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Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao greets Union home minister Amit Shah during his visit to New Delhi on Friday. Earlier he met Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat.

## KCR urges Shah to release flood funds

Seeks hike in Kaleshwaram lifting capacity

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao took a trip to the corridors of power in New Delhi by calling on Union home minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat on Friday.

He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

Rao is believed to have urged Shah to release Disaster Management Funds for flood-affected Hyderabad during a 40-minute interaction with the home minister apart

from discussing other issues pertaining to the state. He reminded Shah that the state government had sought an immediate relief of ₹1,350 crore for the loss incurred by the state due to heavy rains and had submitted a report regarding the same.

Rao left for New Delhi by a special flight from Begumpet airport on Friday afternoon on a three-day visit to the national capital.

Earlier, Rao met Shekawat for an hour and requested him to allow increase in the lifting capacity of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme

■ Page 2: Opposition sees secret agenda in meeting

■ Page 2: To register properties

## NON-AGRI LAND REGISTRATIONS GET OFF TO A STEADY START

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Resuming registration of non-agricultural properties after 94 days on Friday, the Telangana Stamps and Registration department booked 38 online slots on the first day.

Officials said 43 payments worth ₹97,14,278 lakh had been made till 9.30 pm.

Overall, the online portal had 20,959 visitors, of which 4,542 registered on it. By evening, 4,143 transactions had been initiated.

Officials said that the numbers would increase on the second and third day.

IT and industries principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan claimed that the online slot booking went on smoothly in 141 registrar offices.

He said in order to control the online scramble, the department had allowed only 38 slots on the first day at each office and based on the demand the number of slots would be increased in the coming days.

The registrations will be done as per the old system of online booking of slots and not through the Dharani website.

The High Court had advised the State government to this effect. The HC also allowed entry of property tax details and identification numbers as part of registration.

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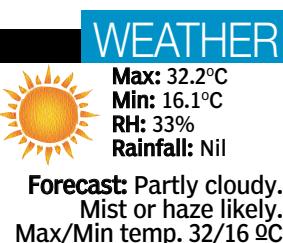
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## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+30,435)	(+404)
98,26,031	1,42,618
	covid19india.org
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+612)	(+3)
TS: 2,76,516	1,485
(+520)	(+2)
AP: 8,74,515	7049

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

7,11,22,215
DEATHS
15,95,564
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 218
worldometers.info/coronavirus

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Kartika Bahula Dwadasi till 7.01 am; then Trayodashi till 3.52am (Sunday)
Star: Vishakha 11.31 am to 12.57 pm
Variyam: 9 am to 10.30 am
Durmuhurtam: 6.40 am to 8.08 am
RahuKalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HJRI CALENDAR
Rabbi-ul Akhir 26, 1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5.32 am
Zohar: 12.20 pm
Asar: 4.07 pm
Magrib: 5.49 pm
Isha: 7.02 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.37 AM
SUNSET TODAY 5.43 PM
MOONSET TODAY 3.52 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.52 AM



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SHORT TAKES  
NSG CONDUCTS MOCK TERROR DRILL IN TS

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Counter-terrorist commando force NSG recently conducted a national crisis-response mock exercise to combat a multi-city and multi-target attack situation in Hyderabad and Goa, the federal agency said on Friday.

The annual exercise, code-named 'Gandiv-II' was undertaken between December 6-8 and was witnessed by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Multiple National Security Guard (NSG) commando teams were mobilised from Delhi and the national capital region, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad "to neutralise multiple terror threats manifested in Left Wing Extremism, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack situations". — PTI

## RAILWAYS' NEW INITIATIVE FOR WELL-BEING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Indian Railways has launched a new IT initiative towards according priority for the well-being of its work force. The Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) has been launched by Dr. B. P Nanda, DG, Railway Health services, Railway Board virtually on Friday.

Dr Nanda stated that the dream of providing best health care facilities to the work force with the help of information technology has come true.



## WEATHER

Max: 32.2°C  
Min: 16.1°C  
RH: 33%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.  
Mist or haze likely.  
Max/Min temp. 32/16 °C

## Stamp papers see steep hike; notaries worried

Court had asked the state govt to register non-agricultural lands in the old method

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Telangana High Court's decision to take the manual route for registration of non-agricultural lands has led to new troubles, say notary advocates.

The court on Tuesday had asked the state government to register non-agricultural lands in the old method.

"However, this has opened a can of worms, as there is a shortage of non-judicial stamp papers. This would make it difficult for the general public right now. The papers, if available, are sold at extremely high prices. Currently, a stamp paper which is priced ₹20 is sold for upwards of ₹100," G Yadagiri, president, Telangana Notaries Association, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Adding insult to injury, he claimed that officials, who were manning Dharani portal, are not technologically sound and do not know the basics.

"When properties are posted in the portal, there is no way for people to correct their details. There must be options. I have given a complaint in the Marredpally police station, about the black-marketing of stamp papers," he added.

It is not just the notaries who are perplexed with the sudden change in the registration process. As it turns out even residents have begun directing their queries towards social media, hoping to find an answer.

"Please release some guidelines on how to book a slot and when can we start doing it for non-agri registrations?" said a worried Bhagyashri Gadde, on social media.

Similarly, one Ramesh Pinapaka said: 'Many people are suffering because there is no clarity on Dharani portal software updates and the rights of MROs. For more clarity officials can reach Yerrupalem mandal MRO, Khamman district. God knows what is going on (sic).'

## HC NOTICE TO GOVT OVER AID TO FARMERS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A division bench of the Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijayashri Reddy issued notices to the chief secretary, principal secretaries of revenue, home and agriculture departments and commissioner of agriculture department directing them to respond within three weeks, duly explaining the steps taken by the state government in paying compensation to the farmers whose crops got washed away or destroyed in the recent rains. The bench also asked them to inform it on input subsidy and insurance. The court was hearing a PIL filed by V. Kiran Kumar on government in not taking steps to enumerate the crop damage during September and October 2020 due to incessant torrential rains.

The annual exercise, code-named 'Gandiv-II' was undertaken between December 6-8 and was witnessed by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Multiple National Security Guard (NSG) commando teams were mobilised from Delhi and the national capital region, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad "to neutralise multiple terror threats manifested in Left Wing Extremism, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack situations". — PTI

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Landowners visit sub-registrar office at Vanasthalipuram to get the slot booked for registration of property as the state government resumed registration of non-agricultural land on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

## Resumption of land registration comes bit late for many owners

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Friday's resumption of registrations of non-agricultural property after three months has come late say families who were waiting to dispose land to perform marriages. It has also come in late for real estate dealers who were already hit by the pandemic.

"Please release some guidelines on how to book a slot and when can we start doing it for non-agri registrations?" said a worried Bhagyashri Gadde, on social media.

Similarly, one Ramesh Pinapaka said: 'Many people are suffering because there is no clarity on Dharani portal software updates and the rights of MROs. For more clarity officials can reach Yerrupalem mandal MRO, Khamman district. God knows what is going on (sic).'

• Slot booking services for registration of non-agricultural properties were launched by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar at 2pm on Friday.

• Two slots were booked within 15 minutes of the launch

• Till 9:30 pm, 38 slots were booked and about Rs. 97,14,278 lakh were remitted towards applicable fees and duties.

• 20,958 persons visited the site; 4,542 users registered on the system and 4,143 transactions were initiated.

The closure of constructions and registrations resulted in real-estate dealer from Kismatpur village committing suicide last month as he was not able to transfer properties which led to financial crisis.

Before halting registration, there were at least 7,000 registrations in the Sub-Registrar office.

Sandhya Rani (Name

Changed) was all set to perform her daughter's wedding by selling her plot in Moinabad. As registrations were stopped, buyers seized the opportunity and offered to pay amounts way below the current market price. "I thought I would sell land later but I had to get money on higher interest rates to perform the wedding. Now I am ending up

paying more interest. Had registrations opened earlier it would have been better."

Former deputy sarpanch of Kismatpur of Gandipet mandal, Neerudu Shaker, told, "Last month one of the real estate dealers committed suicide. I am also into real estate. Land sales have taken a severe beating. People dependent on this business have suffered a lot for the delay."

• A huge advantage of this facility is that people can book slots online from any place.

• The slots can be booked through Mee-Seva centres also at ₹200 for full transaction.

• There is a provision for generation of deed documents.

• A new window has been provided to builders and real estate dealers to upload new properties in bulk. Accordingly, 451 builders and developers uploaded 93,874 properties. Local bodies generated 12,699 t-PINS so far. These properties are likely to come for transactions shortly.

• E-pass books will be issued first and a regular pass book will be issued within 10 days from the date of registration.

• Applicants can call the 24x7 toll free number 18005994788 if they have any grievances.

## Winter laces twin cities with pollutants, say two studies

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Come winter, air in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad gets laced with pollutants beyond permissible limits, says a study published earlier this year in Science of Total Environment (SoTE). Not just SoTE, scientists from National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) too point out that winter changes the way pollutants (read particulate matter (PM) 2.5 microns in thickness) react when climate turns cold.

Major sources of PM2.5 in India are emissions from power sector, industries, transport, open burning of crop and

waste, households, and dust. Other urban sources include construction dust, industrial exhaust, and domestic cooking and heating sources.

"There is a reason why levels increase during winters. The Planetary Boundary Layer Height (PBLH) at this time is lower and increases the density of emissions. Basically, it is like being trapped in room with smoke, which has a low ceiling," a scientist from NARL told *Deccan Chronicle*.

As it turns out, all cities consistently show pollution during morning hours (8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.) when winter peaks. This is due to fumigation effect of peak traffic during morning hours and

household emissions getting trapped within the evolving shallow PBLH.

During summer months, air expands and there is sufficient space for pollutants to disperse, the NARL scientist pointed out. However, during colder months, as air contracts, the amount of pollutants is higher and in closer proximity to human settlements.

The study by NARL collected data from five Indian megacities (Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Delhi and Chennai). "All these cities show the highest and lowest concentrations during winter and monsoon months, respectively. Winter maxima are associated with increased emissions and lower PBLH. Monsoon months are cleanest because of moisture deposition and increased soil moisture, which leads to less dust resuspension," reads the report.

"Moreover, during monsoon season (June, July, August and September), the trajectory of wind follows south-west monsoon wind pattern. Therefore, air masses originate from both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. For south Indian cities of Hyderabad and Chennai, most of the air mass originates from Bay of Bengal. Hyderabad receives 67 per cent of its air mass via the sea route originating from Bay of Bengal," NARL study paper adds.

• SOURCES REVEALED that Rao also objected to the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation project of the AP government to divert water from Srisailam Reservoir to Rayalaseema. Rao is also expected to meet Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari and Hardeep Puri on Saturday to discuss long-pending issues pertaining to the state with them.

Opposition parties including Congress and the BJP alleged that Rao had an hidden agenda in meeting the home minister and Prime Minister.

On his first day, Rao is said to have confined his visits to Union ministers and after meeting the Prime Minister he will likely meet the farmer leaders who are agitating against the Centre's Farm Laws in Delhi.

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## The chimes resemble those of the Big Ben in London

## Clock Tower starts chiming again



Replacement of the clock, which is totally automatic with GPS time setting, took two months.

been) restored at Clock Tower, Secunderabad. We will be also be restoring the remaining such clock towers". Recalls Rev. Sanjay A.

## Property 'owners' around Old City on tenterhooks

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

when they have to mortgage property for obtaining loans from banks.

Realtor M.K. Hasan said that many settlements about Old City and a majority of them did not register their plots but built the houses on them. They have to face several problems as the vendor is either dead or remains elusive.

He said if anyone wants to register property that was purchased long back, the individual has to first validate his property if it is an agricultural land in nature or assess it in case it is non-agricultural land and then approach the district registrar for registration.

The registrar after verifying the purchase documents and valuing the validation or assessment imposes a penalty up to 10 times higher than the then value of the property.

Nawaz Khan, a resident of Vattelpally, said he wanted to purchase a plot at a low budget but he deferred his plan as he realized that ownership of a property in unauthorized layouts is an unworthy proposition.

"We will face trouble as the government has brought many reforms which do not recognize the property located in unauthorized layouts," he said.

## Man dies, head gets stuck in Metro railing

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A 24-year-old was killed and his friend sustained injuries in a freak mishap on early Friday morning as the scooter they were travelling in crashed into the roadside railing, sustaining fatal injuries with his head getting stuck between the iron grills," said the Panjagutta police, adding that they had to detach the iron railing and remove Gupta's stuck head. "Ravi Teja, who also suffered serious head injuries, was shifted to the hospital where his condition was said to be critical," added the police. They did not have any protective head gear when the mishap took place.

Gupta's scooter had 14 unpaid challans amounting to ₹5,460 since May 2020, with most of them being for helmetless riding. Police said they were examining footage from surveillance cameras to get a clearer picture of what happened.

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The Power to Surprise

## SHORT TAKES

## MANUU TO HOLD INDUCTION PROGRAMME

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is organising the second phase of online Deekhsharamb-Students Induction Programme (SIP) 2020 between December 14 and 19 for students admitted after November 17.

The online sessions will be held every day from 3 pm to 5 pm on Instructional Media Centre, MANUU YouTube Channel.

Students welfare dean Prof. Syed Alim Ashraf said that the recently admitted students can register themselves on <https://forms.gle/mQ5MdG3QihyEnA47>.

Students may join the Telegram Group using the link [https://t.me/joinchat/RxAsJU5oYZ\\_is9\\_8qNxGiw](https://t.me/joinchat/RxAsJU5oYZ_is9_8qNxGiw).

**MANUU ITI COUNSELLING ON DECEMBER 23**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Hyderabad, of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is conducting the fourth phase of counselling for admissions into ITI (trades) on December 23. The counselling will start at 9.30 am at ITI, MANUU Campus, Gachibowli. The last date for submission of applications is December 21.

According to principal Dr Arshia Azam, applications are invited from candidates to fill up the vacant seats in different ITI trades. Application forms can be obtained from MANUU-ITI Hyderabad from December 12 or can be downloaded from University website manuu.edu.in.

**COPS TRAIN 90 PERSONNEL TO TACKLE CRIME**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Cyberabad police has trained 90 personnel from the CAT Team, investigation team, cybercrime team to increase the understanding of cybercrimes on social media, email threats, cyber threats and digital forensics.

Cyberabad police commissioner Sajjan along with Crimes DCP Rohini Priyadarshini has also launched the Cyber Hat solutions logo and company website at his office.

The commissioner thanked and appreciated the efforts of Cyber Hat CEO Shriram Teja for the programme which was conducted on the techniques and procedures in solving Cybercrime cases.

"The programme received an overwhelming response from the attendees and it was a good interactive session," said the official.

Teva spoke about the real-life threats and its countermeasures. "CyberHat provides professional cybersecurity solutions that enable practical and active defences, allowing our clients to grow their business while keeping a secure working environment. Our experience comes from hands-on deep cybersecurity forensic and data breach investigations, advanced hacking simulations and cyber assessments," he said.

**THE COMMISSIONER** thanked and appreciated the efforts of Cyber hat CEO Shriram Teja for the programme which was conducted on the techniques and procedures in solving Cybercrime cases.



Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy inspects the new multi-specialty hospital under construction on the premises of the Kakatiya Medical College on Friday.

## Kishan sounds war bugle in Warangal

**Minister tells people to show 'corrupt' TRS its place**

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC  
WARANGAL, DEC. 11

The first step towards ousting TRS from the state was taken by the people of Dubbak, the second by Hyderabadi and now it is the turn of Warangalites to show TRS its place, said Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy at a meeting with party leaders and workers at Hanamkonda on Friday.

"While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ruling the country without taking a single day-off, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao never goes to the Secretariat. Modi is corruption-free and Rao is involved in crores of rupees of corruption. Modi is offering schemes for all-round development of Warangal city, whereas Rao is neglecting it by not giving a single

rupee," he stated. Despite holding GHMC elections hastily, the people favoured the BJP. Without the Majlis, TRS has no strength in Hyderabad.

He asked the BJP workers to strive for the party victory in the upcoming elections in Warangal. He said the BJP is sure to win the 2023 elections in the state. "No matter how much KCR, KTR and Owaisi try, the BJP will form the government. The people,

employees, youth and women of Telangana want the BJP to come to power for a democratic rule," he said.

Warangal once fought off the Razakars and displayed the fighting spirit during the Telangana movement. Our workers should be prepared for any kind of fight against the TRS. The polling booth level committee in Warangal should work hard. All you activists are the strength of the BJP," he said.

## KCR CM only for Siddipet, Gajwel: Dubbak BJP MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Senior politician and former minister M.V. Mysoora Reddy on Friday said that the separate Rayalaseema movement has never stopped.

While launching the book Greater Rayalaseema written by former member of Rajya Sabha Gangula Pratap Reddy, he appealed to youngsters of the Rayalaseema region to agitate for a separate Rayalaseema taking inspiration from the separate Telangana movement.

The leader hoped that the people of Rayalaseema will certainly fight for their right in the near future.

Pratap Reddy said that voices from the "broken land" are being depicted in his book.

He further said that the Telangana people are the inspiration for the separate Rayalaseema state movement.

**WHILE LAUNCHING**

the book Greater Rayalaseema written by former member of Rajya Sabha Gangula Pratap Reddy, he appealed to young-

sters of the Rayalaseema region to agitate for a separate Rayalaseema taking inspiration from the separate Telangana movement.

BJP MLA said they thought KCR's mentality towards Dubbak will change after the TRS lost the constituency. "But he (CM) is not doing so. He is constructing secretariat for son, medical college for son-in-law, and developing Gajwel for his grandson," Raghunandan remarked.

People of Dubbak do not want an airport. We want our only old bus stand to be constructed anew, he underlined.

In this regard, the BJP MLA recalled that the Chief Minister had told long back declared that Warangal will be getting an airport; but till now there has been no sound

of it. He felt Chandrashekhar Rao has raised the airport as a carrot for the upcoming municipal elections in Warangal, Siddipet and Khammam.

"During elections, KCR can deploy all tactics to fool people. It is common for him," Raghunandan said. In support of his statement, he pointed out that "in 2004, when Rajeev Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) was being built, an MOU had been signed between GMR and Civil Aviation Ministry that till March 23, 2023, no airports will come within 150-im radius of RGIA," he explained.

Contractors have made it clear they will not be able to complete pending road works as payments by the department are irregular. They asked that when the department is unable to make payments for completed works, how they could bid for new works.

## CS holds meet on road safety

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Chief secretary Somesh Kumar has underlined the need to make concerted efforts to minimise road accidents and fatalities in the state.

He was holding a meet-

ing with senior officers concerned on road safety measures on Friday at the BRKR Bhavan.

He asked engineering departments of the National Highways, R&B, Panchayat Raj and the GHMC to ensure that proper sign boards are put in place.

The chief secretary directed officials to have a separate safety plan for

measures are completed by January 15, 2021.

The chief secretary stressed the need to improve the data collection mechanism which would include developing an APP to capture and record information with geo coordinates and photographs whenever accidents happen.

He asked the officials to identify accident-prone locations and ensure that proper sign boards are put in place.

The chief secretary directed officials to have a separate safety plan for

the Outer Ring Road which would include automatic systems for identification like cameras, speed guns and other enforcement measures. Kumar said a committee should be constituted which would study the issues relating to having a unified ambulance network, trauma centres, equipping hospitals to treat emergency management and trauma cases.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within a week for the approval by the Chief Minister.

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Contractors have made it clear they will not be able to complete pending road works

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**SHORT TAKES****MAN ATTEMPTS TO BREAK OPEN ATM, ABSCONDS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD DEC. 11

An unidentified man attempted to break open an ATM cash machine with the help of a screwdriver on late Thursday night at Abdullapurmet cross roads.

According to the police, the man, who is yet to be traced, had tried to open the ATM at Abdullapurmet Crossroads at around 12.30 am.

"He panicked after hearing the patrolling van's siren and escaped the place. We have confirmed that only a single person was involved in the offence. Efforts are on to trace and nab him," said the police.

**CPA TO CARRY OUT TWO-DAY FUNDRAISER DRIVE**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) and Parents Association Thalassemic Unit Trust (PATUT) will organise a two-day online fundraiser "Khazana", a Festival of Gazals, for cancer and thalassemic patients on December 19 and 20.

Participants in Khazana include Ghazal maestro Pankaj Udhas, Anup Jalota, Talat Aziz, Sudeep Banerjee, Mahalaxmi Iyer, Pandit Ajay Pohankar and Abhijit Pohankar, among others.

The concert will be online with Hungama being the digital platform partner. The show will be available to viewers across the world for free. Donors can send their contributions to either or both the two charities directly for helping thalassemic children and cancer patients.

**DOUBLE LUNG TRANSPLANT AT KIMS HOSPITAL**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A double lung transplant has been performed on a 34-year-old marketing professional who had been recovering from Covid-19 at the KIMS Hospital. Incidentally, the market professional was on extra corporeal membrane oxygenation for 53 days. His lungs had been severely damaged due to Covid-19. The only way forward for him was to undergo lung transplant.

Finding a matching donor during pandemic times is tough. But the patient got lucky and his recovery too has been good after the dual transplant. A team of doctors led by Dr Sandeep Attawar, program director and thoracic organ transplant surgeon, at KIMS Hospital carried out the procedure.

**MAN KILLS WIFE OVER MARITAL DISPUTES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A 40-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband following marital disputes regarding financial issues at their residence in Petbasheerabad on Friday night.

The deceased, identified as Anitha, got married to Nagaraju, 44, a car driver, in 1997 and the couple had two sons, aged 20 and 22, said the police. It was a love marriage and the family was residing in the Komppaly area for the last four years.

"The couple started having disputes at home after Anitha started lending money to her family members without her husband's knowledge. When her relatives were not returning the borrowed amount, the couple started having regular quarrels at home," said Petbasheerabad ACP A.V.R. Narasimha Rao.

On Friday evening, they had a heated argument and in a fit of rage, Nagaraju throttled Anitha to death with a scarf and fled the place. "We have received a complaint from their family and booked a murder case against the husband. The efforts are on to nab him," added the officials.

**THE COUPLE** started having disputes at home after Anitha started lending money to her family members without her husband's knowledge," said Petbasheerabad ACP A.V.R. Narasimha Rao.



Doctors of Basavataram Cancer hospital stage protest in Hyderabad on Friday demanding withdrawal of permit allowing Ayush doctors to carry out allopathic surgeries.

— P. SURENDRA

**Docs take to the streets, strike against mixopathy****To resist mixing up of treatments at any cost**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

**IN A STRONGLY** worded statement, doctors stated that the uncivil ways in which CCIM has tried to vivisect modern medicine and empower Ayush practitioners is unethical.

Osmania Medical College and went in a procession to the office of Director, Health and Medical Education.

Doctors termed the move of central government retrograde and said mixing of treatment systems will be resisted

at all costs. Such a move will make both allopathic and Ayush doctors lose their respective separate identities.

In a strongly worded statement, doctors stated that the uncivil ways in which Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) has tried to vivisect modern medicine and empower Ayush practitioners is unethical. Such doctors have no right to technical terms, techniques and procedures of modern medicine, they insisted.

"What is the sanctity of NEET or exit tests if

such lateral shortcuts are allowed," asked Dr. Ravinder Reddy, national vice-president elect of TSIMA.

The IMA, in a statement, stated that the CCIM order must be withdrawn as healthcare industry will suffer due to "mixopathy".

All across the state, small and big hospitals put banners outside their premises protesting against the order. Doctors stated that they are going to continue their protests till the government withdraws the order.

**ACCORDING TO** one of the victims, Raj Kumar, who invested ₹5 lakh, said that the couple, G. Babu Rao and C. Anjali, were running the chit fund business for the last 20 years and earned the goodwill of the localities before absconding with the cash.

The police said that they have learnt about their son who is settled in the US and that the couple were applying for a visa to head there. "We have received a complaint and will be investigating the same. We are yet to access the exact figure swindled by the couple," said the CCS police officials.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

Dhanbad, dt. 08/12/2020, E-Tenders is invited for execution of the following work by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad: Tender No. C-710-Goods-Shed-BHKD-20. Sl. No. 1. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Development of Goods-sheds at Bhurkunda and subsequent incentives for the period of five years. Sl. No. 2. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 3,00,00,00/- Sl. No. 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,00,000/- Sl. No. 4. Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on 30.12.2020. Date of opening of e-tender after 12.00 hrs on 30.12.2020. Sl. No. 5. Website particulars: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway/ Dhanbad.

PR/1113/DHN/COM/L/T/20-21/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

No. DRNSR/Sig/2019/1, Danapur, dtd. 10.12.2020, Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following work: 1. Name of work with its location: Provision of Class 'A' protection system and ring earthing for S&T installation at 37 stations in Kuchman - Jhajha, Patna - Gaya & Bakhtiyarpur - Tilaiya sections in Danapur division. 2. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 25,55,426.67/- 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 27,53,000/- 4. Last Date & Time of Submission: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 04.01.2021 5. Opening of tender: 15.30 hrs. on 04.01.2021 6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained: Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur Note:- Any corrigendum, if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days.

Dr.DTE, East Central Railway/Danapur PR/1113/DRNSR/S/T/20-21/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

e-tender Notice No. 52 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings. Tender No.40-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 (i) Name of work with its location: Through switch Renewal and crossing renewal with 60 Kg. 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 under Sr.DEN(II)/DDU. (ii) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 22,18,489,61/- (iii) Earnest Money: 26,09,000/- (iv) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender: 30.12.2020, Up-to 12:00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

For Divisional Railway Manager East Central Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay PR/1110/DDU/ENGK/T/20-21/36

**ISB meet calls to check healthcare, strengthen it**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

business models for the new normal, and opportunities in using artificial and machine learnings as medium or tool for improving healthcare solutions.

Panel discussions saw participation of top medical experts, industrialists and policy makers, including Suchitra M. Ella, co-founder and joint managing director, Bharat Biotech International, Telangana principal secretary (Industries) Jayesh Ranjan, commissioner (Health and Family Welfare) Bhaskar Katamneni, AP's National Health Mission director Santosh Marathe, COO and unit head, Apollo Hospitals, among others.

HealthScape brought together over 600 professionals from healthcare industry including doctors, representatives of health-tech start-ups, academicians, and pharma professionals.

Concluding the discussions, ISB's Prof. Ramabhadran Thirumalai, senior associate dean – PGP and YLP, said, "This conference has aptly focused on taking a pause to assess learnings of the past as well as build on what we popularly call the 'new normal'."

Deliberations included learnings in public health – an area that acquired focus because of the pandemic. "As we look ahead, I call upon you to focus your energies in looking for solutions in healthcare, which is need of the hour," Prof. Thirumalai remarked.

The cases in the city are seeing a rise also due to increasing number of people moving out on work. Neighbouring Ranga Reddy witnessed 56,178 persons in Danapur division. 2. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 25,55,426.67/- 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 27,53,000/- 4. Last Date & Time of Submission: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 04.01.2021 5. Opening of tender: 15.30 hrs. on 04.01.2021 6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained: Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur Note:- Any corrigendum, if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days.

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For Divisional Railway Manager

East Central Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay

PR/1110/DDU/ENGK/T/20-21/36

**Can't push authorisation of Covaxin, Covishield: Experts**KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

**THE DEVELOPMENT** of vaccines has an important component of anti-body half-life. Assessment of this is very important to understand the protection schedule from the virus.

**IN THE CASE** of tetanus and diphtheria, the vaccine anti-body half-life is 11 and 19 years. In the case of swine flu and influenza viruses it is only 126 days.

of mild effects and major effects can be disability or a new disease, altogether. Hence, it is important for the regulators to know what happened in the human body after the dose was given. This data is a major part of developing evidence and plays a huge role in the acceptance or rejection of medicines, drugs and vaccines.

With different body types due to the variations in region,

gender and translocations there are bound to be different reactions. Till a variable sample size of each of these populations is not studied it would be unethical to push it on people, experts said.

Regulators stress on the impact of the vaccine on Indian population and that would mean different sets of people from different regions, age-groups and genders.

A senior drug controller in Telangana, on condition of anonymity, said, "Human trials in Indian populations have started from November. How can data be generated within a month? It is not possible to give any analysis till Day 56 and post this period too assessments will be required for the volunteers of the trials."

With different body types due to the variations in region,

**CRPF CONSTABLE, WIFE BOOKED FOR ₹10CR CHIT FUND FRAUD**NAVEEN KUMAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

A retired CRPF constable and his wife were booked for allegedly defrauding the area locals of Patelnagar, Chandrayangutta, to the tune of about ₹10 crore in the name of chit fund. A case was booked against them at the CCS on Friday.

According to one of the victims, Raj Kumar, who invested ₹5 lakh, said that the couple, G. Babu Rao and C. Anjali, were running the chit fund business for the last 20 years and earned the goodwill of the localities before absconding with the cash.

"Their house is locked for the last four days and their phones are not reachable. It was when their social media accounts vanished, we panicked about the money and approached the police to lodge a complaint. The Chandrayangutta police referred us to the CCS police and a case was booked against the couple. We were told that an ACP will be appointed to monitor our case," said Mr Kumar.

The police said that they have learnt about their son who is settled in the US and that the couple were applying for a visa to head there. "We have received a complaint and will be investigating the same. We are yet to access the exact figure swindled by the couple," said the CCS police officials.

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Dhanbad, dt. 08/12/2020, E-Tenders is invited for execution of the following work by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad: Tender No. C-710-Goods-Shed-BHKD-20. Sl. No. 1. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Development of Goods-sheds at Bhurkunda and subsequent incentives for the period of five years. Sl. No. 2. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 3,00,00,00/- Sl. No. 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,00,000/- Sl. No. 4. Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on 30.12.2020. Date of opening of e-tender after 12.00 hrs on 30.12.2020. Sl. No. 5. Website particulars: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway/ Dhanbad.

PR/1113/DHN/COM/L/T/20-21/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

No. DRNSR/Sig/2019/1, Danapur, dtd. 10.12.2020, Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for the following work: 1. Name of work with its location: Provision of Class 'A' protection system and ring earthing for S&T installation at 37 stations in Kuchman - Jhajha, Patna - Gaya & Bakhtiyarpur - Tilaiya sections in Danapur division. 2. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 25,55,426.67/- 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 27,53,000/- 4. Last Date & Time of Submission: Up to 15.00 hrs. on 04.01.2021 5. Opening of tender: 15.30 hrs. on 04.01.2021 6. Website particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained: Sr. Divnl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur Note:- Any corrigendum, if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days.

Dr.DTE, East Central Railway/Danapur PR/1113/DRNSR/S/T/20-21/28

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

e-tender Notice No. 52 of 2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is

**SHORT TAKES**  
**LANCET PANEL  
TAKES UP 2-YEAR  
PH PROJECT**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Lancet Citizens Commission has taken up a two-year project to work on a structural framework for health finance, technology, governance, human resources and citizen's engagement.

The commission will work towards understanding socio-economic parity in providing universal health coverage.

Devi Shetty of Narayana Hrudayalaya Limited, Dr. K. Srinath Reddy of Public Health Foundation of India, and many others will be part of the team that will carry out public engagement for around two years.

**SHE TEAMS  
BOOKED 77 CASES  
IN LAST 3 MONTHS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The Rachakonda She teams booked 77 cases and apprehended 74 individuals, including 55 majors and 19 minors in the last three months.

The eve-teasers attended the counselling session conducted by Rachakonda She teams at the commissioner's camp office in Nagole and LB Nagar along with their family members. "They were also counselled by the professional counselors from the Bhumiya Women's Collective NGO. Children in conflict with law were counselled by professional psychiatrist, Dr Vasavi, to bring change in their behaviour," said the Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat. The She teams has also averted seven child marriages and so far, as many as 89 child marriages were stopped by the officials.

**THE EVE-TEASERS** attended the counselling session conducted by Rachakonda She teams at the commissioner's camp office in Nagole and LB Nagar along with their family members.

## Mercury traces found in Eluru rice

Different findings by Central agencies create confusion among people

**DC CORRESPONDENTS**  
VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA,  
DEC. 11

Residues of mercury in raw rice and herbicide in raw tomato was found by the National Institute of Nutrition after analysing samples of food items from the affected areas for mystery illness at Eluru in West Godavari. This was revealed during the review held by the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually from his Camp Office here on Friday.

AIIMS and IICT ruled out virus and bacteria in the water collected from suspected sources of contamination. However, they did not rule out the presence of pesticide in the water as they got dissolved in the course of metabolism in the body. AIIMS noticed the presence of lead and nickel in the fresh consignment of blood samples of affected persons as it had earlier observed the same in the blood samples.

Meanwhile, animal husbandry authorities maintained that the blood samples of 10 buffaloes sent for analysis at Veterinary Biological Research Institute, Vijayawada did not have any heavy metals after analysis while five milk samples also did not have any concentration of heavy metals. Five grass samples collected from grazing lands were found to be phosphine negative. Analysis of fresh water fish samples were sent to JNTU, Kakinada and APPCB, Visakhapatnam, and results are expected to be out by Saturday.

Test results of soil samples collected by NEERI are expected to be out by Friday and CCMB will come up with its report on Wednesday.

As several Central agencies were coming up with a series of findings by taking up independent investigation and also causing a lot of confusion about the mystery illness, the CM reportedly asked them to coordinate with one another and arrive at a conclusion.

The CM directed the setting up a 21-member high power committee headed by Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney to investigate the cause of unknown convulsions at Eluru. With several Central agencies coming up with their findings declaring concentrations of heavy metals, pesticide, herbicide, mercury in water, milk and food items, the local people are getting terrified to

consume such items fearing health problems.

On the other hand, with just two fresh cases of mystery illness were reported at Eluru government hospital on Friday. The total number of patients in government hospitals at Eluru, Vijayawada and Guntur are 14 at present.

Director of health Dr T Geeta Prasadini said, "It is time that all agencies involved in investigation of the mystery illness come together and arrive at a conclusion on the route cause of the illness as independent findings are found to be causing confusion and panic among the people."

Meanwhile, Commissioner of health and family welfare K. Bhaskar advised the people not to worry about consuming the drinking water being supplied by the Eluru municipal corporation as it is safe.

He said that several Central agencies were coming up with their reports after analysing the samples of water, milk, food, blood, urine of affected patients and also animals on mystery illness and added that they were awaiting some more reports to find out the reason for the illness.

Eluru MP Kotagiri Sridhar complimented the medical and health department for doing a good job by attending to the affected patients and providing them health care. Deputy CM and minister for health All Kali Krishna Srinivas stated that the state government would come up with an action plan after getting test reports from all the agencies involved.

## AP SEC writes to CS on panchayat polls

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

**THE STATE** government is unwilling to allow the State Election Commissioner to go ahead with the gram panchayat polls, claiming that the AP has been witnessing instances Covid-19.

tions of both the AP High Court and also the Supreme Court.

However, the state government is unwilling to allow the State Election Commissioner to go ahead with the gram panchayat polls, claiming that the AP has been witnessing instances Covid-19. The government has been maintaining that the entire administration is preoccupied in taking steps to curb the spread of virus and provide medical treatment to affected persons.

However, the SEC, who is going to retire from service in March, 2021, is quite keen on conducting gram panchayat polls despite facing stiff resistance from the state government.

## 2 held for illegally supplying steroids

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

The West Zone Task Force officials nabbed two men who were illegally supplying steroids used for animal treatment to the public and seized ₹14 lakh worth drugs from their possession on Friday.

According to the police, the accused were identified as Mohammed Zubair, 33, and Mohammed Mustafa, 21, who were running a shop from Banjara Hills Road No. 1.

The task force officials conducted a raid along with drug officials of Hyderabad and apprehended the men for selling anabolic steroids, which are used by the youth to increase the growth of body muscle, said the officials, adding that they were selling the same to the needy clients

without any valid license from the concerned authorities.

"Zubair has been working as a fitness trainer for the last 12 years and gained knowledge about supplements by participating in Mr. India, Mr. World and UK Physique Championship. Upon learning that anabolic steroids has a huge demand in the Indian market, he hatched a plan to sell the same. These steroids are used by the youth in order to increase the growth and boost of body muscle, but it causes damage to the kidneys, liver, and heart of the human body," officials said.

The accused persons, along with seized materials, were handed over to the Drug Inspector of Mehdiyapet Circle and Habib nagar police for further investigation.

## Suspended judge held for cheating, forgery

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
TIRUPATI, DEC. 11

Suspended Chittoor-based junior civil judge S. Ramakrishna was on Friday arrested by the Madanapalle sub-division police in connection with a forgery and cheating case filed against him by a bank, the DSP said.

Madanapalle DSP Ravi Manoharachari said that on December 6, Canara Bank manager Kiran Kumar had lodged a complaint with the Two Town police against Ramakrishna for misusing bank cheques that belonged to his deceased aunt Sucharitha.

"In his complaint, the bank manager stated that they have learnt about the issuance of cheques in the name of

the deceased recently and enquired into the matter. In their inquiry, they found that the suspended judge Ramakrishna had misused his aunt's signed cheques and gave them to five of his debtors," the DSP said.

"Based on the complaint lodged by the bank manager, Two Town police have started an investigation into the matter and collected forensic reports and death certificate of Sucharitha, who died at the age of 65—on June 6, 2019—before arresting Ramakrishna. He was taken into custody on Friday night and further investigation is on," the DSP added.

It may be recalled that Ramakrishna had earlier filed a petition in the

AP High Court along with a call record of his alleged telephonic conversation with Justice Eswaraiah. He stated in his petition that Justice Eswaraiah made derogatory and abusive comments against sitting judges of the Supreme Court and the AP High Court in the telephonic conversation. The High Court eventually ordered a probe into the matter by a retired SC judge.

The suspended judge also made startling allegations against minister Peddireddy Ramachandran Reddy and his brother and MLA Peddireddy Dwarakanath Reddy. He alleged that he was physically assaulted by the YSR Congress workers at the behest of the minister.

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- Application forms are available in the School Website [www.apsgolconda.edu.in](http://www.apsgolconda.edu.in). Application form along with a DD for Rs 100/- in favour of Army Public School Golconda payable at Hyderabad to be sent to the school or info.apsgolconda@gmail.com. Last date for submitting application forms in the school along with Xerox copies of Educational qualifications and CSB & CTET/TET results qualified Score Card/Result sheet by 31 Dec 2020.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

12 DECEMBER 2020

## Nadda stoning: All parties guilty of decorum breach

The attack on the motorcade of BJP president J.P. Nadda in the Diamond Harbour area near Kolkata on Thursday is disquieting. We know the culture of violence appears deeply embedded in West Bengal, ironic as this is for a part of the country to which the uplifting description "renaissance" is ascribed for the all-round effervescence seen here in the nineteenth century in conditions of colonial modernity. No political party operating in the state can claim to be free of guilt in this regard.

Even so, when politically mobilised hooligans, even at a symbolic level — as seen in the case in the attack on Mr Nadda's entourage — target the highest functionaries of a political party, in this case the organisational head of the ruling party of the country, it is time for all concerned to reflect and get back to the drawing-board — for the sake of West Bengal and India. If not, political misfortune is apt to overtake us, no matter which party is in the saddle.

The BJP veteran Rajnath Singh, the defence minister and a former BJP chief, put the matter in a very sober way when he noted after the sorry incident, "Attack on political leaders is highly condemnable. The incident should be thoroughly probed and accountability should be fixed."

This is the right way, but "nothing happened" to Mr Nadda's convoy, threw the state police. It noted, "A few bystanders threw stones at vehicles trailing his convoy. Everyone is safe and the situation is peaceful," adding that a probe was on. What are they probing if nothing happened and all is tranquil? At any rate, the police are charged with investigating a crime in neutral fashion, not pass judgments.

When the force has already passed a judgment, it is likely the probe will be designed to be a formality. The head of police ought to be asked questions about his organisation taking such a cavalier view of things in its social media interactions — and frankly, in its actions. It should have been proactive in clearing the route the BJP leader's convoy was taking. If it pleads that it had not been told about it in advance, it is even worse. The local police ought to know. This is no one else's business, Mr Nadda's 'Z plus' security status notwithstanding.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee can hardly be said to have covered herself with glory when she rhymed disparagingly on Mr Nadda's name.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee can hardly be said to have covered herself with glory when she rhymed disparagingly on Mr Nadda's name. This is not "badrakal" at all, and sits even worse on a CM's tongue. "I have asked the police to find out all this," she said in public remarks. But she ought to be ordering a magisterial inquiry.

The state is to have Assembly elections in a few months. If events of recent weeks are an indication, political violence may possibly rise. BJP is desperate to unseat Ms Banerjee's Trinamul Congress. In the circumstances, it is necessary not to fan political passions. Union home minister Amit Shah tweeted soon after the tawdry incident, "The West Bengal government will have to answer for the state-sponsored violence."

This is an observation laden with political partisanship, and because state polls are due soon it gives off the sense of President's rule being imposed. The home minister ought to sound more sober and act with due responsibility.

## A lone ranger departs

In the culture wars of yesteryear, his dance was totally lost on critics. Not considered Indian enough in the West, and Western enough in India, his zany moves failed to satisfy either the "diversity" or the "fashionableness" criteria. Then there were the traditionalists. Whenever he approached potential sponsors for money for his performances or projects, they invariably asked him, "What is modern dance?"

Asht Deboo kept on dancing, for 50 years, not just in India, but all over the world. His dance education was grounded in kathak, taken up at age six. His inspiration, on the other hand, had been a show by the American Murray Louis Dance Company, which he chanced to attend while pursuing a commerce degree in erstwhile Bombay. The adventurous Parsi boy left Mumbai in 1969 onboard a cargo boat and hitchhiked his way through Europe to reach New York in 1974.

In New York, Deboo enrolled at the famous Martha Graham dance academy, but dropped out. He then trained with Pina Bausch in Germany and, in 1977, returned to India and learned kathak under E. Krishna Panicker, eventually evolving his own style that was minimalist and eloquent in equal measure. But it was not until 1986 that his breakthrough came in terms of peer recognition when Deboo was commissioned to choreograph for Maya Plisetskaya, the prima ballerina of Bolshoi Theatre. The versatile Deboo would go on to collaborate with Bausch herself, theatre artiste Alison Becker Chase, rock band Pink Floyd, dhrupad singers the Gundecha brothers, even Manipur's Thang-Ta martial artistes and Pung cholom dancers. Accolades arrived late, in the form of a Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1995 and a Padma Shri in 2007, and when they came were too little given his contributions. It would not be incorrect to comment that Deboo was among the few who changed Indians' puritanical approach to music and dance. For a long time, he was the only one in his field of contemporary dance, a genre he single-handedly, or rather single-footedly, pioneered in India. He leaves behind a transforming legacy, and unreserved admiration in the hearts of his now-sizeable tribe of students, dance aficionados and followers.

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Farrukh Dhondy  
Of Cabbages & Kings



"What use the scorching summer  
That burns the buds of spring?  
And these intense obsessions  
That with them despair bring?  
  
What good the freezing winter  
In which viruses survive?  
Oh! take the seasons as they come  
It's good to be alive!"

— From Great Expectations by Bachchoo

## Why we need to 'tolerate' all those who have contrary views

Philosophy quibbles over words? If language is the avatar of thought, then ideas, propositions and proofs are the recipes in the avatar's cookbook. No, not caradom pods, but cinnamon sticks? Not "ambiguity" but "ambivalence". "Generalisation" is the foundation of science, "generality" the enemy of it. And thus, we philosophers (*Kabhi sey? Pack it in yaar!* — Ed. Arrey kuchh tho pretension karney do sethi — fd) purify the dialect of the tribe.

Long years ago, in my teenage in Pune, there was an establishment at one end of the cantonment's Mahatma Gandhi Road called the Punjab Book Service. It had a display window in which were arranged books such as Bertrand Russell's *History of Western*

*Philosophy*, Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, several literary hard-covered tomes and titles which made the Punjab Book Service (PBS) look like it was in any street in Oxford or Cambridge.

But those titles were not what the clientele wanted and were not the titles stocked in the body of this lending library. The front room had packed shelves of detective stories, Perry Mason courtroom sort of stuff and "Westerns". There was a back room which you entered through a heavily beaded curtain, with shelves full of brown-paper-covered pamphlet-like books with titles such as *Confessions of a Russian Princess*, *Forget the Hocus Enjoy the Pokus* and *The Nun's Delight*. All to be borrowed overnight or so for a few annas.

Gentle reader, I beg you to believe that I only became aware of these titles when my friend Dara Cama borrowed them. I never crossed the beaded curtain.

Then a fateful day Dara went to the showcase and brought Will Durant's *Story of Philosophy* to "Punjabi", as we called the proprietor, at the book-browsing counter.

Punjabi stared at the hard-covered volume as though he had never seen it

before. There was a long pause because he couldn't believe that anyone wanted to read the stuff that he used as decoy material for his chaalao lending library. He looked up.

"Arrey vah Kyemah! Thoo flaafsy pudthat!"

And yes, it was the moment when I converted from addiction to Earl Stanley Gardner to "flaafsy". And then it was I came to appreciate, as perhaps Socrates did, that substituting one word for another changes the world.

This memory of such realisation came to me in September of this plague year Cambridge University's vice-chancellor issued a sort of fatwa on free speech demanding of the university staff and students that they "respect" all opinions. His bulletin was widely interpreted as the outlawing of any arguments or contentions which would offend any group. The fatwa was probably issued as a caveat to opponents or those who would argue against the "reality" or achievability of gender transformation. The call to "respect" the insistences of "trans" people and their supporters was interpreted in some quarters as a ban on expressing any opposition to them. This could, if extended, apply to a ban on countering the arguments of anti-

vaccers, people who oppose vaccination.

A professor of philosophy at the university, Arif Ahmed, saw this fatwa as a mandated opposition to free speech. He proposed a simple amendment: substitute the word "tolerate" instead of the word "respect". That would recognise the right to live with, but not agree with, opinions which seemed to you either ridiculous, contrary to scientific fact or unacceptable for some reason of faith, or otherwise.

Prof. Ahmed calls the vice-chancellor's directive a policy and labels it as "academic McCarthyism". The injunction to "respect" an opinion could merely mean to support the fact that it exists. But it could also mean to refrain from publicly contradicting it.

Prof. Ahmed began alone but soon signed up a fair number of academics and students to his amendment to the directive. He is certainly motivated by the acute opposition to the recent practice in British universities of banning (they call it "no-platforming") people whose views they feel will offend one or another minority.

Prof. Ahmed sees that as an infringement of free speech within institutions which should be the champions of it and of vociferous arguments against

offending ones. He told London's *Times* that there is the risk of "self-censorship", that there are now views and opinions in British academia that dare not speak their name.

He goes controversially further, saying that it's right for academics to engage with white nationalists or even Islamic fundamentalists and that people should be able to hear them, possibly toxic, reasoning, and "make up their own minds and criticise as disrespectfully as they want".

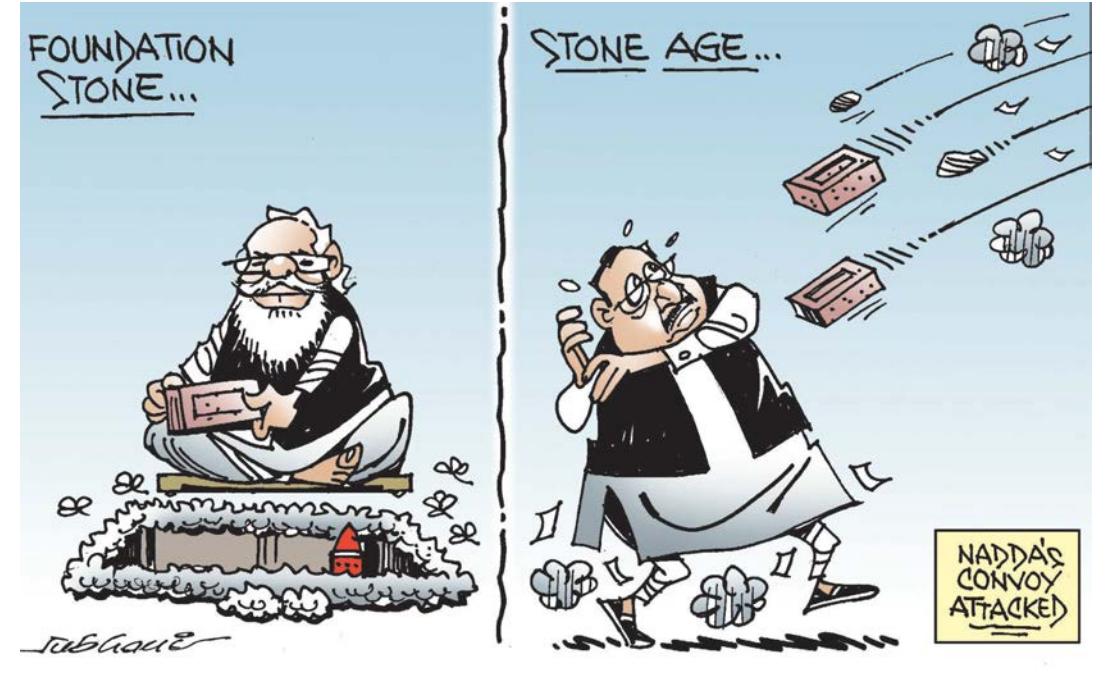
Mysel? If I was president of the Cambridge Union and Osama bin Laden (Fish be Upon Him) was still alive, I'd send him an email asking him to speak about why Donald Trump — sorry, I mean America — is in his opinion The Great Satan. I'd perhaps invite Richard Dawkins or someone more militant to speak against him and let a thousand flowers (followers?) fight it out.

I shall not cease from mental strife...

P.S. — As we go to press, Cambridge announces that the Arif amendment and others were passed with a huge majority.

Should tolerators and repliers, supporters of all free speech, now be termed "Arifists"?

Subhani



## V is for valour, victory... But V is also for vaccine!

Shobhaa De



Neither have I understood the booster shot logic or the reactions to it — headaches, body aches and other symptoms. It's being described as 'The Post-Vax effect'.

workers and others in privileged categories, are busy boasting about being one up on the rest. Getting a shot will soon become a social test — if you aren't amongst the first to extend an arm for the jab — hey — poor you! The usual "janata class" jamboree will kick in, with folks who will try to jump the queue, bribe their way to "qualify", forge certificates and documents, call up influential "contacts", fake illness, do whatever it takes to stake a claim and brag about it. "I have taken the shot — and you haven't?" Arrey! You should have called me, na? I know somebody who would have arranged it for you — that too, at home. Why go and stand in a line like all the others?" Funny... our "line complex"? We hate being seen standing in an orderly line anywhere. If you have to line up, it means you are a nobody — that's the thinking. I remember one of our most dazzling billionaire wives cribbing that she hated flying "commercial" because it involved lining up with the hoipolloi! She used to frequently berate her husband publicly for not getting her a private jet. "It is so humiliating to be seen at an airport standing with the public!" she would moan and groan. It didn't matter that personalities in the league of Ratan Tata and Azim Premji not only fly commercial, but carry their own bags on board, with Azim preferring to fly economy class whenever possible — but that is his special brand of eccentricity. I suspect we will see a similar scramble for the vaccine, with India's swish set flying off to get their shots in London rather than wait it out for their turn back home. "Apna Time Aayega" holds no appeal for most self-styled VIPs, who consider it infra dig to be told they need to line up like everybody else.

My own state of denial has made me push Covid and the vaccine into the background. I am not convinced it is THE answer, no matter what the docs say.

We have I understood the booster shot logic or the reactions to the vaccine — the headaches, body aches and other symptoms. It's being described as "The Post-Vax effect" and it isn't sounding good — pain swelling, fever. "The vaccine works! Crowd those whose faith is undiminished, even if the statistics aren't in place right now to make such declarations about this particular vaccine. But when it is pointed out that America has crossed the 15 million coronavirus cases, and people are still dropping like flies there, the writing on the wall is ominous indeed. What can be said to reassure citizens? Canada has already picked its vaccine of choice (Pfizer-BioNTech), the same one approved by Bahrain and the United Kingdom. Approvals are being rushed by several other countries, after stating just how rigorously the testing process is being imposed. I dunno! Call me a sceptic — this unholy rush to "market" the vaccine seems more

driven by commerce than humanitarian compulsions. To think such a swathe of people across the globe will be at the mercy of agencies and governments! If your government decides — "This is the one" — then, that is the one! We will never know why this one was picked over that one. Who lobbied for it — who had the most to gain... Today, this one magic-vaccine is going to determine the future of the world — and it will instantly become the single most potent factor when it comes to votes and elections. Its availability and efficacy will determine the fate of governments and political parties across the world. Citizens may never know why a certain pharma company was picked over rivals. Questions about decisions that will affect the health and well-being of our planet will be decided by politicians!

Today, this one magic-vaccine is going to determine the future of the world — and it will instantly become the single most potent factor when it comes to votes and elections. Its availability and efficacy will determine the fate of governments and political parties across the world. Citizens may never know why a certain pharma company was picked over rivals. Questions about decisions that will affect the health and well-being of our planet will be decided by politicians! The almost unlimited power of the virus over our lives has been established. Now comes the challenge of how we can tame the microbe, save ourselves and keep the faith. What if we discover a few years down the line that our governments have shortchanged us by withholding vital information. Or that our leaders sold our safety in order to stay in power. That the wrong pharma horse was backed? That a corrupt system bought a vaccine it knew full well would not work as promised and made guinea pigs out of us? We have given the mandate a bit too easily. Was there ever a choice?

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

What if we discovered a few years down the line that our governments have shortchanged us by withholding vital information? That the wrong pharma horse was backed?

## LETTERS

### FARMERS' STRIKE

Farming cannot survive under businessmen. They only know how to fleece. Farmers live a hand-to-mouth existence and never prosper and are mostly unable to raise their voice. Farming cannot sustain without subsidies. In the absence of subsidies, cheap chemicals that poison our food will be used. Sustainable farming needs side income. Even if government gives subsidies, leaders will pocket their share and farmer gets only a part of it.

**Bindhu Madhav Rao**  
Hyderabad

Since the government has agreed to give a written assurance on MSP and APMC mandi system, the farm laws have almost become null and void. Therefore, either the farmers should have no objections to call off the strike or for the government to repeal the farm laws

**Dr O. Prasada Rao**  
Hyderabad

OLD CITY RACKET  
The sale of women in Old City of Hyderabad seems to have surfaced again. Unless police take strict action against middlemen, these incidents will continue. State must also check how these women could afford to travel abroad on a visitor visa. There is nexus.

**Dr G.V. Kumar**  
Hyderabad

PRESIDENT MISSING  
According to Article 79 of Constitution, Parliament consists of President and the two Houses. While this is so, it is not known why the President has not been invited to the Bhumiupjan (ground breaking) ceremony for the new Parliament building in New Delhi (New Parliament to be sign of self reliant India: Modi, DC, Dec. 11).

**P.H. Hema Sagar**  
Secunderabad

**IA pilots refuse to fly HS 748 aircraft**  
NEW DELHI, Dec. 11  
Pilots of the Indian Airlines today stood firm in their resolve not to fly HS 748 aircraft. After a secret meeting of Delhi-based pilots, one of their spokesman told UNI: "We will have no compromise with the safety of passengers. We have a conscience and cannot risk the lives of passengers."





**IN BRIEF**  
Gold worth ₹4.5 cr seized mid-sea

**Chennai:** In a joint mid-sea operation on Friday, the Coast Guard and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) foiled a bid to smuggle into the country gold bars worth ₹4.50 crore from Sri Lanka. Acting on a tip-off, the Coast Guard and DRI officials intercepted a fishing boat 'Sailor' with five fishermen off the Tamil Nadu coast and seized the gold concealed in a bag, a press release said. Initial investigations revealed that the boat with the contraband was proceeding from Gulf of Mannar to Marakkayar Patti near Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district, the release said. The gold weighed nine kgs and worth ₹4.50 crore, it said. The fishermen were apprehended and further investigations on, the release said.

**ASSAM RESUMES ANTI-CAA AGITATIONS**

**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
GUWAHATI, DEC. 11

A group of 18 organisations led by Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) here on Friday organised a massive protest at Sivasagar in Upper Assam and threatened to intensify agitation against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) all over the state.

All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has also decided to revive the anti-CAA protests from Saturday by starting 'Gono Hoonkar', meaning public outcry, the agitation aims to press for repealing of the act.

AASU general secretary Shankar Jyoti Baruah said, "The government has to repeal the CAA—an anti-Assam law that has already taken the lives of five Assamese citizens including innocent students during the agitation last year. The families of the five martyrs and AASU will continue to seek justice." The students' unions in Assam had launched a protest against the CAA after it was passed by Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Parliament.

**UZBEKISTAN TO JOIN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)**

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

In a major development, Uzbekistan has agreed "in-principle" to India's request to join the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), an important initiative taken by India, Russia and Iran to promote transportation cooperation and to enhance connectivity with central Asian countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

The INSTC is the "shortest multimodal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf via Iran to Russia and North Europe". The "in-principle concurrence" of Uzbekistan was convened by the Central Asian country at a Virtual Summit between the two nations on Friday co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. India had maintained that Uzbekistan's participation in the project would add to the "overall improvement of connectivity in the larger Eurasian space".

**VIGILANCE PROBE AGAINST SACKED BJD LEGISLATOR**

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC**  
BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 11

Odisha Lokayukta on Friday directed the state Vigilance Directorate to investigate the corruption allegation levelled against expelled BJD leader and Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi. The Lokayukta asked the Vigilance to submit a report within two months after preliminary investigation.

On December 7, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had recommended the Lokayukta for a probe into the corruption charges against Panigrahi, who is currently lodged at Jharpada jail after his bail plea was rejected by Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court on December 3.

This was the first case of corruption allegation that has been referred to Odisha Lokayukta by the state government after its formation.

# Centre, WB engage in power play

West Bengal refuses to let its chief secretary, DGP go to Delhi after MHA summons them

## Dhankhar asks Mamata PM talks to Nadda, Vijayvargiya

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, DEC. 11

A day after Trinamul Congress workers' violent attack on BJP president J.P. Nadda's convoy at Diamond Harbour in West Bengal, the Union home ministry on Friday morning summoned top two bureaucrats of the Mamata Banerjee government to New Delhi on December 14. The MHA's move, however, infuriated the Trinamul supremo and the state government has decided not to allow the two bureaucrats to go to Delhi, saying that the issue is being dealt with.

Nadda's convoy had come under attack in the Lok Sabha constituency of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

State chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and director general of police Virendra were directed to meet Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla at 12.15 pm on Monday to "discuss the law and order situation, including the incidents regarding certain Z-category proteetees" in the poll-bound state.

On Friday afternoon, Bandyopadhyay wrote a letter to Bhalla, assuring him of the state government's "elaborate arrangements for security coverage" which included a pilot and a bullet proof car for Nadda in his convoy and a large deployment of

police force led by the deputy inspector general of the range.

He, however, argued, "The tagging of many vehicles to the protected convoys made the situation unwieldy, because typically, security authorities are to handle a protected convoy of a few vehicles only, and not with/in the presence of so many other vehicles which got

**THE GOVERNOR** says it is dangerous that she is using the word 'outsider'. India is one nation. We all are Indians. We believe in one Constitution. The CM is not above the Constitution. She must not call who is an outsider or an insider. Such a comment from her side is unwarranted, shameful and painful. Madam Chief Minister, please don't play with the fire.

Senior TMC MP Sougata Roy, however, rejected Dhankhar's demand of an apology from the CM.

"The question of Banerjee's apology does not arise. Why does the Governor feel so much anguish over a comment against the BJP chief? Is he a BJP representative?" he asked.

She added, "What happened was most unfortu-

nate. I once again make an appeal to her to withdraw her video with an apology."

On Thursday afternoon Banerjee had told a rally, "They (BJP) have no other work. Sometimes the Union home minister comes here. Otherwise its Chaddha, Nadda, Fadda, Bhaddha who are here. And when they do not have an audience, they call their workers for doing Nautanki."

Senior TMC MP Sougata Roy, however, rejected Dhankhar's demand of an apology from the CM.

"The question of Banerjee's apology does not arise. Why does the Governor feel so much anguish over a comment against the BJP chief? Is he a BJP representative?" he asked.

Many senior BJP leaders

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

from the state, including Mukul Roy, Anupam Hazra and many MPs were also the convoy when it came under attack allegedly from the ruling TMC cadre on Thursday.

Abhishek Banerjee, chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's nephew.

While Banerjee termed the incident as "nautanki," the BJP claimed that the state has "descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness" under the TMC rule.

The convoy of BJP leaders was pelted with stones when they were on their way to attend a party event in Diamond Harbour, which is the Lok Sabha constituency of

**MANY SENIOR BJP** leaders from the state, including Mukul Roy,

Anupam Hazra and many MPs were also the convoy when it came under attack allegedly from the ruling TMC cadre on Thursday.

Abhishek Banerjee, chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's nephew.

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"We need to revisit Schedule VII of the Constitution in a more fundamental way," Singh said while speaking at FICCI's Annual Convention and 93rd AGM.

Singh said the Commission on Centre-state relations, headed by Justice M.M. Punchhi, had in 2010 recommended that there should be a consultation process between the Union and states via an Interstate Council for legislation on concurrent subjects. It was of the opinion that the Union should only transfer those subjects into the concurrent list which were central to achieving demonstrable national interest, he said.

received an adverse report from Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on "serious security lapses" on part of the state police which led to the brazen attack on Thursday leaving two senior BJP leaders, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Mukul Roy, who were in Nadda's convoy, injured.

Sources said that Shah may visit the state on December 19-20.



## COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)

Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

### Advt. No. 03/2020

CSIR is looking for Director, CSIR-SERC, Chennai; CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad and; CSIR-NPL, New Delhi

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davp 36202/11/0021/2021



Farmers gather in large numbers at Singhu border during their Delhi Chalo protest march against the Centres new farm laws, in New Delhi on Friday.

## BJP to hold awareness drive on farm bills

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

With the Modi government unwilling to buckle under farmer unions pressure to repeal the recently passed three farm sector legislations, the ruling BJP has decided to take the three laws to the farmers across the country by organising 'chaupsals' and press conferences.

Despite the deadlock between the Centre and the farmers unions, mainly from Punjab, continuing even after series of talks between representatives from both sides, the government is hopeful that to "find a solution to the issues raised by the agitating farmers." But, with the farmer unions showing no sign of relenting, the BJP has decided to hold atleast 700 press conferences & 700 'chaupsals' till the district levels to "dispel the myth and propaganda" against the three laws.

The party has also activated its social media team and supporters to explain why the three laws were enacted, why the reforms were needed in the agri sector and how its political opponents are "trying to mislead the farmers for their political interest."

The party has also asked its social media teams and cadre to highlight how opposition parties, including the Congress, had proposed the same reforms regarding AP-MCs, contract farming and some other issues.

## Farmers move SC against agri laws

**SANJAY KAW | DC**  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

As the deadlock between the Centre and agitating farmers drags on over the repeal of three farm laws, a farmers' union has challenged the new agriculture laws in the Supreme Court. The Bhartiya Kisan Union moved a petition in the apex court on Thursday claiming that the new laws will lead to commercialisation and throw farmers at the mercy of corporates. The petition also said that a "rail roko" agitation would begin soon.

While both sides are adamant on their posi-

tion, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday asked the farmers to stop their agitation in the "interest of the common people" and take the path of discussion. He said that the Central government has sent their proposal to the farmers' unions, adding that they have not yet responded.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, however, said that the government is "falsely claiming that the farmers' organisations have gone back on talks and should not have intensified their agitation at a time when talks are on." In a statement, the AIKSCC said the farmers' organisations are always ready for talks and have responded each time the government has called them. "It is the government which is adamant on not repealing the three Acts," they said.

After rejecting the Centre's draft proposal offering amendments to the three laws, the farmer leaders said on Thursday that they would soon announce a date for blocking railway tracks across the country. The protesting farmers have planned to intensify their agitation over the next few days by blocking highways leading to Delhi, gheraoing BJP

leaders and offices and taking out another "Delhi Chalo" march on Monday.

Farmers leaders have also been requesting more and more supporters to join the protests to increase pressure on the Centre for the withdrawal of the new laws. The Aam Aadmi Party has already decided to join the protests. In a statement on Friday, the party said, "In solidarity with the call given by farmers, AAP would lay siege to district headquarters across Punjab on December 14 against the new agrarian laws introduced by the Modi government at the Centre."

The party has also asked its social media teams and cadre to highlight how opposition parties, including the Congress, had proposed the same reforms regarding AP-MCs, contract farming and some other issues.

## Device will help user to detect, engage targets effectively

## Special forces get a CornerShot boost

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

Counter-insurgency operations by special forces across the country are all set to get a major boost with the Centre procuring CornerShot devices to be used with Glock pistols.

The CornerShot, which provides its operator the ability to observe and engage targets from behind cover, will minimise casualties and gunshot wounds during counter-insurgency operations or hostile situations.

The ministry of home affairs (MHA) recently

cleared the proposal and orders for the state-of-the-art weapons system is to be placed shortly.

CornerShot will enable the user to detect and engage targets effectively, using traverse firing in day or night. It also allows its user to see and fire around corners. It will go a long way in preventing and minimising casualties as the user will not be exposed to return fire by the enemy," a senior police official told Deccan Chronicle.

Though CornerShot systems are being used for training purposes, this will be the first time that personnel in the



CRPF, BSF and other forces will be using them in their Glock pistols.

The CornerShot weapon system consists of two joined sections. The front portion holds the pistol along with the camera and other features including tactical LED light, laser device besides other attachments. The rear section houses the operating features, monitor, controls and has a foldable butt.

Among other countries, Israel has been a leading manufacturer of CornerShot systems that are used by military special forces and counter-terrorism units across the world.

They mostly use it for their Beretta and Glock pistols.

"CornerShots that are being purchased will

have a visible laser indicator with zeroing mechanism for range not less than 15 metres under clear starlight night conditions. The CornerShot lever allows the operator to quickly swivel the weapon system up to 60 degrees in either direction and turn it back to straight just as quickly," another official involved in anti-insurgency operations explained.

The CornerShot system is already in use for the Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers at the prestigious Sardar Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

"CornerShots that are being purchased will

be available online on the e-procurement portal <https://mfpfederation.abprocure.com> only. The tender notice along with tender form, tenderer's agreement, lot list and other Annexure may be downloaded from 26.12.2020 from Federation's above mentioned website and e-Procurement portal <https://mfpfederation.abprocure.com> only. Amendments/Notices will be available on above website and e-Procurement portal.

For any assistance in e-tendering please contact our service provider E-Procurement Technologies Ltd., Ahmedabad On following contact details Phone No. : 079 35022180/35022167/68136871/6854/6848/6849/6850, 908100427, 9374519729, 6353217080, 9081003339 Fax : 079 4001 6816 E-Mail : nandan.v@eptl.in, nikhil@eptl.in, sonu@abprocure.com, himalay@abprocure.com, info@abprocure.com & support@abprocure.com Shri Nandan Valera (0908100427) M.P. Madhyam/99179/2020

MANAGING DIRECTOR दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरी।

## NK: MUST REVISIT 7TH SCHEDULE OF CONSTITUTION

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh on Friday underlined the need for revisiting the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, which specifies allocation of powers between the Centre and states, in view of changes in technology and national priorities.

The Seventh Schedule has three lists—Union, state and concurrent. While the Centre can make laws on subjects specified in the Union list, the state governments have jurisdiction over items in the state list. Both the Centre and states can make laws for subjects in the concurrent list, but the Union's law will prevail in case of conflict.

"We need to revisit Schedule VII of the Constitution in a more fundamental way," Singh said while speaking at FICCI's Annual Convention and 93rd AGM.

Singh said the Commission on Centre-state relations, headed by Justice M.M. Punchhi, had in 2010 recommended that there should be a consultation process between the Union and states via an Interstate Council for legislation on concurrent subjects. It was of the opinion that the Union should only transfer those subjects into the concurrent list which were central to achieving demonstrable national interest, he said.</

**SHORT TAKES**  
**BIDEN, HARRIS TIME**  
**'2020' PERSON OF THE YEAR**

New York: US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris have been named by the prestigious *Time* magazine as '2020 Person of the Year' for changing the American story, showing that the forces of empathy are greater than the furies of division and sharing a vision of healing in a grieving world.

It named the Democratic leaders for its annual prestigious honour, choosing them over other finalists — frontline health care workers, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr Anthony Fauci, the Movement for Racial Justice and US President Donald Trump.

**INDIAN AMONG 3 HELD IN \$3MN FRAUD CASE IN US**

Washington, Dec. 11: An Indian-American from Michigan has been arrested along with two others on charges of conspiring to defraud at least 43 victims of more than \$3 million through the sale of phony business opportunities, a US attorney has said. David Weinstein, 61, Vijay Vanam Reddy, 45, and Kevin Brown, 61, have been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Reddy on Thursday made an appearance in a Detroit federal court. Brown and Weinstein were arrested on December 8. Brown was released on \$50,000 bond and Weinstein a day later. From September 2015 through August 2018, the three advertised business opportunities for sale on various websites. They purported to sell "blocks" of contracts with medical providers who allegedly wanted to outsource their medical billing, collections, appeals, answering, credentialing or transcription functions.

# Britain, EU gear up as 'no-deal' Brexit looms

**British Prime Minister admits Sunday deadline for next discussion does not hold out great promise**

## EU leaders agree climate deal, budget after wrangles

Brussels, Dec. 11: European Union leaders on Friday agreed an ambitious target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions after unlocking the bloc's landmark budget and Coronavirus recovery fund at a marathon summit.

The 27 member states struck a deal on a binding target to slash emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 following an entire night of intense wrangling in Brussels.

The fight was over how the cost of the effort should be shared across the countries: highly dependent on coal, Poland — allied with several

TURKEY ON Friday called on the European Union to act as an 'honest mediator' in its dispute with EU members Greece and Cyprus over the exploration of gas reserves in the Mediterranean, after European leaders approved expanding sanctions against Ankara.

Eastern European countries — fears serious economic consequences and demanded details on the aid it would receive.

"Europe is the leader in the fight against climate change," European Council president and summit host Charles Michel declared on Twitter.

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted an appeal for action now the target was agreed, insisting: "Let's do everything to succeed. Now. All together. Because there is no plan B!" As part of its commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement, the EU has pledged to become climate-neutral by 2050, the date when it would offset or capture more greenhouse gas than it emits. — AFP

## UK businesses want Brexit deal as trade remains stuck

London, Dec. 11: British trucking firms, supermarkets and other businesses on Friday implored the government to strike a last-minute trade deal with the European Union, as the two sides' leaders told their citizens to brace for New Year upheaval in the UK-EU trading relationship.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said there is a "strong possibility" that negotiations on a

new economic relationship to take effect Jan. 1 will fail. Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have set a Sunday deadline to decide whether to keep talking or prepare for a no-deal break.

"We have not yet found the solutions to bridge our differences," von der Leyen said Friday at an EU summit in Brussels. "We will decide on Sunday whether we have the con-

ditions for an agreement or not." Either way, she said, "in less than three weeks, it will be new beginnings for old friends."

Britain left the EU on January 31 but has continued to follow the bloc's rules during a transition period that lasts until the end of the year. Months of talks on a future trade deal have failed to bridge the gaps on three issues — fishing rights.

Under current restrictions implemented at the

# Carbon emission down 7% in Covid

Paris, Dec. 11: Carbon emissions fell a record seven percent in 2020 as countries imposed lockdowns and restrictions on movement during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Global Carbon Project said Friday in its annual assessment.

The fall of an estimated 2.4 billion tonnes is considerably larger than previous annual record declines, such as 0.9 billion tonnes at the end of World War II or 0.5 billion tonnes in 2009 at the height of the financial crisis.

The international team

of researchers behind the report said emissions from fossil fuels and industry would be around 34 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent this year — still a significant chunk of Earth's remaining "carbon budget".

Emissions reductions were most pronounced in the United States (down 12 percent) and the European Union (down 11 percent), the Global Carbon Project said.

In China, however, it said emissions would likely fall in 2020 just 1.7 percent as Beijing superpowered its

economic recovery. By sector, emissions from transport accounted for the largest share of the global decrease, with emissions from car journeys falling by roughly half at the peak of the first Covid-19 wave in April.

By December emissions from road transport had fallen 10 percent year-on-year and emissions from aviation were down 40 percent. Emissions from industry — 22 percent of the global total — were down 30 percent in some countries with the strongest lockdown measures. — AFP

**BIDEN'S CABINET GIVES DISTINCT OBAMA FEEL**

Washington, Dec. 11: President-elect Joe Biden is getting the old gang back together. Increasingly deep into the process of selecting Cabinet members and other senior staff, the incoming Biden administration has a distinctly Obama feel.

There's Denis McDonough, former President Barack Obama's chief of staff who Biden announced on Thursday would be nominated as the secretary of veterans affairs. Susan Rice, Obama's former national security adviser, was named the director of Biden's White House Domestic Policy Council.

That's on top of Biden already tapping Obama's agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, to head the department once again, former Secretary of State John Kerry to serve as special envoy on climate and Kerry's Obama-era deputy Antony Blinken to lead the State Department. — PTI

## Germany plans for tougher lockdown

Berlin, Dec. 11: Calls grew on Friday for tougher lockdown measures in Germany as the country's disease control center reported record daily increases in both Coronavirus cases and deaths.

The Robert Koch Institute said the country's 16 states reported 29,875 new cases of Covid-19, breaking the previous daily record of 23,679 cases reported the day before.

beginning of November as numbers were growing exponentially, restaurants, bars, leisure and sports facilities have been closed to tourists, but schools and nonessential shops have remained open.

The numbers had plateaued — but at high daily levels — and have again been rising in recent days. That prompted Chancellor Angela Merkel this week to call on state governments, which are responsible for imposing and lifting restrictions, to consider closing schools early before Christmas and other measures.

— AP

# LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 12 DECEMBER 2020

## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	46,099.01
Nifty 50	13,513.85
S&P 500*	3,639.00
Dollar (₹)	73.64
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.75
Euro (₹)	89.31
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,594▼102
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	50.03
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.956
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.883
	-0.025

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Gems & jewellery sector pares debt by 26% to \$7.7 bn

The gems & jewellery sector has cut its outstanding debt by 26 per cent to \$7.75 bn in 18 months. The industry has faced difficulties in securing credit in the wake of a few bank fraud cases, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council chairman Colin Shah said. "The gross bank debt of India's gems and jewellery industry has reduced by a healthy rate of 26 per cent from \$10.44 bn in March 2019 to \$7.75 bn in October 2020."

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## Carlsberg, SABMiller, UB in the dock Beer cartel faces hefty CCI penalty

ADITYA KALRA  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11



Top executives of Carlsberg, SABMiller and United Breweries (UB) exchanged commercially sensitive information and colluded to fix beer prices in India for over 11 years, according to a government antitrust investigation report seen by Reuters.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) in 2018 raided the offices of the three brewers and started an inquiry. The investigation's findings—which are not a final judgment of wrongdoing—cast a shadow on the brewers, which account for 88 per cent of the country's \$7 billion beer market.

Senior CCI members will consider the report, drafted in March, as they decide on fines, which could exceed \$250 million, two sources familiar with the case said. The CCI members could agree with or dispute the findings of its investigation team.

Executives' conversations, WhatsApp messages and e-mails contained in the report show the companies regularly and collectively strategised in seeking price increases in "several states", forging a cartel the CCI said gave them more bargaining power with state authorities.

The companies also used the All-India Brewers Association (Aiba) as a "common platform" to decide collectively on prices; and the local group then lobbied on the compa-

nies' behalf for price increases, the CCI report found.

At least thrice executives exchanged messages urging one another to keep their plans quiet, the report showed.

"We should avoid getting caught," Aiba's director general wrote in an e-mail in 2016 to executives of the three companies.

The brewers coordinated to "manipulate the government machinery" and "were well-aware that their collective approach through the association (Aiba) was violating" competition law, the 248-page CCI report said. The report concluded the cartel existed between 2007 and October 2018.

The CCI did not respond to Reuters' queries. Aiba and Carlsberg declined to comment, citing ongoing CCI proceedings.

"The collusion... has been mostly through the highest level of management in these companies," the report said, including managing directors, vice presidents, and sales and marketing heads.

— Reuters

## UAE's Lulu Group to set up food unit in J&K

Dubai, Dec. 11: The UAE-based Lulu Group International plans to set up a food processing centre in Sri-nagar for sourcing agri products from Jammu and Kashmir.

The plan was revealed by Lulu Group chairman Yusufali M.A. on Thursday to a Jammu and Kashmir delegation led by principal secretary (agriculture production & horticulture) Navin Kumar Choudhary.

"As per the commitment made during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UAE in 2019, Lulu Group is fully focused on sourcing a wide range of agri products from J&K," Yusufali said.

Currently, Lulu imports apples and saffron from Kashmir and imports will significantly increase in the coming years. The group imported more than 400 tonnes of Kashmiri apples till date, according to an official statement.

Yusufali said the Lulu group is one of the leading importers of food and non-food products from India and setting up a new food processing and logistics centre will further boost export of Kashmiri products to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and other countries.

Choudhary welcomed the Lulu Group initiative to host a J&K special fortnight at its super markets across the Gulf region on the occasion of Republic Day-2021.—PTI

## Industrial output rises 3.6% in October

FC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

With an upward growth in most sectors, especially manufacturing, electricity and consumer durables, the industrial output, or the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), for October registered 3.6 per cent growth, according to government data released on Friday.

This is the second consecutive month when IIP data remained in positive territory after six months of contraction. The IIP was up 0.5 per cent in September.

The manufacturing sector, which has a weightage of 77.6 per cent in the IIP, recorded a growth of 3.5 per cent in October.

In line with the Reserve



Bank of India's expectation, the October IIP number showed a sign of healing the economy. However, for the April-October period, industrial production contracted 17.5 per cent against 0.1 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

The October IIP growth was mostly driven by the electricity sector. The electricity sector grew 11.2 per cent, while the manufacturing sector jumped by 3.5 per cent year-on-year.

The output of capital goods—a barometer of investment—grew 3.3 per cent in October. There was a contraction of 22.4 per cent in the year-ago month.

## Home prices fall 2.4% in India

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, DEC. 11

Home have become more affordable in the Indian market in the last one year with prices dropping by 2.4 per cent. The demand for housing units have also gone up during the period.

Property consultants Knight Frank India says India has come down seven places in the Global House Price Index, as residential prices have dropped 2.4 per cent for the 12-month period and six-month period to September end. Prices were down 0.5 per cent for

the September quarter compared to June quarter. This led to India moving down to 54th place on the index in Q3 2020 against 47th rank in Q3 2019.

The demand for housing units jumped in India as well. Home sales volume jumped in top eight cities by 2.5 times to 33,403 units in Q3 2020 compared to 9,632 in Q2 2020. New residential unit launches increased by 4.5 times to 31,106 units in Q3 2020, compared to 5,584 units in the previous quarter.

Knight Frank said mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide saw an average 4.5 per cent price correction in the September quarter. Around 16 per cent of the surveyed global countries and territories registered a decline in yearly price growth.

In Q3 2020, India, Ireland, Spain and Hong Kong witnessed the weakest price growth year-on-year.

Turkey led the index for the third consecutive quarter with annual price growth of 27 per cent. New Zealand with 15 per cent price rise jumped from 11th to second place between Q2 and Q3 as the country saw demand increase post-lockdown.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Verstappen is at maximum speed**

**Yas Island (Abu Dhabi):** Max Verstappen posted the fastest time Friday in the first practice for the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The Red Bull driver was 0.34 seconds ahead of Mercedes rival Valtteri Bottas and 1.14 seconds quicker than Renault driver Esteban Ocon. Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton returned for Mercedes after recovering from the Coronavirus and had the fifth fastest time. He struggled early in the session with a brake sensor issue which needed fixing in the team garage. A second practice will be held later Friday at the Yas Marina circuit. — AP

**Joshua, Pulev on the boil at weigh-in**

**London:** Anthony Joshua warned Kubrat Pulev he faces "the real one" in Saturday's world heavyweight title bout in London as the pair almost came to blows at the weigh-in. Former Olympic champion Joshua defends his IBF, WBA and WBO belts at Wembley Arena against the veteran Bulgarian in front of 1,000 fans due to Coronavirus restrictions. The two men have been scheduled to fight twice before but both times the bout was postponed — in 2017 Pulev was injured and Covid-19 put paid to a planned fight in June. But the 39-year-old, nicknamed "The Cobra," boasts an impressive 28-1 record — his only defeat came in a world title fight against Wladimir Klitschko in 2014. "Many years I've been in boxing and seen a lot fighters talk a lot of rubbish, then they get smacked up," Joshua told Sky Sports. — AFP

**Tennis great Alex dies at 84**

**Santa Monica, USA:** Alex Olmedo, who won the Wimbledon and Australian Championships singles titles in 1959 and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987, has died. He was 84. Citing Olmedo's son, Alejandro Jr., the Hall of Fame said Thursday that Olmedo died of brain cancer on Wednesday. Alejandro Alex Olmedo was born in Peru in 1936 and moved to the United States as a teenager. He went to the University of Southern California, where he won NCAA tennis championships in singles and doubles in both 1956 and 1958. Olmedo played in the Davis Cup for the United States and led the team to the trophy in 1958, when he also paired with Ham Richardson to win the doubles title at the U.S. National Championships, the tournament now known as the U.S. Open. — AP

**Hyderabad hold Mohun Bagan 1-1**

**Margao:** Hyderabad FC rode on Joao Victor's second half penalty to hold ATK Mohun Bagan to a 1-1 draw, maintaining their unbeaten run in the Indian Super League, here on Friday. The duo of Roy Krishna and Manvir Singh looked threatening up front but missed a flurry of chances, while veteran Subrata Pal pulled off some fine saves under the Hyderabad post to keep a clean score-sheet in the first-half. Manvir finally broke the deadlock in the 54th minute capitalising on a defensive lapse by Odei Onaindia. But the Mariners' joy lasted just over 10 minutes as they conceded a soft penalty after Nikhil Poojary was brought down by Manvir with a faint touch. — PTI

**Live on TV**

**CRICKET**  
Australia 'A' vs India: Day 2 from 9 am on Sony Six, HD  
**BIG Bash League:** Melbourne Stars vs Sydney Thunder from 10.35 am; Melbourne Renegades vs Perth Scorchers from 1.45 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

**FOOTBALL**  
English Premier League: Wolverhampton vs Aston Villa from 6 pm; Newcastle vs West Brom from 8.30 pm; Manchester United vs Manchester City from 11 pm; Everton vs Chelsea from 1.30 am (Sunday) on Star Sports Select 1, HD

**Italian League:** Crotone vs Spezia from 7.30 pm; Torino vs Udinese from 10.30 pm; Lazio vs Verona from 1.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD  
**Indian Super League:** Odisha vs Goa from 7.20 pm on Star Sports 2, 3

**FORMULA ONE**  
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix: Practice 3 from 3.25 pm; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

# Hitman is fit for Tests

Rohit clears fitness test at NCA, to leave for Australia on Dec. 14

New Delhi, Dec. 11: Senior India batsman Rohit Sharma on Friday cleared an eagerly-watched fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and will leave for Australia on December 14, three days before the start of the marquee Test series against the world's number one team.

Rohit had sustained a hamstring injury during the Indian Premier League (IPL) held in the United Arab Emirates, which led to him missing the white-ball leg of the ongoing tour. He is also out of reckoning for the first two Tests but can

now be there for the last two games.

"Rohit has cleared the fitness Test and will soon be flying out to Australia," a senior BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

Rohit's fitness test took place under the supervision of National Cricket Academy director Rahul Dravid, who is entrusted with the responsibility of giving him his fitness certificate.

As per the Australian government's rules, the star batsman will have to undergo a mandatory 14 days of hard quarantine before being able to train for the last two Tests in Sydney (January 7 to 11)

and Brisbane (January 15 to 19).

He is flying straight to Sydney and will get a week's training there.

There had been confu-

sion around Rohit's status over the past few weeks. Captain Virat Kohli spoke about a lack of clarity on the issue that has been full of

intrigue ever since he injured his left hamstring during a league match while playing for Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

The injury, which forced him out of four IPL games, prompted the national selectors to not consider him for the Australian tour.

Omitted from the squad for the much-anticipated tour, he soon returned to lead his franchise in the remainder of the lucrative league, adding to the curiosity.

On November 9, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) provided an update on his status, saying the

selectors had kept Rohit out of only the limited-overs leg for him to "regain full fitness" for the Test series.

But the white-ball vice-captain came to Mumbai instead of travelling straight to Australia with his national teammates after leading Indians to IPL title triumph in the UAE.

The BCCI then issued another press release on November 26, a day after Kohli claimed he did not know why Rohit had not done his rehab in Australia, stating that the reason behind the opener coming back to India was his father's illness.

— PTI

## Coded messages smart: Donald

BY BIPIN DANI

Former South African pace bowler Allan Donald believes that England computer analyst's idea of sending coded messages to the team captain Eoin Morgan on the field of play during the 3rd ODI against South Africa was "harmless" to the game.

England analyst Nathan Leamon was seen hanging a series of coded messages from the team balcony — in combinations of letters and numbers — for the players out in the middle.

Speaking exclusively over the telephone from South Africa, he said, "the idea has come from the game of rugby and I don't see anything wrong in it. I don't think these coded messages had anything to do with the referrals".

"Two decorative gentlemen (Donald was referring to Sunil Gavaskar

and VVS Laxman) have criticised the innovation but I am sure these coded messages had no influence on the referrals."

In fact, Donald himself admitted that there was an attempt by his coach to use technology to help the players on the field.

"In the 1999 World Cup in the UK, our coach (Bob Woolmer) was in contact with our captain (Hansie Cronje) and myself in certain scenarios and

## BUMRAH HITS MAIDEN 50 IN WARM-UP TIE

MCC MONITORING

### MCC MONITORING

Following the relaying of signals from the dressing room balcony during the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has been monitoring the situation as guardians of the laws of the game.

"Currently, there is no provision for this in the Laws and at this stage, MCC sees the issue as falling under International Cricket Council (ICC) jurisdiction in terms of their Playing Conditions, as

relaying information from coaching staff is not an event that will take place at all levels of the game," Fraser Stewart, Lord's Indoor Cricket Centre Manager, told this correspondent.

"The event will be discussed in due course by the MCC Laws sub-committee, and by the Club's Cricket committee and World Cricket committee next year," he further added.

Sydney, Dec. 11: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah headlined the opening day's play with a maiden first-class fifty and then chipped in with a couple of wickets in an impressive bowling effort putting India in the driver's seat against Australia in the pink ball warm-up game on Friday.

With his unbeaten 55 off 57 balls, Bumrah was the top-scorer for the visitors, who folded for a disappointing 194 in 48.3 overs at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The Indians however came back strongly with the ball to bundle out Australia 'A' for 108 at stumps.

**Brief scores:** Day 1, India 'A' 194 in 48.3 overs (Shubman Gill 43, Bumrah not out 55; Wildermuth 3/13) vs Australia 'A' 108 in 32.2 overs (Alex Carey 32; Md Shami 3/29, Navdeep Saini 3/19, Bumrah 2/33). — PTI

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A shot of the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples, Italy, before the start of Napoli's Europa League match against Real Sociedad on Thursday. — AP

## Napoli play 1st match at Maradona stadium

**Naples (Italy), Dec. 11:** Napoli kicked off a new era, playing the first game in their stadium since it was renamed in honour of club legend Diego Maradona.

The match at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona was a Europa League clash against Spanish club Real Sociedad which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Argentina football great and former Napoli star Maradona died two weeks ago aged 60. He lead the club to their only league titles in 1987 and 1990 and the UEFA Cup in 1989.

"Being here, inside the Diego Armando Maradona stadium, is a great honour," Napoli sporting director Cristiano Giuntoli said before kick-off.

A minute's silence was also held before the game in memory of Italy 1982 World Cup winner Paolo Rossi who died early Thursday aged 64 years.

Rossi inspired Italy in the 1982 tournament in Spain where he was the top scorer with six goals, including a hat-trick in the 3-2 defeat of Brazil. He also scored twice against Poland and the semi-finals and the opening goal in the 3-1 draw.

The players wore his number ten for a minute's silence in a Europa League game the day after the legendary Maradona's death.

— AFP

### Leaps and bounds



A Croatian player goes for goal during the match against Romania at the European Women's Handball Championship played at the Sydbank Arena in Kolding, Denmark. Croatia came from behind to beat Romania 25-20 in the first match of the second phase to confirm their place at the top of Group II with 6 points. In the second half, Croatia managed to hold their lead and win by five goals to record their fourth win in a row. Valentina Blazevic was Croatia's top scorer with 7 goals. In other matches, Russia defeated Montenegro 24-23; France sneaked past Spain 26-25 and Norway nailed Netherlands 32-25.

Wellingtton, Dec. 11: New Zealand's Henry Nicholls rode his luck to post a crucial century as the hosts, weakened by the loss of Kane Williamson, survived a shaky start to reach 294 for six on day one of the second Test against the West Indies on Friday.

Nicholls snapped a 21-month string of low scores with his sixth Test century. At stumps, he was 117 not out. From being on the ropes at 78 for 3, Nicholls said New Zealand now considered 400 would be "a good result". — AFP

Brief scores (Day 1): New Zealand 294/6 in 84 overs (Henry Nicholls not out 117, Shannon Gabriel 3/57) vs West Indies.

## GLITTER OF INDIA

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