haj - 2021.

30-yr-old techie dies by suicide

Hyderabad: A software engineer ended his life by suicide by consuming poisonous substances at his house in SR Nagar on Tuesday night. Police said K. Poornachandra Reddy, 30, was employed with a software company and was residing at Yellareddyguda. "On Tuesday evening, he allegedly consumed some poisonous substance and on coming to know about it, his relatives shifted him to a private hospital at Somajiguda where he died in the night. Reddy's family members told us he was having some personal problems and slipped into depression. He might have ended his life over it," said the police.

MAN'S BODY FOUND WITH STAB INJURIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The body of an unidentified man with stab injuries was found in a secluded place at Kishanagar in Shadnagar on Wednesday afternoon.

According to the police, the person, aged around 40 years, was suspected to have been killed during a brawl. "The body was found by area locals with stab injuries. Following a Dial 100 call, a team from the Shadnagar police was sent to the spot and the body as shifted to the district government mortuary for post-mortem," said the police, adding that it was yet to be ascertained if the victim was murdered at the spot or killed elsewhere and his body dumped here. A case under Section 302 and two teams have been formed to nab the killers.

MEDICOVER HELPS RISKY NF PATIENT RECOVER

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Doctors at Medicover Hospitals have succeeded in helping a patient recover from Necrotising Fasciitis (NF), a rare disease that occurs only in 0.8 of 1 lakh patients in India. The disease is an outcome of bacteria entering the body of uncontrolled diabetes patients, which destroys the skin and subcutaneous tissues, threatening the life of such persons.

The 54-year-old male patient was brought in by his family with blisters and wounds on legs, which rendered him unable to walk. Medicover doctors said the patient required strong antibiotic treatment and plastic surgery for the damaged skin. The patient is recovering and out of danger. But the person will require regular follow-up, as he is immune compromised.

Birthday gift



Congress MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy along with Ponnala Lakshmaiah and Hanumant Rao distributes saris on Sonia Gandhi's birthday in Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Congress: Sack Malla Reddy from Cabinet

Party also demand action against MLA Mahipal

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

AICC Spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Wednesday demanded the dismissal of Labour minister C. Malla Reddy for being involved in alleged land grabbing activities in Hyderabad.

He said that the minister, along with his son, allegedly threatened a person whose land was wilfully grabbed and fenced by force.

KCR TO ADDRESS PUBLIC MEETING IN SIDDIPET TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao will be going on a day tour of Siddipet on Friday.

Rao will reach Siddipet town at 11 am from Begumpet Airport and will participate in various development programmes including the inauguration of one of the largest double bedroom colonies in the state, which consists of around 2,460 units.

The Chief Minister will lay the foundation stone for IT park in Duddeda village of the district and inaugurate the Government Medical College, Rythu Vedika and Telangana Bhavan (party office) apart from lunaching other schemes.

Rao will end his tour with a public meeting at 3 pm in at the Government Degree College grounds in Siddipet.

THE CHIEF MINISTER will lay the foundation stone for IT park in Duddeda village of the district and inaugurate the Government Medical College, Rythu Vedika and Telangana Bhavan (party office) apart from lunaching other schemes.

AICC begins exercise to select state party chief

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

AICC in-charge for Telangana Congress affairs Manickam Tagore on Wednesday said that the new Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president will be selected after eliciting opinions of senior leaders, MLAs, MPs and former TPCC presidents.

Addressing the TPCC core committee meeting, he said that he will take opinions of around 100 to 150 leaders and submit a report to the party high com-

mand and then the AICC will appoint the new chief. He said that N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will continue as the TPCC chief till his successor is appointed.

Stating that Uttam Kumar Reddy has effectively carried out his functions, he pointed out that Reddy has never lost his temper during his tenure and thanked him on behalf of AICC. Comparing the Congress with the Indian cricket team, he said though the Indian team loses one or two matches initially, it always wins in the

finals. Core Committee members including Uttam Kumar Reddy, A. Revanth Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, T. Jeevan Reddy, Damodar Raja Narasimha, Vamsi Chandra Reddy, Madhu Yashki Sampath Kumar, Ponnala Lakshmaiah and V. Hanumanth Rao participated in the meeting. After the core committee meeting, Tagore held one-on-one meetings with some leaders to ascertain their views on the new chief.

Fight for stipend



BJP Yuva Morcha activists protest in front of the Directorate of Medical Education, Koti, in Hyderabad on Wednesday, demanding stipend for PG medical students. — S. SURENDER REDDY

FRAUD ALERT Mutawallis of graveyards told not to collect money for burial

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Telangana State Wakf Board on Wednesday warned all dargah contractors against compelling devotees to offer a minimum fixed *xenia* (fund for rituals).

The warning was issued by Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem at a press conference after the organisation received complaints pertaining to several dargahs where contractors are forcing devotees to donate more funds into *xenia hundis*.

than what they can afford. Those who cannot devote the contractor-stipulated funds are not being allowed to perform the customary rituals.

The board chairman maintained that none can force a devotee to offer *xenia*. It is up to devotees whether they want to offer anything. A devotee can also make an offering in accordance with his or her financial position.

Mohammed Saleem said the board is holding a meeting with contractors of various dargahs in this regard. He warned that if

THE BOARD chief asked mutawallis and managing committees of graveyards to also not collect amounts for burial. They must also not insist on specific jurisdiction.

any such complaints are received in future, *xenia* contracts of those dargahs will be cancelled after a due inquiry.

The board chief asked mutawallis and managing committees of graveyards to also not collect amounts for burial. They must also

not insist on specific jurisdiction. The body of a Muslim must be allowed to be buried at any graveyard without insisting on knowing the residential area of the deceased.

Mohammed Saleem said the board has held a meeting wherein it decided to construct lavatories and bathrooms in different dargahs. The meeting dealt with 77 items on the agenda of which 23 pertained to formation of committees and six to appointments of mutawallis. Board has accorded

permission for construction and development of masjids and graveyards.

The board chairman announced that director of Minorities Welfare has approved the wakf board's proposal to renovate the Shahi Masjid at an estimated cost of ₹77 lakh. He clarified that though a masjid comes under direct management of Minorities Welfare Department, the board has decided to improve facilities at various masjids. He hoped all such works will be completed before Ramzan.

Wakf Board warns dargah on xenia

Local body representatives decry non-payment of salaries

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Members of Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTC), Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTC) Mandal Praja Parishad presidents (MPP) and sarpanches of Gram Panchayats (GPs) are waiting in vain for their monthly honorarium for the past six months. There are 534 ZPTCs, 5816 MPTCs and 534 MPPs and 12,771 village sarpanches in the state.

The state government fixed ₹10,000 for ZPTCs and MPPs and ₹5,000 for MPTCs and sarpanches as monthly hono-

urarium. The elected representatives of local bodies alleged that though the TRS government has fixed a good amount, the payment has been tardy.

They said that MPTCs, ZPTCs and MPPs do not have any income-generating sources to take up development activities in their respective jurisdictions. The GPs get 85 per cent share in the funds from the 15th Finance Commission and ZPTCs and MPPs get 10 per

cent while it is only five percent for MPTCs.

The aggrieved representatives said that the funds should be invested on development activities and they invariably depend on the state government for their expenses to tour their respective jurisdictions.

They pointed out that though the state government has included their honorarium in the state Budget they never got them on a regular basis. They said the government had assured to allocate funds to them from the state financial corporation but it has not made any allocation till date.

HC TO IS: FIX ₹13K AS MINIMUM PAY SCALE FOR SWEEPERS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavali of Telangana High Court on Wednesday ordered the state government to pay the minimum time pay-scale wages i.e. ₹13,000 to sweepers working in government schools under panchayat raj wing.

Most of the sweepers have been working for years and their services were not regularised. They were being paid around ₹4,000 only. About 40 such sweepers had moved the High Court for seeking regularisation of their services.

MIM MLA holds meeting with corporators, officials

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Nampally MLA Jafar Hussain Meraj has held a meeting with officials of departments dealing with public utilities and newly elected corporators for getting updates of ongoing works in his constituency.

During the meeting, corporators asked officials of GHMC, Transco and HMWS&SB to complete all pending works without waiting for formation of the new council. The MLA told officials that public should not suffer from lack of services

SONIA MUST BE IN SYLLABUS, SHE GAVE TS: SRAVAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

AICC spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju has requested Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to include a lesson on AICC president Sonia Gandhi's life at the school syllabus level in Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion of AICC president's 74th birthday on Thursday, Sravan recalled KCR's statement in the newly formed State Legislative Assembly that there would have been "No Telangana without Sonia Gandhi".

However, until after six years of Telangana dream coming true, nothing great has been done in return by the state government, he pointed out.

The AICC spokesperson referred to the fact that the AICC president had promised to carve out separate Telangana if the Congress Party came to power during 2004 parliamentary elections. As promised, Sonia Gandhi, then the chairperson of UPA government, convinced all political parties to officially support formation of Telangana. The Telangana Formation Bill was also passed by the Parliament to create TS as the 29th state of India with effect from June 2, 2014. Sravan underlined that TS was formed despite huge pressure against formation of the new state from certain sections. But Sonia Gandhi stood firm towards her commitment given to the people of Telangana.

SAD DEMISE

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Tim. 4:7)

Mrs. KOMMU PRAMILA SAMUEL

W/o. Late. Mr. K. Z. Samuel
DOB: 12-09-1942 DOD: 08-12-2020
You remain in our thoughts forever

Inserted By:
Mrs. R. Padma Jeevarathnam & Family

OBITUARY

KOTHAKOTA SURYANARAYANA

DOB: 4-4-1944 DOD: 9-12-2020
Chief Lab Supdt, CH/LGD (Retd)
Last rites at Swarg Vatika, RTC Colony,
Trimulgerry, on 10-12-2020,
11.30 am onwards
BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBERS:
Ph: 9849418002

11th DAY CEREMONY ON 10TH DEC - 2020

Sri DEBBADI SRINIVASA RAO

Inserted by: W/o. Late. D. Rukmini
Sons: D. Vinay Kumar & D. Anjani,
D. Praveen Kumar & D. Anitha
Grand Daughters: Rachana & Sanjana
Grand Sons: Varun Kumar &
Akshath Kumar &
DEBBADI FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9849562148 / 6305247597

OBITUARY

TELKAR AMARLEELA

W/o. Late. Telkar Venugopal Rao
DOB: 30-10-1957 DOD: 09-12-2020
Accountant of Stanley School, Malakpet (Retd.)
Funeral at Narayanaguda Cemetery
at 3.30pm on 10-12-2020
Inserted By:
Son: T. Vikas & Family Members
Ph: 9849562148 / 6305247597

2nd Death Anniversary

Kum. Bulusu Balamani

DOB: 10.12.2018
Asst. Inspector General (Retd.)
(Dept. of Stamps and Registration)
From Sunrise to Sunset every moment
would have been more Wonderful if
you were with us. Your Memory is
stored in our Hearts & Minds.
B. Pullaya (Brother) and Sisters
9701001838, 9849256838

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and
the life she who believes in me will live,
even though they die."

August 15, 1955 - December 10, 2015
A year has gone by and we miss your presence in our lives inerably. Thank you for giving us memories that will last our lifetime. We thank God for your beautiful life with us.
We miss you.
Mr. Ezva Kothapally, Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-Law and Grand Children
(S/2021/D00923)

IN BRIEF

Woman rams car into shop, 5 injured

Hyderabad: A car crashed into a sweet shop causing burn injuries to five workers when hot oil with which they were preparing sweets, spilled on them, near Shamshabad late on Tuesday night. According to the police, Anjum Zia Uddin, 35, a teacher at a private school, rammed her car into the sweet shop in Shamshabad. "She panicked and accelerated the car instead of applying brakes, leading to the mishap and injuring five men. One of them sustained 60 per cent bodyburns and others had minor burn injuries," said the police inspector of RGIA, P. Vijay Kumar, adding that they were rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention. A case was booked against the woman under section 337 (negligent driving) of the IPC and started a probe.

CENTRAL VISTA WAS LONG OVERDUE: KCR

From Page 1

In a letter to Prime Minister Modi, which was shared on social media and to the media, Chandrashekhar Rao said, "I join you with a sense of pride on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for the grand project of Central Vista."

Stating that the Central Vista project is "long overdue", Chief Minister Rao said "the existing government infrastructure in the national capital is inadequate and associated with our colonial past."

Chandrashekhar Rao, who was recently admonished by both the public and opposition parties when he had the Secretariat building demolished after a High Court reprieve and released grand new designs for a new building in the middle and peak of the Coronavirus pandemic, in a way echoing his own rationale for his actions, said to Mr Modi, "the new Central Vista project would be a symbol of self-esteem, prestige and national pride of a resurgent, confident and strong India."

Rao also hoped and wished for a speedy completion of the "prestigious and nationally important" project. This move will put the Telangana state BJP on the backfoot in criticising the pet new Secretariat project of Mr Rao.

INTER DROPOUT POSING AS DOC ARRESTEDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

A 35-year-old intermediate dropout who was running a clinic posing as a doctor since 2013 was nabbed by the Rachakonda police on Wednesday. Police said that he used his experience of working at hospitals as an advantage to prescribe drugs and started a clinic near the Meerpet Crossroads.

The accused, Polkampally Sai Kumar was caught following a raid conducted at Sai Clinic by the police on Wednesday evening. "He is using fake MBBS and MD degrees and colluded with one Sk Ahmed to run the clinic," police said. "By charging ₹150 per person as a consultancy fee, he has successfully run the place since 2013. He had previously worked as an operation theatre assistant from 2006 to 2012 and used that knowledge to diagnose basic ailments. We seized a stethoscope, one blood pressure checking machine, nine prescription books, a rubber stamp and some medicines from his possession," said the police.

Green ride

Pranay, a techie uses an electric unicycle to commute between his place of work at Hitec City and Dundigal on Wednesday. Pranay says he is against the use of fossil fuel-powered vehicles as they pollute the city. He further said he finds it easy to carry his vehicle everywhere.

— R. PAVAN

Cheated artist awaits response from Qatar**Qatar national had duped artist of 11 crystal paintings**NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

It has been almost two years and the 73-year-old city-based artist is still waiting for justice as his case is pending with police.

Sayed Azmathullah, who makes unique crystal paintings of well-known global personalities, was conned by a Qatar national, who posed as a Hyderabadi and fled with 11 of his paintings to showcase them as his own in art exhibitions and gift the same to leaders.

Sharing his plight, Azmathullah said that he met the accused, Abdul Salam Al-Qadi, in 2017.

"He approached me posing as an art lover from Qatar. Between October 2017 and April 2018, he procured 11 paintings from me, stating that he would showcase them and also share profits with me," said the artist, adding that after getting paid for five paintings, he was blocked.

"Government officials in the United Kingdom informed me that vari-



Crystal painting of Tim Cook



Crystal painting of Sundar Pichai

ous Gulf-based media houses have reported mentioning Abdul as the artist of two paintings: the Dome of the Rock in the Old City of Jerusalem and another of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. I was invited to the UK Parliament to showcase my work and they were the ones who informed me that someone else does similar artwork. It was only then I realised that Abdul had passed off some of my work as his own.

Sharing his plight, Azmathullah said that he met the accused, Abdul Salam Al-Qadi, in 2017.

"He approached me posing as an art lover from Qatar. Between October 2017 and April 2018, he procured 11 paintings from me, stating that he would showcase them and also share profits with me," said the artist, adding that after getting paid for five paintings, he was blocked.

"Government officials in the United Kingdom informed me that vari-

said that the alleged accused was not a Qatari but a local from Hyderabad.

"He is not present in the country anymore. We have learnt that he shifted to Sharjah. We are probing the case," said the official, adding that they were yet to make headway.

"My work was never meant to be commercialised. I even wrote to the Turkish Consulate in Hyderabad, which alerted the Qatar Embassy in Turkey of Abdul's duplicity. However, there has been no response from the Embassy. After repeated attempts to reach Abdul, I even warned him before approaching the police. I am yet to receive an update from the police on the status of the investigation," concluded a helpless Sayed.

Azmathullah has created crystal paintings of former president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Prince Charles, K.T. Rama Rao, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Apple and Google, and many other eminent personalities.

MLA threatens to cut journo into pieces

From Page 1

Cops booked the ruling TRS legislator G. Mahipal Reddy under the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act also.

The Dalit journalist working in a local newspaper filed a complaint with the Sangareddy police, accusing MLA Mahipal Reddy of abusing and threatening him over phone on Tuesday, following a news report filed by him, in which exposed how the legislator's followers were involved in grabbing land in Ameenpur area.

In the purported audio file going viral on social

media but is unverified, the MLA is heard saying, "what happened Santosh? Who do you think you are? Come to my house now. If I come to your house, I will cut your hands and legs. Record this call, are you even a man? I will mince you to pieces. Call and report to the cops, even the commissioner or DGP, I am not afraid of anyone. Come here or I will come there. ****"

● **BASED ON THE COMPLAINT, THE CASES WERE REGISTERED. THE CASE IS UNDER INVESTIGATION, A SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL SAID.**

(abusing his mother). How dare you mention my name in your report? Do you even know my level? You press guys will write anything."

"Anna, will you threaten me if I write facts against the land grab of your followers and TRS partymen," the Dalit journalist is heard pleading.

Based on the complaint, the cases were registered. The case is under investigation, a senior police official said.

None of the TRS senior leaders have condemned their party leader and MLA for threatening a journalist or a Dalit.

CLASH | RAGES No data with modern medicine on how many crossopathy clinics are flourishing: Docs**Indian med vs modern debate began in 1974**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

The ongoing clash raging between doctors practising Indian and modern medicine has its origins in 1974 when the former were allowed access to laboratory tests.

Further, in the year 2000 and 2004 changes were made wherein doctors practising Indian medicine – Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) – could study surgery medicine. These changes over time and the recent one have allowed

Indian medicine doctors to carry out surgery. But such a practise amounts to endangering lives of people," a senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, told Deccan Chronicle.

Essentially, Ayush doctors had been allowed to practise allopathic medicine to meet the shortage of doctors and also cut costs at government hospitals. But such a thing amounts to Central Council for Indian Medicine (CCIM) interfering with modern science, which is utterly against ethics, says the doctor. "A handful of Indian doc-

tors, who gained confidence by illegally practising 'crossopathy', are the reason for the Union government not listening to allopathic doctors' demand against permitting Ayush doctors to practise modern medicine and even perform surgeries," says another doctor.

Dr Ravinder Reddy, chairman of Telangana Medical Council and national vice-president-elect of Indian Medical Association (IMA) from Telangana, says, "There are court judgements, which state that 'crossopathy' cannot be practiced. Despite the court orders,

ment or operations, leading to disputes between such doctors and patients. Such cases are often settled 'in private', remarked another doctor on condition of anonymity.

Failure to pursue such complaints to its logical has only encouraged Ayush doctors to freely practise allopathic medicine. That is one of the main reasons for CCIM passing the rule allowing Indian medicine qualified doctors to practise modern medicine, a doctor avers. Rule should be clear in black and white. Mixing of systems will lead to

patients being subject to dangerous situations, allopathic doctors maintain.

It is the decision of National Medical Commission that CII will decide curriculum of MBBS, which has led to an uproar among students. Junior doctors are asking how an Indian system of medicine can mix with modern science and technology. Most doctors of modern science say they are not able to understand why the government is playing with medical education, which is an evidence-based practice.

Toxins in food may have caused the Eluru illnessDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 9

Even as the number of fresh cases of "mystery illness" has come down to 12 on Wednesday and only 44 affected persons are still undergoing treatment, a deadly combination of neurotoxins and organochlorine pesticides are prime suspects for the confounding disease that has caught national and even international attention.

State health authorities maintain that these substances found in hydrocarbon pesticides such as DDT can turn poisonous, affecting nervous tissues in human body. This could be why affected people are developing convulsions for a brief period, being getting back to normalcy after some time.

Several reputed central agencies like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IITC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) are working on finding the source of such poisonous substances entering the human body and affecting nervous system.

The AIIMS report has already confirmed presence of lead in the blood of affected people in its preliminary report after testing 10 patients. It is, however, yet to come up with its report of analysing milk samples.

NCDC has started its investigations to find out reasons for the mystery illness. It is also collecting samples from blood, urine, water, milk and crops, among others. These are being tested at present and their reports are awaited."

JAGAN TELLS EXPERTS TO FIND ACTUAL CAUSEDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 9

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday conducted a review meeting in Eluru with officials and medical teams on Wednesday.

He directed them to conduct a thorough research and find out the causes of the illness and affirmed that the state government is offering good treatment to people. The CM said this during a video conference with the authorities, doctors and experts from the WHO, AIIMS, NIN, CCMB and the IITC.

Health authorities say that all these grounds will be subject to a scientific scrutiny. Truth can be established once test reports from several central agencies are out.

Health director Dr. T. Geeta Prasadini said, "We will be able to know the exact reason for the cause of mystery illness very shortly. Several central agencies have collected samples of blood, urine, water, milk and crops, among others. These are being tested at present and their reports are awaited."

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Last date of receipt of application is 21 days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspapers (Leading dailies). For application and further details see the website of the institute: www.ciiil.org under Announcements. Completed applications may be sent to the **Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Manasagangotri, Hunsur Road, Mysore - 570006, Karnataka** by hand or by post. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

**Asst. Director (Admin)
 CII, Mysore.**

Dav 21248/11/0002/2021

DECCAN Chronicle

10 DECEMBER 2020

Democracy and reforms: How much is too much?

Is there a connection between democracy and Niti Aayog? Or, not to put too fine a point on it, between India's democracy and the government's think tank on economic affairs that was created as the National Institute for Transforming India (Niti) by dismantling the Planning Commission, which had planned to achieve balanced development of the various regions to remove poverty. Probably not, if putative observations of the Niti Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant, made recently, are to be taken at face value.

The transformation of India in the conception of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the chairman of the think tank he created in January 2015 through a mere cabinet decision and not the constitutional route, is to be achieved, fundamentally through de-regulation in all fields of economic activity. This means taking away any role for the government through "hard reforms" that Mr Kant spoke of while addressing an event virtually on Tuesday.

The country's major news platforms quoted the Niti Aayog operational chief as saying that "tough reforms" were very difficult in the Indian context because there was "too much democracy" in the country. He also noted that the Modi government had shown the "political will" to drive hard reforms. He reeled off examples such as mining, agriculture and labour.

The political meaning of this is obvious — that the rules, regulations and the culture of debate, dissent and protest in a democracy will not yield "tough reforms" needed to deliver economic prosperity. This is a discredited notion and Mr Kant evidently ran for cover when the implication of his remarks was revealed to him. He flatly denied saying the words attributed to him though it is highly unlikely that all reputed media outlets would misquote him. The videos of his only underscore that his clarification and denials are to be regarded with a stiff dose of skepticism.

Mr Kant went to the extent of saying that India can compete with China only through "hard reforms" and not through holding seminars. Seminars imply discussion and debate. This China reference would also suggest that in the Niti Aayog CEO's scheme, debates are not the way to push "tough reforms", implying a failure of the well-known basis of democracy. Presumably, then, hard reforms can only be achieved through bulldozing, the way it is done in China, a totalitarian state where a single leader is all knowing and all-powerful.

Examples of so-called "hard reform" (even when they undervalue public welfare by privileging the market principle on an exclusive basis), pushed through the methods of democracy, have evidently eluded Mr Modi's most powerful economic bureaucrat. He could have recalled, for instance, that former Britain PM Margaret Thatcher battled and debated in Parliament and the media to get her way in scuttling welfare measures of an earlier era to set her country on a new path.

In fact, to make economic reforms non-sliding, acceptance by the widest sections of the people is a necessity, not a luxury, and the political principle of democracy provides for the most thorough means to install a new idea or practice. The present regime has failed to do just that, the most recent egregious example being the contentious agri-laws against which a storm is brewing. These were rammed through Parliament virtually without discussion — in an example of the "political will" shown by the regime.

The rise of Everest

Measured in 2005 by a Beijing survey to be 8,844 m, Mt Chomolungma (meaning mother goddess) was a harder climb from the Chinese side, but also shortened by a good four metres. It prompted mountaineers to rush over to Nepal to summit Sagarmatha (literally, top of the world) whose height was generally acknowledged to be 8,848 metres. It cost the Communist country no small amount of Everest tourism.

Following the 2015 earthquake in Nepal which left 9,000 dead, including some climbers, the country's survey department experts, fearing that the mountain had become shorter, called for a fresh taking of measurement. So far, Nepal had been following the findings of the 1954 Survey of India, which had put out the second figure. An American survey in 1999, however, had calculated Everest to be higher, at 8,850 metres. It added grist to speculations as to whether the young-fold mountain was still growing.

The speculators were correct. The two newest satellite aided surveys — Nepal's in 2019 and the one completed by China earlier this year — finally agree — the height of Everest is 8,848.66 metres — the mountain having grown by three feet or 86 centimetres. It is 164 years after Radhanath Sikdar used trigonometry and machines called theodolites to first calculate it on behalf of Sir George Everest to be 8,839 metres, making it the highest peak of the world.

It wasn't easy measuring the earth's tallest mountain this time either. Surveyors had to climb the mountain with a GPS receiver. A Nepali surveyor who stayed at the summit for two hours lost a toe to frostbite.

Now comes the key question — can this increase be attributed to rock, or is it merely icecap, as China once claimed? Yes and no, says Sridevi Jade, plate tectonics expert. The Himalayas stand on the boundary between the Indian and Eurasian plates. Jade calculates that the Indian plate is slipping under the Eurasian plate by about five centimetres a year. After accounting for erosion on the top, Everest is gaining about one centimetre every 10 years. So while the quake may have taken off centimetres, replicating Hillary and Norgay'sfeat just got harder.

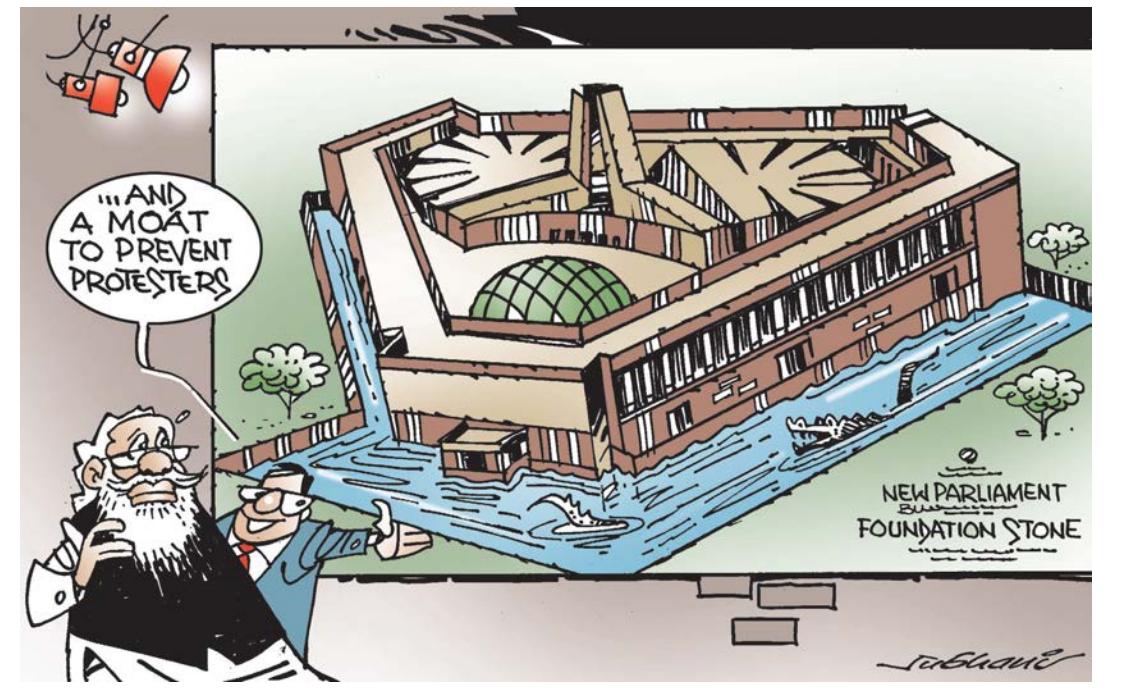
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Subhani



Boris' fumbling holds lessons for the world

Sunanda K.
Datta-Ray

Reflections

An important lesson for the pandemic-stricken world is to remember as challenge after challenge casts its shadow on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's beleaguered government in London is that no opinion — not even that of a suspected adversary — should be dismissed or derided at a time of grave international danger.

More of that later. Immediate attention focuses on another aspect of the coronavirus crisis which inspired Britain's Agra-born business minister, Alok Sharma, to exult grandiloquently: "In years to come, we will remember this moment as the day the United Kingdom led humanity's charge against this disease." He meant — as every British spokesman repeats ad nauseam — that the UK is the first country to agree to use the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19.

Not everyone is equally boastful. While the German ambassador reminded listeners that the vaccine represents collective European enterprise, the tiny oil-rich island kingdom of Bahrain quickly muscled into the limelight to share Britain's glory with its own agreement with Pfizer/BioNTech. Another critic with little stomach for bombast that might resound to applause in Mr Sharma's ancestral Uttar Pradesh sharply reminded him that this moment might also be remembered for "the UK having one of the worst death rates and the worst economic impact due to poor governance".

Going beyond the United Kingdom's 1.71 million Covid-19 cases and 61,014 deaths, he might have been speaking of the frantic last-minute parleys in Britain's pro-

tracted divorce negotiations with the European Union which suggest that the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, did not think things through when he played up to demagogic separatists with his aggressive Brexit agenda. With time running out for the December 31 deadline, this week's last throw of the dice (as it's called) in the negotiations may be heading for a breakdown rather than a breakthrough. If so, it would be catastrophic for both parties who cannot escape their interdependence. While British waters are much richer in fish than the seas surrounding Europe, British trawlers make their money selling to the European nations.

As Mr Johnson continues to pander to the insular lobby by accusing the EU of riding roughshod over British sovereignty, Rachel Reeves, a senior member of the Labour Party's shadow cabinet, has warned that he "needs to deliver the deal he promised the British people". He can't ignore her for Brexit has exposed his reliance on Labour votes in the House of Commons. Neither can he ignore the new Cold War against China and Russia that US President Donald Trump had launched with vehement diatribes against the so-called "Wuhan virus" to woo American voters ahead of the presidential election.

With talk of Washington invoking the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to blacklist the popular Chinese video app TikTok as an unusual and extraordinary threat", Mr Johnson has taken up the cudgels for the United States like another British leader, Tony Blair, who kowtowed to George W. Bush and joined the American invasions of Iraq and

Afghanistan. That probably explains the sudden £16 billion increase in Britain's defence budget over the next four years, despite the pandemic's calamitous damage to the economy. Such gestures appease the Americans, as do accusations of the Kremlin trying to penetrate Britain's secret scientific research programmes and promises to reveal Russia's alleged covert interference in British politics.

Initially, Mr Johnson rejected pressure, American as well as from the rightists among his own Conservatives, to ban the Chinese technology company, Huawei, from any role in building the UK's 5G infrastructure. He has since done a volte face and now cites "sound technical reasons" for giving Huawei marching orders. But although Huawei is said to threaten British security and is excluded from the 5G network, Mr Johnson cannot be seriously concerned since the eviction will become effective only over seven years.

Neither this anomaly nor the ban itself seems to have attracted much public attention in Britain. The reason may be that people are genuinely horrified by China's oppression of the Uighurs, its tightening grip on Hong Kong, the military assertiveness in the South China Sea and muscle-flexing in Ladakh. But the Brexit controversy makes Britain vulnerable, and succumbing to American pressure at this juncture may compound London's dependency.

That opinion should have been taken seriously even though China had already been cast as the adversary. According to independent observers, China's return to normality was largely the result of old-fashioned public health measures, with a heavy emphasis on test-and-trace and travel bans, vigorously enforced by mobilising the country's vast resources and, of course, invoking the state's coercive authority.

There's a lesson there for the rest of the suffering world.

Dr Hans Kluge, who heads the WHO's European operations, says that lockdowns are unnecessary if 95 per cent of the population wears masks. Sadly, many European and American leaders dismissed masks then as politically unacceptable.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

NEW FARM LAWS

A solution to the farmers' agitation seems unlikely in the near future with both the government and farmers are sticking to their guns. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure the agitation does not escalate and become unwieldy and anti-social elements step in to take advantage of the situation. The Centre could stop being adamant and address the apprehensions of farmers.

S. Nageswara Rao
Hyderabad

Many are at a loss to understand why farmers are agitating when the government strongly feels the new farm laws are beneficial. Government should make public the benefits to farmers. Otherwise, Opposition parties will take undue advantage of the situation.

G. Vijay Kumar
Hyderabad

MOVIE THEATRES

The CM's think tank should provide a proper solution to avert any rise in Covid-19 cases. We have experienced the trauma of losing many artistes, celebrities, leaders, doctors and other leaders to Coronavirus. This is the worst situation in medical history. With people habituated to watching movies and shopping on the net we do not need movies in theatres for the time being. So-called mega stars who slept all this while in their lavish bungalows now wake up and come outside like caterpillars from chrysalis to do their business. Bureaucrats must advise the CM to close movie theatres and save lives.

Garlapathy Sitharamaiah
Hyderabad

High Court upholds Mulki rules

From our legal staff reporter

HYDERABAD, Dec. 9.

The full bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court today held that the Mulki rules relating to appointment of public servants in so far as they are applicable to

Telangana

a region revive and survive to continue after the judgement of the Supreme Court striking down in 1969 Section 3 of the Public Employment Act 1957.

The full bench consisted of Chief Justice Kumarayya, Mr. Justice Gopal Rao Ekbote and Mr. Justice Sambasiva Rao.

Leher Sethi

Is pollution a greater pandemic than Covid?



As a parent, I dread Delhi winters, not just because of the terrible pollution in the air. We live in the city with the worst air quality in the world. Air quality index is generally Moderate (101-200) between January and September, and then it drastically deteriorates to Very Poor (301-400), Severe (401-500) or Hazardous (500+) between October and December.

It amazes me how year after year, as the winter approaches, there is a huge outcry over pollution in the city and then it dies down its own natural death as the summer returns. There is no urgency to tackle this pandemic!

Although some of us are still getting used to wearing masks, to many of us with little children, this is nothing new because our kids have been wearing masks for the past couple of winters. In my son's Montessori preschool, it was made compulsory for the little babies to wear masks to school. Back then, it felt like I was entering a science fiction film set every time I would go to school. Little did I know that it would become the new normal soon!

As per the current data, as on

November 28, 2020, there have been 1,35,906 deaths due to the coronavirus in India. Globally, there have been 1.45 million deaths. Now, compare this to the deaths caused due to pollution. In 2019, exposures to outdoor high average levels of PM 2.5 caused 9,80,000 deaths in India — nearly 60 per cent of all air pollution — attributable deaths. Globally, there were 4.14 million such deaths in 2019. Even if we were to double the coronavirus-related deaths, they would still amount to just about 27 per cent of the deaths caused due to air pollution in India. Then, why is this pandemic being ignored?

What will it take for the authorities and the government to wake up to its reality? Is it that the awareness of this epidemic is only with the educated and urban few, that it will only become important once the vote bank of the poor make it an issue?

As per the State of Global Air 2020 report (SoGA 2020) released on October 21, a report published by the US-based think-tank, Health Effects Institute, there were at least 1,16,000 infant deaths due to air pollution recorded in India last year.

For the youngest infants, most deaths were related to complications

from low birth weight and premature birth — direct outcomes of mothers' exposure to air pollution during pregnancy.

More than half of the infant deaths were due to PM2.5 in outdoor air and the rest were linked to household air pollution due to use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood and animal dung for cooking, as per the study that claims to be the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns.

There is a growing body of evidence about the link between infant death and air pollution and several Indian and international studies have tried to explain it. In 2019, India's population-weighted annual average concentration of PM 2.5 was recorded at 83.2 micrograms per cubic metre — seven times higher than the WHO's safe standards of 10 µg/m³ and remained highest in the world. (The "population-weighted annual average concentration" is the average level of air pollution to which a country's population is exposed.)

As per a study titled "State of Global Air 2019", the average life of a South Asian child growing up in the current high levels of air pollution will be shortened by two-and-a-half years.

This means that a child born today will die 2.5 years sooner, on average. That is a really scary prospect, and one that makes me want to leave this city, and country, along with my child. Doing a little bit of research on my own, here's what I found:

■ Children are more at risk from the effects of pollution since they have faster breathing rates, and their lungs are still developing.

■ Children exposed to high pollution are more likely to have reduced lung function as adults.

■ Long term exposure to air pollution may cause asthma and other health risks, including cancer, in children.

■ Air pollution is one of the leading threats to child health, accounting for almost one in 10 deaths in children under five years of age.

■ Pregnant women exposed to air pollution can hinder the development of the brain and lead to cognitive problems later in the children.

As per the World Health Organisation, in Delhi, poor air quality irreversibly damages the lungs of 2.2 million or 50 per cent of all children. My child and your child could be part of that number! There is no way of sugarcoating this; as a parent, I am afraid for my child.

If this is not a national emergency, then what is? Our children are the future, and the future is at stake here!

Leher Sethi is an entrepreneur and social activist

SHORT TAKES

TAMIL TELEVISION ACTRESS CHITRA COMMITS SUICIDE

Chennai, Dec. 9: Popular Tamil television actress Chitra was found dead at a hotel room here early on Wednesday and she is suspected to have died by suicide, police said.

The 29-year old actress, well known among television audience in Tamil Nadu was seen hanging from a fan at the hotel room — using her saree like a rope — in suburban Nazarethpet when they reached the spot, police said.

When examined, she was already dead, an official said adding her fiance, who was with her before her death was being questioned.

After a shoot at a nearby location, K. Chitra arrived at the hotel on the Bengaluru bypass and had told the man that she would be back after a bath and requested him to wait outside, police said quoting him. "He says he knocked on the door since she did not come out for long. He says, he then informed the hotel personnel and police was informed at 3:30 am. He is being questioned. A probe is on," the official said.

The 32-year old man was recently engaged to her and he was staying with her in the hotel room. Chitra became more popular among lovers of soap opera after she donned the role of 'Mullai' in the ongoing television serial 'Pandian Stores.'

The body has been sent to Kilpauk Government Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

THREE AL-BADR MILITANTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, DEC. 9

A gunfight that broke out in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's southern Pulwama district overnight ended around noon on Wednesday after the security forces gunned down all the three militants who had been holed up in a private house. The house owner was injured in the clash, the officials said.

The Army and J&K police said that the slain men — all locals — belonged to Al-Badr; a pro-Pakistan militant outfit.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Vijay Kumar, said that the civilian who was caught in crossfire was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment and is said to be stable. Kumar said that the operation to flush out militants from Pulwama's Tiken village had been launched jointly by J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group, the Army's 55 Rashtriya Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force's 182 and 183 battalions.

The police claimed that the militants holed up in the area were given opportunity to surrender. "However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter. Zamir Sadiq Lone in whose house the terrorists were hiding also received gunshot injuries."

DRDO LABS 'TALK' IN SUCCESSFUL QUANTUM DEMO

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology, which is a "robust" way to share encryption keys, said an official statement.

In the QKD technology, encryption keys are sent as qubits in a fibre optic cable. Quantum computing uses qubits as basic resources, similar to how bits are used as basic resources in classical computing. The QKD is designed in a way that if an illegitimate entity tries to read the transmission, it will disturb the qubits — which are encoded on photons — and this will generate transmission errors, leading to legitimate end users being immediately informed.

"Secure communications are vital for defence and strategic agencies world over and distribution of encryption keys from time to time is an important requirement in this context... Quantum based communication offers a robust solution to sharing the keys securely," said an official statement. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO for successful demonstration of QKD-based communication between its two labs in Hyderabad, said the statement.



Police keep vigil as Karnataka farmers participate in a protest rally in Bengaluru on Wednesday to press for repeal of the Centres agri-laws.

— PTI

Save India's annadatas, Opposition urges Prez

Anti-democratic farm laws threaten food security, says Oppn

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Opposition parties, led by the Congress and NCP, met President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday and sought repeal of the three farm laws against which thousands of farmers have been protesting on various borders of the national capital.

The five-member delegation included former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D. Raja and DMK leader T.K.S. Elangovan.

The Opposition's memorandum to the President said, "We urge upon you, as the custodian of the Indian Constitution, to persuade your government not to be obdurate and accept the demands raised by India's annadatas."

"The new agri-laws, passed in Parliament in an anti-democratic manner preventing a structured discussion and voting, threaten India's food security, destroy Indian agriculture and our farmers, lay the basis for the abolishment of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and mortgage Indian agriculture and our markets to the caprices of multinational agri-business corporates and domestic corporates," it said.

"We met the President and informed him of our view regarding the three farm laws. We have asked for their repeal. We informed the President that it is critical that they are taken back," Gandhi told the media after the meeting.

He said the way the farm laws were passed in Parliament, "we feel it was an insult to farmers and that is why they are protesting in the cold weather again against them". He claimed that using the new laws, the government wants to hand over the farming sector to the "friends of the Prime Minister" but the farmers are fearless and will not back off, and will continue with their peaceful agitation.

It is getting colder by the day and there are hundreds of miles from home but the band of old men, among the many thousands of protesting farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, are not giving up any time soon.

Elders determined to keep up the fight

New Delhi, Dec. 9: "Come home only after we win this fight". His son's words to him as he left his village in Punjab for Delhi ring in Gurdev Singh's ears and give the 71-year-old the strength to carry on with the protest against the new farm laws — so what if he is still recovering from a knee replacement surgery.

The doughy sardar from Nurpur village in Punjab's Jalandhar district is just one of the several elderly people camping at the Singhu border for the last 13 days, determined to keep up the fight for a repeal of the Centre's three new farm laws.

It is getting colder by the day and there are hundreds of miles from home but the band of old men, among the many thousands of protesting farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, are not giving up any time soon.

"As far as I can remember, all generations in my family have depended on agriculture for their livelihood. My sons, too, are farmers. I came to fight for the honour of our forefathers and the rights of my children," Gurdev Singh said, pumping his fists in the air.

He had both his knees replaced just four months ago and can't walk without support but isn't complaining. "This trouble is nothing compared to the issue we are protesting about."

My elder son told me, 'Come home only after we win this fight', and that is what I plan to do," the farmer said as two men help him climb down from a trolley.

Gurdev Singh's two friends from Nurpur, Sajjan Singh and Pritam Singh, both in their late 60s, echo his bravura spirit.

— PTI

BUSY FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS, SAY FARMERS

New Delhi, Dec. 9: Caught between the Covid-19 pandemic and the agitation for their rights, farmers protesting against the Centre's new farm laws said the fear of contracting the disease is "not enough" to detract them from their fight.

Thousands of farmers camping at the Tikri borders are largely seen without the basic preventive measure against Covid-19 — protective masks.

"The government has

already tied a noose around our necks with these laws... we cannot afford to be afraid of Coronavirus," Gagandeep Singh, a farmer from Bhatinda in Punjab, said.

He has been protesting at the Delhi-Haryana border for the last 10 days.

Demonstrating for 12 straight days, the farmers have been demanding that the three laws be revoked.

Sporting a long white beard, Gurvansan Singh said he was not afraid of the disease that has already killed over 1.4 lakh people in the country.

"We are losing our rights. We do not have time to worry about Coronavirus," he said.

According to Sachin Kumar from Delhi's Uttam Nagar, the government's refusal to hear the farmers' demands proved that it was creating the fear of the virus to shut down the protest.

Kumar, whose family has land in Uttar Pradesh mocked, "It seems that the virus will infect us exclusively. What is shown on camera and the reality on ground is different."

Meanwhile, traffic was disrupted at border points with farmers agitating on the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders of Delhi.

— PTI

Mehbooba Mufti detained again

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, DEC. 9

Former chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said that she has again been placed under house arrest, the third time in less than a fortnight. Taking a jibe at Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, she said "too much democracy indeed."

Kant had on Tuesday said, "Tough reforms are very difficult in the Indian context. We are too much of a democracy. For the first time, the government has had the courage and determination to carry out hard-headed reforms across sectors."

The PDP chief tweeted,

BACK | HOME Tigress was translocated to Satkosia reserve in 2018**'Sundari' to relocate to MP**

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC
BHOWAL, DEC. 9

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh on Wednesday gave his nod for relocation of tigress 'Sundari', translocated to Satkosia tiger reserve in Odisha in a re-introduction programme in 2018, in Kanha National Park in MP.

Chouhan's decision to restore Sundari to her original home in Kanha tiger reserve has ended after almost a yearlong impasse over relocation of the wild animal with MP forest department hitherto unwilling to take back her contending that she was not fit to be released in the wild.

In a letter to his Odisha

counterpart Naveen Patnaik, Chouhan said MP would take back Sundari. He, however, indicated that it would take some time for relocation of Sundari in Kanha tiger reserve.

"It has been decided to relocate Sundari in the Ghorela re-wilding centre to make her fit to be released in the wild. But, an orphan cub is currently being trained in the centre to restore its wild character. Sundari could be relocated to the centre only after the tiger cub was released in the wild", the letter written in Hindi said.

Chouhan said an expert team from MP which visited Sundari in her enclosure in Satkosia tiger

Rajasthan PR poll results mandate on farm bills: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

Hailing the Rajasthan local body polls results as "phenomenal," the BJP on Thursday claimed that the results are farmers' mandate for Modi government's farm reforms and also people's support for the party across the country.

In Congress ruled Rajasthan, the BJP won 353 of 636 zila parishads, 21 zila panchayats and 1,990 of 4,371 panchayat samitis, primarily in rural areas.

● **THE BJP** won 353 of 636 zila parishads, 21 zila panchayats and 1,990 of 4,371 panchayat samitis, primarily in rural areas.

ning most seats in the local polls in Rajasthan.

"This is a huge victory.. This is farmers' mandate for farm reforms," said the Union minister.

When asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's dig at the Union government alleging that "reform equals theft" for it, Javadekar took a jibe saying he does not want to respond to a "non-performing politician."

He said the Central government is holding talks with the protesting farmer union leaders with an open mind and expressed confidence that a resolution will be reached.

The minister pointed out that these wins have come for the BJP amid the Covid-19 pandemic, economic troubles caused by it and "misinformation" campaign by the opposition against the BJP over the farm reforms.

Nadda attacks TMC as he begins poll campaign

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC
KOLKATA, DEC. 9

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Wednesday attacked the ruling Trinamul Congress in West Bengal as a family-run party after embarking on a two-day visit to the state to set "dynasty politics" on the agenda in next year's Assembly elections.

He also led a rally of *Aar Noy Onnyay* (no more injustice) campaign, a door-to-door outreach initiative of the BJP, on Girish Mukherjee Road in Bhowanipore, the home turf and Assembly constituency of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, to make the saffron party's presence felt there.

Thousands of farmers camping at the Tikri borders are largely seen without the basic preventive measure against Covid-19 — protective masks.

"The government has

desperately got to get the votebank of the Matua, a community of Hindu migrants in West Bengal, from the BJP, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in South 24 Parganas.

Inaugurating the state BJP election office in Hastings and nine district party offices, Nadda, in an oblique reference to Banerjee's residence at Harish Chatterjee Street in Kalighat, which is also the heart of the TMC, said, "Karyalay is the centre of culture and tradition. Interestingly, BJP is run from the Karyalay. But for other parties, home is their Karyalay from where they are run."

He asserted that the refugees would not need the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to stay as legal citizens here.

Accusing the BJP of cheating the refugees in the name of the CAA in the poll-bound state, the Trinamul Congress supreme once again ruled out of allowing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR) also here.

Her announcement came in wake of the BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya's announcement that the CAA implementation for the migrants would get underway from either January or February.

Banerjee told a TMC rally at the domain of the Matua in Bongaon of

North 24 Parganas, "There are lot of refugees who live here after coming from Bangladesh. It is your home like ours. There is no need to get a fresh certificate because all of you are citizens. You are being cheated in the name of the CAA. If it gets underway, your grandparents' age proof will be sought. Can you arrange it now?"

She informed that all the 94 refugee colonies, under the state government, were legalised already to give its residents citizenship in exchange of nothing."

"There were 250 more such colonies which existed privately on central government premises. We have legalised them also to give citizenship to its residents. Remember, the state government, not the central government, holds the main power. Work of the two governments is different. The state government decides who will live in the state. So there is no point in lying in the name of CAA. We will not allow the NRC and NPR to happen," Banerjee claimed.

front of Scottish Church College — Cultivate the habit of discipline and tolerance. Surrender not to the convictions you hold dear but learn to appreciate the points of view of

your opponents. This is very much relevant to Bengal even today. If we look at Mamataji, intolerance by the name is Mamata. Intolerance is growing so fast here!"

RUSSIA UNHAPPY WITH CLOSE INDO-US TIES

From page 1

"The West is attempting to undermine our close partnership and privileged relations with India. This is the goal of the US' very tough pressure on New Delhi," Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said.

Observers point out that the remarks highlight Russia's unease with India's growing proximity and strong strategic ties with the United States, with whom Russia has had a sharply deteriorating relationship.

It also highlights India's challenge in continuing to maintain excellent ties with both Russia and the US.

SHORT TAKES

I-T RAIDS
CHETTINAD GROUP;
₹7CR RECOVERED

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Income-Tax Department on Wednesday conducted raids at multiple locations of Chennai-based Chettinad group in connection with tax evasion probe, officials said.

The department on its official Twitter handle said the action was being undertaken against a "prominent business group of Chennai having varied business activities."

"About 60 premises are being covered in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra," an official said as he identified it as the Chettinad group.

They said over ₹7 crore "unaccounted" cash has been recovered from "a key person" till now and the raids were still on.

The about 100-year-old Chettinad group has interests in several businesses like construction, cement, power and others.

CJI'S MOTHER
DUPED OF ₹2.5CR,
ACCUSED HELD

Nagpur, Dec. 9: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Arvind Bobde's mother was allegedly duped to the tune of ₹2.5 crore by the caretaker of a family property here, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Tapas Ghosh (49), was arrested on Tuesday night. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is looking into the matter under the supervision of DCP Vinita Sahu, said Nagpur commissioner of police (CP) Amitesh Kumar.

Mukta Bobde, CJI Bobde's mother, is the owner of Seadon Lawn near Akashwani Square which is rented out for marriages and other functions, he said. The Bobde family had appointed Ghosh as caretaker of the property in 2007.

He was paid salary and also a commission on bookings. Taking advantage of Mukta Bobde's advanced age and frail health, Ghosh and his wife allegedly kept her in the dark about transactions, and did not deposit the entire rent amount which they collected, the CP said.

They also allegedly forged receipts. The fraud came to light when several bookings were canceled during lockdown for Coronavirus but the customers could not get refund of the booking amount from Ghosh, he said.

After Mukta Bobde lodged a complaint of cheating in August, an SIT consisting of Economic Offences Wing officials was formed. All the bookings from 2017 onward were scrutinised which revealed that Ghosh had duped the Bobde family of ₹2.5 crore, the CP said. He had also not paid bills for solar system installation and some fabrication work, Kumar added.

EX-BENGAL CM
BUDDHADEB
VERY CRITICAL

Kolkata, Dec. 9: The health condition of former West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, who was admitted to a hospital in south Kolkata, deteriorated to "very critical" on Wednesday evening, officials said. Bhattacharya, 76, was put on mechanical ventilator support at the critical care unit of the private hospital where he was taken to in the afternoon as his breathing-related problems aggravated, they said.

Mr Bhattacharya's RT-PCR test showed he was Covid negative and that is positive news. The CT scan of his brain showed old lacunar infarcts. He is undergoing treatment at the CCU," a senior official of the hospital said.

Repeated tests showed an accumulation of carbon dioxide and a lower pH level, following which doctors decided to electively ventilate him after proper consent of family members, he said.

"His condition is very critical," the official added. Bhattacharya's pulse and blood pressure are stable and the veteran politician is on IV antibiotics, IV steroids and other supportive medications, said a statement released by the hospital. His oxygen saturation deteriorated to 70 per cent in the morning and he became unconscious, following which he was rushed to the hospital.

The veteran CPI(M) leader was initially put on non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP) at the hospital after which his oxygen saturation improved to 95 per cent. However, his condition deteriorated and he was put on mechanical ventilation.

Employment plan gets Cabinet nod

₹23K-cr scheme aims to create jobs to benefit 58.5 L

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9



Union ministers Santosh Gangwar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, and Prakash Javadekar during a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— PTI

department has no data on the number of people who have lost jobs since Corona virus-induced lockdown was imposed on March 24 this year. Under the programme, the Centre will reimburse 24 per cent, 12 per cent each for employees and employers, for two years for all new formal jobs created in enterprises having up to 1000 employees between October 1 and till June 30 next year, Gangwar said at the cabinet briefing.

In an organisation where

employee strength is more than 1,000 workers, the reimbursement will be restricted to 12 per cent of the employees' contribution, he said.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had on November 12 announced ₹2.65 lakh crore worth economic stimulus package, termed as Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0, comprising 12 big measures to revive the economy marred by Covid. These measures included the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to generate employment.

Cabinet approves setting up of public Wi-Fi networks

DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH agency inputs
NEW DELHI, DEC. 9

THE PROGRAMME will be called PM-WANI and, under it, public data offices will establish and maintain Wi-Fi access points and deliver broadband service to subscribers.

The proliferation of Broadband Services through public Wi-Fi is a step towards digital India, Prasad said, adding that this will have consequential benefits thereon.

Announcing the decision, Union IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told mediapersons that the proposal is aimed at the growth of public Wi-Fi networks in the country, especially in the interiors of the country so that even people at the grassroots level can have internet access.

The programme will be called PM-WANI and, under it, public data offices will establish and maintain Wi-Fi access points and deliver broadband service to subscribers," he said.

App provider will be responsible for developing application to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the app for accessing the internet service. A Central Registry will maintain the details of app providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.

Bengaluru, Dec. 9: Amid bickering, the controversial anti-cow slaughter bill was passed in the Karnataka Assembly on Wednesday, with the Congress members staging a walkout in protest.

The bill known as the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill-2020 seeks a total ban on the slaughter of cows in the state and stringent punishment to those who indulge in smuggling, illegal transportation, atrocities on cows and slaughtering them, BJP sources said.

"Yes, the bill has been passed in the Assembly," state law and parliamentary affairs minister J.C. Madhuswamy said. Besides cows and calves, the bill also intends to protect buffaloes and their calves less than 12 years of age.

There is a provision to set up special courts for the speedy trial of the accused people.

It also makes provision for setting up Goshala or cattle-sheds for the protection of livestock.

Police have been given powers to conduct checking. The law also gives protection to those who protect these livestock. The bill was passed without any discussion as there was din in the House.

The Congress later staged a walkout in protest.

— PTI

NEHRU YUVA KENDRA SANGATHAN
An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Government of India

Ground Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, 4 Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Corrigendum

On approval of the Cadre Restructuring in NYKS by MoYAS, GOI, various posts are merged and re-designated. Accordingly, revised terms and conditions for the posts advertised earlier vide Advt. No. 11023/NYKS/Pers:Rect/2019, dated: 31-05-2019 are uploaded on the NYKS Website: nyks.nic.in.

NYKS reserves all the rights to amend or cancel all or part of the advertisement at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. All Disputes are subject to Jurisdiction of Courts in Delhi Only.

davp 47102/11/0002/2021

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Technical Section - I

Invitation of Applications for the post of Director, IIT Delhi

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The Director of an IIT is the academic and administrative head of the Institution. He/she is expected to have a minimum of 5 years' administrative experience and leadership qualities to head an Institute of National importance. The candidate/person should be a Ph.D. with first class or equivalent at the preceding degree, preferably in a branch of Engineering. In exceptional cases, candidates with Science, Mathematics or Management degrees may be considered. He/she should have an outstanding academic record throughout and a minimum of 10 years teaching experience as a Professor in a reputed Engineering or Technology Institute or University and should have guided Ph.D. students. The applicant should preferably be less than 60 years of age on the last date of receipt of applications. The post carries a fixed pay of Rs. 2,25,000/- (Revised) per month, with allowances as per rules.

2. Interested individuals may apply giving their detailed resume in the prescribed format clearly bringing out research, teaching, industry-academia collaborations and administrative achievements, along with a two-page justification in support of their candidature, a two-page vision statement for the institution and contact details of at least two distinguished individuals well acquainted with their work. The application typed in the prescribed format along with enclosures may be sent by Registered/Speed Post to The Under Secretary (TS.1), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Room No. 428 "C" Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi -110 001 so as to reach the Ministry on or before 20.01.2021. The detailed advertisement and the format of application is available on the website (www.education.gov.in).

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
SANGAREDDY
FORM-C

(Under Section 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given)

(See Rule 6(12))

NOTIFICATION

No.G1/1833/2018 Date: 01-12-2020

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Sangareddy that a total of 32.12 acres land is required in the Rukampur village of Nyalkal Mandal Sangareddy District for public purpose, namely establishment of NIMZ Project Zaeherabad.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Rukampur village of Nyalkal Mandal Sangareddy District land measuring, more or less extent 32.12 acres viz. 12.44 hectare of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following is proposed for acquisition.

District:Sangareddy Mandal: Nyalkal Village:Rukampur

S.No. N S E W Variet Number Type Firth area

S.No.	N	S	E	W	Variet	Number	Type	Firth area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5/1/e	Patta	Dry	9.01 J.Ilyasiy Khan s/o Fayajali Khan	Average acquisition	Bata,Vish-Uma Sri ala devi saiam	Mango 400	Bore Pipeline	0
2	5/1/e	Patta	9.00 J.Husna markuth w/o Ilyasali Khan	Average acquisition	Bata,Vish-Uma Sri ala devi saiam	0	Bore Pipeline	0
3	5/1/e/1	Patta	4.22 J.Ilyasiy khan s/o Fayajali Khan	Average acquisition	Bata,Vish-Uma Sri ala devi saiam	0	Bore Pipeline	0
4	5/2/e/1	Patta	0.30 J.Ilyasiy Babu khan s/o Rao Fayajali Khan	Average acquisition	Rama Srinivasa Raju	0	Bore Pipeline	0
Total	5.30							
5	5/1/e	Patta	3.20 Veerendra Prathap Singh s/o Lalansingh	Average acquisition	Sam-Thamai	Mango 1150	Bore Pipeline	0
6	5/1/e	Patta	2.20 Seemasingh s/o Veerendra Prathap singh	Average acquisition	Chandramma	375, 95	Barber wire fencing	0
Total	6.00							
5/2/e/4	Patta	Dry	2.39 Nagesh Bahadur Singh s/o Lalan singh	Average acquisition	Hari Amma	Wells		2
Total	2.39							
Grand Total	32.12							

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement act 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act No. 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A Plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Sangareddy & Special Deputy Collector LA NIMZ, Zaeherabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-Cum appropriate Government is pleased to authorize SDC LA NIMZ Zaeherabad and Tahsildar Nyalkal and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the Sub-soil & do all other Acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Sec.12 of the Said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. Sale/Purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector Sangareddy.

Objections to the acquisition if any and claims from the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided U/s 15 of the Act before District Collector, Sangareddy / Authorized Officer.

Sd/- Tahsildar Spl. Dy. Collector Additional District Collector Collector Sd/- Sangareddy District Collector DIPR Ro. No.974/LA/PP/Advt/Agency/2020-21

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008
Vangali (V), Tekkaiyalam (PO), Near Rayavarapu Agraharam
Sabavaram (MD), Visakapatnam Campus,
Visakapatnam - 53 103 Andhra Pradesh
Website: www.imu.edu.in GST 37AAA2612021

IMUV/2024/2020-21/Canteen/01

04 December 2020

TENDER FOR CATERING SERVICES TO VISAKHAPATNAM CAMPUS OF INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

A tender has been e-published in Central Public Procurement Portal and hosted in www imu-edu.in and www imu-edu.in websites. Interested bidders may please visit the websites.

Sd/- Campus Director

Head Quarters: Indian Maritime University, East Coast Road, Uthandi, Sholinganallur Post, Chennai-600119, Tamilnadu, India, Telephone: +91 (44) 24530343, Fax: +91 (44) 25430342 dadvp 37218/11/0001/2021

HYDERABAD METRO RAIL LTD
(Metro Rail Bhavan, Rasoopuram, Hyderabad)
e' Procurement, GM (Admn)

NIT No: 01/HMR/GM(A)/2020-21 dt: 08.12.2020

Tender Notice

S.No. NIT No. Name of work Estimated Payment of Salaries per month (Rs in Lakh)

1 01/HMR/GM(A)/2020-21 Providing Services of Personnel on Outsourcing basis for the period of One Year for 2021 15.60

Schedule of Tender Process:

1 Bid submission start date and time : 10.12.2020 @ 4.00 PM

2 Bid close date and time : 24.12.2020 @ 4.00 PM

3 Bid opening date : 24.12.2020 @ 4.30 PM

For further details contact Deputy General Manager (Admn), HMR - Phone: 96762 83023

DIPR No.: 1226-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

SHORT TAKES

CHOPPER CRASH IN FRENCH ALPS KILLS 5, 1 HURT

Paris, Dec. 9: Five members of a mountain rescue team were killed and a sixth was seriously injured when their helicopter crashed in the French Alps, authorities said. The helicopter was carrying the team on a training mission in the Savoie region on Tuesday evening. The helicopter came down at an altitude of 1,800 meters (5,905 feet), the prefecture of Savoie said in a statement. The surviving crew member was able to give the alert.

He has been transported to a hospital in the city of Grenoble, the prefecture said. Weather conditions were particularly bad, local authorities said. French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute in a tweet overnight to rescuers who "to save lives, are taking all the risks."

GERMAN POLLS TO BE HELD ON SEPT. 26, 2021

Berlin, Dec. 9: Germany's next parliamentary election, which will determine the country's new leader after Chancellor Angela Merkel's long rule, will be held on September 26, 2021.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier's office said Wednesday that the head of state set the date in line with a recommendation from the government. It will be post-World War II Germany's 20th parliamentary election. Germany holds elections every four years.

The lower house of parliament, or Bundestag, elects the chancellor. That may not happen until well after the election, because the process of putting together a governing coalition can be lengthy. After the 2017 election, it was nearly six months before Merkel was sworn in for her fourth term — a record.

ETHIOPIA DENIES PROBES INTO TIGRAY CONFLICT

Nairobi, Dec. 9: Ethiopia's government is rejecting calls for independent investigations into the deadly conflict in its Tigray region, saying it "doesn't need a baby-sitter."

The declaration comes amid international calls for more transparency into the month-long fighting between Ethiopian forces and those of the fugitive Tigray regional government that is thought to have killed thousands, including civilians.

At least one large-scale massacre has been documented, and others are feared. Senior government official Redwan Hussein told reporters on Tuesday evening that Ethiopia will invite others for assistance only if it feels that "it failed to investigate."

To assume the government can't carry out such probes "is belittling the government," he said.

Frustration is growing as the northern Tigray region remains largely cut off from the outside world, with food and medicines desperately needed by the population of 6 million — some 1 million of them now thought to be displaced.

INDIA'S WEAPONS PURCHASE FROM US AT \$3.4 BILLION

Washington, Dec. 9: India's weapons procurement from the United States jumped from a meagre \$6.2 million to a whopping \$3.4 billion in the final year of the Donald Trump's administration, according to official data.

As per the data released by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), the jump in the sale of American weapons to India comes at a time when sale of weapons from the US to other countries has dipped to \$50.8 billion in 2020 from \$55.7 billion in 2019.

In 2019, the sale of US weapons to foreign countries was \$55.7 billion. In 2017, it was \$41.9 billion, it said. Major buyers of American weapons in 2020 were India (\$3.4 billion up from \$6.2 million in fiscal year 2019), Morocco (\$4.5 billion up from \$12.4 million), Poland (\$4.7 billion up from \$673 million), Singapore (\$1.3 billion up from \$137 million), Taiwan (\$11.8 billion up from \$876 million), and the United Arab Emirates (\$3.6 billion up from \$1.1 billion), the data showed.

Several countries reported a drop in purchase of weapons from the US.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a ceremony to mark the arrival of a plane of the international courier company DHL, carrying over 1,00,000 doses of the first batch of Pfizer vaccines which landed at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, on Wednesday. — AFP

UK body issues allergy warning for Pfizer jab

Caution was given after 2 NHS workers suffered allergic reactions

Biden promises 100 mn vaccine shots in 100 days

Washington, Dec. 9: US President-elect Joe Biden has said that in the first 100 days of his administration, he would mandate everyone to wear a mask, ensure 100 million Covid-19 vaccinations and reopen the majority of schools as he assured Americans that his "crisis-tested" team of experts will deliver better healthcare and revive the economy.

The warning comes after two National Health Service (NHS) workers experienced "anaphylactoid reaction" symptoms shortly after being injected, but are now said to be recovering well. NHS England said all its trusts involved with the mass vaccination programme have been informed and from Wednesday, all patients scheduled to receive the vaccine will be asked if they have a history of allergic reactions.

"As is common with new vaccines, the MHRA have advised on a precautionary basis that people with a significant history of allergic reactions do not receive this vaccination after two people with a history of significant allergic reactions responded adversely," said Professor Stephen Powis, medical director for the NHS in England.

An anaphylactoid reaction tends to involve a skin rash, breathlessness and sometimes a drop in blood pressure and both the NHS workers who experienced this are said to have a history of serious allergies and carry adrenaline pens around with them.

"We have been advised by MHRA [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency] of two yellow card reports that may be associated with allergic reaction due to administration of the Covid-19 BNT162b2 vaccine," Pfizer UK said in a statement. "As a precautionary measure, the MHRA has issued temporary guidance to the NHS while it conducts an investigation in order to fully understand each case and its causes," it said.

Dr June Raine, the head of the MHRA, told a joint select committee hearing on Tuesday that "real-time vigilance" will continue throughout the vaccine rollout process. — PTI

Trump told reporters

Don orders vaccine priority for America

Washington, Dec. 9: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order that prioritises Americans' access to Covid-19 vaccines before the US potentially begins helping other nations.

If necessary, Trump said, he is ready to invoke the Defence Production Act to ensure that Covid-19 vaccines first get to the Americans.

The Defence Production Act allows a president to force private manufacturers to ramp up production and give the federal government priority on any orders it places. American companies, he said, were the first to produce a verifiably safe and effective vaccine.

That his administration provided a total of \$14 billion to accelerate Coronavirus vaccine development and to manufacture all of the top candidates long in advance.

As a result of this "unprecedented investment", both Pfizer and Moderna have announced that their vaccines are approximately 95 per cent effective, he said.

Pfizer has developed its vaccine outside of 'Operation Warp Speed', but is collaborating with the US government on manufacturing and distribution. The UK on Tuesday began its vaccinations with the first set of people injected with their first of two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab. — PTI

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THE GOAL was to shoot Starship to an altitude of eight miles (12.5 kilometres) — the highest yet — and then bring it back to a vertical landing. But an automatic engine abort occurred with just 1.3 seconds remaining in the countdown.

THE STAINLESS steel version on the launch pad on Tuesday was the first to feature a nose cone.

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Biden picks retired Army general to lead Pentagon**Trump: Hopeful of continuing as Prez**

Washington, Dec. 9: US President-elect Joe Biden has announced retired Army general Lloyd J. Austin as his nomination for Defence Secretary. If confirmed by the Senate, 67-year-old Austin would be the first African-American to lead the Pentagon.

The nominee for the 28th Secretary of Defence comes with a distinguished record of military service spanning four decades. "General Austin shares my profound belief that our nation is at its strongest when we lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

Throughout his lifetime of dedicated service — and in the many hours we've spent together in the White House Situation Room and with our troops overseas — General Austin has demonstrated exemplary leadership, character and command," Biden said while making the announcement.

"He is uniquely qualified to take on the challenges and crises we face in the current moment, and I look forward to once again working closely with him as a trusted partner to lead our military with dignity and resolve, revitalise our alliances in the face of global threats, and ensure the safety and security of the American people," the Democratic leader said.

An accomplished, respected and trailblazing figure in the US military history, Austin retired from the Army in 2016 after over 40 years of service.

The first African-American to serve as Commander of US Central Command, Austin is a trusted and crisis-tested leader who has overseen some of the most complex and impactful operations in the history of the armed services — including serving as the chief

have denied any such fraud.

Election officials have declared Biden as the President-elect as he received more than the required 270 of the 538 electoral college votes. The elections are officially scheduled to be certified next week. However, Trump is continuing his legal efforts to upend Biden's victory. He has allowed the official start of Biden's transition to power but has not yet conceded defeat. — PTI

U.S. TOP COURT REJECTS GoP BID TO HALT BIDEN'S PENNSYLVANIA WIN

Washington, Dec. 9 (AP) The Supreme Court has rejected Republicans' last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania's certification of President-elect Joe Biden.

Biden won 306 electoral votes, so even if Pennsylvania's results had been in doubt, he still would have more than the 270 electoral votes needed to become president. — AP

had been considered a leading candidate for agriculture secretary in the Biden administration. Her intended nomination was confirmed on Tuesday by three people familiar with the decision who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid preempting the president-elect's announcement.

She enjoys the strong backing of South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat who gave Biden a key nod of support in the primaries. — PTI

Pak lawmakers to resign to paralyse govt: PDM chief**PAKISTAN TO BUY RAJ KAPOOR'S ANCESTRAL HOUSES IN PESHAWAR**

Islamabad, Dec. 9: The political crisis in Pakistan has deepened after an 11-party Opposition alliance announced that their lawmakers will resign en masse by the end of this month from parliament to paralyse the government and force Prime Minister Imran Khan to call early snap polls.

The decision was taken after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 Opposition parties formed in September this year to overthrow Prime Minister Khan's government, held a marathon meeting in Islamabad.

PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman announced on Tuesday night that a consensus was reached on resigning from parliament.

"All lawmakers will submit their resignation letter to their party chiefs by 31st December," he said, flanked by PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The exact timing of stomping out of assemblies would be decided later, said Rehman. Soon after the election in 2018, he had urged the Opposition leaders not to take oath to join parliament due to alleged rigging. But his idea was overruled by others, chiefly by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the The Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

It is believed that en masse resignation is the only way to bring the government on its knees and force it to call early elections.

The PPP government in the Sindh province was considered as a hurdle as it was not sure if that it would sacrifice its government to help the Opposition alliance.

The leaders also agreed to go ahead with a rally in Lahore on December 13 as a show of power to the government. It will be the sixth rally after similar

gatherings held in Gujranwala, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar and Multan.

The Opposition parties succeeded in attracting a huge number of people despite hurdles created by the government. Prime Minister Imran Khan rejected the demand to step down or call early elections and consistently advocated that Opposition alliance.

The leaders also agreed to put pressure to stop probes in corruption cases against their leaders. — PTI

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Automatic engine abort occurred with just 1.3 secs remaining in countdown, no word on next flight

SpaceX aborts test Starship flight in last second

Cape Canaveral (US), Dec. 9: The first high-altitude test flight of SpaceX's futuristic Starship was aborted at the last second in Texas on Tuesday.

SpaceX came close to launching a prototype of the rocketship that company chief Elon Musk is designing to carry people to Mars.

The goal was to shoot Starship to an altitude of

eight miles (12.5 kilometres) — the highest yet — and then bring it back to a vertical landing. But an automatic engine abort occurred with just 1.3 seconds remaining in the countdown.

SpaceX announced on its web broadcast it was done for the day, and there was no word on when it might try again. SpaceX already has conducted five Starship test

occurred with just 1.3 seconds remaining in the countdown.

SpaceX's stainless steel version on the launch pad on Tuesday was the first to feature a nose cone.

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This image shows SpaceX full-size Starship SN8 rocket prototype before its launch. — AFP

SHORT TAKES
HEAVY RAINS CAUSE FLOODS IN SLOVENIA

Ljubljana (Slovenia), Dec. 9: Heavy rains have battered parts of Slovenia and Croatia close to the Adriatic Sea coast, causing floods and landslides, blocking roads and disrupting traffic.

Persistent rain in coastal Slovenia on Wednesday made the Dragonja river overflow its banks along the border with Croatia, blocking a key road in the area and forcing closure of a border crossing.

A landslide brought down trees in the area of the port town of Koper and flooded regional roads, while rising Adriatic Sea waters submerged parts of nearby Piran. Authorities said more than 2,000 households have been left without power in the northwest, including the coastal town of Izola and remote mountain zones where wet snow and falling branches cut cables, disrupting power distribution.

NZ MARKS 'DEVASTATING' VOLCANO MISHAP

Wellington, Dec. 9: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern paid emotional tribute to victims of the White Island volcano eruption Wednesday on the first anniversary of the disaster that claimed 22 lives.

Almost 50 people, mostly Australian tourists, were on the island, also known as Whakaari, in December last year when a column of burning ash and steam blasted from a volcanic vent.

The eruption killed 22 and left dozens more with horrific injuries, prompting a massive medical operation that saw victims treated in burns units across New Zealand and Australia. Ardern said the disaster was "devastating" for all New Zealanders, as well as families of victims in Australia, Britain, Germany, the United States, China and Malaysia.

UN RAISES \$370 MILLION FOR 2021 EMERGENCY FUND

United Nations, Dec. 9: The United Nations announced Tuesday it has raised more than \$370 million for its emergency fund to help respond to crises in 2021.

More than 50 donors pledged money to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), managed by the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Mark Lowcock, according to a statement. The donors were not identified. "This fund is one of the fastest ways to help people trapped both in sudden-onset and deteriorating crises, as well as underfunded ones that are not at the top of the world's radar," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during a videoconference of donors held at the body's headquarters. Created in 2005, the fund "has helped millions of people get food, health care, shelter and protection this year," Lowcock said.

DUTCH CALLS FOR CRIMINAL PROBE INTO EX-ING CEO

The Hague (Netherlands), Dec. 9: A Dutch court on Wednesday ordered prosecutors to open a criminal investigation into the former CEO of ING bank, Ralph Hamers, for his role in a money laundering scandal that led to a huge settlement in 2018.

ING paid 775 million euros to settle the case, with the country's financial prosecution service saying that the bank failed for years to adequately implement a law aimed at preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism by not carrying out adequate background checks on clients and not sufficiently investigating suspicious transactions. Hamers has since left ING and is CEO of Zurich-based UBS.

He conceded at the time of the 2018 settlement that the bank had failed to do enough to prevent money laundering. The Hague Appeals Court upheld the settlement in a ruling Wednesday and called on prosecutors to open a case against Hamers. "The facts are serious, no settlement has been reached with the director himself, nor has he taken public responsibility for his actions," the court said in a statement.

The court considers it important that in a public criminal case the standard is confirmed that bank directors do not go unpunished if they have exercised effective leadership over serious prohibited behavior."

France unveils draft law to fight Islamist radicalism

Paris, Dec. 9: A draft law aimed at arming France against Islamist radicalism was unveiled on Wednesday, a measure promoted by President Emmanuel Macron to root out what he calls "separatists" undermining the nation.

Parliament is expected to open what is likely to be a lively debate on the draft law in the months ahead. The measure, long in the making and refined until days before its presentation, has gone through various name changes and is now known by the delicate title "Supporting Republican Principles."

Prime Minister Jean Castex said those whose project is to "divide and spread hate and violence" are at the center of "separatism." Separatism is especially dangerous because it "is the manifestation of a conscious, theorised, political-religious project with an ambition to make religious norms predominate over the law," he said at a news conference.

In an interview with the newspaper *Le Monde*, he said the nature of a law is long-term and it would apply to any political ideology that threatens French values, "even if today it is radical Islamism that we try by all means to fight."

Castex and others insist

● IN AN interview with the newspaper *Le Monde* he said the nature of a law is long-term and it would apply to any political ideology that threatens French values, "even if today it is radical Islamism that we try by all means to fight."

that neither Islam as a religion nor regular Muslims are targeted by the draft law. Neither is named in the text made up of about 50 articles aimed at enabling better oversight of mosques, associations, public services and schools.

The aim is to reduce the space where radicals can operate and ensure that French values, including secularism, are guaranteed. Among notable measures is making school obligatory from age 3 with the ability to opt out in favour of home schooling for special cases only.

The measure is aimed at ending so-called clandestine schools run by fundamentalists with their own agenda.

Another article encourages mosques to register as places of worship, so as to better identify them. Many of the nation's more than 2,600 mosques currently operate under rules for associations.

—AP

Iran ready for snap return to nuclear deal compliance

Tehran, Dec. 9: Iran is ready to return to full compliance with a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers as soon as the other parties honour their commitments, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday.

The agreement between Iran and major powers has teetered on the brink of collapse since outgoing US President Donald Trump pulled out of it in 2018 and reimposed crippling unilateral sanctions.

US President-elect Joe Biden has expressed readiness to return to the agreement but over the past 18 months Iran has suspended the implementation of some of its own obligations, including key limits to its uranium enrichment programme.

"Just as soon as the 5+1 or 4+1 resume all of their commitments, we will resume all of ours," Rouhani said.

He was referring to the five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany with whom Iran reached the nuclear deal.

"I've said it before — it doesn't take time, it's just a question of willing," he said in comments to his cabinet aired by state television.

Defying criticism from Iran's ultra-conservatives, Rouhani reiterated his determination to seize the "opportunity" presented by the change of US president in January.

Parliament, which has

been controlled by conservatives since a February election marred by record low turnout, passed a bill last week that threatens the prospects for a thaw in relations with Washington.

The bill, which still has to be signed into law by Rouhani, would relaunch Iran's enrichment of uranium to 20 percent purity and threaten other future measures that would likely sound the death knell of the nuclear deal.

In a blow to the president, the Guardian Council, which arbitrates disputes between parliament and the government, approved the bill last week.

But in his comments on Wednesday, Rouhani appeared to suggest that he would withhold his signature from the bill.

"It is vital that we speak with a single voice," the president told ministers.

"People voted for a platform... and they want four years of action," said Rouhani, who won re-election in 2017 with more than 57 percent of the vote.

Rouhani said Iran remained unable to purchase Covid-19 vaccines because banks were unwilling to process the transaction for fear of falling foul of US sanctions.

Iran is the Middle Eastern country hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic with more than 51,000 deaths from nearly 1.1 million cases, according to official figures.

—AP

● TRIPADVISOR owns a 40 per cent stake in TripAdvisor China, with Trip.com owning the other 60 per cent.

It cited what it said were public complaints about obscene, pornographic and violent information or fraud, gambling and prostitution. The ruling Communist Party tightly controls what the Chinese public sees online and has launched repeated crackdowns on websites and apps.

TripAdvisor China, a joint venture between TripAdvisor and its Chinese partner Trip.com, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Following the removal of its app in China, Nasdaq-listed TripAdvisor's stock price was down 1.68 per cent to \$29.59 at the market's close in the US on Tuesday.

TripAdvisor owns a 40 per cent stake in TripAdvisor China, with Trip.com owning the other 60 per cent. Under the partnership, the companies share its travel inventories and content. —AP

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quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	46,103.50
Nifty 50	13,392.95
S&P 500*	3,694.24
Dollar (1)	73.56
Pound Sterling (1)	98.73
Euro (1)	89.24
Gold (10gm)* (1)	49,221 ▼118
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	48.75
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.917
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.944
* As of 8:30 PM IST	0.031

Facebook India FY20 revenue up 43% at ₹1,277 cr

Facebook India's revenues grew 43 per cent year-on-year to about Rs 1,277.3 crore in 2019-20, while its net profit more than doubled to Rs 135.7 crore, as per regulatory documents. Its total income was Rs 893.4 crore in FY19. Net profit rose 107 per cent to Rs 135.7 crore in FY20 versus Rs 65.3 crore. In November, Google had made a similar filing that showed its revenues from India grew 34.8 per cent to about Rs 5,593.8 crore.

Honda suspends UK production amid ship delays



Carmaker Honda has temporarily halted production at its plant in England after shipping delays linked to the pandemic and preparations for Brexit left it with shortage of parts. The company said it was forced to make the decision because transport-related delays left it short of parts. The factory relies on a just-in-time delivery system, in which parts arrive as they are needed for assembly and not stored locally.

RTGS to be available 24X7 from Dec. 14

The RBI announced that the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS), one of the methods used to transfer funds online, will be available round-the-clock on all days from December 14. The RBI's decision to operationalise the service 24x7 was announced recently. "India will become one of the few countries in the world to operate its RTGS system round the clock throughout the year," the RBI said.

Japan inspection of Black Tiger shrimps relaxed

In a relief to seafood exporters, Japan has completely eased inspection of Indian Black Tiger shrimps after export consignments of this delectable prawn variety were found totally free from any residue of synthetic anti-bacterial drug furazolidone. The decision was conveyed by Food Inspection and Safety Division of Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to the Indian Embassy in Japan, MPEDA and EIC.

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Centre for more focus on economic growth Govt may prod RBI for looser inflation target

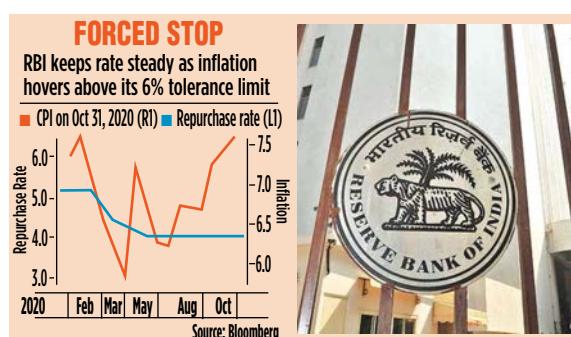
SIDDHARTHA SINGH

NOV. 9

The government is considering recommending a looser inflation target for the central bank, allowing it to focus more on economic growth despite price pressures, according to people familiar with the matter.

A consumer-price inflation band tracked by the Reserve Bank of India may be relaxed further from the current 2 per cent to 6 per cent range, said the people, who asked not to be identified citing rules. The government still needs to hold consultations with the central bank before finalising a new framework sometime next year.

The current mandate, set in 2016, requires the RBI to keep headline inflation at the 4 per cent midpoint of



its target range. The band—a broad range of 400 basis points within which the central bank has sanction to operate—is the widest in Asia, and only matched by Turkey and surpassed by Argentina.

The finance ministry is of the view that the RBI can't be saddled with a rigid inflation targeting framework, especially in situa-

tions when growth needs to be pushed, the people said.

A spokesperson for the finance ministry declined to comment, while the RBI didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Economists like Bloomberg Economics' Abhishek Gupta have argued in the past that the headline inflation measure used now is too volatile and

the central bank should rather target core prices, which strips out oil and food costs. Food carries nearly 50 per cent weight in the CPI basket.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said Friday that a final call on what measure to target rests with the government and Parliament, although he doesn't see a situation where they will move away from tracking the CPI.

The RBI has previously faced criticism for largely oversteering inflation, forecasts that were then used to underpin the MPC's hawkish policy stance in 2018. Currently, a spike in inflation has forced the central bank to pause interest-rate cuts despite the economy needing more stimulus after entering an unprecedented recession.

—Bloomberg

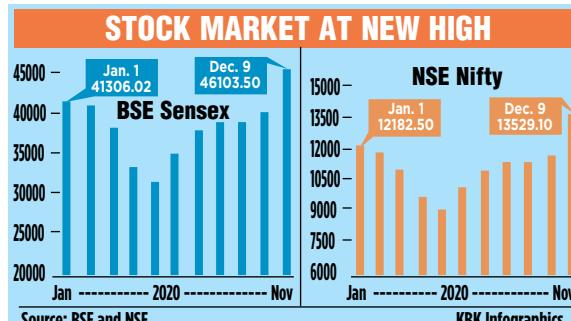
Brokerages cautious as Sensex tops 46000-mark

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, DEC. 9

As the market is scaling new highs everyday, top brokerages have cautioned investors to tread carefully as the market has reached an extreme zone.

The Sensex crossed the 46,000-mark for the first time on Wednesday and closed at a new record high of 46,103.50, gaining 494.99 points. The Nifty-50 also closed at a new all-time high of 13,529.10, gaining



135.15 points. The rally was powered by Rs 3,564.23 crore net buying by FPIs.

Guarav Garg, head of research, Capital Research Global said, "One has to notice that it is a narrow rally. As markets hit record high, investors may book some profits in long positions."

"Since we are in an uncharted territory, sky's the limit for our market; but in our sense, we have now reached the extreme zone, at least for the current vertical move," said Sameet Chavan, a chief analyst at Angel Broking.

Mumbai housing sales up 135% since stamp duty cut



SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, DEC. 9

After the stamp duty cut, residential sales in Mumbai have more than doubled compared to last year.

The megapolis witnessed cumulative residential sales of 22,827 units after the stamp duty cut from September. The monthly run rate during September-November is approximately 135 per cent higher than the monthly average of 2019, as per the estimates of Knight Frank India.

The Maharashtra government had cut stamp duty on property registrations by 3 per cent for a period between September 1 and December 31, 2020. Additionally, most developers offered to absorb the remaining 2 per cent.

Mumbai started seeing month-on-month growth in residential sales since September. Sales grew 112 per cent in September compared to August, 42 per cent in October and 17 per cent in November over the previous month.

In November, residential sales also grew 67 per cent over the year-ago period. Mumbai recorded sales of 9,301 residential units and this was the highest ever registrations in November over the last nine years.

Even after the stamp duty cut, the state government's revenue collections from stamp duty have increased to Rs 232 crore in October and Rs 288 crore in November

November sales in last nine years (Mumbai)

Month	Number of sale documents registered
Nov. 2012	4,247
Nov. 2013	3,859
Nov. 2014	5,001
Nov. 2015	4,221
Nov. 2016	3,838
Nov. 2017	6,230
Nov. 2018	5,190
Nov. 2019	5,574
Nov. 2020	9,301

Sales in units (Mumbai) in 2020

Month (2020)	Units
November	9,301
October	7,929
September	5,597
August	2,642
July	2,662
June	1,839
May	207
April	-
March	3,798
February	5,927
January	6,150
TOTAL	46,052

Source: Department of registrations and stamps, Government of Maharashtra, Knight Frank Research

against Rs 176 crore in August. This shows that the boost to housing sales

India's small investors flock to Tesla stock

ABHIRUP ROY

MUMBAI, DEC. 9

Indian small investors are increasingly buying US stocks have been drawn to a company that has no presence in India so far: electric carmaker Tesla Inc.

Indians are placing bigger-than-ever bets on US stocks this year as the American stock market has recovered faster than markets in India and other emerging nations following a crash sparked by the coronavirus pandemic.

While firms such as Apple, Amazon and Facebook—which have a significant presence in India—are popular among Indian investors venturing into US stocks, data from brokerages shows Tesla has emerged as a new favourite.

Indian brokerage Vested Finance said its accounts held \$2.5 million worth of Tesla stock in November, up from just \$76,000 at March-end. Another brokerage firm, Stockal, said its clients' Tesla holdings have quadrupled to \$10 million during the period.

Tesla shares surged around 450 per cent during that time.

"Some investors have

modities and forex round-the-clock in over 135 markets.

The shares bought by clients are held by Interactive Brokers, a global custodian in multiple jurisdictions.

Jaideep Hansraj, MD & CEO, Kotak Securities said, there is no minimum ticket size for buying and selling of shares in the US markets for investors.

electric vehicles, even though Musk has previously flagged concerns around high Indian import duties.

Gaurav Jhunjhunwala, 33, became a Musk fan after reading his biography and has even paid \$1,000 in booking fees to get Tesla's Model 3 electric sedan whenever it launches in India. While that wait has been long, he invested \$100,000 in Tesla shares in May, and buys 30 shares every other week.

"I just like the way the guy (Musk) thinks," Jhunjhunwala said. "He is trying to make the world a better place."

—Reuters

Revenue in acute therapies declined 1 per cent while that of chronic and sub-chronic therapies rose 4 per cent and 1 per cent. Acute therapies such as vitamins and gastro witnessed growth of 6.6 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively in November.

As per the data of AIOCD-AWACS, growth in vitamins slowed down to 6.6 per cent in November from 22.6 per cent in October. Respiratory medicines sales slumped at a steep 6.9 per cent.

Cardiac drugs grew 8.7 per cent compared to 19.5 per cent in October, while anti-diabetics recorded 1.9 per cent growth against 9.7 per cent in October.

Forbes World's Most Powerful Women 2020

Top 10

Angela Merkel

Germany

Christine Lagarde

France

Kamala Harris

USA

Ursula von der

Leben

Germany

Gates

USA

Mary Barra

USA

Nancy Pelosi

USA

Ana Patricia Botin

Spain

Abigail Johnson

USA

Gail Boudreault

USA

Nirmala Sitharaman

India

Roshi Nadar Malhotra

India

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

India

KBK Infographics

MARUTI LAUNCHES ONLINE FINANCING

MICHAEL GONZALVES

PUNE, DEC. 9

Maruti Suzuki, India's biggest car maker, on Wednesday launched its multi-financier online car financing platform Smart Finance to

SHORT TAKES
Ex Argentina coach
Sabella no more

Buenos Aires: Former coach Alejandro Sabella, who led the 2014 World Cup runner-up Argentina team, died on Tuesday at a clinic in Buenos Aires suffering from heart disease.

He was 66 years old. The former boss of Estudiantes de La Plata died at the Cardiovascular Institute of Buenos Aires, where he had been admitted on November 25 — the day soccer legend Diego Maradona died — after suffering an arrhythmia. The medical center said in a statement that Sabella was the victim of “secondary dilated heart disease and long-standing cardiotoxicity.” — AP

Ben Stokes' father passes away at 65

Christchurch: England all-rounder Ben Stokes lost his father Ged, who died here on Tuesday after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

He was 65. Stokes is currently with the England team in South Africa for the limited over series. He had played all three T20Is and was rested for ODIs, which was cancelled on Monday after multiple cases of Covid-19 were detected in the bio-bubble.

Ged, a former rugby player and coach, had been suffering from brain cancer for some time and Stokes was there in Christchurch for more than a month taking care of his ailing father.

Stokes' famous “bent middle finger” gesture during the 2019 South Africa series was a tribute to his father's amputated finger. Ged had to remove a part of his finger in order to continue playing. — PTI

Former runner Earnest is dead

Hyderabad: Former middle distance runner and secretary of Ranga District Athletics Association B. Ernest Das passed away on Monday night. He was 81.

Das participated in the Indo-German Athletics Test held in Hyderabad in 1965. An international athletics official, he officiated in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, 2002 Asian Grand Prix in Hyderabad and the 2003 Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad. He also served as manager of the South Central Railway Athletics team for 30 years.

His son B. E. Stanley Jones is Athletics Federation of India's Technical Committee chairman. Telangana Athletics Association general secretary K. Sarangapani and Hyderabad District Athletics Association president Prof. Rajesh Kumar mourned the demise of Das and offered condolences to the family members.

Chess tourney at the weekend

Hyderabad: The Brilliant Chess Academy is conducting the 17th Brilliant Trophy Open chess tournament online on Saturday and Sunday. A total of ₹10,000 will be given to Top 20 places in the Open category. Special prizes will also be given to top two places in the Under 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 age groups for boys and girls separately. For further details contact J. Subrahmanyam on 9247399717.

Live on TV

CRICKET
Big Bash League: Hobart Hurricanes vs Sydney Sixers from 1.45 pm on Sony Six

Lanka Premier League: Jaffna vs Colombo from 3 pm; Galle vs Kandy from 7.30 pm on Sony Six

FOOTBALL
Indian Super League: East Bengal vs Jamshedpur from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

Europa League: CSKA Sofia vs Roma from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 3; Dundalk vs Arsenal from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 2; Napoli vs Real Sociedad from 11.25 pm on Sony Ten 1; Sparta Prague vs AC Milan from 10.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1; Tottenham Hotspur vs Antwerp from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2; Wolfsburg vs Feyenoord from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Six; Leicester City vs AEK Athens from 1.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 3

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Ronaldo bests Messi

Cristiano nets brace as Juve crush Barcelona 3-0

Barcelona, Dec. 9: Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice from the penalty spot to win his battle with rival Lionel Messi and guide Juventus to a 3-0 win over Barcelona on Tuesday, earning the Italians top spot in Champions League Group G.

The former Real Madrid striker and his Argentina counterpart traded Ballon d'Or wins for a decade between 2008-2017 and were figureheads for the duelling Spanish giants, but there was only one winner at the Camp Nou as they met for the first time since Ronaldo's departure for Juve in 2018.

Juventus lost 2-0 at home against Barcelona in October without Ronaldo, sidelined with Covid-19, but were greatly improved and earned the first Champions League away win against Barcelona since Bayern Munich triumphed in 2013.

Both sides, tied on 15 points, were assured of qualification before kick-off, but Juve's three-goal victory handed them a superior head-to-head record.

Ronald Koeman, reeling from Barcelona's 2-1 defeat by promoted minnows Cadiz on Saturday in La Liga, reacted by making four changes but the hosts started badly.

It only took 13 minutes for Ronaldo to break the deadlock, slotting home from the penalty spot after the referee deemed Ronald Araújo's challenge on him a foul. Juve's did not relent and their pressure led to a second goal, Weston McKennie volleying home Juan Cuadrado's sweetly clipped cross in the 20th minute. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Juventus	3
(Ronaldo 13-pen, 52-pen, McKennie 20)	
Barcelona	0
RB Leipzig	3
(Angelino 2, Haidara 13, Kluivert 69)	
Manchester United	2
(Fernandes 80-pen, Pogba 82)	
Chelsea	1
(Jorginho 28-pen)	
Krasnodar	1
(Cabella 24)	
Borussia Dortmund	1
(Piszczek 68, Witsel 78)	
Zenit Saint Petersburg	1
(Driussi 16)	



Cristiano Ronaldo (right) of Juventus lines up a shot to score his team's third goal against Barcelona during their UEFA Champions League Group 'G' football match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Tuesday. — AFP

Racist slur halts PSG game

Paris, Dec. 9: Manchester United were knocked out of the Champions League after a 3-2 defeat by RB Leipzig on Tuesday, while Paris Saint-Germain's qualification for the last 16 was overshadowed by a racism row involving a match official that caused their game against Istanbul Basaksehir to be suspended for 24 hours.

Requiring just a point to advance, Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side fell behind to an Angelino goal inside two minutes in Germany. Amadou Haidara soon added a second and United and were trailing 3-0 heading into the final quarter after a Justin Kluivert strike.

Bruno Fernandes's penalty and a deflected Paul Pogba header gave United a lifeline but Leipzig, who reached the semifinals last term, held on to move top of Group H on 12 points.

Leipzig must wait until Wednesday to find out whether they finish first or second in the section, after the contest between last season's runners-up PSG and Turkish champions Basaksehir was interrupted with the score 0-0 in the 14th minute.

Players walked off in Paris amid allegations of racism by one of the match officials during the UEFA Champions League Group 'H' football match against Istanbul Basaksehir at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on Tuesday.



Kylian Mbappe (third from right) of PSG looks on after the game was suspended amid allegations of racism by one of the match officials during the UEFA Champions League Group 'H' football match against Istanbul Basaksehir at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on Tuesday. — AFP

Players walked off in Paris amid allegations of racism by the fourth official, in an unprecedented incident in European football's elite club competition.

The row erupted after Basaksehir assistant coach Pierre Webo, the

former Cameroon international, was shown a red card during a fierce row on the touchline with staff from the Turkish club appearing to accuse the official of using a racist term.

Television microphones picked up a furious Webo repeatedly asking why a racist term had been used to describe him.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he “strongly” condemned the incident, while UEFA announced it would open a “thorough investigation”. — AFP

Mumbai hammer Chennaiyin 2-1

Bambolim, Dec. 9: Mumbai City FC rallied to eke out a 2-1 win over Chennaiyin FC and record their fourth victory on the trot in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday.

Adam Le Fondre smashed in a 75th-minute winner after Hernan Santana (54th) had cancelled Jakub Sylvestr's first goal.

The Sergio Lobera's team maintained the top spot in the ISL table.

Chennaiyin FC had a perfect start and would

have been ahead in the second minute if it was not for Sylvestr missing a sitter. Rafael Crivellaro delivered a perfect corner which was flicked in by Enes Sipovic and found Sylvestr who missed the target.

Mumbai were not at their best and took time to settle. But they did have their moments. The home side's best chance came in the 25th minute when Adam Le Fondre had a clear sight on goal, but his powerful drive from inside the box, was straight at keeper Vishal Kaith. The rebound fell to Bipin Singh, but he couldn't utilise the opportunity.

Chennaiyin were clearly the better side in the opening quarter creating numerous chances through Lallianzuala Chhangte, Sipovic and Crivellaro. The Chennai-based side took the lead in the 40th minute.

Sylvestr scored probably the easiest goal of the season.

Chhangte deserved credit for his initial

spadework on the right before he played a low cross from the byline to find Sylvestr, who slotted it in.

Just when it looked like Chennaiyin would walk into the breather with a goal advantage, Mumbai's Santana had different plans. The Spaniard, who was unmarked at the far post, nodded in a Hugo Boumous' corner to restore parity post which they doubled the lead in the 75th minute through another set-piece. — PTI

KASHMIR INTO SEMIFINALS

Kolkata, Dec. 9: Real Kashmir and United SC secured their second successive wins to seal semi-final berths from their respective groups in the 123rd IFA Shield here on Wednesday.

Fresh from a 2-1 win over Peerless SC, the Snow Leopards were caught unawares by the aggressive brand of football by Aryan SC before they finally broke the deadlock with a Mason Robertson strike in the 72nd minute. — PTI

“I would always hold Sourav Ganguly as a leader in true sense with his man management skills. Sourav and Anil Kumble were great leaders and they made me the kind of person I am,” Parthiv said.

He was thankful to all his captains and ‘especially Dada’, referring to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

Parthiv Patel called his first Test captain Sourav Ganguly a “leader in true sense” along with the legendary Anil Kumble and said their influence in his life went beyond the cricketing arena.

He said that retirement was on his mind for the last one year and that the timing couldn't have been better. — PTI

Injured Warner out of first Test

Sydney, Dec. 9: Australia's star opening batsman David Warner has been ruled out of the first Test against India, but will try to return for the blockbuster second instalment on Boxing Day, Cricket Australia said Wednesday.

Warner is recovering from a strained adductor muscle that forced him to limp out of Australia's second one-day international against India last month, after a knock of 83.

“I feel I have made great progress in a short amount of time and it's best for me to stay here in Sydney to continue working on getting back to full fitness,” Warner said.

“The injury feels a lot better, but I need to be able to satisfy in my own mind and to my team-mates that it is 100 percent ready for Test match conditions.

“That includes running between the wickets and being agile in the field. Right now I feel I am short of being able to play at peak fitness and another 10 days will make a difference,” he added.

The day-night first Test



David Warner

will begin in Adelaide on December 17, kicking off a four-match series.

It is not yet clear who will take Warner's place in Adelaide, but Cameron Green's century this week for Australia 'A' against a strong India 'A' attack — featuring Ravichandran Ashwin, Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj — has put him in the running.

In contrast, Will Pucovski and Joe Burns, in line to form Australia's top order, both flopped in the warm-up match and Pucovski also had to leave the field with concussion symptoms after a delivery struck his helmet. — AFP

RAHUL CRUISES INTO TOP 3 IN T20 RANKINGS

Dubai, Dec. 9: India captain Virat Kohli moved up a place to eighth while K. L. Rahul broke into the top three in the latest ICC rankings for T20 batsmen, after their impressive performances in the three-match series against Australia.

Taking the third spot in the chart, Rahul has bagged 816 rating points and is 55 points behind second-placed Babar Azam in the current standings.

England batsman David Malan (915 points) retained the top spot, while Australian limited-overs skipper Aaron Finch slipped to the fourth spot. — PTI

Kohli rues DRS miss in last tie

Sydney, Dec. 9: Captain Virat Kohli wasn't happy that his team lost out on a perfect DRS call just because replay of the delivery bowled to Matthew Wade was shown on giant screen before the permissible limit of 15 seconds.

India lost the third T20 International by 12 runs and one of the reasons could be attributed to the fact that Wade, who could have been adjudged leg before off T Natarajan at a score of 50, got a lucky reprieve and added 30 more runs.

“That lbw was a strange one because we were still discussing whether the ball was going down and within the 15-second time, they showed the replay on the screen. Kohli narrated the incident.

He said the Indian team management had made its displeasure clear with the authorities, saying a mistake of this magnitude in an international game is unacceptable. “I thought from the management perspective, a message has to be passed that this can't be done,” Kohli said.

In fact had the review been taken, TV replays showed that the umpire would have been forced to reverse his decision. — PTI

— VIRAT KOHLI

Indian cricket captain

“I had a chat with Rod Tucker, the umpire and said: ‘what do we do in this situation’ and he said ‘nothing can be done. It's a mistake from TV.’” Kohli narrated the incident.

He said the Indian team management had made its displeasure clear with the authorities, saying a mistake of this magnitude in an international game is unacceptable. “I thought from the management perspective, a message has to be passed that this can't be done,” Kohli said.

In fact had the review been taken, TV replays showed that the umpire would have been forced to reverse his decision. — PTI

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, DEC. 9

Badminton guru Pullela Gopichand has stepped up his training by a notch, and has decided to delve into the minds of his trainees. On Wednesday, the champion coach launched Dhyana for Sports, an app that measures mental aspects via meditation and helps achieve emotional fitness.

Vouching for its mechanism, Gopii termed the application a ‘game changer’ and stressed on the importance of mental training. As many as 10 meditation sessions designed, voiced by himself and inspired from his on-ground training sessions will now be available on the app that tracks mindfulness.

The 10 sessions in the ‘Dhyana for Sports’ section in the app — Uniting Your Innerself, Forgive, Winner Instincts, Gratitude, Stillness, Visualization, Strengthen Discipline, Pre-Workout, Post-Workout and End of the Day — cater to athletes and assist them in monitoring and analysing their state of meditation in order to help inculcate a champion's mindset.

“I am certain that these guided sessions will prove to be fruitful to anyone wanting to become the best version of themselves