

OTHER STORIES

SRILAKSHMI
TO JOIN AP
SERVICES SOONDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Senior IAS officer Y. Srilakshmi to join the Andhra Pradesh government service shortly.

The Telangana government has relieved her from its service, and she will join the AP service on deputation, and she is awaiting for the issue of posting orders.

Earlier, she was embroiled in the illegal mining controversy of Obulapuram Mining Company in 2011-12.

However, she was acquitted of the charges of graft subsequently. She met Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at his Camp Office earlier to seek his favour to serve in AP government on deputation. She even tried to go for Central service earlier.

HC FINDS FAULT
WITH STATE FOR
SELLING ASSETSDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

AP High Court asked the state government whether there was any financial emergency declared in the country referring to the state government's move to sell its assets to mobilise funds.

The HC held a hearing on Friday on a petition filed by social activist Thota Suresh Babu seeking a stay order on state's move to sell its assets under Mission Build AP programme.

The court, in a sarcastic manner, commented that the guzzlers who purchased liquor at a high rate during the Covid-19 times have to be thanked for their contribution with a good income to the state for its welfare.

However, the government counsel informed the court that the state government had been initiating a series of welfare schemes benefitting a large number of people in the state.

Later, the court directed the government to file a counter affidavit on the petitions filed on the issue and adjourned the case for next hearing on December 17.

MALARIA DEPT
TAKES UP VECTOR
CONTROL OPS

FROM PAGE 1

The malaria department took up vector control operations like anti-larva and anti-adult, besides conducting SERO surveys.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, district malaria officer B. Venugopal said that the special cleanliness drives taken up by authorities are helping for the massive drop in the numbers of patients reporting with seasonal diseases. He said, the campaign of 'Friday as dry day' and educating people on mosquito breeding sources and measures to eradicate it, also helped in the decline.

"The state government has recently introduced a mosquito control app, using which the ANMs can capture mosquito breeding sources and upload them in the app. Subsequently, village/ward health secretaries concerned will address the issue and upload a photo in the same app, which has to be approved by the ANM if satisfied. This application yielded better results in controlling sources for the vector borne diseases," he noted.

RAYALASEEMA
MOVEMENT NEVER
STOPPED: MYSOORADC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, DEC. 11

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

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

Need to find root cause
of mysterious illness: CM

Officials instructed to take action on sellers of banned pesticides

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy felt the need to find out the root cause of mystery illness and called for initiating requisite measures to avoid recurrence of such illness.

The CM held a virtual review meeting with several central agencies from his Camp Office on Friday. Referring to the findings of several Central agencies based on test reports of various samples, he emphasised the need to take up in-depth investigation into considering all the factors to explore the reason for such illness.

The CM directed the officials to take all requisite measures to control the usage of pesticides and asked them to encourage the farmers to use organic pesticides or manure to raise the crops. He instructed the officials to take stern action against those who sell banned pesticides and chemicals.

He asked the officials to bring about awareness among the farmers on methods of natural farming. He directed them to keep all requisite tools and implements in the purview of Rythu Bharosa Kendras to promote such farming in a big way.

NEERI informed that it had collected groundwater samples and analysing them to find out the presence of any harmful chemicals.

AP municipal administration authorities informed that out of 100 samples of drinking water collected and tested, they found no presence of heavy metals, organochlorine and organophosphorus.

● The Chief Minister asked the officials to bring about awareness among the farmers on methods of natural farming

AP UNWILLING TO
LET SEC HOLD
POLLS

From page 1

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.

TULASI: DON'T
LINK WITH CASTE
FOR SCHEMESDC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, DEC. 10

Congress working president Dr N. Tulasi Reddy said that the non-distribution of sheep and goats to the Upper Caste poor under the Jagananna Jeevakranthi Scheme was atrocious.

He spoke to reporters on Friday in Vempalle, Kadapa district. He questioned why it was not distributed to the upper caste poor like Kapu, Telaga, Balija, Ontari, Reddy, Kamma, Velama, Brahmin, Vaishya, Kshatriya etc. He said that financial assistance was not being provided to the upper caste poor women under the Cheyuta scheme.

Mr Reddy said that under the Amul-AP milking scheme, cattle were not even distributed to them. He also explained that the YSR wedding gift scheme and farmer assurance were not available to the top tenant farmers.

Families begin to
move out of Eluru

from Page 1

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 consuming 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. He said that so far the illness was not identified and named. He also said that medical camps were to be continued in the town.

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 K. Krishna Srinivas stated that the state government would come up with an action plan after getting test reports from all the agencies involved in finding out the reason for mystery illness, in order to curb its recurrence and spread to other parts in the state.

Meanwhile, it was noticed that some families started moving out of Eluru town fearing that they might fall victim to the mystery illness. However, the Dy CM advised the people not to believe rumours on the illness.

Rajamahendravaram MP Margani Bharat instructed the Municipal Corporation Officials to collect water samples and send quality tests, in the aftermath of registering mysterious illness cases at Eluru. He said that the samples should be sent to the Central Water Commission and Krishna Godavari Basin labs as a precautionary measure.

He also suggested the several departments like Rural Water Supply, Irrigation, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Drug Control and other officials to take samples from their respective departmental functions and make tests. He said that if any residues are found, immediately, they should alert the state government immediately.

Jagan to launch mega lands
resurvey programme on Dec. 21DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to launch the mega lands re-survey programme in Takkellapadu of Jaggayyapeta mandal on December 21.

Minister for revenue Dharamana Krishna Das launched the workshop on lands re-surveying here on Friday.

The minister said that the mega land re-surveying is a historical programme which is being done after 100 years and affirmed that the government is taking all measures for the flawless re-survey hence conducting workshops to the officials and staff.

Mr Das said that the State Survey Department had issued a notification to re-survey lands in the state and following this, the district collectors will give notification in the villages where the re-survey will take place.

He stated that the date survey which was carried out in Takkellapadu village of Jaggayyapeta mandal in Krishna district. He stated that drones would be used for land re-survey with the technical assistance of CARS technology. He said that base stations had been set up in Vijayawada, Pedana, Jaggayyapeta, Thiruvuru and Pedavegi (West Godavari district). He further said that the department aims to set up about 70 base stations across the state by the 15 January 2021.

Minister Das said that Village sabhas (meetings) would be held from December 14 to 19 to educate the locals on land re-survey.

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, DEC. 11

A tense situation prevailed at Angallu village in Kurabalakota mandal of Chittoor district, following an altercation between the YSR Congress and Telugu Desam activists, on Friday.

The TD leaders claimed that the vehicles carrying Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy, brother of former CM N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Rajampeta Lok Sabha in-charge of TD Srinivasulu Reddy, former TD MLA Shankar Yadav and party spokesperson Ratakonda Madhu Babu and other leaders came under attack by alleged activists of YSRC.

In the incident, the party

● MINISTER FOR revenue Dharamana Krishna Das launched the workshop on lands resurveying here on Friday.

● VILLAGE SABHAS (meetings) would be held from December 14 to 19 to educate the locals on land re-survey.

Mr Kannababu refuted the allegations of TDP about quid pro quo in the Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi scheme and showed the video clip of CM Jagan about the scheme. He said that as the TD is continuously spreading lies to defame their government levelling baseless allegations and corruption charges in its friendly media, and the state government primarily decided to file defamation petition against the fake news. Mr Kannababu said that CM Jagan has turned into a farmer-friendly CM which is worrying the TDP leaders, over the distraction of farmers from TDP and has started spreading lies on crop insurance and compensation.

deceased activists at B. Kothakota. Mr Naidu said that the latest attack held a mirror to the fascist and oppressive regime being run by CM Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh. He alleged breaching of the rule of law brazenly at every point as the YSRC fascist mobs were unleashed the incident in which TD leaders Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy, Madhu Babu and three others were seriously injured. He lamented that it was unfortunate that the TD leaders came under the ghastly attack when they were proceeding to call on the family members of the party's

attackers had blocked the road at Angallu village when they were proceeding to call on the family members of the party's deceased activists at B. Kothakota. He said the TD convoy of

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Telugu Desam party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Friday, demanded the arrest of the culprits responsible for the attack on the TD leaders in Angallu village in Kurabalakota mandal in Chittoor district. He con-

spokesperson Madhu Babu suffered head injuries, while the other leaders had a narrow escape. Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy and Shankar Yadav alleged that nearly 200 YSRC

Bankers meet



RBI Regional Director K. Nikhila offers a bouquet to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the 213th statewide Bankers meeting at the camp office on Friday, NABARD CGM Sudheer Kumar Jannawar is also seen.

— DC

Street vendors given ID cards

FROM PAGE 1

The street vendors identified through Village/Ward Secretariats are provided with ID cards and their work profiles are recorded. The government will pay the interest of the loans taken by the vendors from banks; he said and urged the bankers to come forward to support the street vendors. The Chief Minister said the state government has been working for the completion the construction of TIDCO houses at earliest and asked the bankers for their support.

The Chief Minister said the Government has signed MoUs with the reputed companies like Amul, Allana, ITC, Procter & Gamble, HUL, and Reliance to collaborate and empower women beneficiaries of Cheyutha and Asara. He said committees were set up at village and ward level to support them. The State government has prepared a schedule for the distribution of cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats which already started.

The Chief Minister asked the bankers to prepare an action plan as per that schedule to provide assistance to women. He directed the officials to liaise with the bankers to ensure that the distribution takes place as per the schedule.

Meanwhile, speaking at the conference, G Rajkiran Rai, SLBC President and MD of Union Bank of India hailed the State government initiatives and said the activities of

banks and the financial assistance provided have reached the timely targets. He said the banks have given Rs 2,80,519 crore as loans in Primary sector as on September this year and it's 64.60 per cent of total loans. Loans to the agricultural sector stood at Rs 1,85,075 crore and this is 42.61 per cent of the total loans, he said.

Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana, Kurasala Kannababu and Mekapati Goutham Reddy, Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney, NABARD CGM Sudhir Kumar Jannawar, SLBC Convenor V. Bramhananda Reddy and RBI Regional Director K. Nikhila were present at the meeting. UBI GM Lal Singh, UBI MD, CEO Raj Kiran Rai joined through the video conference.

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YSRC slams Opposition
TD for spreading liesDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Minister for agriculture Kursala Kannababu slammed opposition Telugu Desam Party for spreading lies about flagship farmers' welfare schemes implemented by the YSR Congress government.

Addressing a press meet here on Friday, he said TD MLC Nara Lokesh and Leader of Opposition in AP Legislative Council Yanamala Ramakrishnudu spreading lies about crop insurance and compensation. He claimed that the GO: 15 giving compensation to crops which were damaged 33 per cent to the extent was issued during the TDP government on 4 December 2015 by Chandrababu Naidu but Lokesh, without proper knowledge, has been levelling baseless allegations against the government.

Mr Kannababu refuted the allegations of TDP about quid pro quo in the Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi scheme and showed the video clip of CM Jagan about the scheme. He said that as the TD is continuously spreading lies to defame their government levelling baseless allegations and corruption charges in its friendly media, and the state government primarily decided to file defamation petition against the fake news. Mr Kannababu said that CM Jagan has turned into a farmer-friendly CM which is worrying the TDP leaders, over the distraction of farmers from TDP and has started spreading lies on crop insurance and compensation.

Minister for transport Perni Venkataramaiah alias Nani refuted the prediction of Opposition Telugu Desam about decrease of five per cent voting to YSRC if the elections would be held in the state in the present situation. Addressing a press meet on Friday, he said that despite the Covid-19 crisis and further financial troubles Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy never stopped the welfare schemes implementation, which further increased support to YSRC government.

Ruling YSR Congress refuted claims of opposition Telugu Desam Party about starting Upper Penna project and defended that the then chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy originally initiated the project. YSRC MLA Thopudurti Prakash Reddy slammed TDP leaders for politicising the Upper Penna project naming after YSR, who originally

Min Nani all praise
for Jagan over his
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VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

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Mr Naidu is confined to Zoom conferences and is living in illusions. He flayed Naidu over his call to party leaders on winning Tirupati by-election by seizing five per cent of votes from YSRC and creating a historical victory which is an illusion. He commented that Naidu has been living in an imaginary world and spreading the same illusion to party people.

RULING YSRC REFUTED CLAIMS OF
TD OVER UPPER PENNA PROJECTDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Ruling YSR Congress refuted claims of opposition Telugu Desam Party about starting Upper Penna project and defended that the then chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy originally initiated the project. YSRC MLA Thopudurti Prakash Reddy slammed TDP leaders for politicising the Upper Penna project naming after YSR, who originally

initiated the project. Addressing a press conference here on Friday, the MLA said that opposition TDP leaders are intentionally drawing controversies over the Upper Penna project and making false propaganda through their favoured media houses.

He said that Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had started the Handri Neeva project in 2005, which is after the death of Paritala Ravindra.

Chandrababu Naidu demands an explanation from the Chief Minister

POLITICAL | CLASHES

TD leaders claim they were attacked by YSRC men

Naidu demands arrest of culprits

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 11

Telugu Desam party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Friday, demanded the arrest of the culprits responsible for the attack on the TD leaders in Angallu village in Kurabalakota mandal in Chittoor district. He con-

demned the incident in which TD leaders Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy, Madhu Babu and three others were seriously injured. He lamented that it was unfortunate that the TD leaders came under the ghastly attack when they were proceeding to call on the family members of the party's

deceased activists at B. Kothakota.

Mr Naidu said that the latest attack held a mirror to the fascist and oppressive regime being run by CM Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh. He alleged breaching of the rule of law brazenly at every point as the YSRC fascist mobs were unleashed the incident in which TD leaders Nallari Kishore Kumar Reddy, Madhu Babu and three others were seriously injured. He lamented that it was unfortunate that the TD leaders came under the ghastly attack when they were proceeding to call on the family members of the party's

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four vehicles were intercepted by the armed YSRC workers, who used stones, heavy logs and iron rods to attack them.

"The YSRC activists at first pelted stones on the vehicles and later used

shing terror with active support from the CM.

Mr Naidu deplored that there seemed no end to the attacks on the TD leaders and activists across the state. He lamented that for a year-and-a-half, there was no peace anywhere in the state and insecurity was spreading everywhere.

logs and iron roads and attacked us. Few party workers sustained simple injuries, but our spokesperson had a head injury," he added.

Meanwhile, police have reached the place and

cleared the mob, before taking the leaders and workers of both parties into custody. Madanapalli DSP Ravi Manoharachari said that based on the complaints filed by both the parties, cases have been registered and further investigation is being done.

"Workers from both the political parties were taken into custody to prevent further commission of cognizable offences. They were later released after the situation came under control.

Meanwhile, about 10 persons who were suspected to have pelted stones on the vehicles were also taken into custody and they were being questioned", the DSP said.

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SHORT TAKES

Special train to Kirandol via Araku

Visakhapatnam: East Coast Railway decided to run special trains between Visakhapatnam-Kirandul via Araku Valley from December 18, a release said on Friday. The Visakhapatnam-Kirandul special express will leave Visakhapatnam daily at 6.45 pm with effect from December 18 which will reach Kirandol on the same day at 8.45 pm. In return direction the train will leave Kirandul daily at 6 am with effect from December 19 which will reach Visakhapatnam on the same day at 8.20 pm. The train in both directions will have stoppages in Simhachalam, Kottavalasa, Araku, Koraput, Jeypore, Jagdalpur, Dantewara, Bachel between Visakhapatnam and Kirandul.

4 held for extortion from realtor

Visakhapatnam: The Duvvada police in Visakhapatnam arrested four persons for extorting money from a realtor on Friday. The police recovered ₹60,000, a toy pistol and a sharp knife from them. All were produced in the court and sent to judicial remand for 15 days. Circle inspector of Duvvada K. Lakshmi said P.S.N. Raju of Duvvada and working in the steel plant has been doing real estate business in the name of his wife. Local goons P. Santosh and M. Lovaraju have been demanding money from him threatening to kill him. They collected ₹9.5 lakh in phases and still wanted more. Two days ago, they held him captive in a four-storied building and demanded huge amounts of money.

COAST GUARD SEIZES 9 KGS OF GOLD BARS

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, DEC. 11

In a joint anti-smuggling operation, the Indian Coast Guard and officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized approximately nine kg of gold in the form of bars in Gulf of Mannar, off Tamil Nadu coast. The gold bars worth ₹4.5 crore were recovered from a fishing boat named 'Sailor'.

The two-day joint operation took place after DRI sources received a tip-off that gold was being smuggled into India through the sea route from Sri Lanka. Based on actionable intelligence provided by DRI officials, a well-coordinated operation was launched by Coast Guard Station Mandapam resulting in apprehension of five fishermen along with fishing boats.

3 HELD, 45 STOLEN TWO-WHEELERS RECOVERED

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, DEC. 11

Alipiri Police on Friday arrested three habitual offenders in connection with motor-cycle lifting cases and recovered 45 bikes from their possession.

According to Tirupati Urban SP Avula Ramesh Reddy, the accused Darla Mohan, 30, K. Pawan, 20 and C. Royal Tharun, 23, hailing from Mangalagiri village under Nindra mandal, were addicted to various vices and to meet their lavish needs, they used to theft motorcycles.

The Tirupati urban police have laid a special focus on motor-cycle thieves and a special team was formed headed by East DSP T. Murali Krishna to crack such cases. The team successfully managed to nab the trio, who have stolen seven two-wheelers in Tirupati urban limits and 38 from Tamil Nadu.

Alipiri Circle Inspector B. Devendra and the special team members have arrested the accused near the science centre in Tirupati on Friday and recovered the stolen two-wheelers. The SP appreciated the special team for their efforts in arresting the accused.

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More than 50 rice mills to be closed in W. Godavari

In the absence of this machinery, the mills can't do 'custom milling of rice'

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, DEC. 11

More than 50 rice mills in West Godavari District are going to close due to lack of Sortex machinery which makes the rice 'thin'. In the absence of this machinery, the mills can't do 'custom milling of rice' for the government.

After the Centre lifted 'levy policy' five years back, the government purchases paddy and gives it to the rice millers for 'custom milling of rice' and pays the mills. However, the state government has decided to supply 'fine rice' to peo-

ple through the Public Distribution System by imposing several specifications on the quality. There are nearly 340 rice mills in West Godavari district out of which 270 mills got the "sortex" machinery. However, the remaining mills do not have the capacity to purchase the machinery as it costs nearly ₹70 lakh to ₹80 lakh.

"We can't invest such huge amount to convert machinery into sortex. If the machinery is fixed, we need to appoint additional driver and staff. Besides, the power tariff will also be changed. The rice mills

● If the rice miller goes for sortex machines, he has to fix 150 HP motor and the minimum power tariff goes to nearly ₹30,000.

have work for two months in khariff season and two months for Rabi season. For the remaining period, we have to pay minimum power tariff to the AP Transco," said a rice miller from West Godavari District.

He said that at present they are paying ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 per month for their 100 HP motor.

However, if the rice miller goes for sortex machines, he has to fix 150 HP motor and the minimum power tariff goes to nearly ₹30,000. He said that after thoroughly assessing the income and expenditure, some of the rice millers decided to shutdown. He said that they issued notices to labourers for not coming after one month. He said that if they allow the labourers to come by not issuing notices, the rice millers have to pay salaries even if there is no work for them in the mill.

The West Godavari Rice Millers Association

President S. Srirama Raju said that the state government fixed a policy for the benefit of the people and the rice millers have to follow it. He said that sortex machinery is a part of the mill and the rice millers can get 'second hand machines' from ₹12 lakh. He said that the rice millers also should update their technology to changing circumstances or be left out in growth and business. He said that nearly 270 rice millers got the machines and another 60 to 70 rice millers want to go for the machinery in coming six months.

TTD RESUMES DARSHAN FOR CHILDREN, AGED

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, DEC. 11

TTD has decided to resume the Srivari darshan at Tirumala temple for devotees aged above 65 years and less than 10 years and pregnant women henceforth but within the framework of Covid-19 guidelines and all health safeguards prescribed by the health authorities.

It may be recalled that following the Covid-19 norms, TTD has dispensed with darshan for devotees under these categories.

The requests included to redeem long pending vows of tonsuring, ear piercing, annaprāsana for infants and children, while shastipurthi, seventy, eighty-year celebrations for aged persons at the abode of Lord Venkateswara as they involve the sentiments, traditions and practices of devotees.

Similar appeals and requests were also aired by devotees during several dial-your-EO programmes.

ACCUSED CI AND CONSTABLE GRANTED BAIL IN NANDYAL CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL DEC. 11

The Third Additional District Judge Court in Nandyal granted bail to the accused circle inspector and head constable in the mass suicide of a family of four by throwing themselves before a running train on November 3.

The accused were charged under Indian Penal Code 324, 306 sections for aiding and abetting the suicide of Abdul Salam family, the deceased.

The bail conditions prescribe the accused Circle inspector and head constable enlarged on bail to report Allagadda DSP on every Monday.



Members of Visakhapatnam branch of Indian Medical Association along with government doctors staged a dharna in King George Hospital premises on Friday, demanding the government to revoke the notification issued by Central Council for Indian Medicine that allows the Ayurvedic doctors to perform critical surgeries on par with the medical professionals practising modern medicine.

Medical services suspended by private doctors in Kadapa

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, DEC. 10

Kadapa district private doctors said that they would approach the court on the decision of the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM). Medical services were suspended Friday across the district. He said it was outrageous for CCIM to allow Ayurvedic doctors to perform 58 types of surgeries. They staged a protest in front of

Indian Medical Association (IMA) hall for a few hours with black badges. The doctors suspended all medical services until 6 pm, except for emergency and Covid-19 patients. IMA president Dr K. Nagendra Prasad speaking to DCs said that medical services were suspended in protest of the decisions taken by the CCIM. He said that it was difficult for those with higher education to perform surgery and

that it was not shameful for Ayurvedic doctors to issue such an ordinance for surgery. He questioned whether it was reasonable to issue such an ordinance now as a matter of urgency, as surgery is usually allowed after qualifying examinations. We are preparing for a legal battle on this matter. He said that this ordinance is said to endanger the lives of the people and hence this decision should be subverted.

2 fishing groups fight over usage of nets in Chirala

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, DEC. 11

A quarrel broke out between two groups of fishermen in Vodarevu village of Chirala mandal in Prakasam district on Friday and about eight fishermen have sustained injuries in the incident.

According to the reports reaching here, fishermen from Katariyariipalem have raised objection over the usage of Balla Walalu (a type of fishing net) by the fishermen of Vodarevu village. A scuf-

file broke out between the two groups two days ago when the Katariyariipalem fishermen captured the nets and boats of the Vodarevu fishermen.

Following this, the joint director of fisheries Chandrasekhar Reddy and Chirala police have gone to Katariyariipalem village to settle the matter. The Vodarevu fishermen, however, didn't attend the meeting and the enraged opposition again captured 10 fishermen and a boat of the Vodarevu group.

In a counter attack, the Vodarevu villagers also captured some fishermen of the Katariyariipalem group and a boat. This led the two groups to engage into physical attacks on each other and both of them have pelted stones on each other. In the incident eight fishermen sustained injuries. The situation came under control with the arrival of extra police force at the village. A case has been registered and police have arrested those who were involved in the attacks.

Suspended judge arrested for 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, police 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

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 Ramachandra 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.

KMC fails to check building plan violations

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, DEC. 11

Illegal constructions abound in Kurnool city as the municipal corporation failed to take steps in granting building permissions. Scores of commercial complexes in the central business district have no parking places. Cellars are being used to run businesses. The planning wing of Kurnool Municipal Corporation (KMC), with hardly any staff, has made mockery of town planning and became a bane to orderly development of city infrastructure.

Footpaths occupied by shops have been let out to hawkers as a step-down subsidiary.

Despite road widening near General Hospital two years back, it has been of no use to ease traffic. In Venkat Ramana colony, footpaths are occupied by mobile tiffin centres. The stretch from Congress office to old traffic signals, shops have come up on footpaths.

It is estimated that more than one-third of the capacity of the main roads in the city is depleted due to indiscriminate parking. Business areas such as Abdullakhan estate, Gayatri estate, RMK plaza, Bhupal complex, Central plaza, Allankar plaza, Nehru road, Park road, Pula bazaar, RTC bus station circle, Krishna Nagar main road, Nandyal road and State Bank circle and residential areas such as Old town, Ammarvarisala road and Minchin bazaar are the worst-affected, say commuters. Most roads are left with width that allows one or two vehicles to pass, thanks to the parked vehicles. On ZP Road, Park road, Pula bazaar road, Nehru road and Krishna Nagar main road, for instance, traffic jams have always been common during peak hours., Prahalad, a commuter said.

Most commercial complexes do not provide parking space in the Kurnool city. The AP Building Rules mandate that complexes must provide parking space

● In Venkat Ramana colony, footpaths are occupied by mobile tiffin centres. The stretch from Congress office to old traffic signals, shops have come up on footpaths.

of 25 to 30 per cent of the total built-up area, but an overwhelming number of complexes violate this rule with impunity. Complexes are granted permissions by the municipal corporation even when they violate clear rules on the provision of parking spaces, open cellar and foot path roads. The relaxation in these rules is purportedly in the 'interests of the public.'

As prices of open sites and plots shot up, construction has become expensive, and

complex owners are mushrooming in every locality irrespective of whether they are needed or not. The Municipal Corporation should conduct surveys and then call for applications to construct complexes based on need.

Town Planning Experts blame lack of enforcement of building bye-laws as the main cause for parking problems. Any building should have an area measuring more than 50 square meters for a parking lot. In public buildings, 10 per cent of the area should be reserved for parking. These norms are supposed to be enforced during the approval of building plans, which is evidently not happening. The basement area in many buildings house shopping complexes, and in residential areas, a portion of many houses are rented out as offices, leaving no space for parking.

Unscientific parking of vehicles on roads is eating into the already shrinking space of our roads, and vehicle-owners haven't spared the footpaths either.

CREDAI Kurnool Chapter President Gorantla Ramana said regardless of layout regularisation scheme, illegal ventures have sprung up here.

Government of India :: Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
0/o The Controller of Communication Accounts, A.P.Circle,
2nd Floor, Microwave Building, P&T Gandhi Colony,
M.G.Road, Vijayawada-520 010. Toll Free Number:1800 425 4405
No.CCA/AP/PEN/NPA/DEC-2020 Dated: 10.12.2020

PRESS NOTE

NATION-WIDE PENSION ADALAT

A Nation-wide Pension Adalat will be held in the month of December/2020 in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Minister of State (PP) through Video Conference. Pensioners of DoT/BSNL may submit their individual grievances, if any, to "The Accounts Officer (Pension), 0/o CCA, A.P.Circle, Dept. of Telecom, 2nd Floor, Microwave Building, P&T Gandhi Colony, M.G.Road, Vijayawada-520 010". The grievances may also be sent to email id 'aopenapdot@gmail.com' on or before 24.12.2020. All the grievances should be superscribed as "Nation-wide Pension Adalat" on top of the grievance.

The date & time of the Adalat and the link for Video Conference will be intimated in due course.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer (Pension)

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CMYK

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 — front-line 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

London, Dec. 11: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has issued the starkest warning yet that the UK could be out of the EU on January 1, 2021, without a trade agreement in place as the two sides remain divided on key areas amidst last-ditch talks between the chief Brexit negotiators.

After Johnson's urgent talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels failed to break the logjam over the European Union (EU) fishing rights in UK territorial waters as a non-member and competition rules for businesses, the Prime Minister admitted that a Sunday deadline for their next discussion does not hold out great promise.

"At the moment, I have to tell you in all candour, the treaty is not there yet and that was the strong view of our Cabinet," Johnson said on Thursday night. "There's a strong possibility that we will have a solution much more like Australian relationship with the EU than a Canadian relationship with the EU," he said.

An Australia-style agreement effectively means no trade agreement and the two sides would then be trading on World Trade Organisation (WTO) norms, with considerable barriers to movement of goods as well as people. With the UK no longer signed up to the EU rules, it would also mean travel restrictions for Britons travelling to and from the EU at the end of the Brexit transition period on December 31, given the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown rules. —PTI

EU leaders agree climate
deal, budget after wrangles

Brussels, Dec. 11: EU 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. —AP

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 CO2 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

Germany plans for
tougher lockdown

● 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.

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.

The number of deaths from the virus rose by 598, to a total of 20,970. The previous daily record of deaths was 590, set on Wednesday. "The only chance we have to get in control of the situation is a lockdown, but it needs to be immediate," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer told Der Spiegel magazine. "If we wait until Christmas, we'll have to continue fighting these numbers for months."

Under current restrictions implemented at the

beginning of November as numbers were growing exponentially, restaurants, bars, leisure and sports facilities have been closed and hotels are 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

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

FINANCIAL
Chroniclequick
BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	46,099.01 0.30
Nifty 50	13,513.85 0.26
S&P 500*	3,639.00 -0.79
Dollar (₹)	73.64 0.03
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.75 0.35
Euro (₹)	89.31 -0.17
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,594▼102 0.20
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	50.03 -0.22
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.956 0.040
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."

■ 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.

United Breweries, part-owned by Heineken, said it had cooperated with authorities and would make submissions to the CCI. Heineken didn't comment. The world's largest brew-

er, Anheuser-Busch InBev, which acquired SABMiller in 2016, said it takes "antitrust compliance very seriously".

The CCI raids in 2018 seized hundreds of files and more than 2 terabytes of data from laptops, pen drives and smartphones.

The case was triggered when AB InBev used CCI's "leniency programme" to disclose that it had detected a cartel while integrating SABMiller's operations in India. Later in 2018, UB and Carlsberg also filed leniency applications.

Under the programme, the CCI can reduce the penalties it imposes on companies depending on the cooperation they provide. In this case, 19 beer executives engaged in anti-competitive practices, the report says.

"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

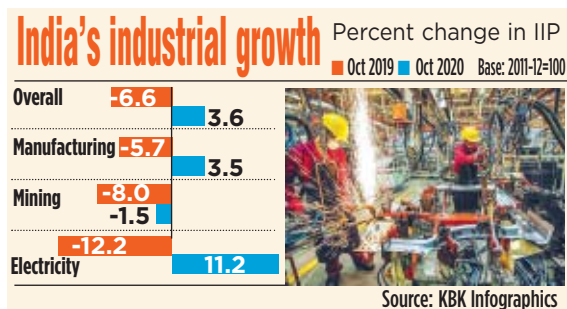
FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DEC. 11

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 and manufac-

ture 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 of 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

Printed and Published from Nellore by K.Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Plot No.527, Chemudugunta (Village), Venkatachalasatram (Mandal), Nellore. RNI Registration No.APENG/2003/11048 Phones: 2348581, 82 & 83, Fax:2348580, Grams: CHRONICLE, Editor: Kaushik Mitter

Hitman is fit, set 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 IPL, 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 NCA 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



Rohit Sharma

Sydney and will get a week’s training there. There had been confusion 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 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*



Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli in this file photo.

Virat, Indian with Aussie trait: Greg

Adelaide, Dec. 11: Batting great and former India coach Greg Chappell has called Virat Kohli the “most Australian non-Australian” cricketer of all time and thanked the sport’s “most important” figure for championing the cause of the Test format with his “all-out aggression”. Chappell invoked Mahatma Gandhi before crediting Kohli’s intensity for bringing about a paradigm shift in Indian cricket. “Many previous Indian cricket teams tended to play with undue deference to their opponents, as if in accord with the Gandhian principle. Sourav Ganguly was the first Indian captain to try to change that approach. It worked to a degree in India, but usually hit a hurdle overseas,” Chappell wrote in *Sydney Morning Herald*. “Virat Kohli does not believe in passive resistance. He is a proponent of all-out aggression. His idea is to dominate the opposition. Kohli is the most Australian non-Australian

cricketer of all time. He embodies the new India. As the premier player and captain of the world’s pre-eminent cricket power, he feels an abiding responsibility to the wider game,” he added. “The fact that Kohli champions Test cricket is a huge plus for a format under pressure for time and space in a crowded schedule,” Chappell said. “Test cricket has always been the pinnacle for him and it has driven him to be fitter and stronger to cope with its demands. It is why he drives his team in these areas because he wants India to be respected in the most demanding format. “If the captain of India is ambivalent towards Test cricket, some administrators would be happy for it to slide into ignominy, as they are seduced by the newer, shinier models,” he said. On Kohli’s standing in world cricket, Chappell said the batting maestro is aware of that but not obsessed with it. — *PTI*

CODED MESSAGES ARE SMART: ALLAN

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 to this correspondent, 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 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 was highlighting certain threats posed by one or two batsmen. It was not two-way communication but we were just listening to him,” he said. “Honestly I see it (sending coded messages) harmless. In my opinion it is just good thinking from the box. I wonder why people think it is sinister. It is smart thinking on the contrary,” the South African added.

Bumrah blasts maiden 50 in India’s warm-up match

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 as 20 wickets fell on a curtailed when almost an hour was lost due to heavy rain. India’s pace attack did well to intimidate Australian youngsters with short-pitched stuff



Jasprit Bumrah in action during India’s warm-up match against Australia ‘A’.

— TWITTER

as Mohammed Shami and Navdeep Saini got three wickets apiece. On a day when the recognised batsmen struggled to put runs on the board, Bumrah, who came into the game with a Test batting average of 2.9, produced a stellar performance with the willow,

smashing the ball six times to the fence and twice over it. He reached his half-century in style, hooking a bouncer by all-rounder Will Sutherland for a huge six over the deep square-leg fence. Earlier, after skipper Ajinkya Rahane opted to bat, Prithvi Shaw (40) and Shubman Gill (43) showed enough glimpses of why they are rated so highly by almost everyone in the Indian cricket fraternity. However, the rest of the teammates including the seasoned Rahane, failed to impress on the first day of their final tune-up before the start of the four-match Test series beginning December 17. — *PTI*



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 led 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 in the semifinals and the opening goal in the 3-1

win over West Germany in the final. “Paolo Rossi was a great point of reference for me,” said Giuntoli. City authorities and the club’s president had proposed renaming the San Paolo Stadium within hours of Maradona’s death. Napoli have already paid homage to Maradona, who played for the club from 1984 to 1991, in two home games. 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.

NICHOLLS PEPS UP KIWIS WITH FINE CENTURY

Wellington, 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.

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