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## TRS wins, BJP eats GHMC cake

**TRS is single-largest party; BJP dashes hopes of KCR, becomes biggest gainer in hung house**

MADDY DEEKSHIT | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The TRS won 55 seats and emerged as the single largest party in a hung GHMC, though its tally plunged from 99 seats in 2016. Party working president K.T. Rama Rao pointed out that the party had the most seats, and thanked the people for voting for the TRS.

The seat belonged to the Bandi Sanjay-led BJP which won 48 wards, up from just four in the 2016 elections. Speaking after the victory, Sanjay called it a "saffron strike". The results proved true the prediction of Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy on polling day that there was a "silent vote" in the party's favour.

The AIMIM retained its hold on the Old City, winning 44 wards, the same as in 2016, but pushed to the third spot by the BJP. The Congress tally remained at two seats.

Given the outcome, the TRS may have to take the support of the MIM in some form to get its mayor and deputy mayor, or share the posts.

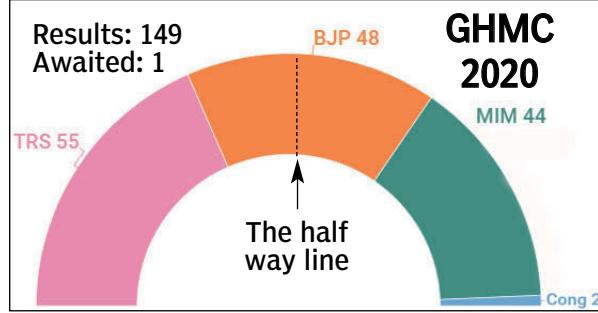
Counting in the Neredmet ward was put on hold due to a High Court direction with regard to the polling. The poll officials had noticed that a majority of votes did not carry the Election Commission-specified mark. The TRS was leading by 505 votes when counting was put on hold.

Most of the early postal ballots went in favour of



Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay celebrates the outstanding performance of his party in the GHMC elections along with his party activists in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE



the BJP. When the votes polled in the ballot boxes were counted, the TRS mostly stayed ahead. By the afternoon, the ruling TRS was leading in 70-plus wards but its tally stopped at 55.

■ Page 2: BJP to sit in Opposition at GHMC

**Aggressive campaign helps BJP**

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The no-holds-barred approach of BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar gave the party an unprecedented historic presence of 48 seats in the GHMC Council and laid the stepping stones to directly challenge the TRS for power in the 2023 Assembly elections.

In one fell swoop, Sanjay established the BJP as the clear challenger to the TRS.

Analysts had expected that Sanjay pushing an aggressive agenda during the GHMC poll campaign, threatening 'surgical strikes' on the Old City and bringing up the issue of Rohingya, Pakistani and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants, to prove counterproductive, but it seems to have clicked instead.

The results will add momentum to the BJP's drive, after the Dubbak by-election victory last month, to win power in the state elections. Sanjay with the support of senior leaders including minister G. Kishan Reddy designed a perfect strategy and deployed a galaxy of leaders in the campaign which created the "silent wave".

■ Page 2: Bhagyanagar bait worked out for BJP

**SINDHU, CORPORATOR FROM BHARATINAGAR MAY BE CITY MAYOR**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Sindhu Adarsh Reddy, a second-time TRS corporator from Bharathinagar

division, is expected to be the next Mayor, replacing Bonthu Rammohan. Sources in the TRS revealed that Sindhu Reddy was called to Pragathi

Bhavan by party boss and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao soon after her election.

■ Full report on Page 2

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Do have some patience. We shall all emerge victors by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.



CHABIB/2020-12-33/CORR-411

**Floods eat into TRS vote**

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The recent floods that wreaked havoc appear to have severely dented the winning prospects of the TRS in the GHMC elections.

The BJP won a majority of GHMC wards in the flood-affected areas under LB Nagar, Uppal, Rajendranagar, Musheerabad, Secunderabad and Himayatnagar Assembly segments.

The Opposition had targeted the TRS during the election campaign on its alleged failure of handling the flood situation and not extending timely relief to victims. They also targeted the TRS for failing to extend ₹10,000 assistance to all families affected by the flood and accused that TRS corporators had looted during the distribution of financial aid.

The BJP, which emerged second in the GHMC results on Friday, had promised ₹25,000 assistance to each affected family if it came to power. The TRS counter-argument against BJP's assurance apparently did not have any impact on the voters in the flood-affected areas and rallied behind the BJP.

The assurance of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of extending the ₹10,000 to the remaining families after GHMC elections also seems not to have worked. During the flood scores of colonies were inundated in areas like Champapet, Uppal, Bandlaguda, Meerpeta, Dilsukhnagar, LB Nagar, Malakgiri and Saroor Nagar.

Due to heavy rains with Hussainsagar reaching the full tank level, surplus water flooded Gandhinagar, Ashoknagar, Padma Colony, Nagamaiha Kunta, Nalakunta, Vidyanaagar, Domalguda, Arundathinagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Aravindanagar, Shivanandanagar. Voters in Uppal defeated the wife of Uppal MLA Subhash Reddy and three out of five wards in Rajendranagar chose BJP.

■ Page 2: Four circles gave most seats to BJP



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tougher from here."

I said,  
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## LIST OF CANDIDATES DECLARED ELECTED IN GHMC POLLS

**Hyderabad:** The following are the names of 101 of the 149 corporators declared elected.

● **Gawalipura:** Bhagya Laxmi (BJP)

● **Vinayaknagar:** Rajyalakshmi (BJP)

● **Gudimalkapur:** Devara Karunesh (BJP)

● **Champapet:** V. Madhush Reddy (BJP)

● **Adikmet:** Sunitha Prakash (BJP)

● **Musheerabad:** M. Supriya (BJP)

● **Gaddiannaram:** Prem Mahesh Reddy

● **Hasthimpuram:** Sujatha (BJP)

● **Malkajgiri:** V. Shrawan (BJP)

● **Moosapet:** K. Mahender (BJP)

● **Jiyaguda:** Bogini Dharshan Reddy

● **RK Puram:** Radha-Dheeraj Reddy

● **Kothapet:** Pavan Kumar

● **Rajendranagar:** P. Archana (BJP)

● **Nagole:** Chintala Aruna Yadav (BJP)

● **Kavadiyuga:** Rachanashree (BJP)

● **Vanasthalipuram:** R. Venkateshwar Reddy (BJP)

● **Kachiguda:** Kanne Umarani (BJP)

● **Ramanthapur:** Bandaru Sriwami (BJP)

● **Ameerpet:** Kathineni Sarala (BJP)

● **Gauthamnagar:** Mekala Sunitha Yadav (TRS)

● **Boudhanagar:** Kandi Shailaja (TRS)

● **Chandanagar:** Manjula Raghunath Reddy (TRS)

● **Rahmattanagar:** C.N. Reddy (TRS)

● **Banjara Hills:** Gadwal Vijaya Lakshmi (TRS)

● **Golinkar:** Dusari Lavanya (TRS)

● **Seethaphalmandi:** Hema Samala (TRS)

● **Somajiguda:** Vanam Sangeetha Yadav (TRS)

● **Kondapur:** Shaik Hameed Patel (TRS)

● **Charlapalli:** Bonthu Sridevi (TRS)

● **Jagathgirigutta:** Kolukula Jagan (TRS)

● **Fathenagar:** P. Satish Goud (TRS)

● **KPHB Division:** Mandadi Srinivasa Rao (TRS)

● **Serilingampally:** Ragam Nagender Yadav

● **Hafeezpet:** Poojitha Jagadeeshwar (TRS)

● **Madhapur:** Jagadeeshwar Goud (TRS)

● **Alwy Colony:** Doddla Venkatesh Goud (TRS)

● **Meerpet HB Colony:** Jerriputhra Prabhudas (TRS)

● **Khairatabad:** Vijaya Reddy (TRS)

● **Vengal Rao Nagar:** Dedeepya Rao (TRS)

● **Allapur:** Sabiha Begum (TRS)

● **Mallapur:** Pannala Devender Reddy (TRS)

● **Patancheru:** Mettu Kumar Yadav (TRS)

● **Suram:** Manthri Satyanarayana (TRS)

● **Gajularamaram:** Ravula Seshagiri (TRS)

● **Kukatpally:** Jupally Satyanarayana

● **Balajinagar:** Sirisha Baburao Pagudala (TRS)

● **Rangareddy Nagar:** Budda Vijay Shekhar Goud (TRS)

● **Kapra:** Swarna Raj (TRS)

● **Alwal:** Chintala Shanti (TRS)

● **Venkatapuram:** Sabitha Kishore

● **Qutbulapur:** K. Parijatha (TRS)

● **Chintal:** Rashida Mohammed Rafi (TRS)

● **Sanathnagar:** Kolanu Laxmi Bal Reddy (TRS)

● **Bharathinagar:** Adarsh Sindhu (TRS)

● **Venkateshwara:** Manne Kavitha Reddy (TRS)

● **Old Bowenpally:** Muddam Narsimha Yadav (TRS)

● **Banslalpet:** K. urma Hemalatha (TRS)

● **Begumpet:** M. Srihari (TRS)

● **Hydernagar:** Narne Srinivasa Rao (TRS)

● **Balanagar:** Aavula Ravinder Reddy (TRS)

● **Borabanda:** Baba Fasiuddin (TRS)

● **Ramachandrapuram:** Pushpa Nagesh Yadav (TRS)

● **Mettuguda:** R. Sunitha (TRS)

● **Ramnasthpura:** Mohammed Khadar (AIMIM)

● **Mehdipatnam:** Majid Hussain (AIMIM)

● **Dabeerpura:** Alamdar Hussain Walajahi (AIMIM)

● **Rein Bazaar:** Abdul Wasay (AIMIM)

● **Santosh Nagar:** Muzaffar Hussain (AIMIM)

● **Doodhbowl:** Mohammed Saleem (AIMIM)

● **Jahanuma:** Muqtadir Baba (AIMIM)

● **Nawab Sahab Kunta:** Shireen Khaton (AIMIM)

● **Shaklpet:** Md Rashed Farazuddin

● **Talab Chanchalam:** Sameena Begum (AIMIM)

● **Riyasatnagar:** Mirza Mustafa Baig (AIMIM)

● **Nanthal Nagar:** Mohammed Naseeruddin (AIMIM)

● **Faklumna:** K. Thara Bai (AIMIM)

● **Chandrayangutta:** Abdul Wahab (AIMIM)

● **Uppuguda:** Fahad Bin Abdul Samad Abdab (AIMIM)

● **Shalbanda:** Mohammed Mustafa Ali (AIMIM)

● **Dattatreyanagar:** Zakir Baqueri (AIMIM)

● **Lalitabagh:** Mohammed Ali Sharif (AIMIM)

● **Erragadda:** Shaheen Begum (AIMIM)

● **Shastripuram:** Mohd Mubeen (AIMIM)

# BJP's show boosted by vote share of Congress, Desam

TRS may see its vote percentage fall; SEC yet to provide data

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The political vacuum that was created by the non-performance of the Congress and the Telugu Desam was filled by the BJP in the GHMC elections.

The BJP by winning 11 seats in the LB Nagar Assembly segment and two seats each in the Maheswaram and Saroornagar Assembly seats clearly indicated that it had taken away the TD vote share.

Though the final vote share of each party was not released by the State Election Commission, the preliminary assessments indicate that the TRS has lost about four to five per cent of the votes that it had won in 2016, bringing its tally down from 99 to 55.

The BJP and Telugu Desam contested together in 2016 and secured a combined share of 23.5 per cent of the vote — the TD 13 per cent and the BJP 10.5 per cent — and settled with one and four seats respectively.

In this election, with a seat tally of 48, the BJP vote share appears to have jumped to 33 to 35 per cent.

The MIM had 15 per cent vote share in 2016. Its retaining the 44 seats shows that it has kept its vote share intact, or has garnered slightly more votes.

The Congress which had 10.4 per cent of the votes cast in the last elections gave a fight in 46 divisions of the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha segment. In a trian-



TRS leaders and workers celebrate the victory of their party candidates in the GHMC elections in Hyderabad on Friday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Four circles gave most seats to BJP

From Page 1

The divisions in flood-affected areas like Kavadi-guda, Adikmet, Nalla-kunta, Moosarambagh, Musheerabad, Gandhinagar Monda Market Champat, Chaitan-

● IN SECUNDERABAD GHMC circle's total of 27 divisions, BJP clinched 14 seats.

In Secunderabad GHMC circle's total of 27 divisions, BJP clinched 14 seats. yapuri and Bagh Amberpet were pocketed by the BJP.

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti and the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimine may have to continue what the Bharatiya Janata Party describes as a "friendly contest" in the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Though none of the three major political forces — the TRS, MIM and the BJP — is in a position to win the Mayorship on its own, the ruling party can retain the post and run the show without a majority.

At the time of mayoral election, both the TRS and MIM are likely to field their respective candidates to thwart the BJP's campaign that the two parties are indeed partners.

Fearing polarisation of the Hindu vote in favour of the BJP, the TRS sought to project the otherwise friendly MIM as its principal rival during the high-pitched campaign for the polls. However, due to its poor performance, the results of which were announced on Friday, the ruling party is still short of the magic figure to win the Mayor at 98, a number the TRS cannot reach.

"It's a high risk if we take MIM support directly or indirectly by asking it to abstain from the voting," a senior TRS leader pointed out. The best solution in this scenario is that both parties will field their respective candidates and we will obviously win because the BJP can not support MIM, he added.

## TRS fell 25 seats short of expectations: KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4



TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao addresses the media after the results for the GHMC elections were declared on Friday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

media warrior, who was active in our support."

The minister said that they will discuss everything in the party and review why the desired outcome was not delivered.

ered by the people. Rama Rao said that there was a lot of time to think about the Mayor and the party will certainly take a decision at the appropriate time.

ers claimed that the returning officer was pressured by TRS MLA TPCC working president A. Revanth Reddy. The party had won more than 40 wards in the 2010 and 2016 GHMC elections.

After the Congress won only two wards — AS Rao Nagar and Uppal — state

party unit president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy submitted his resignation.

TPCC working president A. Revanth Reddy, the MP from Malkajgiri, failed to show his political dominance.

The TRS won a considerable number of wards in

the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency represented by Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy.

The TRS had planned to

use its 34 ex officio members to get its mayor elected if its tally fell to 75-plus seats. Since it has won only 55 wards, its

only option is to enter into a post-poll alliance with the MIM and share the two posts.

The BJP has decided to

sit in the Opposition in the GHMC council as the party does not have the required numbers to claim the key posts.

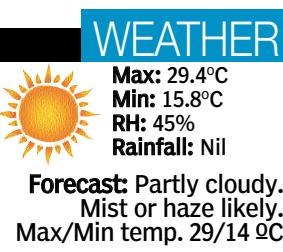
## Bhagyanagar bait worked out for BJP's drive

From page 1

The BJP's campaign on changing the name of Hyderabad to Bhagyanagar and its attack on the TRS government seems to be worked out well. The party drafted top vote-catchers like Union minister Amit Shah, who held a hugely successful roadshow in Secunderabad and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who ratcheted up the temperature as well as Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha president Tejaswi Surya, the BJP MP from South Bangalore. Surya's foray into the Osmania University campus was also well received and helped attract many people to the party.

The High Court issued an interim direction to State Election Commission (SEC) to keep in abeyance its circular allowing consideration of votes polled in GHMC elections with "distinguish marks", even though they may not have the standard 'crossed arrow' mark. Hearing a house motion on Friday morning by K. Anthony Reddy, advocate and BJP leader just before the start of counting, Justice Abhishek Reddy suspended the circular. The judge said ballots with 'distinguish marks' should be kept separately. If they are found detrimental to poll results, the outcome of that result should not be announced.

"SEC is directed to inform returning officers to keep ballot papers not stamped with arrow cross marks separately. If the margin of difference in votes polled in favour of first and second candidates is more than the disputed ballot papers, the election officer is free to declare the results. If the margin is less than the disputed ballot papers, results may not be declared till the petition is decided," Justice Reddy said. The matter has been posted to December



## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+42,245)	(+598)
96,06,810	1,39,700
covid19india.org	
(+631)	(+2)
TS: 2,72,123	1,467
(+599)	(+6)
AP: 8,70,675	7,020

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

DEATHS
6,59,21,383
15,18,657
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

**SARVARI:** Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Kartika Bahula Panchami till 8.06 pm  
**STAR:** Pushyami till 2.23 pm  
**VARJYAM:** 3.21 am to 4.58 am (Sunday)  
**DURMURHURATAM:** 6.36 am to 8.04 am  
**RAHUKALAM:** 9 am to 10.30 am  
**HIJRI CALENDAR:**  
**RABBI-U-AKHIR 19, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS:**  
Fajr: 5.28 am  
Zohar: 12.17 pm  
Asar: 4.05 pm  
Magrib: 5.47 pm  
Isha: 7.00 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.33 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.40 PM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 10.05 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 10.35 AM**

## COUNTER POINT



Dinner meet of our leaders to discuss the farmers' agitation!

## SHORT TAKES

## NAMES OF CORPORATORS ELECTED

From Page 2

- **Shastripuram:** Mohd Mubeen (AIMIM)
- **Akbarbagh:** Syed Minhajuddin (AIMIM)
- **Moghalpura:** Nasreen Sultana (AIMIM)
- **Pathargatti:** Syed Sohail Quadri (AIMIM)
- **Kishanbagh:** Hussaini Pasha (AIMIM)
- **Jangammal:** Abdul Rahman (AIMIM)
- **Chavni:** Abdul Salam Shahid (AIMIM)
- **Langer Houz:** Amina Begum (AIMIM)
- **Golconda:** Sameena Yasmeen (AIMIM)
- **Tolichowki:** Dr Ayesha Humera (AIMIM)
- **Kurnaguda:** Mahapara (AIMIM)
- **Azampura:** Ayesha Jahan Nasreen (AIMIM)
- **Ghansi Bazaar:** Parveen Sultana (AIMIM)
- **Asifnagar:** Ghousia Sultana (AIMIM)
- **Old Malakpet:** Juveria Fatima (AIMIM)
- **Ahmednagar:** Rafath Sarfaraz Siddique (AIMIM)
- **Bholakpur:** Mohammed Ghouse Uddin Tahaa (AIMIM)
- **Puranapul:** Raj Mohan (AIMIM)

The names of 48 other candidates who won the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections will be featured in these columns on Sunday.

Counting has been suspended in one ward, Neredmet, following a High Court order with regard to the marking on ballot papers. A final decision has to be taken in the ward, where the TRS is ahead by about 500 votes.

# BJP will send 'car' to garage: Bandi

Sanjay lauds 'saffron strike' on TRS; New corporators head for Bhagyalakshmi temple

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who led the party to a stunning show in the GHMC elections, thanked the cadre for giving a big victory to the party on Friday.

Sanjay said that he had planned for a 'surgical strike' but had done a 'saffron strike' on the TRS and the MIM. He stated that had broken the 'car josh' and stated "BJP josh" in the state and it will create history in state politics.

He was speaking at a press conference at the state BJP office along with Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP OBC president Dr K. Laxman, BJP vice president D.K. Aruna and former MP Vivek Venkataswamy.

"With the ceaseless work of the cadre and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda inspiration and with the coordination with minister Kishan Reddy, Dr K. Laxman, and D.K. Aruna and others, we have reached the goal," Sanjay said.

In a mocking tone, he attributed the party's good show to the State Election Commissioner and the DGP. He accused the officers of supporting the TRS and the MIM. Sanjay alleged that the SEC and the police did not take action against the MIM and TRS leaders who attacked BJP cadre.

Sanjay thanked the people of Hyderabad for reposing confidence in the party. The BJP corporators will fight for the peo-



BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar offers sweets to Union minister G. Kishan Reddy to celebrate the victory of party candidates in the GHMC polls at the BJP head office in Nampally on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

ple's causes and do for justice to them and not to the contractors.

He said that the car, the TRS symbol, will be "sent to the garage" in 2023, and the BJP will end the tenure of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao. Sanjay said that the BJP will try to get more Central funds to develop Hyderabad as well as the state.

Sanjay announced that he and the new corporators will pray at the Bhagyalakshmi temple at Charminar on Saturday and offer thanks.

Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy alleged that people answered to the Centre. He said that people had lost confidence in the TRS government and was looking to the BJP for development.

The minister was confident that the GHMC results would be the main

platform for the Assembly elections in 2023 to win power in the state. He alleged that the TRS government had abused its powers to indulge in corrupt practices.

There is no fear among the BJP cadre who have been framed in false cases, he said. Kishan Reddy accused the TRS of intimidating the people who had settled in the city by using false propaganda against the BJP on social media.

Kishan Reddy clarified that no one would defect from the BJP to the TRS. He pointed out that the TRS had brought the GHMC tally down from 99 to 55 in the current polls.

D.K. Aruna, BJP vice president, said that the TRS had broken the TRS' power in Telangana state and will win power in the Assembly going forward.

With the support of the Centre, the BJP will build a new Hyderabad and develop Telangana state, Aruna said. She thanked the people of Hyderabad for their confidence in BJP and blessed for 50 seats, and will fight for people's issues.

The top leaders of the BJP and allied organisations participated in celebrations at the party office and distributed sweets to each other and the party cadre.

## Celebration time



BJP leaders and workers celebrate the victory of their candidates in the GHMC elections in Hyderabad on Friday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

# Amit Shah pats Nadda, Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

giving the seats in the GHMC Council. He thanked the people of Hyderabad who had put their trust in the BJP. Shah, who had campaigned on the last day of canvassing for the polls, also encouraged the cadre to continue with the same spirit under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to develop the state.

# Arvind: People of TS want change

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Nizamabad MP Dharampuri Arvind asserted that results of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections clearly showed that people of Telangana want a change as corruption has reached its climax under the TRS regime.

He was critical of people for giving the result in favour of TRS, which is unethical in its politics.

"People want Modi's leadership and BJP can provide a corruption-free government in Telangana," Arvind asserted.

The Nizamabad MP accused Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of not visiting the secretariat for seven years and cheating farmers, minorities, women and Dalits in the state.

Arvind said that TRS party leadership advanced the corporation

elections for fear of increasing confidence people were reposing in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and his development agenda.

"People want Modi's leadership and BJP can provide a corruption-free government in Telangana," Arvind asserted.

The Nizamabad MP accused Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao of not visiting the secretariat for seven years and cheating farmers, minorities, women and Dalits in the state.

# BJP gets most of postal ballots

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged most of the postal ballots, that were counted first early on Friday. Those who began tracking the poll results in the early part of the day were taken aback to see the BJP leading in a very large number of seats and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) trailing very badly.

The postal ballot numbers were later overtaken by those that were polled in ballot boxes.

Of the 906 postal ballot votes, the TRS bagged 281, the BJP 515, MIM 50, the Congress 40 and others 20.

50, the Congress 40 and others 20.

Among the six zones in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), the highest number of valid postal ballot votes — 217 — were from the LB Nagar zone, followed by 212 from Secunderabad. The least number of postal ballot votes — 54 — were polled from Serilingampally zone.

**TATA COFFEE LIMITED**  
(CIN): L01131KA1943PLC000833

## TENDER FOR CANTEEN SERVICES

TATA Coffee Ltd. Invites Sealed Tenders for the following Service at its INSTANT COFFEE PLANT for the Period 2021 to 2023 at Brahmanapally Village, Toopran Mandal, Medak District.

### Canteen Services for Employees

Interested Parties may collect the Tender Document during Business Hours from:

Assistant Manager – IR,  
Tata Coffee Ltd., Brahmanapally Village, Toopran Mandal,  
Medak Dist. 502334, Telangana  
(Contact No. : 9100048855)

The last date for issuing of Tender forms is 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The last date for submission of Sealed Tenders along with the EMD DD is 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE



### VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE SCHEME FOR EXOTIC LIVE ANIMALS

Last date for voluntary disclosure  
15 December 2020  
FAST APPROACHING PLEASE AVAL!

A scheme for Voluntary Disclosure and Registration of Stock, Import of Exotic Live Species in India, and related matters [for Exotic Live Animals listed in CITES, excluding wild animals listed in the schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972]

### DEALING WITH IMPORT OF EXOTIC LIVE SPECIES IN INDIA AND DECLARATION OF STOCK

#### Register/Apply for:

- Voluntary Disclosure of possession of Exotic Live Animals by 15 December 2020.
- Registration of change in stock of Exotic Live Animals (Transfer/Death/Acquisition).
- NOC for Import of Exotic Live Animals.
- Birth of progenies.

#### Benefits

- Immunity as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad in PIL civil no. 12032/2020 dated 30/07/2020 and corroborated by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- Enhanced veterinary care and well-being of animals.
- Control of zoonotic diseases.
- Simple online procedures of application and approvals.

The entire process has been made online.

Government of India "ADVISORY FOR DEALING WITH IMPORT OF EXOTIC LIVE SPECIES IN INDIA AND DECLARATION OF STOCK", Forms for Disclosure and User Friendly Manual can be accessed at <<https://parivesh.nic.in>>

davp 13101/11/0024/2021

## SHORT TAKES

SON ENTERS FRAY,  
DENTS MOM'S  
CHANCESDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Several surprising incidents were reported on the counting day. The TRS lost the BN Reddy division since the contesting candidate's son had contested as an independent in an attempt to retain the seat within the family. BJP candidate M. Lacchi Reddy emerged victorious by a 32-vote margin over the ruling party candidate M. Laxmiprasanna Goud.

Interestingly, her son M. Ranjith Goud who had contested as an independent candidate secured 39 votes. These votes turned out to be very crucial to the outcome. While Lachi Reddy bagged 11,438 votes, Laxmiprasanna secured 11,406.

A similar incident was reported in Kukatpally division. Interestingly, the close battle between TRS, Congress and BJP turned out to be a triangular fight between co-brothers. While Jupally Satyanarayana represented the ruling party, Pavan Kumar fought on the BJP ticket and Vishwa Tejeshwar entered the fray as a Congress candidate. Satyanarayana emerged triumphant.

Cantonment MLA Sayanna's daughter Lasya Naditha lost at Kavadi guda despite TRS MLC K. Karim campaigning for her. Nayini Narsimha Reddy's son-in-law Srinivas Reddy from Rammagari division, Muta Gopal's family member Muta Padma (Musheerabad), Uppal MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy wife Swapna from Habsiguda division were prominent losers.

INDEPENDENTS  
FAIL TO MAKE  
AN IMPRESSIONHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Independent candidates failed to open their score, as was the case in 2016, leading to disappointment among them. The candidates Deccan Chronicle spoke to, blamed the low voter turnout for their loss. A total of 415 independents were in the running this year.

However, three independents had won in 2009.

Karthik, a 21-year-old student who ran for the polls from Gudimalkapur, said he was disappointed by the results. "I stood against the BJP and the TRS to fight the divisive politics of both parties. I raised student issues throughout my campaign. I don't understand why voters did not choose real issues to vote on. Being a student, I spent ₹40,000 to ₹60,000 from my own pocket for the campaign."

Mohd Abdul Aleem, an independent from Mehdipatnam, accused the AIMIM of bogus voting. "TRS and AIMIM were hand in glove. They have stolen votes. What else could be the reason for not even one independent winning," he asked.

From LB Nagar, independent candidate Pilli Venkatesh said that the lack of trust among the voters was the reason for the defeat. "Voters don't pay heed to independents, they think it is important that a candidate represents a party. I don't trust any party, so, instead of voting for NOTA, I decided to jump into the fray I wanted to resolve the issues of my area," he said.

Chandra Mouli, an independent from Gachibowli, claimed that the TRS and BJP were hand in glove instead and had engaged in "stealing" votes.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Sri Siddharth Singh A Thakur, S/o Sri Anand Kumar Thakur, R/o Bellary, Karnataka State, has offered to sell the lands admeasuring Ac. 7-00 Gts in Sy.No. 283/A & 283/AA, situated at Kolluru Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana State, to my client and reported that he lost his original link documents viz. Document Nos. 204/2006 to 2049/2006 and 701/2006 to 705/2006 and Agreement of Sale-cum-General Power of Attorney registered as Document Nos. 21254/.../2007, 21071/2007, 20261/2007, 21070/2007, 20607/2007, 20259/2007, 20262/2007, 20260/2007 & 20263/2007, all registered at Sub-Registrar's Office, Sanga Reddy and therefore, my client requests that, if anyone has got any objection to the proposed transaction, any claim in respect of the aforesaid lands, the same may be intimated in writing to the undersigned, along with duly attested copies of supporting documents, on the basis of which, such objection/claim is made, within ten (10) days of the publication of this Public Notice. If no such claim or objection is received in writing with duly attested supporting documents, within the stipulated time, my client will proceed with the transaction, treating that there are no such claims/objections.

Sd/-  
M.V. Durga Prasad, Advocate  
Plot No. 332-B, Phase-III,  
Road No. 82, Jubilee Hills,  
Hyderabad-500 096.

Hyderabad  
Dt: 03-12-2020

AIMIM supporters gather at the party headquarters Darussalam and set off fireworks to celebrate the victory of party candidates in the GHMC elections, on Friday in Hyderabad. — P. SURENDRA

## Asad hints at support to TRS for Mayor post

**MIM chief says KCR biggest name in South India**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said he had not made up his mind over a post-poll alliance with the TRS, which now needs outside support for the Mayoral posts.

Addressing the media at his residence in Shastripuram after the GHMC results, Owaisi said the party will decide on contesting or supporting the candidature for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor at a meeting with MLAs, MLCs, newly elected corporators and party leaders on Saturday.

However, he indirectly indicated support to the TRS by lauding the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

Owaisi said, "The results were contrary to our expectations and the BJP's victory is circumstantial and will not continue in future. It is up to the TRS to review the reasons for its poor performance. If it corrects itself, KCR will pose a threat to other political parties in the region."

The MIM chief pointed out that the party had won 44 seats while fielding 51 candidates this time against 60 in 2016. "This has proved to be the best striking rate of a political party," Owaisi said.

"In the Hyderabad parliamentary constituency, we fielded 34 candidates and retained 33 seats. In Chevella constituency, we retained two seats and won nine out of 12 wards from Secunderabad constituency," he pointed out adding that the party could not win three seats in the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha constituency. He said he toured 650 km on his bike and addressed 65 poll meetings.

The MIM chief said the party had won all seats where home min-

Sultana won Ghansi Bazaar by a margin of 5,557 votes, defeating BJP candidate Renu Soni.

The MIM had fielded new faces from Rein Bazaar, Dabeerpura, Asifnagar, Red Hills, Mallepally, Vijayanagar Colony, Kurmaguda, Ahmednagar, Bholakpur, Ghansi Bazaar, Chavni, Golconda, Dattatreyanagar, Jahanuma, Jamabagh and Ramnampura and all of them won except for the Jamabagh candidate. Likewise, all the candidates who were repeated from the 2016 election including those whose wards were reshuffled -

retained their seats.

The AIMIM won from Old Malakpet, Akbarbagh, Azampura, Pathergatti, Moghalpura, Talabchanchalam, Shalibanda, Lalithabagh, Kurmaguda, Santoshnagar, Riyasathnagar, Kanchanbagh, Barkas, Chandrayangutta, Uppuguda, Falaknuma, Nawab Sahab Kunta, Puranapuri, Doodhwali, Kishanbagh, Sulemannagar, Shastryapuram, Karwan, Langar Houz, Golconda, Tolichowki, Nanalnagar, Mehdiyapatnam, Red Hills, Mallepally, Shaikpet, Erragadda and Jangammet.

Ramana claimed that the TD candidates had performed well, though the party had not won any seat out the 106 wards which it contested.

Expressing concern at the BJP and the MIM winning a majority of the seats, Ramana said that Chief Minister at least should look at the people's issues instead sitting in his farmhouse.

## 'No loss, no gain' for MIM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

It was a case of 'no loss, no gain' for AIMIM in this year's GHMC elections, the results of which were declared on Friday.

The party could not win from Rahmathnagar, Borabanda, Old Bowenpally, Qutubullapur, Baudhanagar, Gowlipura, Maildardevpally and Rajendranagar divisions. It gained only three seats — Shaikpet, Erragadda and Bholakpur — outside of the Old City.

The party won all those divisions where party chief Asaduddin Owaisi campaigned

extensively like Ghansi Bazaar, Shaikpet, Bholakpur, Erragadda and Puranapuri. However, despite his campaign, MIM lost Jamabagh where it fielded a new candidate.

The party succeeded in retaining Azampura division from where the Majlis Bachao Tahrik had fielded Asma Khatoon, wife of its spokesperson Amjadullah Khan Khalid. Ayesha Jahan Naseem won a second term from Azampura. Two MIM candidates, Saleem Baig and Sonum Raj Mohan, recorded their fourth wins from Riyasathnagar and

Puranapuri, respectively. Former Mayor Mohammed Majid won from Mehdiyapatnam with a margin of 5,490 votes. Sameena Begum won the seat from Talab Chanchalam with a margin of 17,454.

While Shireen Khatoon won Nawab Saheb Kunta seat with a majority of 15,620 votes. Mohammed Muzaffar Hussain clinched the Santoshnagar division with a margin of 13,134 votes.

MIM fielded four Hindu candidates and three of them — S. Raj Mohan (Puranapuri), K. Thara Bai (Falaknuma) and M. Swamy Yadav (Karwan) — won.

## Celebration at Darussalam

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Celebrations broke out at the AIMIM headquarters 'Darussalam' and near the residence of party president Asaduddin Owaisi, 'Al-Siddique', in Shastripuram after its good show in the GHMC elections.

Party workers began reaching Darussalam

after the Juma prayers. As soon as the poll trends appeared in the AIMIM's favour, party workers started celebrating the victory by beating marfa drums and raising party flags. They also began bursting firecrackers.

The celebrations at the crowded party headquarters lasted well into the night. Party

leaders and workers distributed sweets also. A sympathiser of the AIMIM distributed 51 kg of jalebis in Shastripuram. Candidates who won the elections also reached the party headquarters along with their supporters. They met Asaduddin Owaisi and party's Assembly floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi.

ister Amit Shah, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP president J.P. Nadda took part in the campaign in Hyderabad con-

stituency. "They were talking about a surgical strike on the Old City but the voters have done a democratic strike against the BJP. Who

they termed Jinnah, the people of the Old City gave a message that 'jeena marna usi ke saath (living and ending with him)'.

## Cong blames media for its loss

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

TPCC working president and MP A. Revanth Reddy maintained that the Congress had contested the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections with only its cadre and not national leaders, whereas the Bharatiya Janata Party deployed its Union ministers, Chief Ministers and former chief ministers in the campaign for corporation polls.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday after

MLAs and MLCs to bag the GHMC. Parties other than Congress went on to communalise elections with their provocative comments.

He thanked all Congress cadre for their hard work in getting the Congress candidates elected.

The MP accused media of not doing its part of the duty. Every channel supported one political party and none gave even minimum coverage to the campaigning by the Congress. He maintained that the media had turned out to be one of the main reasons

for the Congress' loss in the GHMC polls. He charged that the BJP and TRS had provided "packages" to channels but the Congress did not have that kind of funds.

Revanth Reddy said the Congress had still got 14.5 percentage vote share in the elections compared to 10.4 in the last corporation polls. He also pointed out that BJP contested 54 seats in GHMC elections the last time in alliance with TD and got 24 per cent vote share. BJP's share in the alliance was then just 10 per cent.



A. Revanth Reddy addresses a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan. — DC

## NAGARJUNASAGAR BYPOLL: BJP GETS IN TOUCH WITH JANA REDDY, SON

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The BJP is in touch with former home minister Kundur Jana Reddy to invite him into the party. BJP sources said that Jana Reddy is ready to switch over to the saffron party and could contest the Nagarjunasagar byelection necessitated by the death of TRS MLA Nomula Narashimaiah earlier this week.

Sources said if he's not ready to contest, Jana Reddy would extend his support to his son Raghuveer, after joining the BJP. An official announcement regarding it would be made in a couple of days.

The TRS is likely to give nomination Narashimaiah's son Bhagat for the polls.

last year, two bypolls and the GHMC elections of December 1, apart from a slew of local body elections in the districts and at the village level.

The party did not perform as expected in the Assembly elections, and many legislators later defected to the TRS. In the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress won three seats, including that of Uttam Kumar Reddy.

He requested the All India Congress Committee to take up the process of selection of a new president for the Telangana Congress Committee immediately.

Uttam Kumar Reddy was appointed president of the TPCC in 2015. Under his leadership, the party faced the Assembly elections of 2018, the Lok Sabha elections of

## HOMAGE



**Sri Raghuvir Reddy Komatredy**  
Director, Deepsea Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd.  
2-Feb-1946 - 26-Nov-2020

With your nobility, respect for human relations, and ever calm and smiling disposition, you have truly set a great example for us to emulate. Your wisdom, guidance, optimism and encouragement will be greatly missed. We will strive to uphold the values you have imbued in us.

Management & Employees of  
DEEPSATECHNOLOGIES (INDIA) PVT.LTD.

Jesus said to her I am the way, the truth and the life. He who believes in me will live. Even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me, will never die. John 11:25



**Mr. BENSON NADAR (Benny The DRUMMER)**  
S/o Late Mrs. & Mr. J.C. Arthur  
DOB: 21-08-1964 DOD: 04-12-2020  
Funeral service at Wesley Church Ramkote at 10.30 am on 05-12-2020 followed by Burial at Narayanguda Cemetery.

Inserted by: WIFE & CHILDREN  
Contact: 9966730155, 9391815150,  
9948955056

(S/2021/D00904)

## THANKS GIVING MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

**IVOR VICTOR JOHN (I.V.JOHN)**  
Retd. Scientific Officer (FC)  
DOB: 15-04-1945 DOD: 01-12-2020  
S/o Late Victor John  
Nephew of Late Dr. Miss Janet John  
Memorial service will be held on 05-12-2020, at 11.30 am, at St. John's Parish Hall (School Premises), Sec-6 Badami

Inserted By:  
Jayashree John (Wife)  
Daughter, Son, Sons-in-Law, Daughter-in-Law, Grand Children, Ph: 9246576393 / 8074752817

(CA-3470)

## OBITUARY



**Mrs. SCHOLASTICA ALEX**  
W/o Alexander  
Ex-Teacher St. Ann's High School, Sec-6  
Funeral will be held on 08-12-2020.  
For more details contact: 9000156888

Inserted by: sorrowful Husband, Daughter, Family, Relatives and Friends

(CA-3470)

## REMEMBRANCE DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**The Most Rev. Dr. B. PETER SUNDHAR**  
DOB: 28-09-1943 DOD: 05-12-2017

Inserted by:  
Dr. B. K. Kupradanan & Mr. D. Paul Sanjay & Family

(S/2021/D00903)

## OBITUARY



# CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 5 DECEMBER 2020

pg 5

## FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

## FOUR WHEELERS

2015 MERCEDES Benz GLA CDI, 7975kms. Single owner. White exterior. Beige leather interior. Automatic. Call 984014543 (W/2021/AT000725)

RANGE ROVER for sale (direct buyers only) Evoke HSE Dynamic Automatic Firenze red colour. 2017 model, single hand drive, 8800 km. Ph:9704028800 (S/2021/C01543)

## MULTIPLE-FOUR WHEELERS

COMPANY OWNED vehicles, single owner, good condition. 1) Maruti Ertiga LDI Diesel, Model: 2017. 2) Mahindra Genio BSIV, Diesel, model: 2011. 3) TATA 407 pickup truck BSIV Diesel, model: 2011. 4) Maruthi Omni, fuel-petrol LPG, model: 2014. Contact 9100018032, 9666777127 between 10am to 7pm (W/2021/AT00725)

## MACHINERY

REQUIRED USED EOT Double Girder Crane, minimum capacity 5 tons. Please Contact: 7897386416. (HYCL/2021/C01814)

REQUIRED USED Electric Transformer-Automatic OLTC, Minimum Capacity- 1500 KVA. Please Contact: 7893786416. (HYCL/2021/C01815)

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

### AGRICULTURE

**V AGRICULTURAL LAND** in Goparajpalli (V), Jangao (M & D), 2 Acres - Red Soil with 5 Bore, Rs. 15 Lacs/Acre for immediate sale. Please call 9912188833. Brokers excuse! (HYMM/2021/C04435)

### COMMERCIAL

**INVESTMENT IN** A grade pre launched commercial space at gopanapally invest 28 lakhs inclt get 25000/- pm-s from 5th st to 50000 stt hurrup contact : 7 9 9 3 6 1 2 0 0 1 / 6 3 0 9 6 7 0 1 1 1 (HYMM/2021/C04457)

**FULLY FURNISHED** Office space for sale. Opposite Forum Mall, KPHB, 4560st, 60 Cabins, 5 Manager Rooms, Server Room, Conference Hall, Rs.7000/sq.ft. Ph:9550470064. (HYCL/2021/C01823)

**NEW COMMERCIAL** Space 2000-5000Sft 3rd& 4th Floor, N/E Entrance, Ample Parking, Good Vastu @ Ramkote (Mani Ratan Towers) For Sale:Ph:9840910077. (HYMM/2021/C0207)

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING** for Sale at Sanath Nagar behind Radha Krishna Toyota, 1710Sq Yards Land Area, 2Celler & G+4,Each Floor 10000st Size., Contact : 9000091355 (HYMM/2021/C04452)

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**CUSTOMIZE VILLAS** 35 L 303 sqys, farm houses, resort, 100 acres community. Rs.5999/- offer 4200 per sqy. mumbai h/w sashadipet. 7416613247 (HYMM/2021/C04339)

## FLATS

### DOUBLE BEDROOM

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**FLAT FOR** Sale, 3 Bedroom 2 Flats Each 1300Sft, Hill Fort Road, Kalandaji Showroom. Contact time 9AM -6PM. Mr.Alvi Ph:9963114698. (HYCL/2021/C01825)

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**INDUSTRIAL SHED** For sale in IDA Idemella, phase-5 Industrial area approximately 2400Sqyard with shed 800Sft Ph: 9407615157 9246534387 (HYMM/2021/C04464)

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**LAND FOR** sale 10 to 24 Acres 65Km from L.B.Nagar. Suitable for Real Estate, Farmhouses, Function Halls, Petrol Pumps, Agriculture multi purpose Use. Choutuppal to Munugodu mainroad. Ph:6309015999. (HYCL/2021/C01812)

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**BOWNPALLY CONTONMENT,** Semi-Residential East Plot For Sale, Opp Ved Vihar, Dabir Farm road, 200 -1000yds. Ph 9 9 4 5 9 3 7 9 9 , 9 0 0 9 9 9 9 2 3 (HYMM/2021/C02181)

**MIYAPOL 2** Modern 3BHK Flat 2117sqft Semi Furnished, 2-Balconies, 3-Bathroom, Full Power Backup, Living Room, 100% Vastu, 2 Carparking, All Facilities. Contact: 7799440002/ 9167211968. (HYCL/2021/C01834)

**KOTHUR, BANGLORE Highway** Facing Gated Villa Plots RERA/HDR/MLP/04/2020 23 Acres, CC Roads, Underground Electricity, Bank Loans. Ph:9848551515. (HYCL/2021/C01774)

**3BHK FLAT** for Sale Semi Commercial Near Shaikpala Nagaon. Electronic wiez, 10 mins drive from ORR and airport , open plots and luxury villas. Plots 12.99/- sq.yds. ph: 9948482454/ 9705033945 (HYMM/2021/C04468)

**COMMERCIAL PLOT** for sale with roads on 3 sides (north east and south) opp aditya fort vilas in alkupuri puppalguda, manikonda 1100 sq yards, contact 9182910757, 9963133544 (HYMM/2021/C04421)

**MEJDHAL MAHESHWARIM** HMDA Approved Layout with 60% Bank, Fully Developed Venture Ready To Occupy. Ph: 9666100588, 9666100084. (HYMM/2021/C04424)

**AT MAHESWARAM** , near electronic wiez, 10 mins drive from ORR and airport , open plots and luxury villas. Plots 12.99/- sq.yds. ph: 9948482454/ 9705033945 (HYMM/2021/C04468)

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**NEAR ECIL**, Dammakuda, Nagaram X Roads and RL Nagar Open Plots for Sale in Gated & Non Gated Vente 021/99/- to @29,99/- Per Sq.Yd, Ph:9100955551, 9100956662. (HYMM/2021/C04446)

**KOTHUR, BANGLORE Highway** Facing Gated Villa Plots RERA/HDR/MLP/04/2020 23 Acres, CC Roads, Underground Electricity, Bank Loans. Ph:9848551515. (HYCL/2021/C01774)

**✓ NEW 3BHK Flats** @Marredpally, as per vastu, NO GST/ 24hrs water/party hall/ Gym/ play area/ Generator Backup. Contact: 8102687737, 9963814987/ 0 4 0 0 2 7 8 0 3 8 4 8 . (HYMM/2021/C04449)

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**✓ CLOSE TO DLF Garden City,East Facing,One Acre land, Black Top Road Facing , Sanginiguda Village, Nandigama Revenue, Shadnagar Mandal, 2 KM to Bangalore Highway, Rate Rs.17.5 Cr per Acre. Call: 9246871666 / 8637984545 / 9533996965 (W/2021/AT000722)**

**PENTHOUSE FOR** Sale @ Puppalgauda, Manikonda well Furnished 2BHK 1550 Sft BRS Completed 10 yrs old flat @65 Lakhs Ph:8865852222. (HYCL/2021/C01762)

**MANIKONDA SHEIKEPIT**, 2, 3 & 4 BHK ready to Occupy UC 1100 to 5000 sf flats for sale in premium high rise residential gated clusters with clubhouse, swimmingpool etc. Ph:9246596972. (S/2021/C00102)

**NEW 3BHK Flats** @Marredpally, as per vastu, NO GST/ 24hrs water/party hall/ Gym/ play area/ Generator Backup. Contact: 8102687737, 9963814987/ 0 4 0 0 2 7 8 0 3 8 4 8 . (HYMM/2021/C04449)

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## SHORT TAKES

## AP HC TO PASS VERDICT ON POLL PLEA ON MONDAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 4

The AP High Court on Friday completed its hearing on the state government's petition against allowing the gram panchayat polls in February next due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and reserved its verdict.

Advocate General S. Sriram told a division bench headed by Justice D.V.S. Somayajulu that the State Election Commission (SEC) had taken a unilateral decision to conduct of the polls despite the prevalence of Covid-19. He asked the court to issue stay order on SEC's proceedings.

SEC counsel N. Ashwani Kumar informed the court that earlier a division bench headed by Chief Justice J.K. Maheswari had directed the SEC to continue its election process. Based on that order, they were going ahead to conduct the polls.

Kumar said that the conduct of elections was the responsibility of the SEC and the role of the state government was limited to advising it. He said that the SEC was informing the state government about its plan to conduct the gram panchayat polls.

The AG contended that the SEC had issued the notification earlier to conduct the local body polls and they were stopped due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The SEC's claim that they were continuing the election process was not correct as the SEC issued proceedings to conduct polls only for gram panchayats.

After hearing both the parties, the court reserved its verdict and it may pronounce it on Monday.

## JAGAN: NAIDU MILKED COOPS TO ENRICH HERITAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 4

An enraged Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday slammed the Opposition and a section of the media in the Legislative Assembly for "spreading lies" and charged that the Telugu Desam government had destroyed cooperative dairies in order to promote Heritage. He took exception to the TD terming Amul as a corporate company.

The Chief Minister said that the share value of Heritage increased whenever TD president N. Chandrababu Naidu was in power and dropped when he lost, giving rise to suspicion. Showing statistics, he stated that Naidu was sending TD members to the podium to create chaos in the House in order to throttle the voice of the government.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said Amul is a co-operative society, whose owners were farmers and it was ranked eighth best in the world. He said, "looking at Heritage share price according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) index since 1999, when Naidu was in power, its share price was ₹2.89 on January 1, 1999, and ₹26.90 on December 12, 2003 and before the 2009 elections, when Naidu was not in power; on April 9, 2009, the share price fell to ₹16.35. It increased from ₹35 to ₹100 when Kiran Kumar Reddy was Chief Minister. When Naidu returned to power in 2014, the share price rose to a record ₹827 by December 2017. Heritage shares fell to ₹205 by March 2020 after Naidu stepped down."

## CAG report finds finances in TD rule poor, exposes Naidu

**Auditor general highlights low-return investments made by Naidu government**

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

insurance fund, unproductive investments, excess dependence on overdraft facility and failure to contain revenue deficit.

After losing power last year, the Telugu Desam has made the alleged financial mismanagement by the YSRC government a major issue to target the Chief Minister Y. Ramakrishnudu, former finance minister and senior TD leader, has several times demanded imposition of financial emergency in the state to "save" it from further bankruptcy.

The CAG mentioned in its report that the "Government incorrectly

used funds that belong to its employees and created uncertainty in respect of benefits due to the employees" besides enhancing the avoidable financial liability to the government.

The accounting agency found that there was a short transfer of ₹663 crore to the National Securities Depository Limited.

The CAG highlighted the low-return investments made by the Naidu government in 2018-19 fiscal.

The government's investments in statutory corporations, government companies and others were ₹9,500 crore of which unapportioned

investments were ₹8,400 crore which is 88 per cent of investments.

"The average rate of return on investment was negligible at 0.01 per cent, far lower than the average rate of interest the government paid on its borrowings which is 6.37 per cent," it pointed out.

With regard to availing the overdraft facility, a sign of pure fiscal management, the CAG highlighted that the government could maintain the mandated minimum cash balance for just 115 days with the Reserve Bank of India while it depended on ways and means, overdraft and special drawing

facility to meet the requirement for the remaining period of the 2018-19 financial year. It also found that the government directed the corporations to put their deposits in PD accounts so that the minimum cash balance can be achieved.

Referring to the huge revenue deficit, the CAG said the revenue deficit had exceeded the ceiling prescribed by the 14th Finance Commission "for the last four years" (which means the entire duration of TD rule) despite release of post devolution revenue deficit grant by the commission.

## AP mining barons fume as state fixes border with K'taka

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ANANTAPUR, DEC. 4

● UNION GOVERNMENT was conducting a survey to fix borders between Bellary and Anantapur district forest lands following a 15-year dispute after borders were destroyed by mining companies.

● ILLEGAL MINING of 29 lakh tonnes of rich quality iron ore from the reserved forests had caused considerable damage to the border areas.

Further, a legal dispute arose between both the state governments over fixing of borders as the mining companies destroyed decades old survey stones and borders. The Centre's survey teams had expedited the process in order to settle the issue. The parameters being used for the present survey are being objected to by other mining companies as the surveyors are considering Bellary Reserve Forest Map-1896 as primary map instead of considering revenue maps.

Tapal Ganesh, a mining company owner, observed that the present system to fix the border pillars was not genuine. He observed that the mineral and non-mineral zones were also not differentiated in the survey.

Anantapur joint collector Nisanth Kumar and revenue officials from the district inspected the ongoing survey between Obulapuram and H Siddapuram.

## Fire mishap



Thick smoke billows out from the HPCL Visakha Refinery at Malkapuram industrial area in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

## Virus curbs effected in TS, AP reduces swine flu, H1N1 cases

AVINASH P.  
SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
TIRUPATI, DEC. 4

The precautions taken by the public to fight the deadly Coronavirus appears to have played a key role in reduction of the seasonal swine flu (H1N1) cases in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, giving some respite to the over-burdened health authorities.

The latest data from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) show that the number of H1N1 cases had dropped in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by 10% and 67% respectively.

till the end of September, Andhra Pradesh has reported 32 H1N1 cases and two deaths, while last year the total number of cases reported were 333 with 15 deaths.

The first case of swine flu in the current calendar year was reported in Anantapur district.

The data also shows that AP reported 12 cases and five deaths in 2016.

The state, however, saw a massive hike in H1N1 cases in the following years:

476 cases and 14 deaths in 2017 and 402

cases and 17 deaths in 2018 and later dropped to 333 cases with 15 deaths in 2019.

Similarly, Telangana reported 446 cases and five deaths till September 30. The state has seen a massive drop in number of cases with a reduction rate of 67 percent when compared to incidence data of 2019 - 1,388 cases and 22 deaths. In 2016, it stood at 166 cases and 10 deaths, followed by 2,165 cases and 21 deaths in 2017 and 1007 cases and 28 deaths in 2018.

Health experts believe that mandated precautionary measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 may have had an unexpected impact on the spread of other communicable diseases.

"Extensive use of

masks, physical distancing, hand sanitisation and avoiding mass gathering might have checked H1N1 infections in their tracks", Chittoor DMHO Dr. M. Penchalaiah observed.

A senior health official said "H1N1 is generally rampant from October to December. But in 2019 it was relatively under control with very few cases. Now, it is even more surprising that cases reported from January-September this year are very low when compared to the same time-frame in previous years. We are hoping that H1N1 cases in the following months would be lesser than last year".

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"Extensive use of

## AP gears up to vaccinate 1 crore people: Jagan

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 4

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced in State Legislative Assembly on Friday that Andhra Pradesh is getting ready to vaccinate one crore people against Coronavirus in three months, as the central government has indicated that it will release one crore doses of vaccine to AP in the first phase.

Replying to a discussion in assembly on Covid-19 and other health initiatives being taken up by the state government, the CM stated that as per guidelines of the centre, 3.6 lakh healthcare workers will be the first priority in getting the vaccination, followed by 7 lakh frontline staff of other departments and 90

lakh aged persons above 50 years of age. Accordingly, he said, the Health Department is gearing up for the vaccination programme.

The Chief Minister announced that nearly 4,065 cold chain facilities will be storing the vaccine at a temperature of between 2-8 degrees Celsius. Government has kept 29 refrigerated vehicles ready for transporting the vaccine, which will be administered to the one crore population by 19,000 ANMs. He asked health

authorities to train Asha workers too about how the vaccine is to be injected into people.

Jagan Mohan Reddy said AP has a population of six crore. Until all people are vaccinated, he advised people to remain compliant with the requisite precautionary measures like wearing face mask, maintaining social distance, washing hands with sanitisers and protecting oneself from getting infected with Coronavirus.

A state-level steering committee headed by the chief secretary and task forces at state, district and mandal levels are being set up to implement and monitor the vaccination programme in compliance with the stipulated Standard Operating Procedures. Referring to the spike in number of

Covid-19 positive cases due to prevalence of cold weather conditions, the CM pointed out that countries like the UK, France, Italy and states, such as New Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are witnessing this phenomenon.

The CM dwelt at length on how infrastructure was skeletal in hospitals of the state when Coronavirus started spreading in March 2019. Not a single lab was available to conduct Covid-19 test in the early days. Since then, the state government has set up 150 labs and has conducted 1.02 crore tests so far. Andhra Pradesh stood first in the country by conducting 1,91,568 tests per one million population. Coronavirus positive rate has been brought down

to 8.51 percent on an average from the earlier 16 percent. Rate of fatalities has been reduced to 0.81 percent from the earlier 1.46 percent by providing all requisite health care to virus-infected persons.

The Chief Minister pointed out that even now, a set of six doses of Remdesivir injections are available at each of the Covid-19 hospitals, besides 17,000 Tocilizumab injections at all district headquarter hospitals in the state for treating infected patients. CM Jagan announced revamp of the entire health infrastructure in the state, besides setting up 16 new medical colleges in addition to the existing 11 colleges in AP at a cost of ₹16,000 crore in the next three years.

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## E-Tender Notice

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: - SG/DE/OT/10/20 SI.No. 1. Name of work with its location: Associated S&amp;T work in MGSMPO Section for various Engg. Track renewal/replacement/Point/G/J SEJ etc. work (MPO-MGS) (i) TTR - 60 Kg. (CS+CMSC) = 29 Sets., (ii) TTR 60 Kg. (TWS)= 84 Sets., (iii) TTR - 60 Kg. (CMSC) = 103 Sets., TBR = 8.50 Km. SEJ = 159 Sets &amp; Glued Joints = 745 Nos.) 2. Approx.

Cost of the work: Rs. 4,36,22,062.21 (Rs. Four Crore Thirty Six Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Sixty Two and Paise Twenty One only). 3. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs.3,68,100/- (Rs. Three Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand One hundred only). 4. Closing date &amp; time for Submission of e-tendering: 29/12/2020 up to 12.30 Hrs. 5. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc: www.irops.gov.in.

Divnl. Signal &amp; Telecom Engineer-II East Central railway, DDU PR/1047/DDU/S&amp;T/T/20/21/4

Stay protected from Corona Wear your mask properly Frequently wash your hands with soap Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

## OPEN e - tender Notice

Item No.

Description

Qty (KGs)

Enquiry No/ Year.

Last date &amp; time for downloading of tenders

Last date &amp; time for bid submission

Date &amp; time of opening of bids

1.

Manufacturing, Testing and supply (FOR destination at any place in Punjab) of 1000 Kg SF6

Gas in 100 Nos cylinders each of 10 Kg capacity for use in existing 33/66KV SF6

Breakers of

various makes

installed at

various sub

stations in PSPCL

EMD

Rs. 22,000/-

Minimum EMD

Rs. 10,000/-

Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website http://eproc.pspcl.gov.in.

The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty.

It is informed that in-case tender process is not completed due to any reason,

No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding

corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL e-tendering website http://eproc.pspcl.gov.in.

C-363/2020

Dy. CE/Sub-Station Design

PSPCL, Patiala.

+ + + + +

**SHORT TAKES**  
**TS RECORDS 631 FRESH COVID CASES, 2 DEATHS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The state recorded 631 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths on Thursday. With this, the total number of cases stands at 2,72,123 and the toll at 1,467.

There are 8,826 active cases in the state, the health department bulletin said. The GHMC area recorded 109 cases, Medchal Malkajgiri 57 and Ranga Reddy district 49 cases.

Health officials have advised all the people who took part in the GHMC election campaign to quarantine themselves for a week. The use of masks, hand washing and social distancing must be followed advised officials.

**MAN HELD FOR INJURING COP IN 2015 GETS BAIL**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

A man who was arrested for rioting and injuring policemen in 2015 at the Marredpally police station premises was granted conditional bail by the Telangana High Court on Friday.

Setting the terms of bail, Justice K. Laxman of the High Court told Talla Sainath to appear before the police every day.

A mob of around 200 people had attacked the police station to protest against the alleged custodial torture and death of one Banappa by the police. Five police personnel, including two sub-inspectors, were injured in the attack and the mob had torched two-wheelers, files, furniture, and other property during the riot.

Sainath's counsel G. Veera Babu said that he was not involved in the attack. He contended that the then Karkhana sub-inspector, who was also injured in the incident, implicated the petitioner along with others due to a personal grudge.

The additional public prosecutor contended that the petitioner had a history of crime and that he was also involved in a murder case. Veera Babu clarified that the petitioner was acquitted in the murder case and that he had no criminal history.

It was also pointed out in the bail application that a writ petition was pending before the High Court for registration of crime against the Marredpally police for alleged torture and death of Banappa.

**TWO KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN ROAD MISHAP**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Two persons were killed and several others, including a police inspector and other staffers, sustained injuries in a freak mishap at Siddipet on Friday.

The accident occurred when police personnel and people had gathered at the site of a car accident which had taken three lives. A mini-lorry rammed into the crowd, killing two of them and injuring several others.

Policemen said that at about 2.15 pm on Friday, Bayyappu Narendra, 43, and his parents Rajireddy and Vijaya were killed in a mishap when their car hit a roadside culvert at the Karimnagar Y-junction. Upon receiving information, II-Town inspector Parashuram and other staff rushed to the scene.

The second accident occurred when the cops were busy retrieving the bodies of the car accident victims, and a crowd had gathered to watch them. The mini-lorry heading towards Hyderabad came at high speed and crashed into the crowd.

"Ten to twelve people were injured in the crash. Two of them, V. Yella Reddy and A. Mallaiah, succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital," said a police official adding that the driver was absconding from the scene and efforts were on to trace him. "The situation was brought under control and normal traffic flow was restored at the place," said the police, adding that the inspector was later discharged from the hospital after treatment on Friday night.

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Management of Devi theatre at RTC Crossroads welcomes film goers with a red rose after reopening the theatre after nine months and observing several Covid precautions and protocols. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Even morning shows resume in theatres

**With 90% occupancy, audience show interest in films**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

Many youngsters, families too were spotted at the theatres. Most of them expressed their happiness that their favourite entertainment is back.

Deepak and Prithvi from Jubilee Hills, both friends, made their way to watch the movie on the first day morning show. "It is a very nice feeling to watch movies in theatres after such a long break. We are feeling more safe and secure. The whole place is sanitised and they made wearing of mask mandatory," he remarked.

Tyson Vincent, manager at AMB Cinema, Gachibowli, pointed out that 50 percent of the seats were left vacant for social distancing. "Rest of all the seat seats went full for on Day One itself," he remarked.

Devi Cinema, a single-screen theatre, sold 140 tickets for each show.

This is a positive signal for future of movies, as it indicates that once movies with stars start getting released, all the seats will be full, Devi's manager said.

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## Raju hid facts before lower court to get ex parte orders: Netflix

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

the ex parte orders. The docu-series features several persons accused of

Neeraj Kishan Kaul and Bommneni Vivekanand, on behalf of Netflix, argued that Raju was unable to tolerate fair criticism made by experts which was a part of the series. The makers of the docu-series included the opinions of some experts who expressed their views based on the facts and the directions

of the trial court which had held that Raju had a role in the scandal at Satyam Computers.

"The intolerant Raju approached the lower court by saying that it was defamatory and obtained the ex parte order, without making Netflix and others as respondents. Now, he is arguing before this court that Netflix is a foreign company and it has a commercial interest. But the docu-series was

made only on the information which is already in the public domain. We are disseminating the information," Netflix counsels submitted before the court.

The division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Abhishek Reddy, which is hearing the appeal on the ex parte orders, adjourned the hearing to December 18.

## Rtd colonel booked for dog's death in AWHO

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

act. They were suspected to be acting on the orders of colony president Col. K.K.D. Prasad (retired) and other residents.

Aparajita Singh, a tenant in the colony, who used to feed the dog, said that she had to leave the city due to a family obligation. For the last two weeks, the colony had seen a lot of issues regarding stray dogs.

"I was taking care of the pups and had sterilised and vaccinated them before I left. The president of the colony association had warned people against feeding or caring for dogs. We wanted to befriend the dogs and get them out of the colony so we began feeding them, hoping to

rescue them," she said. Prithvi Ravishankar, Vaidehi Acharya and Varun Chhabria were other animal lovers who were taking turns to feed the stray dogs. "We received a complaint from Varun and booked cases against Col Prasad (rtd). An investigation is underway," said Karkhana inspector P. Madhukar Swamy.

Meanwhile, the animal rights activists are on the lookout for a home or a farmhouse where two other dogs from the AW HO Colony can be rehabilitated. They have put a request out on social media for the purpose. They said that they could be reached at 'Bark 4 Help', 7305423131.

According to the police, Sravan was attacked by Srikanth Reddy and his friend Harshvardhan Reddy at around 12.30 am.

"Srikanth had called his friend Harshvardhan Reddy to the hostel. They went to Sravan's room and picked up an argument. It escalated to a point where Sravan was pushed down and attacked by the two men. Sravan was injured and taken to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead," the police said.

A murder case was

booked and the body was

taken for the post-mortem examination.

**THE VICTIM**, identified as Sravan, and the alleged assailant, Srikanth Reddy, were working for a pharma company and were not on good terms.

Citizens were requested to take alternative roads to avoid congestion at Whisper Valley or Dargah junction and co-operate with the traffic police in ensuring free flow of traffic, officials said.

## TRAFFIC TO BE DIVERTED FOR BUILDING FLYOVER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

The Cyberabad traffic police have put in place traffic diversion to facilitate the construction of a flyover at Whisper Valley junction. The work has been permitted for 21 days from December 7 to 27 between 11 pm and 5 am, said the officials.

According to the police, traffic from

Tolichowki towards Gachibowli will be diverted from Old Raidurgam towards OU Colony, Jammichettu junction, Dargah junction, Lanco Hills and Khajaguda junction towards Gachibowli. Heavy vehicles from Tolichowki will be allowed only during the morning hours. Vehicles from Gachib-

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Office of the District Collector, Medak

### FORM-VII

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule 25 and

Section 19(1) of the Act-20/2013)

DECLARATION

Dated: 23-10-2020

Revenue Divisional Officer, Toopran

File No. C/544/2019

Gazette No. 127

I, the Collector, Medak

Collector, Medak of a total extent of Ac. 44 1/1 gts. land is required in

Parkibanda Village of Manchabard Mandal, Toopran Division, Medak District of land for public purpose namely Konda Pochamma Sagar Project, located in Konda Pochamma Village, Parkibanda Mandal, Toopran Division, Medak.

The above said project in Parkibanda Village of Manchabard Mandal, Toopran Division, Medak District of land, standard measurement Ac. 44 1/1 gts., whose detailed description is as follows under acquisition.

Details of Patta Land

Total Extent 00.36

1/1 Dry Patta 0.0134 Reddy, S. Venkatesh Reddy

1/1 Dry Patta 0.0135 Reddy, S. Venkatesh Reddy

1/2 Dry Patta 0.0136 Reddy, S. Venkatesh Reddy

1/2 Dry Patta 0.0137 Reddy, S. Venkatesh Reddy

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1/2 Dry Patta 0.0171 Reddy, S.

## SHORT TAKES

## FRESH LEGAL TROUBLE FOR RANAUT

Mumbai, Dec. 4: It was Kangana Ranaut versus not just Diljit Dosanjh but several other Punjabi artistes as well as the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee on Friday with the actor's comments against an elderly participant in farmers protest leading to a bitter war of words and demands for an apology.

Ranaut, who made headlines with her ugly spat with Dosanjh on Twitter, was served a legal notice on Friday by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee which is seeking an unconditional apology from the actor.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee President Maninder Sirsa said Ranaut's tweets tried to portray farmers protest as "anti-national" and were derogatory against the aged mother of a farmer.

This is the second legal notice against the actor, who has already been served a legal notice by a lawyer from Punjab's Zirakpur town on December 2 over her tweet.

Prominent singers and artistes from Punjab, including Mika Singh, Ammy Virk and Jazzy B, meanwhile, have also criticised Ranaut while backing Dosanjh for his war of words with Ranaut.

Dosanjh had taken Ranaut to task for misidentifying the woman farmer as Bilkis Bano, a septuagenarian who had attracted international attention for her participation in the anti-CAA protests earlier this year at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh neighbourhood. He had shared a BBC interview that identified the woman farmer as Mahinder Kaur.

Ranaut had shared a tweet on November 27, alleging that the "Shaheen Bagh dad" also joined the agitation.

## GOVT SHOULD FIND A SOLUTION: DHARMENDRA

Mumbai, Dec. 4: Veteran actor Dharmendra on Friday urged the central government to find a solution to farmers' protests over the farm laws, a day after he deleted a similar post on Twitter. On Thursday, the 84-year-old actor had urged the government to resolve the protests soon, citing the growing number of coronavirus cases in Delhi.

"I request the government... please quickly find a solution to the farmers' problems... the number of corona cases are on a rise in Delhi... it is painful," Dharmendra had written in a post. However, the veteran actor soon deleted the post, without any explanation.

On Friday morning, a user posted the screenshot of the tweet, wondering what prompted the actor to delete the tweet.

Dharmendra said, "I deleted the tweet because I felt saddened by comments like these. You can abuse me to your heart's content, I am happy that you are happy. Yes, I am sad for my farmer brothers."

The Apne actor further said, "The government should find a solution fast, nobody is listening to us." When another user claimed that he must have deleted the post on the insistence of his son, actor and BJP MP from Gurdaspur Sunny Deol, Dharmendra replied, "I won't say anything about your mentality."

## RAJ CM: FARM LAWS SHOULD BE REPEALED

Jaipur, Dec. 4: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday asked the Centre to immediately repeal the new farm laws and apologise to the protesting farmers for allegedly misbehaving with them.

"The central government enacted all three agricultural bills without consulting the state governments, farmer organisations, agricultural experts and the bills were passed unconstitutionally without any discussion in Parliament even when the Opposition was demanding to send the bills to a select committee," Gehlot tweeted.

Chief Ministers of four Congress-ruled states including himself and Amarinder Singh had sought time from President Ram Nath Kovind to discuss the issue but the request was turned down.

He criticised the Centre for its handling of the protests over the contentious farm laws. "The centre should withdraw the laws without any delay and should seek apology from the farmers for the misbehaviour, he said.

## CRUCIAL MEET BETWEEN FARMERS, CENTRE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 4

Home Minister Amit Shah has held a series of meetings to find a resolution to the ongoing farmers agitation. There is a growing view within the government that the issue should be resolved at the earliest as a delay could have an adverse impact on both economy and security situation.

The Home Minister has been playing an active role behind the scenes holding discussions with Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar along with BJP leaders from Punjab and Haryana to help find a solution to the ongoing deadlock with the farmers.

Centre is keen that the farmers deadlock should be resolved at the earliest as a long agitation, which can also turn violent with number of farmers growing almost daily, hurts both the economy and the security situation also.

It was largely on account of the Home Minister's initiative that the Centre had decided to introduce some important changes in the three farm laws as was being demanded by the farmers. Most of these are related to assuring the Minimum Support Price and continuation of the mandi or markets in Punjab and Haryana where Government procurement of wheat and paddy is done.

In its meeting with the farmers on Thursday, the Centre had agreed to all these demands following a green signal from Home Minister. Now another crucial meeting between farmers unions and Centre is scheduled to be held on Saturday.

Sources said the Home Minister has asked the teams negotiating with the farmers to adopt a "flexible and humanitarian" approach towards the farmers' demands. Farmers have raised nine major objections regarding the three agriculture Bills and it is believed that Centre has agreed to amend all these nine provisions and this will be conveyed to the farmers' unions in Saturday's meeting.

The TMC chief told Mr Singh, "I thank you for leading the farmers' movement. I also observed a 26-day hunger strike against the forcible acquisition of farmers' land. Your movement is our movement. It is a movement of entire Hindustan. We will provide you whatever assistance needed in support of the farmers. We can send our people if you want. These anti-farmer laws should be withdrawn. Until and unless they are withdrawn, you continue the farmers' movement. We stand by you."

"Secondly," she claimed,

"The changes brought in the Essential Commodities Act are totally wrong. They (BJP) introduced many laws forcefully thinking that they can now do anything and even sell the country since they got votes. We do not want Modiji to sell our

country. So we need to work unitedly. Hindustan will have to be made for farmers, youth, labourers and others. Yogendra knows me. We have worked together a lot and will do more. Our full support is with you. Your movement will be successful."

Mr Singh expressed his gratitude to her for support.

Mr O'Brien and Mr Yadav later spoke to more leaders during their four-hour visit.

The TMC chief's move

came after several Left leaders, including former CPI(M) MP and All India Kisan Sabha general secretary Hannan Mollah from the state, were found spearheading the farmers' agitation while her party, unlike the Left and Congress, has not hit the streets yet in the state on the issue despite her threat of a nationwide agitation.

On Twitter, the CM said,

"14 years ago on Dec 4, 2006, I began my 26 day

hunger strike in Kolkata

demanding that agricultural land cannot be forcefully acquired. I express my solidarity with all farmers who are protesting against draconian farm bills passed without consultation by Centre #StandWithFarmers"

Banerjee had on

Thursday threatened to

launch a country-wide agita-

tion if the "anti-farmer" new farm laws were not withdrawn.

Senior TMC MP Kakoli

Ghosh Dastidar alleged

that the new farm laws are

"unconstitutional" and

were passed to help the

corporate houses.

"We demand that these

laws be withdrawn. These

laws were passed not to

help the farmers but were

done to help the multina-

tional and corporate hous-

es," she said.

The INLD senior leader

Abhay Singh Chautala

expressed his party's will-

ingness to join any SAD-

led front sans the BJP and

Congress in response to a

query on speculations

over forging such a front

while addressing a press

conference.

The party also said it

has asked its district pres-

idents and other office-

bearers to take party's

Kisan Cell members in

tractor trolleys to Delhi

borders to join and lend

support to the agitating

farmers.

Abhay Singh Chautala

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Wednesday threatened to

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Several senior TMC lead-

ers had on

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## LOW-KEY POLITICAL DRAMA IN TN

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR &  
D. SEKAR | DC  
CHENNAI, DEC. 4

**M.P. MINISTER  
'UNFIT' AS VACCINE  
TRIAL VOLUNTEER**

RABINDRA NATH  
CHOURHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, DEC. 4

Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra was on Friday disqualified to be a volunteer for Covid-19 vaccine trial.

Doctors in a private medical college hospital here where trial of a vaccine candidate was in progress have declared him ineligible to become a volunteer for the vaccine trial when they found that 2 members of his family had earlier tested positive for Coronavirus.

"The minister offered to volunteer for a vaccine trial. During counseling, we have found that 2 members of his family had earlier tested positive for Coronavirus. Hence, he was disqualified to be a vaccine trial volunteer," principal investigator of vaccine trial in the hospital Dr. Raghavendra Gumasta said here.

Earlier on Thursday, Mishra appealed to the people to volunteer for a vaccine trial and announced that he would be a vaccine trial volunteer.

Sources said People's Medical College and Hospital could so far motivate hardly 50 people to become vaccine trial volunteer in the last one week, whereas it has provision to vaccinate 2,000 people on trial.

## COURT DENIES BAIL TO PNB SCAM ACCUSED

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, DEC. 4

A special CBI court on Friday rejected the bail application filed by Vipul Chitalia, the vice president of Gitanjali Group of Companies, arrested in connection with multi-crore Punjab National Bank scam.

Special judge V.C. Barde on Friday rejected the second bail application filed by Chitalia. He has been behind bars since his arrest in March 2018.

As per the investigating agencies, Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, in connivance with certain bank officials, allegedly cheated the Punjab National Bank (PNB) to the tune of ₹14,000 crore through issuance of fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs).

An LoU is a bank guarantee under which a bank can allow its customer to raise money.

These LoUs were allegedly issued in a fraudulent manner by a Mumbai branch of the PNB to the group of companies belonging to Modi and Choksi since March 2011 till the case came to light.

According to the CBI, Chitalia is one of the prime accused in this case and he was "mastermind" for putting through fraudulent transactions along with absconding accused Mehul Choksi.

## 2008 MALEGAON BLAST TRIAL RESUMES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, DEC. 4

The trial in the Malegaon blast case resumed on Friday with defence lawyers cross-examining the panch witness who had conducted the spot panchama and identified two motorcycles and five bicycles recovered from there.

The witness had recorded his testimony before the special court in July last year and his cross-examination was pending since then.

Courts were not working at full strength during the lockdown period of Coronavirus pandemic hence his cross-examination couldn't be completed. On Friday the court began the trial in the case again and advocate J.P. Mishra along with other defence lawyers cross-examined this witness.

During cross-examination the witness replied to a question that even though the police has noted down his statement in Marathi but he doesn't understand the language.

The court has fixed December 7, as next date of hearing.

On September 29, 2008 the blast occurred in front of Shakeel Transport at Bhikku Chowk, famous for its tea stalls. Six persons died and 100 others were injured when a bomb fitted on an LML Freedom motorcycle exploded.

According to the police, one of the bikes found from the spot was registered in the name of accused BJP Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur, who is out on bail currently.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

5 DECEMBER 2020

## BJP real winner in Hyd, though TRS stays No. 1

A municipal election so *sui generis* it grabbed the attention of an entire nation has finally ended with a verdict that will be a watermark moment in the history of Telangana politics. The ruling TRS managed to narrowly edge our all challenges to slip past the ribbon with a wafer-thin margin, to manage to hold on to the GHMC mayoral seat. The AIMIM, player number three and factor X in the polls, held its fortress unscathed.

But the real political winner of the battle and narrative is the BJP, which has succeeded in managing to seed its narrative of being a challenger for power for Telangana, reducing the Congress to an insignificant naught in state politics. The BJP juggernaut has only strengthened from Nizamabad in Lok Sabha elections, 2019, to Dubbaka a few weeks ago to Greater Hyderabad on Friday; promising to keep aggressively surging ahead, with Nagarjunasagar as the next episode.

By holding the TRS far from increasing its tally of 99 to a century or more, to even denying the pink party a clear majority of 76 in popular vote for 150 divisions to bring it below 60 divisions, the BJP has scripted an exceptional win. What is more significant is that it has managed to surpass the AIMIM as the second largest party.

The TRS now has an additional immediate problem of having to formally enter into some alliance or agreement with the MIM to resolve the impasse of the numbers of a hung municipal council. This will further give the BJP an additional benefit of having portrayed the TRS as a clandestine partner of the MIM.

What surprised nobody is that the Congress party has been reduced to a big zero in its ability to impact the politics of the state. The party was the principal Opposition less than two years ago when the results of the December 2018 Assembly elections came out. The TRS has used many a Machiavellian tactic to weaken the Congress, thus losing its advantage of two incompatible national parties splitting the anti-incumbency vote. Like a snake biting its own tail, the TRS is now paying a price for its strategic blunder. The anti-TRS sentiment was reflected early in the day when postal ballots revealed a strong verdict amongst government employees.

While parties win or lose, the state election commission under the stewardship of a retired IAS officer, C. Parthasarathi, has not covered itself in glory with several controversial decisions, one passed late last night after midnight being stayed by the high court. The perception that SEC was hardly Caesar's wife will go down as a sad day in the otherwise illustrious story of Indian election commissions being the highest upholders of the core values of our democracy.

Finally, now that elections for GHMC are over, it is a fair expectation that the winners will forget politics and apply their minds to addressing the problems of people and bettering the civic amenities of the city. Three cheers to that hope.

## Innovate to glory

**S**he is just 15 years old, but this Indian-origin scientist from Lone Tree, Colorado, is making history as *Time's* first-ever "Kid of the Year". Leadership is what helped Gitanjali Rao make the cut out of 5,000 other talented teenagers. After Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg who was last year's *Time* "Person of the Year", she is now the youngest kid on the role model block. Gitanjali uses her intellectual prowess to tackle some of the world's pressing concerns like cyber bullying and opioid addiction. She is exercised by the gender pay gap and climate change, for both of which she matter-of-factly holds older generations responsible. But she does not believe in big fixes, doing, as she says, what she can and taking on one urgent question at a time.

Surprisingly or not, this isn't the first time Gitanjali has been feted. In 2019, the teenage innovator was included in the Forbes' list of 30 under 30, when she was way below that age bar. Two more years back, at 12, she was named the United States' top young scientist for creating a device that detects lead in water. Gitanjali had been inspired by the drinking water crisis of 2014 that hit Michigan to design the gadget. She has worked in refugee camps and conducts global innovation workshops wherein she has mentored 30,000 students. Her amazing aptitude ranges from artificial intelligence to carbon nanotube sensor technology, while including more commonplace activities such as baking. The Stem School Highlands Ranch student is preparing to pursue genetics and epidemiology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This generates promise: Perhaps, she will be the one to save the planet from the next pandemic.

To diaspora Indians, Gitanjali's feat though is the latest one in a long line of academic laurels that youngsters from the community have been bringing home. The question then is about how to have more people emulate her achievement. Gitanjali's personal experience has been that students just don't know where to start. But if one can give them that spark that they can then build off of, then that changes everything, and may mean that one more person in this world wants to come up with ideas to solve problems. A point to ponder, and take a leaf from, for parents, teachers and child-raisers.

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Farrukh  
Dhondy  
**Cabbages & Kings**



"They say it's not over till the fat lady sings  
That final and fatal aria  
And in that moment stumbles and clings  
To the neck of the lover who'll carry her  
Off the stage and into the wings  
Without having promised to marry her!"  
— From Showcase Mein Itna Tho Godown Mein Kitna by Bachchoo

## The empire strikes back! Secret plan is unveiled

**M**y demented second cousin twice removed (each time by the deportation authorities), "Rusty" Immoralearningswalla, would always boast of his intention to balance history by striking back at Britain's imperial past. He's been reading these books by Shashi Tharoor and William Dalrymple and has become obsessive. One of his mad schemes was to start a restaurant in London, called "The Revenge of the Empire". He would import a substance we were aware of in our short and happy childhoods in Poona (now Pune), called *jamal gota*, a strong horse purgative fed to the

poor animals who pulled tongas before rickshaws infested the city's streets. Russi would poison bits of the food served to the British clientele of his restaurant, inducing in them the relentless symptoms of Delhi-Belly — or worse.

I attempted in vain to point out that no one would eat at a restaurant called Revenge of the Natives. Better to call it Memories of the Raj. He simply said that the clientele he was aiming at wouldn't notice what it was called — they'd just stagger in after the pubs closed, muttering "I could murder an Indian!" and wouldn't remember where they ate that night.

Rustum's efforts to raise capital for his restaurant came to naught. When he was deported, he left this sack of *jamal gota*, the horse purgative, in my study. I have advertised it on eBay and other Internet sites but have had no buyers rushing to avail of the low asking price.

At first, I thought nothing of Rustum's deportation. With all his activities and schemes, he was asking for it. But then one day it struck me as extremely odd that he hadn't been

deported to Mumbai but had been sent to Canada and was making a good life there in his usual trade. And when he began sending me, under cover, envelopes marked "Miss Let Up" to be delivered, unopened, by hand, to an address in the posh part of London, I became suspicious.

Who could this mysterious "Miss Let Up" be? I couldn't resist the temptation. Though strictly a betrayal of his trust, I opened one of the misses he had sent under cover of an envelope to my address. "Step up deportations, first of criminals and when the public begins to accept these as routine, then all useful personnel of non-British vintage." Russi does pride himself on rather stylish vocabulary.

I resealed the envelope and delivered it and waited on the opposite side of the road, sitting on a blanket pretending to be a homeless beggar, a sight that is very common in London. Sure enough, a big black car drove up flying the Union Jack and a lady stepped out of the house and was driven away. Did I recognise the lady? Jesus, Joseph and Mary, the realisation dawned. "Let Up" spelt back-

wards? Putel? Yes, it was she!

Then the whole glorious scheme fell into place when I recalled that after Rustum's plan for his revenge restaurant fell through, he didn't seem in the least despondent. He would disappear for what he said were walks in Crystal Palace, but he'd be gone for hours and why call for an Uber to go for a walk?

Then there were the phone calls he shielded from me. Only once I caught him saying "Yes, Canada would be ideal". The next day two immigration fellows called and carried him away.

Now, gentle reader, I am not one to believe in conspiracy theories, but the evidence is overwhelming, and these are my conjectures. Russi has consolidated his attack on the Empire at the highest level. Consider the facts:

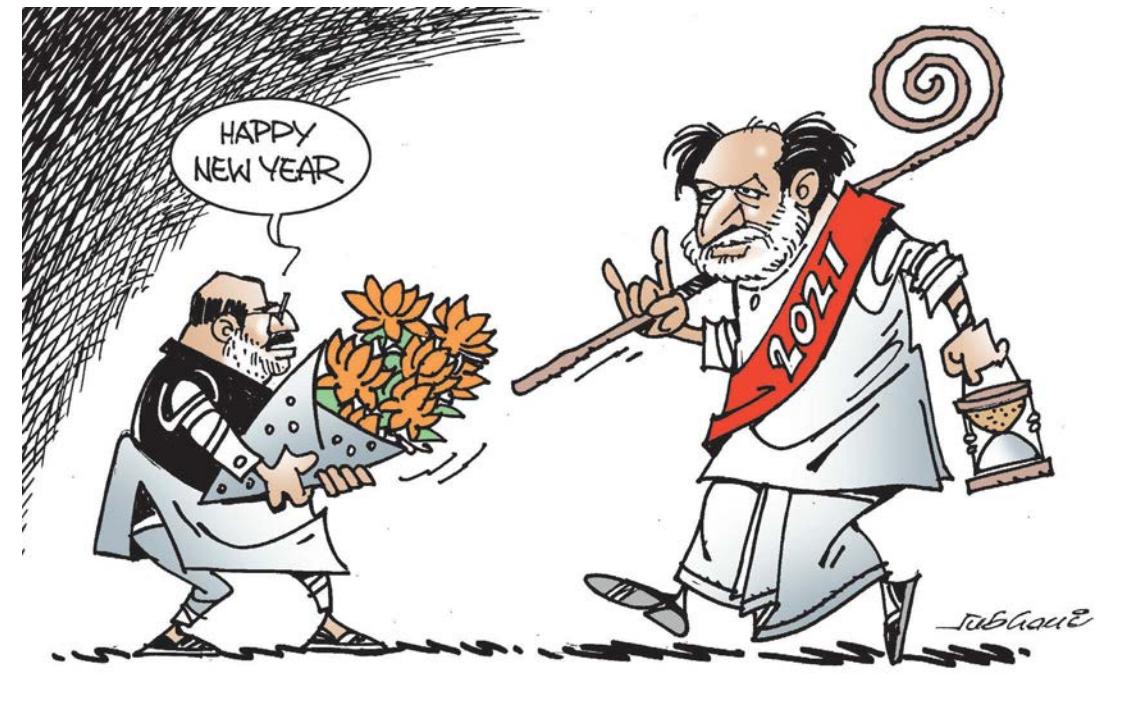
Several individuals with an ex-colonial ancestry infiltrate the Tory Party and diligently rise to high positions and begin their work of dismantling the British economy, its social fabric and work unflaggingly towards its ruin. First of all, they pretend to be ardent advocates of Brexit, knowing that it will leave Britain isolated and poorer for decades.

Then, having achieved high office, they begin the ruinous policy of "borrow and sorrow", and then "Free ports and depots".

Rishi Sunak has compelled the Bank of England to print, in this year, £500 billion in inflationary borrowing to pay for wild schemes — ten times as much as a Labour government did in ten years. Now he proposes 10 "free ports" which will turn Britain into Singapore — the world's leading money-laundering and tax dodging drug haven destroying what's left of its manufacturing base.

And here, gentle reader, I must apologise for consistently calling home secretary "Priti" Patel "Clueless". I now realise that as part of Russi's plan, she is grooming the great liberal British public to jail and deport the non-Brits on whom several sectors of the economy and social fabric rely. I can only speculate that the last batch of deportees will include "Miss Let Up" who will thus, at the state's expense, be given a free ride to Canada or Uganda and anyway away from a failing, flailing Britain. The Empire strikes mercilessly back!

Subhani



## Pivot or perish: India's heartland sends signal

Shikha Mukerjee

**T**wenty-first century India's farmers have written themselves into the history of the country and into the international chronicles of historic protests. It's an irresistible force that is finally giving voice. Just as the 250 million who joined the nationwide strike by the trade unions had articulated the anger and distress of the working poor.

The solidarity, scale and pared-down simplicity of their call, that is, for the repeal of the three laws rushed through without consultation by the Narendra Modi government in September, as a confirmation of stealthily issued ordinances, is imperative and compelling. The farmers' protest has called out the Modi government as essentially autocratic, and the BJP as unrepresentative of the farming poor, who are the predominant sector of India's population and economy.

The protest has established that if dissent or disagreement is ignored, the discontented will make their presence felt. It proved that brutality against dissenters and the discontented cannot be used as a solution. The use of violence by the State against people is especially dangerous, when the individuals deployed to unleash the violence belong to the same rural base as the protesters. The inadequacy of the Modi government is stark, because it failed to realise the reality of the umbilical connection between the law enforcers and fighting forces and the *kisan*, even as it plagiarised Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan of "*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*".

The Modi government, described by the ordinary protesting farmers from Punjab as "arrogant," can now do one of two

things: pivot or perish. The swelling numbers of farmers representing the collective discontent are a fact that cannot be fictionalised as anti-national.

Pivoting will require trashing the three laws — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities Amendment Act — legislating the minimum support price mechanism into law for government and private buyers in agricultural markets, and rewriting the law on commercial rates for power consumed by farmers, cancelling fines for stubble burning. If the Modi government does what is being asked, peacefully and unanimously by the 40 representatives who attended the second round of meetings with agriculture minister Narendra Tomar, then it can save face.

To defy the demands by India's farmers is as politically risky for the BJP as it would be reckless for the Modi government. If the BJP were an urban phenomenon, it could try and confuse its constituents about the character of the protest and the position of the farm union leaders who have virtually surrounded New Delhi. But it is not. The politics of an ephemeral Bharat Mata has been overturned by the reality of farmers, men and women, precisely articulating their problems, their clear-eyed understanding of how their protest shall continue and what is the minimum outcome they are waiting for.

The remarkably controlled and peaceful farmers, especially from Punjab, as the Modi government ought to understand, have quit their fields at the beginning of

the rabi crop season. The winter wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, is a commercial crop, sold to sustain the permanently indebted farmer. As every economist and cultivator-politician like Narendra Singh Tomar and Rajnath Singh is well aware, farming is a zero-profit and negative profit sector.

Nine days of protesting out on highways in the coldest weeks in 70 years is a visual document drawing attention to the land alienation of farmers who once owned the plots they cultivated, to thousands of farmers who committed suicide as they had lost hope in dealing with the accumulated debt. India's marginal and small farmers never expect to the debt free; they hope to keep their debts within manageable limits.

Around 500 have committed suicide, according to reports, in Punjab between June and September. Farmers, men and women, are clear that the new laws will deepen the crisis, unless they are cancelled. The demand is clear and simple; and new laws are needed. The new laws must be drafted in consultation with the farmers' organisations, who know what they need and what is due to them as the backbone of India's economy, as the backbone of its law enforcing machinery, its fighting forces, its cheap, unprotected labour force, the source of the endless army of domestic workers who ease the lives of India's middle class. To negotiate for anything less, by breaking up the totality of the demands, as the farm leaders point out, would be a sellout.

Good faith as a negotiating principle has been rejected by the farmers' unions. The farmers are seeking structural changes that would shift the paradigm within which agriculture and farmers have been perceived by the "modern" State. It is the Narendra Modi government's hard luck that it finds itself in the mess which is as much of its own making as it is an accumulated mountain of grievances.

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

## LETTERS

### EXIT POLLS

Exit polls proved that they cannot be trusted and were far from reality yet again (*Exit polls give GHMC Council to TRS yet again*, DC, Dec. 4). The ruling party lost many seats as predicted. Surprisingly, the BJP has made a dent in the TRS and AIMIM bastions. It is a big blow to the government. The next Assembly polls will be an acid test for the TRS as the BJP will encash this results.

**Lalitheswara Raju Valluru**  
Hyderabad  
**MINOR VOLUNTEER**  
A minor boy volunteered to be a presiding officer in the recently concluded GHMC elections and our dutiful SEC had appointed him. What a mockery of the elections. When did the SEC seek help of volunteers? Where was that appeal published? There are so many retired Army officers who would have taken up this responsibility. SEC must be taken to task for this unacceptable action.

**Chandra Dasaka**  
Hyderabad  
**RAJINI'S FORAY**  
Rajinikanth launching a political party without a clear agenda is bound to be a failure as proved in the case of Shivaji Ganesan and Chiranjeevi (*Rajinikanth will float party in Jan to fight TN polls*, DC, Dec. 4). MGR and NTR proved successful as they were conscious of people's problems and solutions thereof. Against such a backdrop and in view of his poor health, Rajinikanth should skip politics and save his reputation.

**50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle**

### Yunus Salim favours separation of states

**INDORE**, Dec. 4. Mr Yunus Salim, Union Deputy Minister for Railways said here today that the people of Telangana had "genuine grievances" and their demand for a separate State must be conceded. If that was not possible, some other "fair" solution would have to be found early to remove their "deep sense of long standing injustice to their region."

Speaking at reception by the Indore Press Club, he said that after the reorganisation of States, emotional integration between the people of Telangana and Andhra was not brought about.

Then, having achieved high office, they begin the ruinous policy of "borrow and sorrow", and then "Free ports and depots".

Rishi Sunak has compelled the Bank of England to print, in this year, £500 billion in inflationary borrowing to pay for wild schemes — ten times as much as a Labour government did in ten years. Now he proposes 10 "free ports" which will turn Britain into Singapore — the world's leading money-laundering and tax dodging drug haven destroying what's left of its manufacturing base.

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**IN BRIEF**  
**Indian wins \$3M in Dubai raffle draw**

**Dubai:** A 51-year-old Indian expat in Dubai has won a whopping over \$3 million in a raffle draw, according to a media report. George Jacobs, a medical equipment salesperson, was announced the winner in the Big Ticket draw held in Abu Dhabi on Thursday, the Khaleej Times reported. Jacobs, who lives in Dubai with his wife, daughter and son, said that the lucky draw has come as huge blessing as he was suffering from financial difficulties. "Congratulations to George Jacob, from India, with winning ticket no. 069402. He won AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) 12 Million in The Dream 12 Million series 222," the organisers said in a Facebook post. Jacobs had bought the ticket on November 30.

**Rains cause havoc in Indonesia**

**Medan:** Torrential rains in Indonesia's third largest city caused four rivers to overflow, flooding thousands of homes and killing at least two people, officials said Friday. The local disaster mitigation agency said rescuers were searching for six missing people, including a toddler, after the heavy rains in Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province. At least two people were found dead after being swept away by the floods, which began on Thursday evening, the agency said in a statement. More than 2,700 houses were flooded in the city, which has about 2.9 million people, forcing authorities to cut off electricity and water supplies, it said. On Friday, rescuers took 181 people to temporary shelters after floodwaters reached as high as 5 meters (16 feet) in several places.

**By 2050, Denmark to halt oil drilling**

**Copenhagen:** Denmark has decided to end to all oil and gas offshore activities in the North Sea by 2050 and has cancelled its latest licensing round, saying the country is "now putting an end to the fossil era." The Danish Parliament voted late Thursday to end the offshore gas and oil extraction that started in 1972 and has made it the largest producer in the European Union. Non EU-members Norway and Britain are larger producers. Denmark is estimated to pump some 83,000 barrels of crude oil and another 21,000 barrels of oil equivalent this year, according to the government. That is relatively little in a global context. The UK produces about ten times that amount while the US, the world's largest producer, pumped over 19 million barrels of oil a day last year. Environmental activists nevertheless hailed the move as significant as it shows the way forward in how to fight climate change.

**QATAR HOPEFUL NEIGHBOURS WILL LIFT BOYCOTT**

**Dubai, Dec. 4:** Qatar's foreign minister said Friday that his energy-rich nation has seen "some movements" toward resolving the boycott of Doha by four Arab nations.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani cautioned that the crisis wouldn't be immediately resolved in comments to Italy's annual Mediterranean Dialogue.

He declined to offer any timetable nor any details of the negotiations. Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser recently visited Doha along with other American officials in an effort to help resolve the crisis.

Sheikh Mohammed said "this needless crisis needs to come to an end."

"There are some movements that we hope that this will put an end to this crisis," he said.

"We believe actually that Gulf unity is very important for the security of the region."

However, even he acknowledged a promised breakthrough over a year ago also fell apart. The four boycotting nations have not publicly acknowledged any coming breakthrough.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar on June 5, 2017, just after a summit in Saudi Arabia in which Gulf leaders met with Trump. They say the crisis stems from Qatar's support for extremist groups in the region, charges denied by Doha.

**Santa can't escape Covid test**


A man dresses as Saint-Nicolas (Santa Claus) undergoes a Covid-19 detection test at a street detection centre in Schiphol on Friday as global Coronavirus cases top 65 million. — AFP

# Britain defends vaccine decision amid criticism

## UK plans to distribute initial batch of 8 lakh doses next week

### German firm's super-coolers to send vaccines around the world

**Wurzburg, Dec. 4:** At first sight, they look like regular containers. But the rectangular boxes made by German company Va-Q-Tec will in fact play a key role in keeping life-saving Covid-19 vaccines ultra cool as they are shipped across the world.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on Wednesday announced emergency approval for the vaccine's general use against Covid-19, and the government plans to start rolling it out next week.

Any vaccine "must undergo robust clinical trials in line with international standards", the MHRA said in a statement.

"No vaccine would be authorised for supply in the UK unless the expected standards of safety, quality and efficacy are met."

Leading US infectious disease scientist Anthony Fauci on Thursday said the MHRA had "rushed through that approval", but later apologised.

"I have a great deal of confidence in what the UK does both scientifically and from a regulator standpoint," Fauci, who leads the US National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases, told the BBC.

"Our process is one that takes more time than it takes in the UK. And that's just the reality," he said. "I did not mean to imply any sloppiness even though it came out that way."

MHRA chief executive

**GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS** infections passed 65 million on Friday and countries doubled down on restrictions, even as plans to roll out vaccines gathered pace.

**JOE BIDEN** said he would ask Americans to wear masks for 100 days when he takes over as president of the United States, the world's worst-hit country from a pandemic that has now killed more than 1.5 million people across the planet, more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

doses at the right temperature across the globe, maintaining the so-called "cold chain" from a vaccine manufacturer into a patient's arm.

Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine for instance, must be stored at a frigid minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit).

The Va-Q-Tec containers will serve this purpose of

keeping the vaccines cool enough, the company's founder and chief executive Joachim Kuhn said, describing them as "big thermos flasks".

In the company's factory in the Bavarian city of Wurzburg, workers were assembling panels with glue or making vacuum-packed linings.

— AFP

June Raine previously insisted that "no corners had been cut" in vetting the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

With Britain transitioning out of the European Union, the UK regulator obtained an exemption from the EU's medicines

agency, which has stressed it prefers to wait for further review and consultations across the 27-nation bloc.

Britain plans to distribute an initial batch of 8,00,000 doses starting next week, prioritising care homes.

— AFP

"The pandemic has only underlined why universal health coverage is so important," he said.

— AFP

## France threatens to veto Brexit deal

### FISHING HOLDS KEY TO BREXIT TRADE DEAL

**Brussels, Dec. 4:** In the decisive final days of talks, the tiny fishing industry is holding up a massive trade deal between the European Union and recently departed Britain, putting at risk hundreds of thousands of jobs and tens of billions of euros in annual production losses.

While fishing is a negligible part of the nations' economies, it is an important point of national pride for coastal and island nations and has a massive impact on politics.

Arch-Brexitite Nigel Farage put so much stock in the importance of fishing that at one point during his successful 2016 campaign to get Britain out of the EU he steamed up the Thames on a fishing vessel.

Sir Ivan Rogers, a former career diplomat who long was the UK's man at EU headquarters in Brussels, knows what the task is of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson during the final weeks before the Jan. 1 deadline. — AP

"If there's a deal that isn't a good one, we'd oppose it," France's minister for European affairs Clement Beaune told Europe 1 radio, adding that "every country has the right to veto".

A European diplomat said that Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark share France's concerns that in the rush to conclude a deal, Barri

nier will give too much ground on rules to maintain fair competition.

Britain's nearest neighbours suspect Germany and the European Commission are too keen to agree a deal to avoid the damage economic fallout.

"We don't want to lock in an unbalanced relationship for decades to come," the diplomat said.

"We are not going to want to explain to our companies why they are being undercut in their market by enterprise British corporates in a less regulated environment." Germany currently holds the EU's rotating presidency and is also the bloc's biggest economy and most influential country. — AFP

**US DIRECTOR** of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, writing in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece, pointed to China's theft of US business secrets and defense technologies.

threat to democracy and freedom worldwide since World War II," he wrote.

He also described operations in which Chinese operatives used economic pressure to influence or undermine US legislators.

"Our intelligence shows that Beijing regularly directs this type of influence operation in the US," he wrote.

"China's leaders seek to

subordinate the rights of the individual to the will of the Communist Party," Ratcliffe said.

"They exert government control over companies and subvert the privacy and freedom of their citizens with an authoritarian surveillance state." Meanwhile, the State Department said Chinese Communist Party members are "hostile to US values" and engage in "nefarious activities." Under new rules effective immediately, visas issued to party members and their immediate family will remain valid for just one month after issuance, and for single entry. — AFP

Dhaka, Dec. 4: Bangladesh on Friday relocated the first batch of 1,600 Rohingyas to a remote island in the Bay of Bengal for a "better abode" amid reservations from rights groups fearing the place's vulnerability to tropical cyclones and climate change.

Rohingyas, who are Myanmar's ethnic minority Muslim community, fled their homeland to evade a ruthless military clampdown since August 25, 2017 and after initial reluctance Bangladesh offered them the refuge on humanitarian grounds.

"The Rohingyas onboard

told the media.

A batch of 1,600 Rohingyas were the first group of people who agreed to move to a "better abode", while 19 more ships were kept ready to ferry fellow refugees to the island in the next few days.

Officials earlier said that Bangladesh spent \$350 million in the recent past to build the facilities to accommodate 1,00,000 refugees of over 1.1 million Rohingyas living in crammed makeshift camps in southeastern Cox's Bazar, which borders their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

— AFP

## POOR COULD BE 'TRAMPLED' IN VACCINE PUSH, WARNS W.H.O.

**United Nations, Dec. 4:** The head of the World Health Organisation warned on Friday that the poor risk being "trampled" as wealthy nations roll out Covid-19 vaccines, which he said should be a public good.

Speaking at a virtual UN summit on the pandemic, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world was seeing "light at the end of the tunnel" in the nearly year-long Covid crisis.

"But let me be clear. We simply cannot accept a world in which the poor and marginalised are trampled by the rich and powerful in the stampede for vaccines," Tedros said.

"This is a global crisis and the solutions must be shared equitably as global public goods. Not as private commodities that widen inequalities and become yet another reason some people are left behind," he said.

He also warned that the world has plenty of other challenges, saying: "There is no vaccine for poverty, no vaccine for hunger. There is no vaccine for inequality. There is no vaccine for climate change."

Britain has become the first Western nation to approve a vaccine for Covid-19, with the United States and other countries expected to follow soon and begin mass immunization drives.

A UN-backed COVAX consortium has been set up to provide vaccines equitably around the world.

The United States has been a notable holdout, with President Donald Trump attacking Tedros and moving to pull out of the World Health Organisation, although President-elect Joe Biden plans to stay in the UN body.

Tedros, an Ethiopian doctor and diplomat, praised nations for providing free vaccines, tests and treatment for Covid-19 but questioned why similar efforts are not being devoted for earlier diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis or HIV/AIDS — or for needs such as maternal health.

"The pandemic has only underlined why universal health coverage is so important," he said.

— AFP

## Iran's N-plan on track despite scientist killing

**In an online chat with **Mohammed Anas**, Dr Foad Izadi, head of the department, International Relations, at Tehran University, tries to explain Iranian response to the assassination of its top nuclear scientist, Dr Mohsen Fakhrizade.**

Apart from teaching and articulating Iran and its relations with the world, Dr Izadi also advises Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif at times. Excerpts:

**Q How big a setback is the assassination of nuclear scientist Dr Mohsen Fakhrizade to Iran's nuclear programme in particular and Iranian scientific development in general?**

A: No, there is no indication from the Iranian regime that it will curb the movement of non-Iranians. They will not have any difficulty in traveling to or from Iran. Iran will continue to be friendly towards people from outside.

**Q Iran has alleged that Israel is behind this gruesome assassination. Do you see any direct conflict emerging between Iran and Israel in near future?**

A: It's not just Iran that has blamed Israel for this assassination.

The American and western sources have clearly suggested that it was the handiwork of Israeli intelligence agency. The Zionist regime (Netanyahu government) plotted it thoughtfully. As far as Iranian response is concerned, the reply will come. If Iran doesn't respond, it will embolden the other side and it will continue to attack more often. However, Iran will respond in its own way, at a chosen moment and in a measured extent.

**Q If Iran chooses to indirectly respond to its enemies instead of going into direct conflict, what possible steps will Iran take?**

A: Iran will not disclose how it will respond. Neither has the Iranian regime hinted any such thing. Even experts like us are not privy to any such detail. Early in the year 2020, when Gen. Qasem Soleimani was killed, Iran had attacked American bases in Iraq. It was a quick and open response. But, this time, there is complete secrecy.

**Q Will this assassination have any bearing on the clerical regime in Iran? Will it weaken their position or will it coax people to rally behind them?**

A: The news of the terrorist attack (the assassination) was a shock to the people. Irrespective of whether they support the regime (clerical regime) politically or not, they don't want to see scientists of the country getting killed. Moreover, Iran is a religious society. There is a huge respect for martyrdom. In Dr Fakhrizade, people are seeing a martyr who laid down his life for the country. It will inspire people and they would want to emulate Dr Fakhrizade.

**BETTER | ABODE Many were reportedly unwilling to move to the isolated place**

## Bangladesh relocates 1,600 Rohingya



Rohingya refugees disembark from a Bangladesh Navy ship to the island of Bashar Char in Noakhali on Friday. — AFP

told the media.

A batch of 1,600 Rohingyas were the first group of people who agreed to move to a "better abode", while 19 more ships were kept ready to ferry fellow refugees to the island in the next few days.

Many Rohingyas were reportedly unwilling to move to an isolated place severing ties with relatives and neighbours. But the government said embankments and other infrastructures would protect the island and only those who expressed their willingness to be moved after Rohingya representatives visited the place were being relocated.

— PTI

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	45,079.55 +1.00
Nifty 50	13,258.55 +0.95
S&P 500*	3,690.32 0.64
Dollar (₹)	73.79 0.17
Pound Sterling (₹)	99.50 -0.42
Euro (₹)	89.79 -0.26
Gold (₹)	48,813 -0.27
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	49.21 1.03
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.988 -0.556
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.941 +2.172

\*As of 9:30 PM IST

## Tata Power gets LoI for two Odisha discoms

Tata Power said it has received letter of intent (LoI) for Odisha's Wesco and Southco power distribution utilities (discoms). The company has received the LoI from the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission for the distribution and retail supply of electricity in Odisha's five circles of Wesco and six circles of Southco. Tata Power will hold 51 per cent equity in the discoms and the state-owned Gridco will have the remaining 49 per cent.

## Zydus Cadila gets DGCI nod for phase 3 trials



Zydus Cadila said it has received the approval from the drugs controller to start phase 3 clinical trials with its biological therapy PegiHep in Covid-19 patients. The firm had completed the phase 2 clinical trials with PegiHep last month. The trials, which will start this month, will be conducted on 250 patients across 20-25 centres. Sharvil Patel, MD, said, "we are encouraged by the results of phase 2 study."

## Uday Shankar to take over as Ficci prez for 2020-21



Media executive Uday Shankar has been named as the president-elect of industry chamber Ficci for the year 2020-21. Shankar will be succeeding Sangita Reddy, current president and joint MD of Apollo Hospitals Group, during Ficci's 93rd AGM on Dec. 11-14.

## Diesel crosses ₹73-mark, petrol nears ₹83 in Delhi

Diesel price crossed Rs 73 a litre mark in Delhi and petrol rate neared Rs 83 after 12th increase in the last fortnight. Petrol price was on Friday hiked by 20 paise per litre and diesel by 23 paise. Petrol price in Delhi rose to Rs 82.86 per litre from Rs 82.66. Diesel rate went up from Rs 72.84 to Rs 73.07 per litre. In 15 days, the petrol price has gone up by Rs 1.8 per litre and diesel rate has risen by Rs 2.61.

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## ■ Status quo on rates; GDP contraction seen at -7.5% RBI ups growth forecast

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, DEC. 4

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy committee (MPC) on Friday unanimously decided to keep policy rates unchanged while continuing with the accommodative policy stance "as long as necessary—at least through the current financial year and into the next year," despite higher-than-expected inflation and growth outturns. This means the equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home loans, auto loans and personal loans will remain more or less steady for borrowers.

The RBI revised its current fiscal real GDP growth from a decline of 9.5 per cent to a decline of 7.5 per cent; retail inflation (CPI) inflation is projected at 6.8 per cent for Q3, and 5.8 per cent for Q4 FY21.

Contrary to market concerns of measures to withdraw the abundant liquidity in the system, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said the flush liquidity conditions will be kept up while flagging that the RBI is increasingly looking to sterilise its forex interventions keeping in mind the liquidity and inflation dynamics. The RBI announced extended liquidity support to 26 stressed sectors.

"Our expectation on inflation which we had over the last two months has not materialised. And we have to keep in mind that we are dealing with an extraordinary situation, a once in 100 years kind of event that and the kind of impact it has produced on the economy and on

### Highlights of RBI's monetary policy statement

- Benchmark rate kept unchanged for third time at 4%
- Economy to contract 7.5% against 9.5% projected in October
- Economy to clock growth of 0.1% in Q3; 0.7% in Q4, FY21
- Retail inflation projected at 6.8% in Q3, 5.8% in Q4
- Inflation to remain elevated, barring transient relief in winter
- Fiscal stimulus helping growth-generating investment



### Contactless card limit raised to ₹5K

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, DEC. 4

The RBI has decided to increase the limit on contactless card transactions at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals and e-mandates for recurring transactions via cards and UPI from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1.

This will help customers execute their high ticket recurring payments like utility bills, investments, two-wheeler EMIs, consumer durable EMIs etc. seamlessly.

The RBI has also decided to make the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transaction facility available round-the-clock from

human lives not only in India but across countries which is huge and we have

December 14.

The RTGS system is used for high value transactions. The system will be available for customers and inter-bank transactions round-the-clock, except for the interval between 'end-of-day' and 'start-of-day' processes, whose timings would be duly broadcasted through the RTGS system.

RBI also has proposed to allow settlement files of payment systems like AePS, IMPS, NETC, NFS, RuPay and UPI to be posted to the RBI all days of the year. This measure will reduce build-up of settlement and default risks and enable better management of funds by banks.

to respond to that situation," Das told reporters at a virtual press conference.

This was the fourth bi-monthly policy for the fiscal and the third consecutive policy where the MPC decided to keep the repo rate (the rate at which RBI lends funds to banks) unchanged at 4 per cent. The policy stated that while growth has begun to recover, it was not yet broad-based and the RBI's objective remains to support growth. Inflation, while sticky, is largely a supply-side phenomenon, with little evidence of demand-side pressures.

The RBI expects a faster economic recovery and has revised upwards its outlook for GDP growth for FY21. At the same time, its outlook for inflation has turned adverse leading it to raise its outlook on prices levels. In his monetary policy statement, Das said, "The MPC was of the view that inflation is likely to remain elevated, with some relief in the winter months from prices of perishables and bumper kharif arrivals. This constrains monetary policy at the current juncture from using the space available to act in support of growth."

"At the same time, the signs of recovery are far from being broad-based and are dependent on sustained policy support... The MPC decided today to maintain status quo on the policy rate and continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary—at least during the current financial year and into the next financial year—to revive growth on a durable basis and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target,"



## Burger King IPO get subscribed 156 times

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, DEC. 4

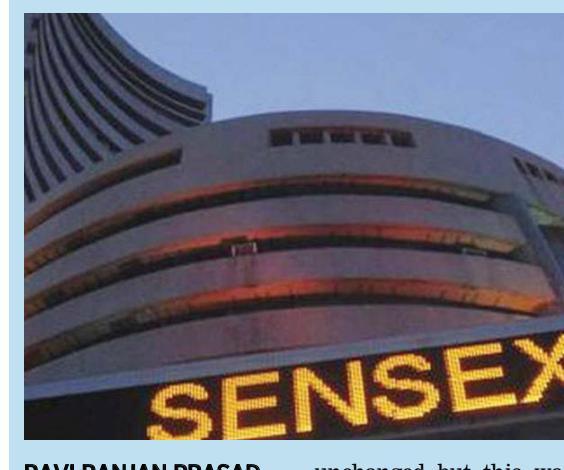
Burger King India's Rs 810-crore initial public offering received huge response from all categories of investors and was subscribed over 156 times.

As per NSE data, overall the issue was subscribed 156.65 times, with the issue receiving over 24.15 lakh applications.

Qualified institutional buyers turned up on the last day and their quota of shares was subscribed 86.64 times, non-institutional investors or high net worth individual's portion was subscribed 354.11 times as per sources close to the merchant bankers.

Retail individual investors portion was subscribed 68.14 times. Burger King India is among the top-3 most subscribed IPO this year along with Happiest Minds Technologies and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.

## Sensex crosses 45000-mark



RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, DEC. 4

Equity benchmark Sensex rose above the 45000-mark for the first time ever and touched a new all-time high of 45,148.28 as the RBI raised the GDP growth projections for the current fiscal to 7.5 per cent contraction from 9.5 per cent contraction projected in October and positive global cues in expectation of a stimulus package by the new US administration.

The Sensex closed at 45,079.55, up 446.90 points while the Nifty-50 gained 124.65 points, or 0.95 per cent, to close at a new all-time high of 13,258.55.

The BSE Bankex index gained 2.14 per cent and Nifty Bank index gained 2.05 per cent while BSE Realty index gained 1.00 per cent.

The top gainers among the banks included ICICI Bank (4.20 per cent), SBI (2.77 per cent), Axis Bank (1.98 per cent), IndusInd Bank (1.96 percent), Kotak Mahindra Bank (1.34 per cent) and HDFC Bank (0.59 per cent).

Foreign portfolio investors were net buyers of equities worth Rs 2,969.59 crore while the domestic institutions were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1,971.60 crore.

## Banks, co-operatives told to skip dividend this year

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, DEC. 4



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said that commercial banks and cooperative banks will retain their profits and will not make any dividend payout from the profits pertaining to financial year 2019-20, a move that would impact the non-tax revenue for the government. This is the second year in a row the RBI disallowed banks from paying dividends.

The central bank has also proposed a regulatory framework for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), based on size/scale, risk-based supervision and dividend distribution policy, in line with banks, which could increase the regulatory cost of operations for NBFCs, but would go a long way towards improving systemic stability.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Reserve Bank has focused on resolution of stress among borrowers, and facilitating credit flow to the economy, while ensuring financial stability. In continuation of this effort and to help banks con-

### HDFC BANK ACTION TO BOOST DIGITAL TRUST

Mumbai, Dec 4: The need to maintain people's confidence in digital banking resulted in the action against HDFC Bank for service outages, Shaktikanta Das said. The regulator is also studying the incident at SBI, which also faced an outage on Thursday. Das said, "In the case of HDFC Bank, there were earlier episodes also. HDFC Bank has an overwhelming presence in the digital payment segment, in the internet banking segment. We have some concerns about certain deficiencies," he said.

The growing significance of NBFCs and their interlinkages with different segments in the financial system has made it imperative to enhance the resilience of the sector. Therefore, it has been decided to put in place transparent criteria as per a matrix of parameters for declaration of dividends by different categories of NBFCs," he said. A draft circular containing the proposed criteria and parameters will be released soon for public comments.

The RBI will release a discussion paper on scale-based regulatory framework for NBFCs to review the regulatory framework.

## Mumbai gets first batch of e-buses



MICHAEL GONSALVES

PUNE, DEC. 4

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, on Friday delivered 26 state-of-the-art electric buses to Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST), as part of an order for 340 e-buses under the central government's FAME-II scheme.

The 25-seater Ultra Urban 9/9 e-AC buses were flagged off by Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray in South Mumbai.

The delivery of the first batch of the buses marks the commencement of the first ever gross cost contract (GCC) electric bus service to BEST, which operates the public transport system in Mumbai.

Tata Motors will be undertaking to build, deploy, maintain and operate the complete charging infrastructure along with the buses across four Mumbai depots of Backbay, Worli, Malvani and Shivaji Nagar.

"Tata Motors is delighted to have delivered the first (batch) 26 of the 340 electric buses for the city of Mumbai. The buses have been specially designed keeping the comfort and convenience of Mumbai residents including a 'lift mechanism' for differently-abled travellers," Girish Wagh, president, commercial vehicles at Tata Motors, said.

The buses have been tested and validated by Tata Motors across states, including Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh.

The aggregate debt of the aviation industry is estimated to have increased to around Rs 50,000 crore, according to rating agency Icra. This debt does not include lease liabilities. The industry is expected to witness a net loss of Rs 21,000 crore in FY21 against a net loss of Rs 12,700 crore in FY20. This has significantly increased the debt of airline companies.

Lower revenues from lesser traffic and high fixed costs have led to higher net loss for the airline companies. Between May and October, domestic passenger traffic dropped 80 per cent to 164 lakh against 825 lakh in the same period last year. Icra expects FY21 to witness a decline of 62-64 per cent in domestic passenger traffic.

In the case of international passengers, under the Vande Bharat Mission, which started in May, Indian carriers saw a passenger traffic of 10,96,709, a decline of 91.6 per cent from the previous year.

While some airlines with sufficient liquidity and financial support from a strong parentage will sustain over the near-term, airlines, which are in financial stress, will have to face tougher challenges.

Meanwhile, from Dec. 3, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has increased the permitted capacity of carriers to 80 per cent. From Nov 11, they have been operating with a capacity of 70 per cent. The ministry has been increasing the capacity in phases.

## MSMEs with PSU, govt business to revive faster

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, DEC. 4

MSME units supplying products and services to the government or public sector undertakings are likely to revive earlier than others, finds a report by Dun and Bradstreet.

According to the government, central PSUs have been pro-active in procuring from the MSMEs and clearing the pending dues in the past six months. This is expected to support the revival of MSME vendors. CPSEs have procured 15,630 core worth goods and services from MSMEs this fiscal.

Sectors like logistics and warehousing, metals and media and entertainment will also take up to one year to recover and return to February 2020 levels, said the report.

online gaming, telecommunications and e-education operating in the digital space are witnessing a positive impact by leveraging opportunities arising from the pandemic.

On the other hand, traditional sectors like food, drugs, pharmaceuticals, ITeS, banking, retail, automotive, real estate and jewellery are witnessing moderate to high to severe impact. The recovery of these sectors will take six months to more than a year.

Sectors like logistics and warehousing, metals and media and entertainment will also take up to one year to recover and return to February 2020 levels, said the report.

Competition Commission of India (CCI) chairman Ashok Kumar Gupta, on Friday, said that in the current year, PE investments have surpassed strategic investments in the country due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to him, a new trend has emerged where FDI and other foreign investments have overtaken by PE investments.

The regulator has been examining sub-10 per cent investments in target enterprises by PE investors where they even have a board seat in the target enterprises.

Since many of these PE investments are in multiple firms of the same industry, leading to product

market overlaps, the issue of common ownership by minority shareholders across firms and its impact on competition needs to be understood, Gupta said.

In order to understand the trends and patterns of common ownership by PE investors across sectors in India, the Commission is shortly going to conduct a market study," he said.

Speaking at a CII event, Gupta said the study will aim to gauge the common PE investors' underlying incentives and motivation behind such investments as it is important to look at the rights they get to protect their financial interests.

**SHORT TAKES**  
No bar in hotels ahead of Big Bash

**Sydney:** Players taking part in the upcoming Big Bash League will not have the mini bar at their disposal in hotel rooms with Cricket Australia aiming to minimise interaction between staff and cricketers to reduce the risk of any Covid-19 infections.

A "BBL Hub" will be created at the hotels for all stakeholders of the league to minimise exposure to the outside world during the league starting December 10.

Besides the no mini bar facility, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that the participants will only be allowed enter areas of the "Hub" earmarked for their team.

CA has reasoned that if the mini bar is allowed than restocking of it might lead to interaction between hotel staff and players.

The "Hub" residents can head to the shops to purchase essentials, the paper reported. — PTI

**SA-England game put off due to virus**

**Cape Town:** The first cricket one-day international between South Africa and England was postponed Friday after another player tested positive for the Coronavirus in the host team's secure bio-bubble.

The South African player wasn't named. The game, the first of three ODIs, was postponed from Friday to Sunday, the two cricket federations said.

Cricket South Africa and the England and Wales Cricket Board said the decision was made "in the interests of the safety and well-being of both teams, match officials and all involved in the match."

The CEOs of both boards, Kugandrie Govender of CSA and Tom Harrison of the ECB, agreed to the postponement. — AP

**Chhetri earns 1st win for Bengaluru**

**Bambollim:** Bengaluru FC registered their first win of the season, notching up a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC in an Indian Super League match here on Friday. A 56th-minute penalty strike from Sunil Chhetri was the difference between the two teams as Chennaiyin suffered their first loss of the season.

Bengaluru began to take the upper-hand after Thapa's exit in the fifth minute after a clash of heels with Ashique Kuruniyan. Bengaluru nearly had their second in the 60th minute when a powerful long-ranger from Delgado looked to be going in. Kaith got the slightest of touches to it, diverting the ball from its path. Chennaiyin dominated the final period but they were unable to find a finish to the many chances they created as Bengaluru held on for the win. — PTI

**Vieira sacked as Nice coach**

**Marseille:** Patrick Vieira has been sacked as coach of Nice and replaced by his assistant following a run of five consecutive defeats, the French League club announced on Friday.

The final straw for the former Arsenal player and France 1998 World Cup winner was Thursday's 3-2 defeat at home to Bayer Leverkusen, which confirmed Nice's elimination from the Europa League.

Adrian Ursua will take over from Vieira. The 53-year-old Romanian, who has spent much of his playing and coaching career in Switzerland, had been an assistant to previous Nice coach Lucien Favre and returned last year to work under Vieira. — AFP

**Live on TV**

**CRICKET**

**Lanka Premier League:** Dambulla vs Galle from 3 pm; Kandy vs Colombo from 7.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

**Australia 'A' vs India 'A':** Day One from 5 am (Sunday) on Sony Six

**FOOTBALL**

**English Premier League:** Burnley vs Everton from 6 pm; Manchester City vs Fulham from 8.30 pm; West Ham vs Manchester United from 11 pm; Chelsea vs Leeds United from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**Indian Super League:** NorthEast United vs East Bengal from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**Italian League:** Spezia vs Lazio from 7.30 pm; Juventus vs Torino from 10.30 pm; Inter Milan vs Bologna from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

**FORMULA ONE**

**Sakhir Grand Prix:** Practice-3 from 7.25 pm; Qualifying from 10.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

# INDIA ROAR BACK

Turn in allround show to beat Oz by 11 runs

**Canberra, Dec. 4:**

Yuzvendra Chahal turned out to be the perfect concussion substitute after an injured Ravindra Jadeja did his part with the bat as the duo played their roles to perfection in India's impressive 11-run victory over Australia in the first T20 International here on Friday.

While Jadeja smashed an unbeaten 44 off 23 balls to propel India to 161 for 7, his head injury turned out to be a blessing in disguise with India unleashing Chahal (3/25 in 4 overs) on an Australian side caught completely off-guard. The hosts could manage only 150 for 7 in 20 overs.

Credit was also due to the lion-hearted effort from debutant Thangarasu Natarajan (3/30) and off-spinner Washington Sundar (0/16 in 4 overs), who bowled well in Powerplay.

ICC match referee David Boon allowed the visitors a "like for like" replacement, as mandated by the rules, for Jadeja in Chahal even though home team coach Justin Langer looked visibly angry.

And to make matters worse, Chahal dismissed two form men — Aaron Finch (35) and Steve Smith (12) — in his first two overs to turn the game on its head.

Earlier, KL Rahul continued his impressive run in the shortest format with yet another fifty but it took Jadeja's brilliant back-end flourish to take India to a fighting total.

The Indian vice-captain hit 51 off 40 balls but leg-spinner Adam Zampa (1/20 in 4 overs) and all-rounder Moises Henriques (3/22 in 4 overs) were brilliant between overs 11th and 15th, which shifted the momentum in favour of the home team till Ravinder Jadeja came into play. — PTI



Indian captain Virat Kohli (centre) celebrates with teammates after Thangarasu Natarajan dismissed Australia's Glenn Maxwell during their T20 cricket match at Manuka Oval in Canberra on Friday. — AFP

## SCORECARD

<b>India:</b> Lokesh Rahul c Sean Abbott b Henriques 51, Shikhar Dhawan b Mitchell Starc 1, Virat Kohli c and b Swanson 9, Sanju Samson c Swanson b Henriques 23, Manish Pandey c Hazlewood b Adam Zampa 2, Hardik Pandya c Steve Smith b Henriques 16, Ravinder Jadeja not out 44, Washington Sundar c Abbott b Mitchell Starc 7, Deepak Chahar not out 0. Extras (LB-2, NB-1, W-5) 8. Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 161.	<b>Swanson</b> 2-0-21-1, Henriques 4-0-22-3.
<b>Australia:</b> A. Finch c Pandya b Chahal 35, D. Short c Pandya b Natarajan 34, S. Smith c Samson b Chahal 12, G. Maxwell lbw Natarajan 2, M. Henriques lbw Chahar 30, M. Wade c Kohli b Chahal 7, S. Abbott not out 12, M. Starc b Natarajan 1, M. Swanson not out 12. Extras (LB-4, W-1) 5. Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 150.	<b>FOW:</b> 1-56, 2-72, 3-75, 4-113, 5-122, 6-126, 7-127.
<b>Bowling:</b> Starc 4-0-34-2, Hazlewood 4-0-39-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-20-1, Sean Abbott 2-0-23-0.	<b>Bowling:</b> Deepak Chahar 4-0-29-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-16-0, Mohammed Shami 4-0-46-0, Chahal 4-0-25-3, Thangarasu Natarajan 4-0-30-0.

## NUMBERS GAME

### K.L. RAHUL JOINS 1500-RUN CLUB IN T-20 I

● Lokesh Rahul became the Indian and sixth Indian and 33rd batsman overall to complete 1500 runs in Twenty-20 International cricket. The right hand batsman from Bangalore achieved this feat during his 51-run knock on the opening match of the three-match series against Australia at Manuka Oval, Canberra on Friday (Dec. 4).

● Lokesh Rahul scored 749 runs at an average of 44.05 and a strike rate of 142.39 in 19 innings of 20 matches at home while his 763 runs came at an average of 47.68 and a strike rate of 148.44 in the 20 innings of 23 matches outside India.

### FOR THE RECORD

● Ravindra Jadeja became the eighth Indian and 82nd player overall to complete a half century of appearance in Twenty-20 Internationals. He took 11 years and 298 days to achieve this milestone. The left hand batsman and slow left-arm orthodox bowler from Saurashtra made his debut against Sri Lanka at Colombo (RPS) on February 10, 2009.

● Thangarasu Natarajan became the seventh Indian bowler to take three or more wickets on debut in Twenty-20 Internationals by taking three for 30 runs. He made his international debut after playing 38 Twenty-20 matches.

— S. PERVEZ QASIER



Sneha Singh in action during the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Noida Golf Course on Friday.

Sneha shimmers in women's golf

**Noida, Dec. 4:** Amateur Sneha Singh took the spotlight with a wire-to-wire win in the seventh leg on Friday, as the Women's Pro Golf Tour staged its first event after nine months due to the Covid-19 pandemic at the Noida Golf Course here.

Hyderabad teenager Sneha, who won a title on the Hero WPGT in 2019, overcame a difficult start and then a potentially crippling triple bogey to hold her nerve over the closing stretch to win by a comfortable margin of four shots. Her closing 74 gave her a total of one-over 217.

Hunar Mittal, another talented amateur, carded the final day's best score with an even par 72 that showcased a bogey-free back nine of two-under 34, as she aggregated five-over 221.

With amateurs holding sway, Amadeep Drall was the top professional as she shot two-over 74 and finished in a tie for the second spot with Hunar.

Ridhima Dilawari (80) in T-12th and Diksha Dagar (81) in 15th place, just did not get going this week.

Sneha opened the day

with a one-shot lead but bogeyed the par-5 first. She quickly made amends with a birdie on second, but a triple bogey on par-4 sixth endangered her title ambitions.

She bounced back again with a birdie on par-4 seventh and added another on par-3 10th.

Despite bogeys on 11th and then 14th, she held on with a birdie on 15th.

— PTI



Telangana State Table Tennis Association treasurer Ibrahim Khan (second from left) presents the Cadet Girls winner's trophy to P. Jalani of Victory Play Ground at St Paul's High School in Hyderabad on Friday.

**Jalani, Aneesh on top of table**

## DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, DEC. 4

P. Jalani and Sri Aneesh won the Cadet girls and boys titles respectively at the 7th Telangana State District & State Table Tennis Championship held at St Paul's High School in Hyderabad, on Friday.

In the superleague, Jalani of Victory Play Ground registered wins over B. Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-2, 11-3, 11-2, 11-3, 11-2, 11-3; Rahamath Unnisa (YMCA/TTA) 11-4, 11-1, 11-0; and Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 to take the top spot.

Aneesh also reeled off a series of wins. He beat Manohar V (GSM) 11-8, 11-0, 11-4; M. Karthik Teja (Prrott) 12-10, 11-8, 10-12, 12-10; M. Dharma Sai Teja 11-6, 11-5, 11-6; Nishant (MLR) 11-3, 11-9, 11-3; Devansh Singh (AWA) 11-2, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-4; and Jaffar Hussain (LBS) 7-11, 9-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-8 to clinch the honours among boys.

Pragyantha Patra (VPG) bt Chaitra (APG) 11-3, 11-5, 11-6; bt Vatsala Tirunagar (HPS) 11-3, 11-7, 11-9; bt B. Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-2, 11-5, 11-6; A. Satya (GSM) bt Chaitra (APG) 14-12, 11-6, 11-5; A. Satya (GSM) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7; A. Satya (GSM) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6.

■ Vatsala Tirunagar (HPS) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-8, 11-6, 11-9; bt Rahamath Unnisa (YMCA/TTA) 11-8, 11-6, 11-8; bt Chaitra (APG) 11-4, 11-7, 11-11, 11-9; bt Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-5, 11-9, 12-10; bt Chaitra (APG) 13-11, 11-5, 11-11, 11-8; Rahamath Unnisa (YMCA/TTA) 11-4, 11-1, 11-0; and Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 to take the top spot.

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■ A. Satya (GSM) 11-8, 11-6, 11-4; bt Chaitra (APG) 14-12, 11-6, 11-5; A. Satya (GSM) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7; A. Satya (GSM) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6.

■ Vatsala Tirunagar (HPS) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-9, 11-7, 11-4; bt B. Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-5, 11-9, 12-10; bt Chaitra (APG) 13-11, 11-5, 11-11, 11-8.

■ A. Satya (GSM) 11-8, 11-6, 11-4; bt Chaitra (APG) 14-12, 11-6, 11-5; A. Satya (GSM) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7; A. Satya (GSM) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6.

■ Vatsala Tirunagar (HPS) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-9, 11-7, 11-4; bt B. Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-5, 11-9, 12-10; bt Chaitra (APG) 13-11, 11-5, 11-11, 11-8.

■ A. Satya (GSM) 11-8, 11-6, 11-4; bt Chaitra (APG) 14-12, 11-6, 11-5; A. Satya (GSM) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7; A. Satya (GSM) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6.

■ Vatsala Tirunagar (HPS) bt Aniyah Anand (Prrott) 11-9, 11-7, 11-4; bt B. Sri Vidya (GSM) 11-5, 11-9, 12-10; bt Chaitra (APG) 13-11, 11-5, 11-11, 11-8.

■ A. Satya (GSM) 11-8, 11-6, 11-4; bt Chaitra (APG) 14-12, 11-6, 11-5; A. Satya (GSM) 11

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